

INDEX

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Page</u>
Idioms Analysis	1-31
Idioms & Morality	32-35
Rules of Life	36-37
Idioms & Politics	38-41
'Slanguage'	42
Figures of Speech	43-59
Quiz	60

PLEASE NOTE:

As part of this Presidential campaign, we will consult any Americans on the *best way to live well* on little, or **buying practices**. Please read our 'Buyer's Tips' at the Campaign Update section of AmericanAnswers.org.

IDIOMS ANALYSIS

Why is there power in words arranged in cadences and structures? **-Bates Hotel**

Note: Because immigrants are a huge, up-and-coming voting block, *this* subject is appropriately addressed on a political website.

Please see our book, Idioms for Immigrants, which provides over 5,000 idioms-figures of speech Americans use every day-with their meanings, for use by new citizens, advertisers, speech- (or sermon-) givers, intellectuals and students.

Idioms are expressions used in everyday life to describe common experience. Is it any wonder that as you read the above-list, the topics they cover address nearly every common event we all deal with, like...

Afterlife. Alertness. Ambiguity. Anger. Anxiety/nervousness. Ashamed/embarrassed. Bad news/good news. Beauty/cuteness. Blaming. Bliss. Bored. Boundaries. Busy/multi-tasking. Careers. Cash cows. Caution. Certainty. Chances/odds. Chaos. Children. Clear vs. ambiguous. Clothing. Comes with the territory. Commitments/duty. Competition. Completions. Content. Control/influence. Costs. Count on/relying/belief. Courage/confidence. Crazy. Crises/calamities. Cussing. Dealing with reality. Death. Decisions. Deeds/actions. Depressed. Determination. Difficult people. Difficulties/trials. Discussions/friendships. Doormats. Drunkenness. Dweebs/wimps. Easy. Education. Emotions. Empathy. Employment. Ending/conclusions. Enduring trials. Evidence. Expectations. Experienced. Expressions/conversations. Facts. Failures. Fairness. Faith. Falling in love/marriage. Fame. Family/relatives. Fear/scared. Fighting. Fired/resigned. Focus. Focus/attention. Food/eating. Forgiveness. Frugality. Full bore/force. Fun. Games/fun. Giving. Goals. God/prayer. Government. Habits. Happiness. Hard work. Harsh/crude. Honesty. Hope. Hypocrisy. Ideals. Ignorance/knowledge/intelligence. Illness/near death. Indecision. Independent/unique vs. conformity. Insensitive language. Insults. Intensity/effort. Interrogation. Jokes/humor. Knowledge/wisdom. Lazy. Leading. Leaving a bad situation. Legal

system. Living paycheck to paycheck. Luck. Luxuries. Mafia. Magic. Manipulators. Manners. Memories. Military. Money. Morals/conscience. Nervousness/anxiety. Odd. Old-fashioned. Opponent. Out-of-control circumstances. Over-reactions. Patience/waiting. Perspective. Pipe dreams. Planning. Police/the law. Politics. Poverty. Pride/arrogance. Priorities. Problems/trouble. Promises. Quality. Quitting/endings. Reconciliation/peace. Remorseful. Revealing intentions. Riches. Risk/reward. Romance/flirting/dating. Rude/bullying. Rules. Sales. Savings. Secrets. Self-expression. Sex/naked. Shocking news. Skills/talents. Sleep. Smooth talkers. Snooty. Solutions. Speech. Speed. Spontaneity/winging it. Standards. Stopping. Strength. Success. Taking the good with the bad. Talkative. Timing. Tough times. Truth. Unavoidable/uncontrollable events. Value/deals. Victory. Wasting money. Wasting time. Winners/races. Wisdom. Words/speech. Work (rewarded) . Yelling/blaming.

Summary: Idioms clearly, pictorially express truths about all of our common experiences

Though we use them often to validate our decisions, as you will see, not all of them hold water, even though they're popular, or "common."...

1. ACCOUNTABILITY

You have to pay the piper

Comments: True. Almost everything of value has a cost associated with it, except air and charity.

2. ACCOUNTABILITY

You made your bed, now lie in it

Comments: Justice, and too rarely required of our leaders.

3. ACTION

Actions speak louder than words

Comments: Often the case.

4. ADAPTATION

When in Rome, do as the Romans do

Comments: Culturally true, but not as to immoral behavior of the group you're visiting (Ex.: Roman orgies).

5. AGE

You're not getting older, you're getting better

Comments: It can be both, but certainly we need not act old even though every day everyone gets older.

6. ANXIETY

A watched pot never boils

Comments: It seems never to boil, but if the heat is right and you wait long enough, your staring at the pot won't stop it from coming to boil.

