

## Seventh Grade Idiom List

### UNIT 1

1. **Add fuel to the fire:** to make a bad situation worse; to do or say something that causes more trouble; makes someone angrier.
2. **Albatross around your neck:** a very difficult burden that you can't get rid of or a reminder of something you did that was wrong.
3. **All ears:** eager to listen; sharply attentive; curious
4. **Ants in your pants:** extreme restlessness; over activity
5. **As the crow flies:** by the shortest and most direct route; measured in a straight, direct line between two places
6. **Asleep at the switch:** not attending to one's job or failing to react quickly; not being alert.
7. **At the drop of a hat:** right away; at once
8. **At the end of your rope:** at the limit of your ability, endurance, or patience
9. **Ax to grind:** to have something to complain about; to have a selfish reason for saying or doing something
10. **Babe in the woods:** a person who is inexperienced; a naïve, trusting person
11. **Back to square one:** return to the beginning because of a failure to accomplish the desired result
12. **Backseat driver:** a bossy person who tells another person what to do; a person who gives unwanted advice and directions
13. **Baker's dozen:** thirteen of anything for the price of twelve
14. **Bark is worse than your bite:** the way a person sounds is much more frightening than the way he or she acts; threats are often worse than the action taken
15. **Bark up the wrong tree:** to direct your attention or efforts towards the wrong person or thing; to have the wrong idea about something
16. **Batten down the hatches:** to get ready for trouble; prepare for any emergency
17. **Beat a dead horse:** to pursue a useless goal
18. **Beat the band:** with much noise, excitement, or commotion
19. **Beauty is in the eye of the beholder:** there is no standard for beauty; different people have different opinions of beauty
20. **Chickens come home to roost:** words or actions come back to haunt a person; evil acts will return to plague the doer; what comes around goes around; karma

### UNIT 2

21. **Chill out:** relax, calm down
22. **Chips are down:** the situation is urgent and has to be dealt with now
23. **Clam up:** to refuse to talk; to become silent
24. **Clean as a whistle:** completely free from dirt; perfectly neat
25. **Clear the decks:** to get all the entire minor details out of the way in order to focus on a major project.
26. **Climb the walls:** to be frustrated or anxious during a situation; to be unable to endure
27. **Clip Your wings:** to end a person's privileges; to take away someone's power or freedom to do something
28. **Cloak-and-dagger:** concerning or involving spies, secret agents, intrigue and mystery; involving plotting and scheming
29. **Close shave:** a very narrow escape from danger
30. **Cold feet:** a fear of doing something; a loss of nerve or confidence; second thoughts
31. **Cold turkey:** a sudden stopping of any habit
32. **Come again:** please repeat yourself; I don't understand what you're saying
33. **Come apart at the seams:** to become so upset that all self-control is gone
34. **Come up smelling like a rose:** to get out of a possibly embarrassing or disgraceful situation without hurting your reputation, and maybe even improving it.
35. **Cook Your Goose:** to put an end to; to ruin someone's plans
36. **Cool as a Cucumber:** very calm; not nervous or emotional

37. **Cool It:** to relax, calm down
38. **Cool Your Heels:** to be kept waiting for a long time, usually by someone in power
39. **Cost an Arm and a Leg:** very expensive; high-priced
40. **Cross the Bridge When You Come to It:** don't worry about the future events now

### UNIT 3

41. **Cry Wolf:** to give a false alarm of danger
42. **Cut the Mustard:** to be able handle a job or fulfill the requirements
43. **Cutting Edge:** the forefront; the most advanced or important position
44. **Dead as a Doornail:** totally dead or hopeless
45. **Dead Duck:** a person who is ruined
46. **Dime a Dozen:** very common and inexpensive; easy to get
47. **Do or Die:** to succeed or fail completely; to take a chance of ruining oneself
48. **Dog Day of Summer:** the hottest and most humid days of summer- July and August
49. **Dog's Life:** a bleak, harsh, terrible existence without much happiness or freedom
50. **Don't Count Your Chickens Before They Hatch:** don't count on profits before you earn them
51. **Don't Look a Gift Horse in the Mouth:** don't complain if it's not perfect; take what you have without criticism or complaint
52. **Dot Your I's and Cross Your T's:** take great care over details
53. **Down in the Dumps:** sad and depressed
54. **Down the Drain:** lost forever; wasted
55. **Down the Hatch:** swallow a drink in one gulp
56. **Down-to-Earth:** practical; sensible; realistic
57. **Down-to-the-Wire:** running out of time
58. **Draw the Line:** set a specific limit, especially about behavior
59. **Dressed to the Nines:** wearing fashionable clothing
60. **Drive a Hard Bargain:** to buy or sell at a good price

