

Idiom and Phrase

Objectives :



At the end of this lesson you will be able to :

- S know what Idiom and Phrase mean.
- use of idioms and phrases.
- s increase vocabulary.
- make new sentences.
- use of different words.

Idiom and Phrase বা 'বাগধারা' হল একটি নির্দিষ্ট ভাব প্রকাশক 'শব্দ সমষ্টি' যার প্রতিটি পৃথক পৃথক শব্দ থেকে মাঝে মাঝে অর্থ বের করা প্রায় অসম্ভব। উদাহরণস্বরূপ ঃ At sixes and sevens- phrase টি আক্ষরিক ভাবে আলাদা আলাদা অর্থ প্রকাশ না করে একটি বাগবৈশিষ্টগত অর্থ প্রকাশ করে। যার অর্থ 'বিশুক্ষখলভাবে'।

নিল্ত কিছু Idioms and Phrases-এর তালিকা শিক্ষার্থীদের সুবিধার জন্য দেয়া হল ঃ

A

- A B C (primary knowledge, the rudiments, প্রাথমিক জ্ঞান) : He does not know even the A B C of commerce.
- Above all (more than anything else, সর্বোপরি) : Sheikh Farid was above all a saint.
- Above board (open, beyond reproach, সন্দেহের অতীত) : His dealings are fair and above board.
- After all (in spite of all that has been said or done or expected, তৎসত্বেও, মোটের ওপর) : His father is *after all* an honest man.
- All at once (suddenly, সহসা) : All at once I saw a crowd, a host of golden daffodils.
- All but (almost, nearly, थोग्र): My friend is all but ruined.
- All of a sudden or, All on a sudden (unexpectedly, সম্পূর্ণ আকস্মিক ভাবে) : All of a sudden he fell into a ditch and broke his leg.

- All in all (all powerful. সর্বেসর্বা) : The manager is all in all in the office.
- All the same (the same is the result, একই বা অপরিবর্তিত) : It is all the same to me whether you go or not.
- All over with (finished, সব শেষ): It is all over with the patient now.
- **An open question** (an undecided matter, অমীমাংসিত বিষয়) : It still remains an open question.
- Apple of discord (subject of quarrel, কলহের হেতু) : This plot of land is the apple of discord between the two families.
- As it were (so to say, ঠিক যেন): The moon is, as it were the lamp of the earth.
- As usual (as it commonly happens, যথারীতি) : I went there as usual.
- At a loss (confusedly in competent, কিংকর্তব্য বিমূঢ়) : I am at a loss to decide how to deal with the matter.
- At all events (in any case, যাই যটুক না কেন) : At all events we shall start for Khulna tomorrow.
- At bottom (in essential character, মূলত) : Mr. Amin is at bottom a good man.
- At daggers drawn (at enmity, বিবদমান অবস্থায়) : They are at daggers drawn with each other.
- At home in (very familiar with, সুপরিচিত, দক্ষ) : He is quite at home in English.
- At last (it refers to time, অবশেষে): The prince came at last.
- At the latest (not later than, কিছুতেই পরে নয়) : Be off from here on Monday at the latest.
- At least (at the lower estimate অশ্ভুতঃ) : He is not your superior, he is at least your equal.
- At large (in general, at liberty, সাধারণত, মুক্ত): This was popular with the people at large.
- At one's finger-ends (be thoroughly familiar with, নখদর্পণে, আয়ত্বে) : I have my lessons at my finger-ends.
- At one's disposal (under one's control, কারো নিয়ন্ত্রণে বা অধিকারে) : I can give you a job for it is *at my disposal*.
- At a stretch (without a break, একনাগাড়ে) : I can run five kilometers at a stretch.
- At the eleventh hour (at the last moment শেষ মুহুর্তে) : He came to the spot at the eleventh hour.
- At all (আদৌ) : I am not happy at all.
- At length (বিস্তারিতভাবে) : They discussed the matter at length.

At one's door (দ্বারপ্রান্তে) : There is somebody at your door.

A good many (বহু সংখ্যক) : I have a good many things to do.

At any rate (যাই হোক) : I have decided to go at any rate.

As long as (যতক্ষণ পর্যন্ত) : Don't go out as long as the rain continues.

A variety of (বিভিন্ন ধরনের) : We read books for a variety of reasons.

