

NTSE COACHING-2014

A LIST OF IDIOMS & PHRASES WITH MEANINGS & USAGE

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Sl No	Idiom/Phrase	Meaning	Usage/Example
1	Above board	An honest deal	Raju is honest and his dealings are always above board
2	Achilles' heel	An individual weakness	Rohini's Achilles' heel is pressure. she can't handle it.
3	Across the board	Something that applies uniformly	The chairman said there would be a salary increase across the board
4	Adam's ale	Water	Would you like to wash it down with Adam's ale?
5	Add insult to injury	To make a situation even worse	Abhishah hit my car, to add insult to injury he blamed me.
6	Albatross around the neck	A burden	The failed project has become an albatross around his neck
7	Always a bridesmaid and never a bride	Never fulfill your ambition, always second best	My cousin took part in the elections but lost again. She is always a bridesmaid, never a bride
8	American dream	To lead a life success	The american dream is not easy to achieve you need to work hard
9	Apple of one's eye	A prized possession/liked thing	Anitha is the apple of her father's eye
10	Armchair critic	Just criticising without any practice	I want someone who deals with the problem not an armchair critic
11	Ask for the moon	To ask for something impossible	The teacher wants to get 100% result. Frankly she is asking for the moon
12	Asleep at the switch	Failed to do his/her duty	The house was robbed because the watchman was asleep at the switch
13	Axe to grind	To complain about something	Mourya wants to talk to you. I'm sure he has an axe to grind
14	Back to square one	To return to the starting point	My boss didn't like the designs I gave him. It's back to square one
15	Bad egg	A dishonest/unreliable person	In our movies, it's usually the policeman who is a bad egg
16	Baker's dozen	Thirteen	Don't give me ten roses I need a baker's dozen
17	Banana republic	The country of political instability	You can't achieve your dreams here It's a banana republic
18	Band aid solution	A temporary solution	Our politicians always come up with the band aid solutions
19	Bark up the wrong tree	To make the wrong choice	The players blamed the Govt for their problems but they were barking up the wrong tree
20	Bat an eyelid	To show no surprise/concern	When he heard the terrible news, he didn't bat an eyelid
21	Be on one's high horse	Behave in a proud/arrogant manner	He is always on his high horse, he don't like to talk to his juniors
22	Beat around the bush	Not getting to the point	Will you please stop beating around the bush ?
23	Beck and call	Remain/act as a slave	The young prince was at his wife's beck and call
24	Bells and whistles	Attractive but not so essential	Ramesh likes to buy gadgets with all the bells and whistles
25	Belly up	To go bankrupt	The chit fund company went belly up within three months

26	Between the devil and the deep blue sea	Between two unpleasant situations	If she marries Bala, Rita knows she will be unhappy. If she doesn't marry her parents will be angry. She is caught between the devil and the deep blue sea
27	Big fish in a small pond	Important in a small area/place	Sujatha is tired of being a big fish in a small pond
28	Bite the bullet	To accept and endure a bad thing	Rohan decided to bite the bullet by paying extra for his car
29	Bite the dust	To die/Stop working	I hope that old scooter bites the dust soon
30	Black ball	To vote against	There was a secret ballet and poor Rahul was blackballed
31	Blow one's own trumpet/horn	Praise/boast of oneself	It is common that our politicians blow their own trumpets/horns
32	Blue blood	A person with noble birth	Do you know that saurabh is a blue-blooded aristocrat
33	Bolt from the blue	Sudden and totally unexpected	The news that Sumithra had a lung cancer was a bolt from the blue
34	Born with a silver spoon in the mouth	Born in a rich family	You can't compete with him. He was born with a silver spoon in his mouth
35	Boxing day	26-Dec	The Australians always play a test match on Boxing Day
36	Break the ice	Make a person to feel comfortable	Sriaman attempted to break the ice by his suggestion of singing
37	Burn the candle at both ends	Working beyond limits	After burning the candle at both ends for several weeks, Radhika fell ill
38	Burn the midnight oil	To work late into night	Our students start burning the midnight oil a week before the exams
39	Cake walk	Something very easily achieved	The first couple of rounds of the tournament were a cake walk for us
40	Carrot and stick approach	Reward & punish	Teachers use both the carrot and the stick method with the students
41	Carry coals to New castle	To do something unnecessary	Exporting pine to the scandinavians is like carrying coals to Newcastle
42	Caught in the crossfire	Getting caught in the mid of the fire	I always careful. I don't get caught in the cross fire
43	Closed book	Not known/Mystery	The serial killer's early life is a closed book
44	Cloud-cuckoo land	A place where everything is perfect	If you think Saritha would return the money, you're living in cloud-cuckoo-land
45	Cock and bull story	A lie, A story that can't be believed	The manager told a cock and bull story to the farmers
46	Cook someone's goose	To spoil someone's chances or plans	If you continue to treat Neethu the way you do, she'll cook your goose
47	D-day	The day planned to commence	The players are preparing themselves for D-day.
48	Dark horse	Abilities are unknown	I didn't know that Vinita could paint. She's such a dark horse
49	Deep pockets	A wealthy person/company	In our country, the Ambanis and the Tatas have deep pockets
50	Dog's breakfast	To make a complete mess	Deepta made a bit of a dog's breakfast of the essay
51	Dog days	The hottest days of summer	The heat is unbearable. How are you going to cope with the dog days?
52	Donkey's years	A very long time	It's been donkey's years since I spoke to Saritha and Ganesh