### UNIT 4

61. **Drive You Crazy:** to make someone angry or confused
62. **Drop in the Bucket:** a very small, insignificant amount
63. **Drop You Like a Hot Potato:** to get rid of something or someone as quickly as possible
64. **Dyed-in-the-Wool:** complete, permanent; stubborn
65. **Early Bird Catches the Worm:** a person who gets up early and starts a project ahead of others has a better chance of accomplishing his or her goal
66. **Easy as Pie:** not difficult; requiring no effort
67. **Easy Come, Easy Go:** something that is easily obtained, as money, can be lost or parted with just as easily
68. **Eat Out of Your Hand:** to be very cooperative and submissive
69. **Eat Your Heart Out:** to make yourself sick with grief and worry
70. **Eat Your Words:** to have to take back what you said
71. **Egg on Your Face:** to be embarrassed or humiliated from something foolish that you said or did
72. **Every Cloud Has a Silver Lining:** there is something good in every bad situation
73. **Every Tom, Dick, and Harry:** every person possible, especially very ordinary people
74. **Everything but the Kitchen Sink:** practically everything there is; every possible object whether needed or not
75. **Eye for an Eye and a Tooth for a Tooth:** revenge or punishment exactly like the original crime or offences
76. **Eyes in the Back of Your Head:** ability to know what is happening when one's back is turned
77. **Famous Last Words:** a sarcastic response to a foolish statement to make the speaker look bad
78. **Fat Cat:** a wealthy person

79. **Feast or Famine:** great success or total failure  
80. **Feel Your Oats:** to be in high spirits, energetic; to act in a proud way

### UNIT 5

81. **Field Day:** to have unlimited opportunities  
82. **Fight Tooth and Nail:** to fight fiercely, furiously, and ferociously  
83. **Fill the Bill:** to be just the perfect thing that is needed  
84. **Fish or Cut Bait:** stop delaying  
85. **Fish Out of Water:** a person who is out of his or her usual place; someone who doesn't fit in  
86. **Fit as a Fiddle:** in good health  
87. **Fly by the Seat of Your Pants:** to do something by instinct and feel without any earlier experience or instruction  
88. **Foam at the Mouth:** to be uncontrollably furious, like a mad dog  
89. **Follow Your Nose:** to go straight ahead in the same direction  
90. **Food for Thought:** an interesting idea worth thinking about carefully  
91. **Footloose and Fancy-Free:** not attached to anyone; single  
92. **Forty Winks:** a short nap  
93. **Four Corners of the Earth (World):** from all over the planet; all parts of the place  
94. **From the Word Go:** from the very beginning  
95. **Full of Beans:** lively, happy, and energetic  
96. **Full of Hot Air:** being foolish and talking nonsense; vain  
97. **Get a Handle on Something:** to find a way to deal with something  
98. **Get a Kick Out of Something:** to enjoy doing something  
99. **Get Away With Murder:** to do something bad, wrong, or illegal and not get caught  
100. **Get in on the Ground Floor:** to be a part of some big, important project or business at the start