Above all (সর্বোপরি) : He is sincere, hardworking and above all honest.

- **At stake** (At endangered position) : Nowadays the animals of the world are *at stake*.
- At large (Freely) : The birds fly in the sky at large.

A man of letters (A learned person) : A man of letters is respected everywhere.

At random (aimlessly) : They walked at random.

B

By means of (by dint of, উপায়ে) : You can succeed in life only by means of hard work.

Beggar description (to be indescribable) : The miseries of our locals *beggar description* due to recent flood.

Bag and baggage (All belongings) : The man left the house *bag and baggage*.

- **Birds of the same feather** (Persons of the same group) : *Birds of the same feather* flock together.
- **Bring to light** (to be known) : The secret matter of their family has been *brought to light*.
- Blue blood (Aristocracy) : She is proud of her blue blood.
- **Burning question** (important issue) : Population problem in our country is a *burning question.*
- **By the by** (In reference to conversation) : *By the by*, are you satisfied with your wife?
- By dint of (By means of) : He succeeded in life by dint of perseverance.
- **Beyond dispute** (undoubtedly) : He is, *beyond dispute*, a great person in our locality.
- **Black and white** (In a written form) : You should submit your appeal in *black and white*.
- **Bolt from the blue** (lightning without cloud) : The death news of his father came to me as a *bolt from the blue*.
- **Bone of contention** (A matter of dispute) : The occurrence is a *bone of contention* for our family.
- Bread and butter (livelihood) : She earns her bread and butter very hard.

By heart (To memorise) : It is your responsibility to learn the lesson by heart.

By turns (Serially) : Weal and woe come by turns.

By hook or by crook (at any cost) : They will harm her by hook or by crook.

By leaps and bounds (at a rapid motion) : The price of daily commodities is increasing *by leaps and bounds*.

С

Call in question (to doubt, সন্দেহ করা) : His honesty cannot be *called in question*.

- **Call into play** (to bring into action, ব্যক্ত করা) : Adversity *calls into play* the best qualities of a man.
- **Call to account** (to call for an explanation, কৈফিয়ত দাবী করা) : He was called to account by his boss.
- **Call to mind** (to remember, স্মরণ করা) : I cannot *call to mind* what you told me on the way.
- Carry into effect (to execute, সম্পাদন করা) : This plan was carried into effect.
- Carry the day (to win, জয়লাভ করা): He joined the debate and carried the day.
- **Carry weight** (to exert influence, গুরুত্বপূর্ণ হওয়া) : The advice of the president always *carries weight* with the Ministry.
- Chicken-hearted man (a coward, छोत्न) : He is a chicken hearted man.
- Close-fisted man (a miser, কঞ্জুস): Nobody likes a close-fisted man.
- **Cock and bull story** (a foolish story, গাজাখোরী গল্প) : I have really no time to listen cock and bull story.
- Come to light (to be known, জানাজানি হওয়া) : The secret has come to light.
- **Come true** (to be proved true, সত্য বলে প্রমাণিত হওয়া) : The rumour about his death has *come true*.
- **Come to terms** (to yield, আপোষ করা) : He was compelled to *come to terms* with the enemy.
- Come to a head (to supperate, চরম অবস্থায় পৌঁছান): The boil has come to a head.
- **Come to nothing** (not to be put into effect, ব্যর্থ হওয়া) : The scheme for the irrigation of this area *came to nothing* for many reasons.
- **Crocodile tears** (false, Or, pretended grief, মায়াকারা) : He shed crocodile tears at the death of his enemy.
- **Crying need** (urgent necessary, গুরুতর প্রয়োজন) : Primary education is the *crying need* of the country.
- **Come round** (To be sound) : She has *come round* from fever.

Cats and dogs (in torrents) : It has been raining *cats and dogs* since morning.

Carry out (To abide by) : It is your duty to *carry out* every order of office.

Close to (adjacent to) Their shop is *close to* ours.

Idiom and Phrase

Do away with (লোপ করা): We should do away with this bad practice.

Do good (কারও উপকার করা) : This measure will do us good.

Dead against (মোর বিরোধী) : I am dead against smoking.

Die in harness (কাজ করতে করতে মারা যাওয়া) : He died in harness.

Double game (দ্বিমুখী নীতি) : I don't like his double game.

