

# Phrases and Expressions YOU MUST KNOW

From A to Z



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# C

From A to Z

### -Call a spade a spade:

Llamar a las cosas por su nombre.

#### Ejemplo:

I told him that the car was old, I like to call a spade a spade - Le dije que el coche era viejo, me gusta llamar a las cosas por su nombre.

### -Chicken feed:

Utilizamos esta expresión para hablar de cantidades de dinero sin importancia, de "calderilla".

#### Ejemplo:

20 cents? ok, it's chicken feed for me - ¿20 céntimos? vale, es "calderilla" para mí.

**-Clip (my/your/his/her/its/our/your/their) wings:**

Cortar las alas, quitar el ánimo a alguien para que haga algo o incluso no permitírselo.

**Ejemplo:**

Sara wanted to be a football player, but Mike clipped her wings - Sara quería ser futbolista, pero Mike le cortó las alas.

**-Close shave:**

Sería el equivalente a "salvarse por los pelos" en castellano, algo milagroso. Literalmente se puede usar para definir un afeitado apurado.

**Ejemplo:**

He was driving drunk, but now he is at home. That was a close shave - Él estuvo conduciendo borracho, pero ahora está en casa. Es milagroso.



### -Come apart at the seams:

Utilizamos esta expresión para indicar que algo nos saca de nuestras casillas, que **perdemos los nervios**, que nos enfurece.

#### Ejemplo:

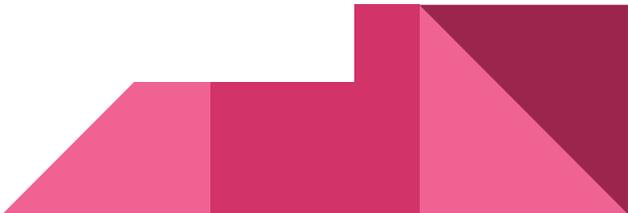
If he repeat one more time the same word I will come apart at the seams - Si él vuelve a repetir una vez más la misma palabra perderé los nervios.

### -Conk out:

Usamos esta expresión para hacer ver que alguien **duerme profundamente**, que "duerme como un tronco".

#### Ejemplo:

Jack conked out after the race - Jack durmió como un tronco tras la carrera.



**-Cover up:**

**Coartada.** Si usamos esta expresión para hacer referencia a que estamos encubriendo a alguien utilizamos "for" detrás de la expresión.

**Ejemplos:**

It isn't true, it's just a cover up - No es cierto, es solo una coartada.

I am covering up for him - Le estoy encubriendo.

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**-Cream of the crop:**

Hacemos referencia con esta expresión a **lo mejor de lo mejor**.

**Ejemplo:**

My filet mignon is the cream of the crop - Mi filet mignon es lo mejor de lo mejor.



**-Crocodile tears:**

Lágrimas de cocodrilo, lágrimas fingidas.

**Ejemplo:**

They are crying, but are crocodile tears, they aren't sad - Están llorando, pero son lágrimas de cocodrilo, ellos no están tristes.

**-Cut off (my/your/his/her/its/our/your/their) water:**

La podemos traducir (de manera no literal) como "parar los pies a alguien".

**Ejemplo:**

Ann was shouting their parents, so I cut off her water - Ann estaba gritando a sus padres, así que le paré los pies.



# Activities To Practice

# Using your own words explain what these expressions mean

- Call a spade a spade
- Chicken feed
- Clip \_\_ wings
- Close shave
- Come apart at the seams
- Conk out
- Cover up
- Cream of the crop
- Crocodile tears
- Cut off \_\_ water



# Complete the sentences with the correct expression

1. The baby \_\_\_\_\_ on the way home.
  2. Kids need to be able to explore the world around them—don't \_\_\_\_\_
  3. We need to draft this player—he's definitely the \_\_\_\_\_.
  4. That dress made her look fat, let's \_\_\_\_\_ before she goes out wearing it and embarrasses herself.
  5. We need to \_\_\_\_\_ before he totally undermines what we're trying to accomplish here.
  6. I've had a few \_\_\_\_\_ in my lifetime, but this one was the scariest
  7. He suspects there's a conspiracy to \_\_\_\_\_ the crime.
  8. The sight of George shedding \_\_\_\_\_ made me sick
  9. The cost of buying a new house isn't \_\_\_\_\_
  10. The company is \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Cream of the crop
  - B. Crocodile tears
  - C. Close shaves
  - D. Conked out
  - E. Coming apart at the seams
  - F. Chicken feed
  - G. Clip their wings
  - H. Cover up
  - I. Call a spade a spade
  - J. Cut this guy's water off

# Answers

1. Our car conked out on the way home.
2. kids need to be able to explore the world around them—don't clip their wings
3. We need to draft this player—he's definitely the cream of the crop.
4. That dress made her look fat, let's call a spade a spade before she goes out wearing it and embarrasses herself.
5. We need to cut this guy's water off before he totally undermines what we're trying to accomplish here.
6. I've had a few close shaves in my lifetime, but this one was the scariest
7. He suspects there's a conspiracy to cover up the crime.
8. The sight of George shedding crocodile tears made me sick
9. The cost of buying a new house isn't chicken feed
10. The company is coming apart at the seams

Cream of the crop

Crocodile tears

Close shaves

Conked out

Coming apart at the seams

Chicken feed

Clip their wings

Cover up

Call a spade a spade

Cut this guy's water off

Write your own sentences using the expressions  
learned