### UNIT 6

101. **Get into the Swing of Things:** to become accustomed to routine activities  
102. **Get off the Hook:** to free yourself or someone from distasteful obligation  
103. **Get Real:** face reality  
104. **Get the Lead Out:** to get busy  
105. **Get the Sack:** to be fired  
106. **Get to the Bottom of it:** to find out the real cause of something  
107. **Get Under Your Skin:** to bother or upset someone  
108. **Get Your Feet Wet:** to have your first experience of something  
109. **Get Your Goat:** to annoy very badly  
110. **Gift of Gab:** skill of talking in a colorful and interesting way  
111. **Give Me Five:** a hearty greeting or sign of solid agreement  
112. **Give Someone the Shirt off Your Back:** to be extremely generous  
113. **Go Along for the Ride:** to watch but not take a part in an activity  
114. **Go Bananas:** to be or go crazy  
115. **Go Fly a Kite:** go away; stop bothering someone  
116. **Go for Broke:** to risk everything on one big goal or effort  
117. **Go over with Fine-Tooth Comb:** to search with great care or attention  
118. **Gone to Pot:** become ruined  
119. **Goody-Two-Shoes:** a person who thinks he or she is perfect and tries to be  
120. **Greek to Me:** too difficult to understand

### UNIT 7

121. **Green with Envy:** extremely jealous  
122. **Grit Your Teeth:** to not show one's feelings

123. **Hand-to-Mouth Experience:** to spend your salary as fast as you earned it without saving for the future
124. **Handwriting on the Wall:** a sign that something bad is going to happen
125. **Hang in There:** to continue without giving up
126. **Hang Out Your Shingle:** to open a private practice (doctors or lawyers office)
127. **Hanging by a Thread:** to be in a dangerous or unsafe position
128. **Hard Nut to Crack:** a problem that is very difficult to understand or solve
129. **Hat in Hand:** to behave in a humble or sorry way
130. **Have a Bone to Pick with You:** to have an argument or unpleasant matter to settle with someone
131. **Have a Screw Loose:** to behave or look in a strange or foolish manner
132. **Have Your Cake and Eat It Too:** to spend or use something up but still have it
133. **Head and Shoulders Above Someone:** far superior
134. **Head Honcho:** the person in charge
135. **Head in the Clouds:** absent-minded
136. **Head over Heels in Love:** completely and helplessly in love
137. **Heart's in the Right Place:** to be well-meaning and kindhearted
138. **Heavens to Betsy:** an expression of astonishment, amazement, and disbelief
139. **High Horse:** acting superior and arrogant as if you were better than other people
140. **Highway Robbery:** an extremely high price or charge for something

## UNIT 8

141. **Hit Below the Belt:** to use unfair tactics; unsportsmanlike
142. **Hit the Hay:** to go to bed
143. **Hit the Jackpot:** to be very lucky
144. **Hit the Nail Right on the Head:** to be exactly correct; come to the right conclusion
145. **Hit the Road:** to leave
146. **Hit the Spot:** to fully satisfy and refresh, especially with food or drink
147. **Hitch Your Wagon to a Star:** to aim high
148. **Hold Down the Fort:** to temporarily be responsible for watching over a place
149. **Hold Your Horses:** slow down; be patient
150. **Hot under the Collar:** very angry; upset
151. **If the Shoe Fits, Wear It:** If a remark applies to you, you should admit that it is true
152. **Ignorance Is Bliss:** it is better not to know bad news sometimes, especially if you're happy
153. **In a Nutshell:** in very few words, brief
154. **In the Bag:** sure you will win; certain of success
155. **In the Doghouse:** in disgrace or dislike; on punishment
156. **In the Driver's Seat:** in control
157. **In the Limelight:** the center of attention
158. **In the Same Boat:** in the same bad situation
159. **It Takes Two to Tango:** two people are needed (required) to accomplish this deed
160. **Jack of All Trades:** a person who can do many different kinds of work well

## UNIT 9

161. **Jet Set:** the wealthy, fashionable, and famous people who travel frequently
162. **Jump off the Deep End:** to act emotionally without carefully thinking about the end result
163. **Jump on the Bandwagon:** to become part of the newest activity because many other people are
164. **Jump the Gun:** to do or say something before you should
165. **Keep a Stiff Upper Lip:** to be brave and not show emotion in a time of trouble
166. **Keep a Straight Face:** to keep from laughing
167. **Keep Something under Your Hat:** to keep something secret
168. **Keep Your Ear to the Ground:** to pay attention and be well-informed
169. **Keep Your Head above Water:** to earn enough to stay out of debt and avoid financial rules