Draw up (মুসাবিদা করা) : He drew up the agreement.

Day after day (দিনের পর দিন) : She waited for him day after day.

F

- Fall flat (no to be effective, প্রভাব বিস্তারে ব্যর্থ হওয়া) : His lecture falls flat on the audience.
- Fall foul of (to quarrel, কলহ করা): He is in the habit of falling foul of every body.

Fall in with (to agree with, একমত হওয়) : I cannot fall in with your views.

- Fair and square (honest and just, সং): He was fair and square in all his dealings.
- Fair weather friend (false friend, সুসময়ের বন্ধু) : Never trust a fair weather friend.
- Fall a prey to (to fall a victim to, শিকারে পরিণত হওয়া) : The deer *fell a prey to* the lion.
- Fall short of (be inadequate, ঘাটতি পড়া) : Your work fall short of our expectation.
- Far and near or, Far and wide (all around, চতুর্দিকে) : The news spread far and wide.
- Few and far between (at wide intervals, মাঝে মধ্যে, বিরল) : In this part of the country houses are *few and far between*.
- Fight shy of (to avoid, अफ़्रिंग ज्ला) : Why do you try to fight shy of your teacher?
- Fire and fury (violent passion, প্রচন্ড রোষ ও উত্তেজনা) : The language of the speaker was full of *fire and fury*.
- **First and foremost** (of the greatest importance, প্রথম ও সর্বাধিক গুরুত্বপূর্ণ) : The *first* and *foremost* duty of a student is to read.
- **Find fault with** (complain about, খুঁত ধরা) : He is always in the habit of *finding fault with* everybody.
- **Fish out of water** (a person in an uncomfortable position, অস্বস্থ্যি অবস্থায় পতিত ব্যক্তি) : He feels like a *fish out of water*.
- Flesh and blood (human nature, রক্ত মাংসের শরীর) : These are things which *flesh* and blood cannot bear.
- For the time being (for the present, বর্তমান সময়ের জন্য) : Please stay here for the time being.

- For the sake of (on account of, জন্য বা নিমিন্ত) : He suffered much for the sake of his country.
- For good (for ever, চিরতরে) : He left Bangladesh for good.
- Fool's paradise (happiness on vain hopes, মূর্যের স্বর্গ) : You should not live in a *fool's paradise*.
- From hand to mouth (very poor, দিন এনে দিন খায়) : The peasants of Bangladesh live from hand to mouth.
- From head to foot (whole body, আপদমন্তক): He eyed the rogue from head to foot.
- From pillar to post (hither and thither, এক আশ্রায় হতে অন্য আশ্রায়) : He was driven from pillar to post.
- **Fresh blood** (new and enthusiastic person, উদ্যমী তরুণ সম্প্রদায়) : We want *fresh blood* in the field of politics.
- Free and easy (unrestrained, উদার ও সহজ) : His free and easy manner won the hearts of all.
- **Far and away** (in every sense, সবদিক বিবেচনা করে) : Rabindranath is *far and away* the greatest poet of the world.
- **From bad to worse** (gradually going bad, ক্রমে জনে খারাপের দিকে) : The patient's condition is going *from bad to worse*.

G

Go back (ফিরে যাওয়া) : He went back home.

Get in (পৌঁছা): The train got in five hours late.

Get to (পৌঁছা) : How can I get to Sadar Ghat?

Give way to (হার মানা) : Sometimes reason gives way to unreason.

Go across (পার হওয়া) : We went across the river by boat.

Go ahead (এগিয়ে যাওয়া) : Go ahead with your plan.

Go back to (ফিরে যাওয়া) : I went back to my work.

Go one's own way (নিজের মত চলা) : I have always preferred to go my own way.

Grow out of (ছাড়াইয়া যাওয়া) : The boy has grown out of the shirt.

Guilty conscience (অপরাধবোধ) : He suffers from a guilty conscience.

Get at (নাগাল পাওয়া) : The box could not get at the grapes.

Get on with (চলা) : How are you getting on with your studies?

Get up (শয্যা ত্যাগ করা) : I get up at 6 O'clock in the morning.

Gift of the gab (বাগ্মিতা) : He has gift of the gab.

Give in (বশ্যতা স্বীকার করা): I will never give in to him.

Gain ground (অর্থসর হওয়া) : He could not gain ground.