7. APPRECIATION VS. TAKING FOR GRANTED

You never miss water until the well runs dry

Comments: Probably true. Appreciate what you have, and don't take things for granted.

8. BEAUTY

One man's trash is another man's treasure

Comments: Can be true, but some trash is just trash, even to the most optimistic dumpster divers.

9. BEAUTY

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder

Comments: True, though there is also common consensus on what's beautiful (Ex.: famous art or handsome actors). Ugly is more universally identifiable.

10. BEGGING

Beggars can't be choosers

Comments: Yet some welfareres (and their advocates) are, what gives? Beggars should not be, but can be choosy.

11. BEGGING

Don't bite the hand that feeds you

Comments: True, if you want to eat again.

12. BEGINNINGS/STARTING

Today is the first day of the rest of your life

Comments: Duh 101, the point being you can always make up for past mistakes.

13. BLAME GAME

Don't shoot the messenger

Comments: True—he's only relaying another's bad news you may not want to hear.

14. BRIDES

All brides are beautiful

Comments: Elephant man's twin would be an exception to this rule, though many ugly people do find mates.

15. BUSINESS

The customer is always right

Comments: Usually true, but not when they act like jerks.

16. BUSINESS & SUCCESS?

The early bird catches the worm

Comments: Often true, however, business usually starts at 8am, so you can only do so much before there are people to transact with.

17. CATS

Cats have nine lives

Comments: Many of them seem to have figurative lives, but they all really have only one.

18. CERTAINTY

In this world nothing is certain but death and taxes

Comments: Probably true. Can anyone think of any other exceptions? The 'death' facet will not be true for the last generation of believers (at the rapture; **See:** Prophecy)

19. CERTAINTY & SECURITY

Don't count your chickens before they're hatched

Comments: True. Speculation ever paid one bill.

20. CERTAINTY & SECURITY

A bird in hand is worth two in the bush

Comments: Security is good, but risk is also necessary to grow (and to make money).

21. CHANGE

A zebra can't change his stripes

Comments: Zebras can't, but humans aren't animals. Al Gore used this idiom.

22. CHILDREN

Children are cheaper by the dozen

Comments: Not true, except that hand-me-downs cost less than store bought (but you had to buy them in the first place).

23. CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

You can't beat the system

You can't fight city hall

Comments: Often but not always true. If it were an absolute, why ever fight your property tax increases?

23. CLOTHES

Dress for success

Comments: True that you need to dress professionally to work in that environment, but 'attitude trumps attire.'

24. COMMITMENT

Where there's a will, there's a way

Comments: Usually true. We can decide to move every mountain to Nevada, but our wills will succumb to reality.

25. COMPLAINERS

Misery loves company

Comments: Seems to be true—spread the misery around, I guess.

26. COOPERATION & COMMUNITY

Many hands make light work

Comments: True.

27. COUNTRY

You can take the boy out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the boy

Comments: I would not know, but would suggest polling all cowboys to see if there are any exceptions. Likely the wild West attitude remains, even if they convert to being city slickers.

28. CREDIT

Give credit where credit's due

Comments: True.

29. CREDIT

Give the devil his due

Comments: Agree to give credit where it's due, but he deserves no credit for anything moral.

30. CRIMINALS & LAW & ORDER

It takes a thief to catch a thief

Comments: Probably true and untrue. Cops catch them all the time, though experienced crooks sometimes have more insight that can help them do so.

31. CRISES

Drastic times call for drastic measures

Comments: Justice ethic being used here?

32. DATING

Why buy the cow when the milk is free

Comments: A crass statement excusing bad behavior and lack of commitment.

33. DATING

Men seldom make passes at girls who wear glasses

Comments: True, unless she's really 'hot,' and the glasses are somehow sexy.

34. DATING

You can't choose who you fall in love with

Comments: Perhaps true, but you can choose whether to go along with those strong feelings (Ex.: same-sex attractions).

35. DEBT

Neither a lender or a borrower be

Comments: Untrue on the lender side, or banks would go out of business. Better not to be in debt, but sometimes unavoidable—the “owe nothing” in Romans referring more to moral debt than financial, in context. (Rom. 13:8 vs. Ps. 112:5)

36. DECEPTION

What a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive

Comments: True. Someone has said it's hard to keep up with what lies you made previously.

37. DIGNITY

If you want respect, give respect

Comments: True, though certain people's title authority earns them this with less than dignified behavior.

38. DIVERSIFICATION & SECURITY

Don't put all your eggs in one basket

Comments: Good advice, to avoid the market's ups and downs.

39. ECONOMICS

A rising tide lifts all boats

Comments: Only if the boats are connected to the same waterway.