- 170. **Keep Your Nose to the Grindstone:** to force oneself to work hard all the time
- 171. **Keep Your Shirt On:** to remain cool; not become angry
- 172. **Kick Up Your Heels:** to celebrate and have a wonderful time
- 173. **Labor of Love:** work done not for money but for love or sense of accomplishment
- 174. **Lay an Egg:** to give an embarrassing performance
- 175. **Lay Your Cards on the Table:** to reveal all the facts openly and honestly
- 176. **Lead You by the Nose:** to dominate or control someone
- 177. **Leave No Stone Unturned:** to make all possible efforts to carry out a task or search for someone or something.
- 178. **Left Out in the Cold:** to not tell someone something
- 179. **Lend an Ear:** to listen and pay attention
- 180. **Let Sleeping Dogs Lie:** to not make trouble if you don't have to

## **UNIT 10**

- 181. **Let the Chips Fall where They May:** to do the right thing, as you see it, whatever the consequences.
- 182. **Let Your Hair Down:** to behave freely and naturally
- 183. **Light at the End of the Tunnel:** a long-searched-for answer, goal, or success
- 184. **Like a Bump on a Log:** inactive and not responding
- 185. **Like It or Lump It:** whether you like it or not
- 186. **Like Two Peas in a Pod:** identical; alike
- 187. **Live High off the Hog:** to live in a rich style and own lots of expensive things
- 188. **Lose Your Shirt:** to lose everything, especially money
- 189. **Low Man on the Totem Pole:** the lowest-ranking, least important person in a group or organization
- 190. **Lower the Boom:** to scold or punish strictly
- 191. **Mad as a Hatter:** completely crazy, strange, eccentric
- 192. **Make a Federal Case out of Something:** to exaggerate the seriousness of something small
- 193. **Make Ends Meet:** to earn just enough to live within one's income
- 194. **Make Heads or Tails out of Something:** to find meaning in something; to understand something
- 195. **Make No Bones about Something:** to speak directly, plainly, honestly, and without hesitation
- 196. **Make Waves:** to cause trouble
- 197. **Mess with Someone:** to annoy, argue with, hassle or otherwise anger and irritate a person
- 198. **Mince Words:** to not come right to the point and be honest
- 199. **Mind over Matter:** the power of your mind is stronger than the body
- 200. **Miss the Boat:** to lose an opportunity

## **UNIT 11**

- 201. **Monkey Business:** silliness or fooling around
- 202. **More than Meets the Eye:** there are hidden facts that can't be seen or understood right away
- 203. **More than One Way to Skin a Cat:** there are several different ways of reaching the same goal
- 204. **Mum's the Word:** you must keep silent
- 205. **Name is Mud:** the person is in trouble, possibly doomed and worthless
- 206. **Necessity Is the Mother of Invention:** inventiveness or creativity is stimulated by need or
- 207. **Need Something like a Hole in the Head:** to have no need for something at all
- 208. **Needle in a Haystack:** something hard or impossible to find
- 209. **Nickel-and-Dime:** unimportant, small-time, trivial, petty
- 210. **Nitty-Gritty:** the specific heart of the matter
- 211. **No Dice:** refused; not absolutely not
- 212. **No Skin off Your Nose:** of totally no concern to you whatsoever
- 213. **No Spring Chicken:** not young anymore
- 214. **Not Your Cup of Tea:** not what one likes or prefers

215. **Nothing New under the Sun:** everything is just a little different but pretty much the same as an earlier invention
216. **Nothing to Sneeze At:** not small or unimportant
217. **Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained:** if you don't try something you'll never accomplish it
218. **Nutty as a Fruitcake:** crazy or extremely strange in behavior or dress
219. **Off the Beaten Track (Path):** not well-known or used
220. **Off the Top of Your Head:** saying something quickly and without thinking hard about it