Get the better of (পরাজিত করা) : I got the better of him.

Get rid of (মুক্তি পাওয়া) : I must get rid of this situation.

Go in for (উপস্থিত থাকা) : I shall go in for the examination.

- Go through (পড়া) : I have gone through the book.
- Gala day (a day of festivity, আনন্দোৎসবের দিন) : The 26th of march is a gala day for all Bangladeshis.
- Get rid of (give up, মুক্ত হওয়া) : Get rid of this bad habit.

H

- **Hard times** (times of difficulty, দুঃসহ সময়) : Poet Madhusudan was then passing through very *hard times*.
- Hang fire (to remain undecided, অমীমাংসিত থাকা) : The matter has been hanging fire for some time.
- **Hang in the balance** (to be in suspense, সন্দেহ বা অনিশ্চয়তার মধ্যে থাকা) : The fate of the prisoner is still *hanging in the balance*.
- Hole and corner (secret, গোপন বা রহস্যপূর্ণ) : I do not like his hole and corner policy.
- **Haunted house** (a house supposed to be haunted by a ghost, ভুতুরে বাড়ি) : It is not possible for us to live in a *haunted house*.
- **Hold water** (to stand scruiting, পরীক্ষায় উৎরায়ে যাওয়া) : His argument does not hold water.
- Hold good (to prove valid, বলবৎ হওয়া) : This policy will hold good in the long run.
- Hue and cry (up roar, भौतरभोन) : They raised a hue and cry at the sight of a thief.
- **Hush money** (money given as bribe to husk up matter, যুষ) : The manager offered the police a large sum as *hush money*.
- Hard and fast (fixed, বাঁধা-ধরা) : There is no hard and fast rule in this matter.
- **Hang together** (to be consistent with, সঙ্গতিপূর্ণ হওয়া) : The two statements of the accused do not *hang together*.
- Heart and soul (earnestly, স্বান্তঃকরণে) : Alam is trying heart and soul to win the prize.
- Head and tail (not a jat of sense, মাথামুন্ডু) : I couldn't make head and tail of what he said.
- **High time** (far advanced time, উপযুক্ত সময়) : It is the *high time* and you can start now.
- High and low (all classes of society, धनी ७ गतीन) : All men high and low will die.

Common Phrases and Idioms

Hard and fast (specific, fixed, ধরা বাঁধা) : There is no hard and fast rule in this matter.

Ι

- In accordance with (according to, অনুসারে) : My friend acted in accordance with your advice.
- In as much as (since, থেহেতু) : In as much as you are repentant, I pardon you this time.
- In a fix (in a difficult situation, মুশকিলে পতিত) : I am *in a fix* and so I am in need of your help.
- In black and white (in writing, লিখিতভাবে) : I must have your statement in black and white.
- In cold blood (deliberately, স্থির মন্তিমকে) : The man was murdered in cold blood.
- In case (if, यान): In case you fail, what will you do?
- In defence of (in support of, সমর্থনে) : The convict pleaded in defence of his conduct.
- In the event of (in case, খটনাচক্রে) : What will you do in the event of your father's death?
- In fine (in short, to sum up, উপসংহারে) : In fine it was a piece of swindling.
- **In the face of** (in opposition to, সরাসরি বিরোধিতা করা) : He proceeded with this work all alone *in the face of* opposition from all quarters.
- In full swing (in full force, পুরোদমে) : The work is going on in full swing.
- **In good stead** (be of specialise, কারো কাজে আসা) : My father's advice will stand you *in good stead* at all times.
- **In keeping with** (consistent with, সামজস্যপূর্ণ) : What does he is hardly *in keeping with* what he says.
- In lieu of (in stead of, পরিবর্তে) : Mamun took up English in lieu of Bengali.
- In no time (soon, শীঘ্রই) : Our captain will come here in no time.
- In spite of (notwithstanding, সত্তেও) : They went out in spite of the rain.
- In the long run (ultimately, সর্বশেষে, পরিণামে) : You will have to suffer in the long run for your conduct.
- In a dilemma (don't know what to do, danger in both side, উভয় সংকটে) : He was in a dilemma because both the men were his relatives.
- In favour of (to support someone, to work for someone, অনুকূলে, পক্ষে) : They canvassed *in favour of* my brother.
- **In good faith** (with good and honest intent, সরল-বিশ্বাসে) : He told me every thing *in good faith*.