40. EDUCATION

Experience is the best teacher

Comments: It seems to instill lessons better, but a formal education is also indispensable in our global economy. Learning by the school of hard knocks is far inferior to learning God's wisdom up-front.

41. EDUCATION

Those who do, do, and those who can't, teach

Comments: A horrible slam on teachers, made by arrogant business people, and usually untrue. They are Doing what they want to do, which is not always seeking after selfish greed.

42. EDUCATION & LEARNING

You can't teach old dogs new tricks

Comments: I don't fully believe this. Bad habits, set in one's way certainly afflicts the elderly, often, but many of our seniors know how to use technology much better than I—an early elderly.

43. EFFORT

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again

Comments: True. "As they say, "f you never swing the bat, you're guaranteed to never hit a home run.

44. EFFORT

Make hay while the sun shines

Comments: Yes. It's much better to conduct business and make money when things are happening, rather than stifled.

45. EFFORT

Work your fingers to the bone, what do you get—bony fingers

Comments: Sometimes you do, but sometimes you reap great rewards.

46. EMPATHY

Walk a mile in another man's moccasins

Comments: Amen. Often, only experience can teach us the lessons we need most.

47. EMPLOYMENT

When the cat's away, the mice will play

Comments: Often the case in business, as managers and owners can attest.

48. EMPLOYMENT

Work expands to fill the time available for its completion

Comments: Often true, especially when one is paid by the hour (vs. task/project)

49. ENDURANCE

It's not how far you fall but how quickly you get up

Comments: True—unless the fall is high enough to kill you.

50. ENDURANCE

You can't keep a good man down

Comments: True. Unfortunately, you can't seem to keep a bad terrorist down long, either.

51. ENEMIES

Keep your friends close and your enemies closer

Comments: Good advice, but the nature of their being enemies makes it quite difficult (without spy satellites).

52. ENVY

The grass is always greener on the other side

Comments: Untrue. Sometimes it is, but not always, and contentment will keep you from looking over your fence.

53. EVIDENCE

The proof is in the pudding

Comments: Usually true, unless one has a spotless track record of truth-telling.

54. EVIDENCE

Where there's smoke, there's fire

Comments: True, unless there's a smoke making machine in the room (or the fire was recently extinguished, and it's just smoldering).

55. EXAGGERATION & PERSPECTIVE

Don't make a mountain out of a molehill

Comments: True.

56. EXCUSES

A bad excuse is better than none

Comments: Reasons are good, as they have credible bases for behavior. Excuses are just cover for bad decisions.

57. EXTREMES

Never say never

Comments: Untrue. Usually a good idea, but I can say for certain I will never be a woman, or choose to "make" myself one-period.

58. FAME

Everyone gets their fifteen minutes of fame

Comments: Untrue. Ever heard of Bill Collett? Neither have I—I just made it up. Look at a phone book (white pages)—over 99% of them only their circles of friends, family and work colleagues know.

59. FAMILY

You always hurt the one you love

Comments: I don't think "always." There are some really godly Americans—especially women, who I think may never have hurt their mates. I know one I can recommend as Exhibit A.

60. FINALITY & CERTAINTY

It ain't over until the fat lady sings

Comments: True, but with political parties, even ‘settled’ issues aren’t— years down the way.

61. FORGETFULNESS

Out of sight, out of mind

Comments: Often true—unless one has a great memory. Therefore, refresh relationships often.

62. FRIENDS

Two’s company, and three’s a crowd

Comments: Often, if not usually true. No one likes being the ‘odd man out.’

63. FRIENDS

A man is known by the company he keeps

Comments: Often true.

64. FRIENDS

A friend in need is a friend indeed

Comments: Friends may have needs, but need a friend too often and you can become a user or a leach.

65. FRUGALITY

Live within your means

Comments: Great advice, especially if you don’t have a credit card.

66. FRUGALITY

Waste not, want not

Comments: Basically true, but if you are unemployed, even frugality won’t save your financial situation.

67. FRUGALITY

Watch your pennies, and your dollars will care for themselves

Comments: True as to attitude toward money management, but ignoring that same discipline for the big purchases hurts you much more than on smaller ones.

68. GIFTS

The best things in life are free

Comments: Often true, but a Maserati sure isn’t free.

69. GIFTS

Don't look a gift horse in the mouth

Comments: True, be gracious and thankful.

70. GIFTS

Diamonds are a girl's best friend

Comments: True for many females. There could be rare-*odd*-exceptions.

71. GOOD INTENTIONS

The road to hell is paved with good intentions

Comments: Often true in a figurative sense, as the road to literal hell is paved by rejecting salvation through Jesus Christ alone, whether intentional or unintentional.