## UNIT 12

221. **Off-the-Wall:** shocking; very unusual
222. **Off Your Rocker:** crazy; silly
223. **Old Wives' Tale:** a superstition; a belief or practice not based on fact
224. **On a Shoestring:** on a strict budget
225. **On Cloud Nine:** blissfully happy; joyous
226. **On Pins and Needles:** waiting anxiously for something; extremely nervous
227. **One Someone's Case:** to nag, find fault with, badger or scold someone constantly about his or her business, situation, circumstances
228. **On the Ball:** alert; effective; skillful
229. **On the Cuff:** on credit; to be paid later
230. **On the Double:** very quickly; immediately
231. **On the Fence:** neutral; undecided
232. **On the Fritz:** broken; out of order
233. **On the Hot Seat:** in a difficult or uncomfortable position and subject to a lot of unpleasant questions and personal attacks
234. **On the Rocks:** financially ruin or wrecked
235. **On the Ropes:** almost failing; on the verge of collapse
236. **On the Spur of the Moment:** suddenly; acting without thinking about it first
237. **On the Warpath:** in a very angry mood
238. **On Top of the World:** feeling extremely happy
239. **Once in a Blue Moon:** almost never; very seldom
240. **One Good Turn Deserves Another:** one good deed should be paid back with another

## UNIT 13

241. **One-Horse Town:** a place with few comforts and activities; a dull rural town
242. **One-Track Mind:** always thinking about only one subject
243. **Open a Can of Worms:** to cause trouble; to set unpleasant event in motion
244. **Other Side of the Coin:** opposite side or point of view
245. **Out in Left Field:** unusual; crazy
246. **Out in the Boondocks:** in remote places; in rural regions
247. **Out Like a Light:** fast asleep; suddenly unconscious
248. **Out of Here:** good-bye
249. **Out of Sight, Out of Mind:** if you don't see something for a long time, you'll eventually stop thinking about it
250. **Out of the Clear Blue Sky:** suddenly and without any warning; totally unexpectedly
251. **Out of the Frying Pan and into the Fire:** from a bad situation into one that is worse
252. **Out of the Mouths of Babes:** children can unexpectedly say very intelligent things.
253. **Out of the Woods:** safe from trouble or danger
254. **Out on a Limb:** taking a chance
255. **Over a Barrel:** helpless
256. **Over the Hill:** past one's prime; too old
257. **Over Your Head:** a risky situation that will lead to certain failure

- 258. **Pass the Hat:** to ask for contributions; to beg
- 259. **Pen is Mightier than the Sword:** writing is more powerful than fighting
- 260. **Penny for Your Thoughts:** what are you thinking; tell what's on your mind

#### **UNIT 14**

- 261. **Penny-Wise and Pound –Foolish:** careful in small matters but careless about important things
- 262. **People Who Live in Glass Houses Shouldn't Throw Stones:** you should not criticize others if you are just as bad as they are
- 263. **Pie in the Sky:** something not possible; an unrealistic hope
- 264. **Piece of Cake:** an especially easy and pleasant task
- 265. **Play Both Ends against the Middle:** to pit two opponents against each other in such a way as to benefit you
- 266. **Play Cat and Mouse:** to fool or tease someone by pretending to let her or him go free and then catching her or him again
- 267. **Play Second Fiddle:** to be a follower
- 268. **Play the Field:** to have many sweethearts or dates without going steady or committing yourself to one person
- 269. **Point of No Return:** the position or time after which it is impossible to go back, change your mind, or do something different
- 270. **Poor as a Church Mouse:** very poor; poverty
- 271. **Pot Calling the Kettle Black:** the person criticizing another person's faults is guilty of same faults himself or herself
- 272. **Power behind the Throne:** the actual, but unrecognized, person in charge
- 273. **Proof of the Pudding Is in the Eating:** success is measured by the final result
- 274. **Pull a Fast One:** to deceive
- 275. **Pull a Rabbit Out of a Hat:** to produce something that is needed as if by magic
- 276. **Pull No Punches:** to hit as hard as possible; to attack with full force
- 277. **Pull Out All the Stops:** to do everything possible to succeed
- 278. **Pull Strings:** to exert behind-the-scenes influence
- 279. **Pull the Rug Out from Under You:** to unexpectedly withdraw support
- 280. **Pull the Wool Over Your Eyes:** to fool, deceive, or trick someone