Idiom and Phrase

- In order to (for the purpose of doing something, উদ্দেশ্যে) : We went there in order to met the man.
- In the guise (garb) of (in disguise of, ছন্মবেশে) : He told a great lie in the guise of an interesting story.
- In the wake (train) of (just after, ঠিক পরে) : The police came in the wake of the accident.

J

Jack of all trades (someone who can do several different jobs instead of specializing in one, সবজান্তা) : The precious boy is a **jack of all trades** and master of none.

K

Keep body and soul together (to keep alive, কোনমতে বেঁচে থাকা) : This blind beggar has no means to keep body and soul together.

Look after (To take care of) : It is our responsibility to look after our parents.

Look for (To find) : What are you *looking for*?

Long for (To wish) : She longs for getting educated.

Lose heart (To be disappointed) : Do not lose heart at the sight of danger.

Maiden Speech (First lecture) : That was her maiden speech.

Make sure (To ensure) : *Make sure* that your daily food consists of all the important elements.

Make haste (To be hasty) : Do not make haste while doing any work.

Null and void (to be cancelled) : The law has been null and void.

0

- Odds and ends (stray things, টুকি টাকিগুলো) : Your brain is filled with all sorts of odds and ends.
- **On the brink of** Or, **On the verge of** (very near to, অতি সন্নিকটে) : The gentle man is on the brink of ruin.
- Oh behalf of (as representative of, পক্ষে) : Our captain will speak on behalf of our club.
- On the contrary (on the other hand, rather than, পক্ষাশ্যর) : I do not hate you, on the contrary I like you.
- Of course (naturally, বভাবতই) : Kamal succeeded in life and was of course praised by all.
- On the score of Or, On ground of (on account of, কারণে) : The clerk was dismissed on the score of his long absence from office.
- One and all (everyone and separately, প্রত্যেক) : The jurors, one and all declared him innocent.

Common Phrases and Idioms

- **Once in a while** (rarely, কখনও কখনও) : My uncle comes to our house once in a while.
- **Once and again** (frequently, একাধিকবার, প্রায়ই) : I warned him *once and again* not to go out.
- Once for all (now and for the time, শেষবারের মতে) : He left his native land once for all.
- Off and on (occasionally, মধ্যে মধ্যে) : My friend comes here off and on.
- Of no avail (of no use, নিফল) : My effort was of no avail.
- Of late (recently, সম্প্রতি) : Of late Rahim has become very rich.
- On the eve of (just before, থাৰালে): Mr. Dulal went to Dhaka on the eve of the puja vacation.
- **On pain of** (subject to penalty of, শাস্ডির ভয় দেখাইয়া) : The man was forced to sign the document *on pain of* continued harassment.
- On the point of (about to, অতি নিকটে) : The patient is now on the point of death.
- On the look out for (looking for, সন্ধানে) : Samal is on the look out for a job.
- **On the whole** (generally speaking, মোটের উপর) : The boy's conduct was on the whole good.
- **Open secret** (secret known to all, যে গুপ্ত রহস্য অনেকেরই জানা) : It is an *open secret* that this police man takes bribes.
- Out and out (fully, সম্পূর্ণরূপে) : Nazrul Islam was out and out a rebel poet.
- **Out of doors** (in or into the open air, খোলা জায়গায়) : Boys were playing out of doors.
- Out of gear (out of order, আচল): War and famine throw human society out of gear.
- **Out of pocket** (a loser, টাকা কড়িহীন) : He is *out of pocket* by transaction.

Out of date (old fashion, সেকেলে) : The practice is now out of date.

P

Pull up (টেনে তোলা) : He cannot pull the stake up.

Prepared for (প্রস্টুত) : I am prepared for the consequence.

Pass through (অতিক্রম করা) : He passed through Dhaka to reach Gazipur.

Pros and cons (স্বপক্ষে ও বিপক্ষে যুক্তসমূহ) : I know the pros and cons of the plan.

Put down (लिभी) : You should put down the matter.

Put up with (সহ্য করা) : I cannot put up with this insult.

Idiom and Phrase

- **Red letter day** (Memorable day) : 21st February is a *red letter day* in our history.
- Run after (পিছনে ছুটা) : He ran after money.