72. GOOD 'LUCK'

Too much of a good thing is a bad thing

Comments: Not sure this is true. It often is, but who suffers from too much love, for example?

73. GOOD 'LUCK'

All good things come to an end

Comments: Not spiritual blessings-ever.

74. GRAVITY

What goes up, must come down

Comments: True, and I can't think of any exceptions (for those who claim there are no absolutes in life).

75. HEALTH

Feed a cold, starve a fever

Comments: Science can answer whether this is true (or a simple search of Google).

76. HISTORY

Those who don't remember the past are condemned to repeat it

Comments: History has good lessons to tell us, but I do not believe it comes in unalterable cycles or that mistakes have to be repeated solely due to lack of studying history well enough.

77. HOME

Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home

Comments: True.

78. HONESTY

Honesty is the best policy

Honesty is its own reward

Comments: I agree with this, but those who like to lie or who have ever been burned telling the truth would disagree some.

79. HOSPITALITY

Cold hands, warm heart

Comments: Science can tell us if this is true, or an urban legend–myth.

80. HUMILITY

Never forget where you came from

Comments: True. Few like people with the 'big head.' (i.e., pride)

81. HYPE

All that glitters is not gold

Comments: True, Some things are fake, but appear delightful at first glance.

82. IGNORANCE

What you don't know can hurt you

Comments: True. You could live for years with cancer, undetected, but it is hurting you–you just don't know it–yet.

83. IGNORANCE

Ignorance is bliss

Comments: It may be, at times, but many times it harms you significantly.

84. IGNORANCE & LAW

Ignorance of the law is no excuse

Comments: Totally the law in the U.S. If you don't believe this lawyer, break a law dramatically with which you were unfamiliar, in the presence of a cop.

85. IGNORANCE & NAIVETÉ

A sucker is born every minute

Comments: Likely true, but don't take advantage of people.

86. IMITATORS

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery

Comments: Under the law, it can also constitute plagiarism and copyright infringement.

87. INDEPENDENCE

God helps those who help themselves

Comments: Untrue. If God only helps those who help themselves, what help is He? They're already handling the full load. He doesn't help a lot those who are not active (Ex.: provides rain, etc.), but we cooperate with His leadership vs. do it without Him, for that would be 'flesh' (i.e., sin).

88. INDEPENDENCE

No man is an island unto himself

Comments: True, unless, as our book alleges, you are rich enough to own one—but it will be lonely. 'To each his own' does have limits, because a murder may just feel that's his form of self-expression!

89. INDEPENDENCE & SELF-RELIANCE

Pick yourself up by your boot straps

Comments: It is good to be independent, and also to give people a hand up (balance).

90. INNOVATION

Necessity is the mother of invention

Comments: Not always, but it can be quite helpful, because you're forced to come up with something.

91. INNOVATION ERRORS

Don't reinvent the wheel

Comments: True, because a great product needs little to no change.

92. INTELLIGENCE

Two heads are better than one

Comments: True, if the other party is not a dummy. (Ecc. 4:9-12)

93. JUDGING

People who live in glass houses ought not to throw stones

Comments: Rich people have as much right to criticize as the rest of us (but no one should be a hypocrite when they are righteously indignant).

94. JUDGING

Don't judge a book by its cover

Comments: True.

95. JUDGMENT & EXCESS

Don't kill a fly with a sledge hammer

Comments: True.

96. JUDGMENT & EXCESS

Don't cut off your nose to spite your face

Comments: True.

97. JUDGMENT & EXCESS

Don't throw the baby out with the bath water

Comments: True.

98. JUSTICE

What goes around comes around

Comments: Not always the case. In the hereafter—yes. In this life, some people get away with bad behavior (but God sees).

99. JUSTICE

What's good for the goose is good for the gander

Comments: True. This is a core American value.

100. JUSTICE

Let the punishment fit the crime

Comments: True. Anything else is under- or over-punishment. 'Balance.'

101. JUSTICE?

Ask a silly question, you get a silly answer

Comments: You may—depending on the person you asked.

102. JUSTIFICATION

Fifty million French men can't be wrong

Comments: Untrue. Numbers don't always prove a concept's merits. The French have sometimes been weak on defense, which was not good, no matter their numbers.

103. JUSTIFICATION

The end justifies the means

Comments: Untrue. You may use intense and aggressive methods to fight intransigent opposition, but violating moral "rules" is never justified—only in your warped minds. Good ends come through good means, least tainted by the bad.

104. KINDNESS

You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar

Comments: True, if you are hunting flies, and usually true in trying to influence people. Sometimes, however, where the heart is quite hard, only strong reproof works (**See:** 'Church Conflicts,' at our other web site).. sometimes, merely holding people to account and putting them on record as rejecting the right way has merit (at least in eternity).

