

## Idioms and Phrases

1) Bad patches - professional difficulties.

E.g. A friend of mine is going through bad patches presently.

2) Skate on thin ice - to take risk deliberately.

3) Shades of grey - not clear if right or wrong

4) line in the sand - a limit or boundary on something

5) Keep your nose clean - to stay away from unnecessary fights

6) bun in the oven - to be pregnant / to be expecting

7) Of the first water - of the best quality

8) Give it a whirl - to try out something



9) At sea - totally confused / you are at a loss.

10) A house of cards - an insecure scheme

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### Homonyms



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1) air

↳ oxygen

↳ a little voice/tune

2) band

↳ wrist band

↳ musical group.

3) express

↳ force out / extract

↳ to analyze thoughts by

### Homophones

different spellings  
same sound

### Homophones

1) die / dye -

If you accidentally drank a bottle of dye, you might die.

2) idle / idol -

Being idle makes me unhappy, but listening to my idol Taylor Swift makes me happy.

3) tail / tale -

My cat was crazily chasing his tail while I read a fairy tale.

↳ to analyze thoughts by using some kind of words.

Chasing his tail while  
I read a fairy tale  
to my children.

4) well

→ good health

→ source of water

4) accept /  
except

accept - to agree to receive  
or to do something

5) tender

↳ soft; delicate; gentle

↳ supply of money

except - not including

5) accede - to give one's  
consent

6) spring

↳ coiled metal

↳ season

exceed - to surpass or  
go beyond the limit.

7) right

↳ correct

↳ direction

6) access - the means or the  
right to enter a place

excess - a quantity much  
larger than is needed.

8) mean

↳ average

7) adverse - harmful

averse - strongly disliking/

↳ average

↳ not nice

9) fair

↳ good

↳ equitable

10) jag

↳ bundle

↳ stab; pierce; prick

averse - strongly disliking /  
opposed

8) advice <sup>(noun)</sup> - guidance /  
recommendations about what to do.

advise <sup>(verb)</sup> - to recommend  
something

9) affect <sup>(verb)</sup> - to change /  
make a difference to

effect <sup>(noun)</sup> - a result

10) aisle - a passage  
between rows of seats.

isle - an island

11) altar - a sacred table  
in a church

alter - change

12) assent - agreement ;  
approval

11) assent - agreement, approval

ascent - the action of rising or climbing up

13) aural - ears; or hearing

oral - mouth; or spoken

14) bated - in an excited way; in a great suspense

baited - with a bait attached or inserted

15) born - starting life

borne - carrying

16) climactic - forming a climax

climatic - climate

17) complement - to add to so as to improve something;

17) improve - to make something better  
improve something;

compliment - praise

18) cue - a signal for action /  
a wooden rod

queue - line of people

19) curb - control / put a  
limit to

kerb - the stone edge of a  
pavement

20) desert - hot / cold desert

dessert - sweet dish

21) discreet - careful not to  
attract attention.

discrete - separate and  
distinct

22) dual / duel

dual - 2 parts

duel - fight / contest

23) elicit - to draw out a reply or reaction

illicit - illegal

24) ensure - to make certain that something will happen

insure - to provide compensation

25) envelop - to cover or surround

envelope - a paper container for a letter

26) fawn - a young deer

fawn - partly man; part<sup>ly</sup> goat

27) forbear - to refrain

forebear - an ancestor

28) foreword - an introduction  
to a book

forward - onwards; ahead

29) freeze - to turn to ice

frieze - a decoration along  
a wall.

30) loath - unwilling; reluctant

loathe - to hate



31) pedal - a foot operated  
lever

peddle - to sell goods

32) prachice - using idea and methods  
to work or run a business

practise - doing something  
repeatedly to gain skill ;  
to do something regularly

33) principle - most important ;  
the head of a school.

principle - a fundamental rule  
or belief.