Rule out (বাদ দেয়া) : The police have ruled out the suicide.

<u>S</u>

- Salt of the earth (persons with very high qualities, পৃথিবীর শ্রেষ্ঠ ব্যক্তিগণ) : Men like vedyasagar and Lincoln were the salt of the earth.
- **Sheet anchor** (the final support, শেষ অবলম্বন) : Alexander the Great's Indian expedition is the *sheet anchor* of Indian chronology.
- Sit on the fence (to remain neutral, নিরপেক্ষ থাকা) : The man who sits on the fence is very often misunderstood.
- Skin and bone (skeleton, অস্থি-চর্মসার) : This disease has left my friend skin and bone.
- Slow coach (a person who is slow in action, কুড়ে লোক) : You should not depend on a *slow coach* like him in such an urgent matter.
- Snake in the grass (a secret foe, $\Im \Im$ \Im): He suspects his friend, but is unconcerned about the snakes in the grass.
- **So to say** or, **so to speak** (by the by, বলতে কি) : The head clerk is *so to say* all in this office.
- **Square meal** (full meal, পেটভরা আহার) : The poor in Bangladesh want only two square meals a day.
- **Stand to** (to stick to, অবিচলিত ভাবে লেগে থাকা) : My friend will ever *stand to* his promise.
- Sum and substance (summary, সারমর্ম) : The sum and substance of his speech is this.
- **Storm in a tea-pot** (to uproar about practically nothing. তুচ্ছ বিষয়ে প্রচন্ড বিক্ষোভ) : She raised a *storm in a tea pot* over the loss of a handkerchief.
- Safe and sound (safe and whole or healthy, without any danger, নিরাপদে) : The fighter plane bombed on the target and returned safe and sound.
- **Sum and substance** (Gist) : I can't understand the *sum and substance* of the poem.

T

Talk big (to boast, বড় বড় কথা বলা) : He talks big about himself.

- **Tall talk** (high-sounding talk, বড় বড় কথা) : We should not rely upon a person who always indulges in *tall talk*.
- **Take heart** (to be encouraged, উৎসাহিত হওয়া) : Mukul *took heart* at his teacher's words.

Take to heart (to mortify, অন্তরে ব্যথা পাওয়া) : Mr. Khan took the insult to heart.

BBS Program

Take a fancy to (to like, পছন্দ হওয়া) : I took a fancy to his stick.

- **Take into account or consideration** (to regard, বিবেচনার বিষয়িভুক্ত করা) : While teaching the boys a teacher should *take* their age *into account*.
- Tell upon (to affect, ক্ষতি করা) : His sleeplessness will tell upon his health.
- **The dogs of war** (devastating activities, রক্তপাত ও ধ্বংসলীলা) : Nadir Shah let loose *the dogs of war* on Delhi.
- Through and through (completely, সম্পূর্ণভাবে) : He is wet through and through.
- **The three R's** (elementary education, ন্যানতম শিক্ষা) : The boy learns the three R's at home.
- To a fault (excessively, মাত্রা ছাড়িয়ে) : She is generous to a fault.
- **To the contrary** (in opposition, বিপরীতে) : He will come on Sunday unless you write him *to the contrary*.
- **To a T** (nicely, সঠিকভাবে) : This new office suits me to a T.
- **Tooth and nail** (desperately, উঠে পড়ে লাগা) : They fought *tooth and nail* for their right.
- To the backbone (in the inmost being, হাড়ে হাড়ে) : This boy is wicked to the backbone.
- To the letter (strictly, যথাযথভাবে) : Halem followed my instructions to the letter.
- **Turn tail** (to escape, to run away. লেজ গুটান, পালিয়ে যাওয়া) : At last the pak army turned tail from Bangladesh.
- **Throw cold water** (discourage, নিরুৎসাহ করা) : Nobody should *throw cold water* on the efforts of children.
- Ups and downs (Rise and fall) : There are ups and downs in one's life.

W

Well off (Solvent) : The condition of their family is well off.

Weal and woe (Happiness and sorrow) : Weal and woe come by turns.

With a view to (In order to) : He went to Dhaka *with a view to* doing the work.

Worthy of (Qualified) : She is *worthy of* getting the prize.

Without fail (Surely) : He will come here without fail.