53	Don't count your chickens before they hatch	Don't celebrate prematurely	He might give a gift but don't count your chickens before they hatch
54	Drink like a fish	To consume a lot of alcohol	Our maid told us that her husband drinks like a fish
55	Drop like a potato	To leave something unwanted	The committee dropped the earlier report like a hot potato
56	Ears are burning	Talking about in his/her absence	We talked about Anil quite a bit. His ears must have been burning
57	Egg head	Who has his head in the clouds	I don't want an egghead like Radha on the committee
58	Egg on one's face	Made a foolish look	He lost the game in the 1st round. He has egg on his face
59	Elephant in the room	A serious problem every one knows	Corruption is the elephant in the room that no politician is willing to talk about
60	Face the music	To face the consequences	If you don't finish this job by tomorrow, you'll face the music
61	Feather in one's cap	An achievement	Getting ten orders in a day was a feather in the salesman's cap
62	Fish in troubled waters	To expect profit from others misfortune	Any country that interferes in middle East politics is fishing in troubled waters
63	Get on the soapbox	Telling repeatedly	Raju got on the soapbox and started telling the evils of smoking
64	Ghost walks	Pay day	According to the manager, the ghost walks today
65	Give someone the cold shoulder	To ignore/reject someone	When Uday fell from power, his friends gave him the cold shoulder.
66	Green room	A resting place for actors	I am sorry, but no one is allowed to enter the green room
67	Hand in glove	Closely involved	Some of the politicians were hand in glove with the militants
68	Hit below the belt	Being unsupportive/cruel/unfair	He doesn't think twice about hitting someone below the belt
69	By hook or crook	To be determined	I have a deadline to meet. I'll meet it by hook or by crook
70	Horse trading	Shrewd bargaining	If you want to do some horse trading, you'd better take Venkat along
71	Hot potato	A sensitive/controversial topic	In many countries, abortion still continues to be a hot potato
72	In the doldrums	In very low spirits	The movie industry is in the doldrums
73	Iron out the wrinkles	To solve/smoothen out a problem	We need to iron out a few wrinkles before we sign the contract
74	Keep your powder dry	Remain calm and ready for action	The soldiers were asked to keep their powder dry and await orders
75	Kick the bucket	To die	The greedy children are waiting for the old man to kick the bucket
76	Let the cat out of the bag	To reveal a secret accidentally	Please don't tell Vinod anything. He'll let the cat out of the bag
77	Let the grass grow under one's feet	To be idle/waste time	The chairman let the grass grow under his feet so the project failed
78	Lion's share	Larger share of something	Promod claimed the lion's share of the credit for winning the match
79	Mind your p's and q's	A warning to behave properly	If you don't mind your p's and q's, you'll get into trouble
80	Monkey's allowance	To get a negligible amount for work	My uncle gave me a monkey's allowance for helping him.

81	Monkey business	Mischievous/Illegal activity	There is a monkey business going on between the CEO and GM
82	Month of sundays	A very long time	Ashwin says he has't seen his cousin in a month of sundays
83	Maked truth	Plain truth	He has revealed the police the naked truth
84	Nine days' wonder	Arouses interest for short time	The murder of the professor was a nine days' wonder
85	Not enough room to swing a cat	Small/not sufficient space	The bedrooms are very small. There is not enough room to swing a cat
86	Paper tiger	Looks strong just for showy	My boss is nothing more than a paper tiger
87	Pass the buck	Putting the blames on others	Don't try to pass the buck, Ann. It's your fault we missed the train
88	pink slip	Letter to indicate removal in party	More than 20 workers were given the pink slip yesterday
89	Doble edged sword	Harms both the sides	His word is the double-edged sword
90	Dressed to the nines	In very best clothes	Oh! You are dressed to the nines today
91	Dutch uncle	One gives unwelcome advice	Don't talk to him he is a dutch uncle
92	Eleventh hour	Last minute/stage	He didn't get the ticket as he reached the station in the eleventh hour
93	Finger in the pie	Interested in something	His fingers are already in the pie
94	Fish out of water	Feel uncomfortable	In the beginning I felt like a fish out water here
95	Flowery speech	With lovely words	The guest has delivered a flowery speech
96	Greek to me	Unknown/Unfamiliar	I don't know anything about computer, it is greek to me
97	Head in the clouds	The person with impractical ideas	His ideas are unrealistic, his head is in the clouds
98	In the hot sheet	Sensitive/troublesome place	It is really a hot sheet to handle
99	Kangaroo court	A court where justice is not served	Sneha was sent to prison by a kangaroo court
100	Mint condition	Perfect	The laboratory is maintained in a mint condition

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