105. KNOWLEDGE

Look before you leap

Comments: Yes. Blind ambition can cause jumping into a pool without water.

106. KNOWLEDGE

A little knowledge is a dangerous thing

Comments: Often true. Complete ignorance hurts, as well, but few need to be experts in order to be able to take action.

107. LAUGHTER

He who laughs last gets the best laugh

Comments: Sometimes. Sometimes you're just the bigger loud mouth or control freak.

108. LAUGHTER

Laugh, and the world laughs with you

Comments: Only if you don't laugh strangely, and if your joke is a winner. Otherwise, they may be laughing at you.

109. LAZINESS

Idle fingers are the devil's work shop

Comments: He works in so many other places—not just with the lazy (Ex. he works with busy corporate execs who worship money).

110. LICENSE

It's easier to ask forgiveness than permission

Comments: Sounds like someone wanting to do what he wants, with no regard to whether he's allowed (and would his seeking forgiveness be sincere?). True that it's easier, but that's not the standard for morality.

111. LOYALTY

Dance with the one who brung 'ya

Comments: I believe George Bush used this(?). Even presidents use idioms (Ex.: that dog don't hunt).

112. 'LUV'

Love means never having to say you're sorry

Comments: Untrue. Apologies help relationships, just as the deed requiring the apology hurt them.

113. MAGIC & BELIEF

You can't turn a frog into a prince

Comments: True, literally, not always true figuratively.

114. MAGICIANS

The hand is quicker than the eye

Comments: Science can tell us whether this is true.

115. MANAGEMENT

Too many cooks spoil the broth

Comments: True. Work only requires so many people to perform it.

116. MANIPULATION?

Never give a sucker an even break

Comments: The author of this coined phrase should have been taught to not treat people evilly, even if they're less witty than yourself.

117. MARRIAGE

Speak now, or forever hold your peace

Comments: True in a wedding ceremony, but if she marries beneath herself, the in-laws will still talk, and not hold that peace.

118. MEASURED STEPS

You have to crawl before you can walk

Comments: Obviously, but this rule doesn't prevent great strides straight out of the gate, when one has commitment or talent (Ex.: Ted Williams and Susan Boyle).

119. MEN-PLEASING

You can't please everyone all the time

Comments: True, unless you are handing out hundred dollars bills (at least where money is valued)—joke.

120. MONEY

You can't take it with you

Comments: True, unless you bury it in your coffin clothes.

121. MONEY

Money burns a hole in your pockets

Comments: Never literally—obviously. For some people, excess money makes them crazy to spend—not all.

122. MONEY

Money can't buy you happiness

Comments: True, but, as Zig Ziglar has said, everybody's got to learn that lesson for themselves.

123. MONEY

Money doesn't grow on trees

Comments: True. Now, get to work.

124. MONEY

Money makes the world go 'round

Comments: In many ways, yes. Not spiritually, which is a much higher source 'As The World Turns.'

125. MONEY

A fool and his money are soon parted

Comments: True. Foolish spending hurts a person. To learn how not to, **See:** Living Large, paying Puny (in our book)

126. MORALS

Two wrongs don't make a right

Comments: True, unless that's their last name (i.e., opposite of 'Mr. Right').

127. MORALS

There is nothing good or bad but thinking makes it so

Comments: Untrue. Attitude can change one's outlook, but a rape is a rape (or murder), for example, and can't be spun positively.

128. MORALS

One good turn deserves another

Comments: Good attitude few hold, as often no good deed goes unpunished.

129. MORALS?

All's fair in love and war

Comments: Not in love. And, politics and sports are not war (though many in Washington believe differently).

130. MULT-TASKING ON STEROIDS

Too many irons in the fire

Comments: You can get too mentally disbursed, and lose focus. At the same time, the more fishing poles in the water, the greater your chances of catching a fish.

131. MUSIC

Music hath charms that soothes the savage beast

Comments: True—very calming to angry people.

132. NAIVETÉ

You can't believe everything you hear

Comments: True—often ads are lies, hidden in positive hype.

133. NAME-CALLING

Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me

Comments: True, but many weaker Americans allow negative words to kill them. Buck up and learn to let things fall off you like water on a duck's back (easy to say, harder to do, so it's my goal, as well).

134. NATIONAL DEFENSE

Speak softly and carry a big stick

Comments: Agreed. You are less respected when your words offer no true threat against antagonists.

135. NEAR MISSES

Close only counts in horse shoes and hand grenades

Comments: True, and I know of no more exceptions.

136. NEATNESS

Cleanliness is next to godliness

Comments: Not completely true (and I sure hope not, or my family's living in sin—~joke), especially in our busy, fast-paced society.

