

Phrases and Expressions YOU MUST KNOW

From A to Z



<https://www.aulafacil.com/cursos/ingles/frases-y-expresiones-en-ingles-que-debes-conocer-t4604>

B

From A to Z

-Back out:

En un acuerdo o en una promesa o similar, *echarse atrás* y no cumplirlo.

Ejemplo:

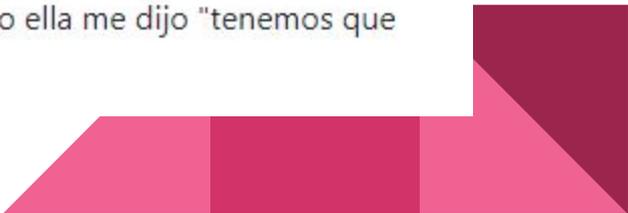
You said that you were going to sign it, don't back out now - Dijiste que ibas a firmarlo, no te echas atrás ahora.

-Back to the wall:

Estar *contra la pared*, estar en un aprieto.

Ejemplo:

When she said "we have to talk", I knew that I had my back to the wall - Cuando ella me dijo "tenemos que hablar", supe que estaba en un aprieto.



-Ball of fire:

Literalmente "bola de fuego", pero se usa para hablar de la personalidad de alguien, para indicar que tiene una personalidad muy fuerte, arrolladora.

Ejemplo:

She is an incredible woman, she is a ball of fire - Ella es una mujer increíble, tiene una personalidad arrolladora.

-Bark is worst than (my/your/his/her/its/our/your/their) bite:

La equivalencia castellana sería "perro ladrador poco mordedor", o lo que es lo mismo, alguien parece en un principio fiero o peligroso, cuando en realidad no lo es tanto.

Ejemplo:

He can shout, but we now that his bark is worst than his bite - Puede gritar, pero sabemos que perro ladrador poco mordedor.

-Beat (my/your/his/her/its/our/your/their) brains out:

Utilizamos esta expresión cuando queremos indicar que estamos haciendo los máximos esfuerzos por tratar de entender algo, que nos "estrujamos los sesos".

Ejemplo:

I don't understand the exercise, but I'm beating my brains out - No entiendo el ejercicio, pero me estoy "estrujando los sesos".

-Bat an eye:

Se usa para cuando una persona no muestra sus sentimientos ante algo. Lo podríamos traducir como "sin pestañear".

Ejemplo:

When I told him he was ill, he didn't bat an eye - Cuando le dije que estaba enfermo, no pestañeó.

-Beat around the bushes:

"Dar rodeos", pero al hablar.

Ejemplo:

When we were speaking, she was beating around the bushes all the time - Cuando estábamos hablando, ella daba rodeos todo el tiempo.

-Better devil you know than evil you don't:

"Más vale malo conocido que bueno por conocer". Es una frase usada cuando **no queremos arriesgar** lo que tenemos o hemos conseguido por miedo a perderlo, aunque la recompensa de ese riesgo pueda ser mayor que la que ya tenemos.

Ejemplo:

I told him to try it, but he told me: "better devil you know than evil you don't"- Le dije de intentarlo, pero él me dijo: más vale malo conocido que bueno por conocer.

-Between the devil and the deep blue sea:

Lo podríamos traducir como la expresión castellana "Entre la espada y la pared". Se usa para indicar que estamos en dificultades, en apuros, entre dos opciones igual de malas.

Ejemplo:

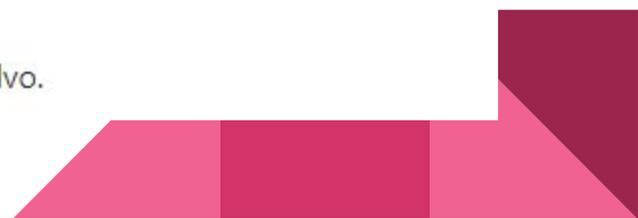
It is very difficult, I am between the devil and the deep blue sea - es muy difícil, estoy entre la espada y la pared.

-Bite the dust:

Literalmente "morder el polvo", fracasar. Be killed

Ejemplo:

He made three of them bite the dust - Él hizo que tres de ellos mordieran el polvo.



-Born with a silver spoon in (my/your/his/her/its/our/your/their) mouth:

"Nacer con una cuchara de plata en la boca" o lo que es lo mismo, decir que alguien ha nacido en el seno de una familia que no pasa ningún tipo de apuro económico; no pasar dificultades económicas.

Ejemplo:

Jack's father is the owner of Apple, he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth - El padre de Jack es el dueño de Apple, él no tiene apuros económicos.

-Build castles in the air:

Expresión que se utiliza para decir que algo es un sueño inalcanzable, imposible, con pocas posibilidades de ocurrir. Literalmente, "construir castillos en el aire".

Ejemplo:

They are speaking about their ambitions, but it's all castles in the air - Ellos están hablando sobre sus ambiciones, pero son todos sueños inalcanzables.

Activities To Practice

Using your own words explain what these expressions mean

- Back out
- Back to the wall
- Ball of fire
- Bark is worse than __ bite
- Beat __ brains out
- Bat an eye
- Beat around the bushes
- Better devil you know than evil you don't
- Between the devil and the deep blue sea
- Bite the dust
- Born with a silver spoon in __ mouth
- Build castles in the air



Complete the sentences with the correct expression

1. Mary didn't even _____ when I told her I was moving out
 2. I always knew that Lauren would grow up to be successful—she was a real _____ as a kid.
 3. Thousands of small businesses _____ every year.
 4. I guess I'll ask Dave again. His design wasn't perfect last time but it's better _____.
 5. You agreed to come. You can't _____ now!
 6. She keeps talking about her big-time ambitions, but she's _____.
 7. My girlfriend told me her father's _____ and not to worry when I meet him this weekend
 8. Don't _____ trying to please these people—they'll never appreciate it.
 9. They have him with his _____ and now he has no more options but to pay back the debtors or go to jail for fraud.
 10. He has never worked hard for anything because he was _____.
 11. Don't _____, come straight to the point!
 12. I'm caught _____. If I go on holiday during peak season, I may get fired but if I don't go, my girlfriend may leave me.
- A. Back out
 - B. beat around the bush
 - C. Back to the wall
 - D. born with a silver spoon in his mouth
 - E. Bat an eye
 - F. Bark is worse than his bite
 - G. Devil you know than evil you don't
 - H. between the devil and the deep blue sea.
 - I. Ball of fire
 - J. Beat your brains out
 - K. Building castle sin the air
 - L. Bite the dust

Answers

1. Mary didn't even bat an eye when I told her I was moving out
2. I always knew that Lauren would grow up to be successful—she was a real ball of fire as a kid.
3. Thousands of small businesses bite the dust every year.
4. I guess I'll ask Dave again. His design wasn't perfect last time but it's better devil you know than evil you don't.
5. You agreed to come. You can't back out now!
6. She keeps talking about her big-time ambitions, but she's building castles in the air.
7. My girlfriend told me her father's bark is worse than his bite and not to worry when I meet him this weekend
8. Don't beat your brains out trying to please these people—they'll never appreciate it.
9. They have him with his back to the wall and now he has no more options but to pay back the debtors or go to jail for fraud.
10. He has never worked hard for anything because he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth.
11. Don't beat around the bush, come straight to the point!
12. I'm caught between the devil and the deep blue sea. If I go on holiday during peak season, I may get fired but if I don't go, my girlfriend may leave me.

Write your own sentences using the expressions learned