#### **UNIT 15**

- 281. **Pull Up Stakes:** to leave your home, job, or country and move to another location looking for something better
- 282. **Pull Yourself Together:** to regain control over one's emotions and become calm after being very upset
- 283. **Put All Your Eggs in One Basket:** to risk everything you have at once on a single idea or plan
- 284. **Put Your Best Foot Forward:** to make the best attempt possible
- 285. **Put Your Finger on Something:** to identify something precisely
- 286. **Put Your Foot Down:** to be firm or rigid about something
- 287. **Put Your Money where Your Mouth Is:** to be will to bet or invest your money in something you support or believe in
- 288. **Quick on the Draw:** ready alert, and quick to respond or react
- 289. **Quiet as a Mouse:** silent or still; making very little noise
- 290. **Rain Check:** a ticket stub allowing attendance at a future event in place of one that was cancelled
- 291. **Rain or Shine:** no matter what happens
- 292. **Raise an Eyebrow:** to surprise or shock people by doing or saying something outrageous
- 293. **Rally Round the Flag:** to come together to show support, especially in bad times
- 294. **Rat Race:** a fierce, unending, stressful competition in business or society
- 295. **Rats Abandoning a Sinking Ship:** disloyal people who desert a failing enterprise before it's too late
- 296. **Read Between the Lines:** to discern the true, hidden meaning or fact in any document

- 297. **Red-Carpet Treatment:** great respect and hospitality given to someone important
- 298. **Red Herring:** something deliberately misleading to divert your attention from the main subject
- 299. **Red-Tape:** excessive formality and time-consuming, rigid adherence to rules and regulations
- 300. **Right off the Bat:** immediately, spontaneously, and without delay

## UNIT 16

- 301. **Ring a Bell:** to sound familiar
- 302. **Rock the Boat:** to make trouble and disrupt a stable situation
- 303. **Roll with the Punches:** to adjust to a difficult situation
- 304. **Rolling Stone Gathers No Moss:** a person who is always on the move or who changes jobs often will not be able to save or keep much
- 305. **Rome Was not Built in a Day:** a difficult or important goal or task cannot be achieved quickly or all at once
- 306. **Rotten Apple Spoils the Barrel:** one bad person or thing may spoil the entire group
- 307. **Round Pegs in a Square Hole:** a person whose abilities, character, or personality are not suited to his or her position
- 308. **Rub Elbows with Someone:** to be in the same place with others
- 309. **Rub the Wrong Way:** to annoy and irritate someone
- 310. **Run Circles around Someone:** to easily do something far better than someone else
- 311. **Run off at the Mouth:** to talk too much
- 312. **Save for a Rainy Day:** to save for a time of need
- 313. **Saved by the Bell:** rescued at the last possible moment from an embarrassing or dangerous situation
- 314. **Scrape the Bottom of the Barrel:** to use whatever is left after the best have been taken
- 315. **Scratch the Surface:** to just begin to deal with a problem
- 316. **Security Blanket:** a person or thing that an insecure individual holds onto for emotional comfort or psychological
- 317. **See Eye to Eye:** to agree fully
- 318. **Sell like Hotcakes:** to sell quickly, effortlessly, and in quantity
- 319. **Settle an Old Score:** to get back at; to get revenge for past wrongs
- 320. **Shake a Leg:** to hurry up; to get faster

## UNIT 17

- 321. **Shape Up or Ship Out:** to correct your behavior, improve your performance
- 322. **Shoe Is on the Other Foot:** the situation now is the opposite of what it once was; places are reversed
- 323. **Shoot from the Hip:** to speak or act without first thinking about the consequences
- 324. **Shot in the Arm:** something that lifts your spirits, energy, and confidence
- 325. **Show Must Go On:** the proceedings must continue regardless of any catastrophe or difficulty
- 326. **Show Your True Colors:** to reveal what you are really like
- 327. **Sick as a Dog:** very sick
- 328. **Sight for Sore Eyes:** a most welcome, unexpected sight
- 329. **Sing for Your Supper:** to perform a service in return for something one needs or wants
- 330. **Sink or Swim:** to fail or succeed by one's own efforts without anyone's help
- 331. **Sitting Duck:** someone or something likely to be attacked and unable to put up a defense
- 332. **Skate on Thin Ice:** to take a big chance; to risk danger
- 333. **Sky's the Limit:** there's no limit to what you can spend; how far you can go; what you can achieve
- 334. **Sleep on It:** to put off making a decision until at least the next day so that you can think about it overnight
- 335. **Sling Hash:** to work as a waiter, waitress, or cook in a cheap small restaurant serving inexpensive food
- 336. **Slow on the Draw:** Slow to understand or figure something out
- 337. **Smell a Rat:** to be suspicious; to feel something's wrong
- 338. **Smell like a Rose:** to look good in a bad situation