137. NEIGHBORS

Good fences make good neighbors

Comments: True, but not to the point you never know or see them. (Pv. 25:17)

138. OBESITY

Taste makes waste

Comments: Taste doesn't... gorging does.

139. OPTIMISM

When life gives you lemons, make lemonade

Comments: Better, a lemon ice box pie.

140. OPTIMISM

When one door closes, another door opens

Comments: True, if you're seeking/pursuing another gig. Otherwise, the next door may be labeled homelessness.

141. OPTIMISM

It's always dark before the dawn

Comments: True in nature, but in life there's no guarantee that positive things are always just around the corner. (Ex.: Job—in the Old Testament)

142. OPTIMISM

Hope springs eternal in the human heart

Comments: It seems to, but not in pessimists. Over-optimism sees positives when calamity is about to strike.

143. OPTIMISM

Every cloud has a silver lining

Comments: We sure hope they do. 9/11 had none I am aware of, except, perhaps, a temporary uniting of Americans.

144. ORDERLINESS

A place for everything, everything in its place. —Ben Franklin

Comments: Good general advice (as it saves time looking for things), but can be take to an extreme (Ex.: perfectly filed sock drawers).

145. PACE

Slow and steady wins the race. —Aesop

Comments: Not true in Olympic sprints. Sometimes spoken by those who move slow in life. True that stable consistency can pay off, however.

146. PATIENCE

Patience is a virtue

Comments: True, balanced with making the most of your time, for the days are evil. (Eph. 5:16). They are not opposites. Anxiety is a problem, but patience doesn't wait around, hands crossed (and everyone has a different pace for their lives).

147. PATIENCE

Good things come to those who wait

Comments: Often true. Sometimes you can wait too long. It is not a passive waiting (Ex.: hands folded) but active waiting.

148. PICTURES

A picture paints a thousand words

Comments: Usually true—unless it’s out of focus. Plus, a good speech can inspire in ways showing a picture could never do.

149. PLANNING

If you fail to plan, you plan to fail

Comments: Obviously, though spontaneity can go well if you’re gifted at intuition.

150. POLITICS

Politics makes strange bed fellows

Comments: Very much so, and often the case.

151. POWER

Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely

Comments: Fortunately, being raised in America, I can’t say we’ve seen many examples to learn from, except, perhaps, Richard Nixon. Yet our founding fathers wrote of it often, so I will take then at their word.

152. PRIDE?

Never let them see you sweat

Comments: This ‘cool, calm and collected’ approach disallows sincere emotion, so is not always best.

153. PRIDE & SIZE

The bigger they come the harder they fall

Comments: Not if their balance is poor (but true as to the impact on the ground that fall will make).

154. PRIORITIES

You can’t serve God and money

Comments: True (Lk. 16:13), yet many Christians still try to “balance” these.

155. PRIORITIES & WISDOM

Don’t kill the goose that laid the golden egg

Comments: True (unless you’re trying to defeat America with bad government decisions).

156. PRIVACY

Keep your nose in your own business

Comments: Often said by someone who wants to do evil and not get caught.

157. PROCRASTINATION

Don't put off to tomorrow what you can do today

Comments: True in principle, but you can't do everything today, either—prioritize.

158. PROOF

If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, talks like a duck, it's a duck

Comments: Usually true, but there are a lot of good look-alikes in the world.

159. QUALITY

If you want something done right, do it yourself

Comments: Often, if not usually true.

160. QUALITY

Anything worth doing, is worth doing well.

Comments: Not completely true, or you'd get little done—but it would be perfectionistic.

161. QUIETNESS

Silence is golden

Comments: In retirement communities, maybe—not at rock concerts. With babies on airplanes (and in church and movie theaters), as well.

162. QUIETNESS

Speak when spoken to

Comments: I hate this rule, as I saw it abused in Cambodia, where the children were hardly acknowledged, and left to run freely and unsupervised during the day. It's often applied to children, but wisdom can come out of the mouths of babes. Don't silence them, because as Bill Cosby says, they'll tell you the (unvarnished) truth!

163. REASON

Reasonable minds can differ

Comments: True, within the bounds of reasonable (vs. extreme) alternatives.

164. RELAXATION

Stop and smell the roses

Comments: True. Don't be a workaholic. I prefer walks in nature, as the thrill of rose smells ends too quickly.

165. SAVING MONEY

A penny saved is a penny earned. –**Ben Franklin**

Comments: True, but any penny earned is also earned.

166. SCHMOOZING

It's not what you know but who you know

Comments: Sometimes true, if you have good contacts. Untrue as to the content of our books, and what really matters is Who you know—Jesus Christ—when job searching.