339. **Snake in the Grass:** an unfaithful, untrustworthy, underhanded, and deceitful person  
340. **Snug as a Bug in a Rug:** cozy and comfortable; safe and secure

## UNIT 18

341. **Sow Your Wild Oats:** to behave wildly and foolishly, especially when young  
342. **Spare the Rod and Spoil the Child:** to physically punish children when they misbehave so they'll learn to behave properly in the future.  
343. **Spick-and-Span:** extremely clean, tidy, neat  
344. **Spill the Beans:** to give away a secret to someone who is not supposed to know it  
345. **Spitting Image:** a perfect resemblance; an exact likeness  
346. **Split Hairs:** to argue about small, unimportant differences  
347. **Stick-in-the-Mud:** a person with old-fashioned ideas who avoids anything new.  
348. **Stick to Your Guns:** to stand firm and hold to one's position in the face of opposition  
349. **Stick Your Neck Out:** to take a bold or dangerous risk  
350. **Still Waters Run Deep:** somebody can be more knowledgeable or emotional than he or she first appears to be  
351. **Stir Up a Hornet's Nest:** to make many people furious; to cause trouble  
352. **Straight from the Horse's Mouth:** directly from the person or place that is the most reliable source or the best authority  
353. **Straighten Up and Fly Right:** to stop behaving foolishly and start acting seriously  
354. **Straw that Broke the Camel's Back:** one final problem or misfortune that, added to previous troubles, proves more than a person can bear.  
355. **Strike a Happy Medium:** to find a compromise to a problem; to find a sensible solution midway between two opposite desires  
356. **Strike while the Iron Is Hot:** to act at the most favorable time or moment to get the best results  
357. **Stuffed Shirt:** a self-important person who shows a lot of phony dignity  
358. **Swallow Hook, Line, and Sinker:** to believe a story completely without questioning it  
359. **Swan Song:** the final, farewell performance of an actor or singer  
360. **Sweep You off Your Feet:** to make a favorable impression

## UNIT 19

361. **Sweet Tooth:** a great desire to eat sweet foods, especially those with lots of sugar  
362. **Take a Backseat:** to be in an inferior position  
363. **Take It to the Hoop:** to accomplish a project successfully  
364. **Take off Your Hat to Someone:** to admire or praise someone for a notable accomplishment  
365. **Take Someone under Your Wing:** to help, guide, or protect someone  
366. **Take With a Grain of Salt:** to not believe completely; to be doubtful  
367. **That's the Way the Ball Bounces:** that's the way life is; that is fate; things sometimes turn out a certain way and you can't do anything about it  
368. **Through the Grapevine:** through the informal spreading of messages, gossip, rumors, or other confidential information from one person to another  
369. **Throw a Curve:** to surprise someone in an unpleasant way; to mislead or lie  
370. **Throw a Monkey Wrench into the Works:** to interfere with a smoothly running operation; to upset something in progress  
371. **Throw Caution to the Wind:** to be extremely daring; to take a huge risk; to act recklessly  
372. **Throw Cold Water on Something:** to say or do something discouraging; to dampen one's enthusiasm for something  
373. **Throw the Baby Out with the Bathwater:** to lose or throw out something valuable or useful when getting rid of something that is useless  
374. **Throw the Book at Someone:** to punish severely for breaking rules or the law; to give the maximum penalty