167. SELF-CONTROL/DISCIPLINE

Don't bite off more than you can chew

Comments: True. When your situation gets out of control, chaos ensues.

168. SEPARATION

Absence makes the heart grow fonder

Comments: Yes, but as one has pointed out, it can grow fonder for someone else, due to loneliness (and opportunity).

169. SLEEP

Early to bed, early to rise makes Jack healthy, wealthy and wise

Comments: Not if you wake early and don't work hard and smart.

170. SOCIALIZING

Don't wear out your welcome

Comments: True—it hurts the friendship.

171. SPOILED?

You can't have your cake and eat it too

Comments: Why have a cake you can't eat? I'll buy a painting if I want something delightful just to look at.

172. SPOILED CHILDREN

Spare the rod, spoil the child

Comments: True, despite Political Correctness, because the Bible says it's true. (Pv. 13:24) You can also spoil them by giving them too many good things too often or too soon (Ex.: products or freedoms). Parents can spoil their children by giving them everything they want—no limits, giving them great things immediately (i.e., teaching no patience) or giving in to temper tantrums—among other ways.

173. SPONTANEITY?

Shoot first, ask questions later

Comments: A pretty dumb idea. What if you hit an innocent? Aim (plan your work), then shoot (work you plan).

174. STRATEGY

Play both sides to the middle

Comments: You can. Bill Clinton called this 'triangulation.' Ideal is to find enough common ground that you can all work together tolerably, still maintaining debate and disagreement.

175. STRESS & PRESSURE

If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen

Comments: True. Business and politics aren't for wimps.

176. SUCCESS

Nothing succeeds like success

Comments: Success generates momentum, because others want in on the action.

177. SURPRISES

Big things come in small packages

Comments: They can, but not in every case.

178. TAXES

You can't squeeze blood from a turnip

Comments: True, but you can require that entitlements be 'earned' through community service. By the way, who's dumb enough to think blood comes from a vegetable? Is it Dracula wanting the blood?

179. THINKING

Use the brains God gave you

Comments: True, but it can be abused to encourage actions inconsistent with the word of God, because they're merely logical. Use that brain to learn God's word.

180. TIME

Time waits for no man

Comments: 100% true.

181. TIMING

Timing is everything

Comments: In some activities, it may be, but not in all. Skill can be much more important (and who you know).

182. TIMING

What a difference a day makes

Comments: It can help, sometimes (Ex.: when circumstances or attitudes change during the 24 hours).

183. TRIALS

Into each life some rain must fall

Comments: Probably 100% true. We'd know for sure if we polled every human, and their responses were all honest.

184. TRIALS

When the going gets tough, the tough get going

Comments: True, if you define 'the tough' as the noble, normal and heroic average American.

185. TRIALS

You can't make an omelet without breaking some eggs

Comments: True, but does that apply to every venture? Does all progress have to be messy?

186. TROUBLE-MAKING

Let sleeping dogs lie

Comments: True. Only exception, if the dog—when he wakes up—is sure to endanger you, in which case you use the Battle of San Jacinto lesson of catching them off guard—while they (Ex.: Santa Anna, and company) were sleeping.

187. TRUTH

The strongest always tell the truth

Comments: True, so long as personal matters are kept private.

188. TRUTH

Children and fools speak the truth

Comments: Untrue. As an ex-GE executive told me, “the strongest people always tell the truth.” Cowards hide behind lies.

189. UNIQUENESS

You can't put a square peg in a round hole

Comments: Not unless it's made of squishy material.

190. VALUE & WISDOM

Something too good to be true usually is

Comments: True, but the few exceptions can really make the statement look wrong (i.e.. great deals and values do exist—you have to find them, like a needle in a haystack).

191. VARIETY

There's more than one way to skin a cat

Comments: True with many things, but PETA will tell you that you're being creative in the wrong way, here.

192. VARIETY

Different strokes for different folks

Comments: True for a-moral (vs. moral) things, though our moral standards do vary (**See:** Ethics)

193. VARIETY

Variety is the spice of life

Comments: True for many things, but not for things harmful or criminal. We have freedom of expression, but not the freedom to kill others, for example.

194. VICTORY

To the victor go the spoils

Comments: Not ALL of them, if you're magnanimous in victory. This belief can never be skewed to make 'might makes right' justifiable. Only right makes right.

195. WAR

War is hell

Comments: True, in the literal experience of the figurative ‘hell.’

196. WILL

You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink

Comments: True, except for water boarding.

197. WINNING

You win some, you lose some

Comments: True. No one wins all the time. McDonalds, Coke as Apple as exceptions?

198. WINNING & LOSING

It's not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game

Comments: I don't buy it. Winning is important—it's why you compete, but it needs to be done in a sportsmanlike manner, though aggressively too.