- 375. **Throw Your Hat into the Ring:** to announce one's candidacy for election to office
- 376. **Throw Your Weight Around:** to use one's power in a mean, threatening way; to be bossy
- 377. **Tickled Pink:** to be very amused or pleased; to be delighted, entertained, extremely happy
- 378. **Tickle Your Funny Bone:** to make you laugh; to amuse somebody
- 379. **Tied to Someone's Apron String:** to be dependent on someone, such as one's mother; to not be able to do anything without asking your mother
- 380. **Tighten Your Belt:** to live on less money; to make sacrifices and lower one's standard of living

## UNIT 20

- 381. **Till the Cows Come Home:** for a long, long time
- 382. **Tip of the Iceberg:** just a small part of a larger problem or worse situation
- 383. **Tongue-In-Cheek:** intended as a joke; not serious; insincere; mocking
- 384. **Too Big for Your Britches:** conceited; swelled with self-importance; haughty
- 385. **Too Many Cooks Spoil the Broth:** a project is set back rather than helped by too many organizers; the more people who work on one project, the worse it will turn out
- 386. **Top Banana:** the leading comedian in a variety show; a boss
- 387. **Top Drawer:** the highest quality; the best
- 388. **Touch and Go:** very risky, uncertain, or critical
- 389. **Touch Something with a Ten-Foot Pole:** to avoid at all costs; to stay far away from a difficult problem
- 390. **True-Blue:** very loyal, dependable, and faithful
- 391. **Turn the Other Cheek:** to let someone do something bad to you and not defend yourself or hit back; to meekly ignore abuse or injury
- 392. **Turn the Table:** to reverse the situation; to make the opposite happen
- 393. **Turn Up Your Nose at Someone:** to regard something with haughtiness; to be snobby; to show that someone or something is not good enough for you
- 394. **Two-Faced:** false; dishonest
- 395. **Under the Weather:** sick; not well; in trouble with money
- 396. **Up a Creek Without a Paddle:** in deep trouble and unable to do anything about it
- 397. **Up Against the Wall:** in big trouble; in a difficult or desperate situation
- 398. **Upper Crust:** high society; social of financial elite; important people
- 399. **Waiting For the Other Shoe to Drop:** to do something that completes an action; to wait in suspense for something to be finished
- 400. **Walking on Eggshells:** to be very cautious; to proceed warily

## UNIT 21

- 401. **Walking on Air:** to be exuberantly happy, excited, and joyful
- 402. **Washing Your Hands of Something:** to withdraw from something ; to end one's association or responsibility for something ; to disavow , disclaim , or disown
- 403. **Watched Pot Never Boils** when waiting anxiously or impatiently for something to happen , it seems to take much longer
- 404. **Water Under the Bridge:** something that is past and cannot be changed
- 405. **Wet Behind the Ears:** young, inexperienced , and immature
- 406. **Wet Blanket:** a person who spoils other peoples fun by being depressing, dull, sour, nagging, or humorless
- 407. **What's Good for the Goose is Good for the Gander:** a rule or method of treatment
- 408. **Wheel and Deal:** to skillfully and aggressively make big plans with important business, usually to earn a lot money
- 409. **When the Cat's Away, the Mice Will Play:** when the person in charge is absent, people will usually do as they please and take advantage of the freedom
- 410. **Where There's Smoke, There's Fire:** there is always a basis for a rumor, no matter how untrue it appears

- 411. **White Elephant:** any possessions that is useless, unwanted, or cost a lot of money
- 412. **Wild-Goose Chase:** a useless or hopeless search, especially because something does not exist or can't be found
- 413. **With Flying Colors:** with ease and great success; in triumph
- 414. **Without Batting an Eyelash:** without showing emotion or interest
- 415. **Wolf in Sheep's Clothing:** somebody who appears to be harmless but is really dangerous
- 416. **Word of Mouth:** by one person telling another; by speaking, rather than writing
- 417. **Worth Your Salt:** deserving the pay or rewards that you get
- 418. **Wrong Side of the Tracks:** from a less socially desirable part of town
- 419. **You Can Lead a Horse to Water but You Can't Make Him Drink:** you can encourage, but not force, someone to do something
- 420. **You Can't Teach an Old Dog New Tricks:** people who find it difficult or impossible to change their ways to adjust to new ideas