199. WINNING & STRATEGY

The best defense is a good offense

Comments: Probably true, but an exceptional defense with enough points to win works just as well.

200. WISDOM

Discretion is the better part of valor

Comments: True, if not used as an excuse for cowardice.

201. WISDOM & FIGHTING

Pick your battles

Comments: Wise, though complete victory and domination is always the ideal, if you have to go to war. Hiroshima and Nagasaki showed that (as did the Berlin wall's falling, from bankrupting our then rival).

202. WOMEN

Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned

Comments: I wouldn't want to know from personal experience. Probably true, especially if they have long nails.

203. WORK

There's no rest for the weary

Comments: True in a figurative sense—that the diligent seem to always have work to do—but they do all get sleep at the end of the day.

204. WRITING

The pen is mightier than the sword

Comments: It can be. Better: a key board is mightier than a stealth drone.

INTERESTING IDIOMS

In the land of the blind the one eyed man is king
It is never too late to be what you might have been
Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness.
Love many, trust few, but always paddle your own canoe
Man who wants pretty nurse, must be patient
Many hands make light work
Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places
No great genius has ever existed without some touch of madness
No one can make you feel inferior without your consent
No one grows old by living; only by losing interest in living
Not to know is bad; not to wish to know is worse
Nothing seems expensive on credit
One half of the world does not know how the other half lives
Only when all contribute their firewood can they build up a strong fire
Procrastination is the thief of time
Saying is one thing; doing another
Smooth seas do not make skillful sailors
So long as you do your best in life, whatever happens will be for the best
Sometimes the majority only means all the fools are on the same side
Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself
Tell the truth and shame the Devil
The price of greatness is responsibility
The stick is the surest peacemaker
The world is full of willing people: some willing to work and some willing to let them
A book holds a house of gold
A drop of ink may make a million think
Books and friends should be few and good
Fight truth decay, read the bible
Nothing is interesting if you are not interested
Once a word leaves your mouth, you cannot chase it back even with the swiftest horse
Tomorrow never comes (evidence feelings are not always factual/true)

OTHER BOOKS BY THE AUTHOR

We welcome you to inform yourself on some of the most important subjects of life—Religion, Politics, Business & Innovation. With that aim in mind, feel free to check out any of these helpful reads:

- **Wit & Wisdom: Don't Speak About Politics or Religion (A Voter's Manifesto)**

Our blockbuster live-tweeted book, that significantly changed American politics and Christianity from 2014 to 2018 (and which many of the world's VIP's have already seen written, and warmly received).

- **Dumb as a Donkey, Fat as an Elephant: Common Ground Through Common Sense for the Common Good**

Over 2,000 unique, new products ideas inside—FREE!

Our landmark book on how “We the people” can change Washington for the good (and to do good, both in policies and practice), using common sense to secure unifying solutions, efficiently and within budget.

- **The Way Things Ought To Be: A Global Vision for a Better World**

Over 500 unique, new products ideas inside—FREE!

Common sense solutions to most of the world's problems, both globally and domestically.

- **Building a Billionaire Business: Proven Principles to Propel Profits**

Over 500 unique, new products ideas inside—FREE!

Business and economy improvement primer, as well as aiding consumers and employees in maximizing their dollars earned and spent.

- **Design Your Future: Innovation Strategies for the 21st Century**

The ‘magic’ behind our over 4,700+ new product ideas (strewn throughout four books) is explained, including the *best speech* EVER to inspire and teach anyone (and any business) to become profitably innovative.

- **Practical Prophecy for an Unsuspecting World**

Over 500 unique, new products ideas inside—FREE!

Anyone interested in knowing the basics of coming/future world events will get simple explanations, as well as relevant predictions and trend analyses concerning prophecy timing.

- **Advanced Prophecy Handbook**

A more scholarly summary of most prophecy questions, including an encyclopedic covering of issues from A to Z, timetable and event detail explanations, etc.

- **Idioms for Innovators & Immigrants**

Anyone desiring to understand (or appeal to) America's pop culture, advertising and values, thousands of common expressions we use in everyday expression are defined in common usage.

- **The Gospel According to God**

The most thorough, Bible-based treatise on what it takes for a person to go to Heaven. Documenting and critiquing the two major views of the historic Lordship Salvation vs. Saviorhood Salvation controversy.

- **New Testament Color Charts**

These charts graphically explain the meaning and layout of God's latest Testament, using pictures, colors and text. It allows an easy understanding of context and perspective when studying the Bible.

- **Architecture Aficionado: How Anyone Can be Inspired to Admire (and Create) Architecture**

For an excellent summary of the most important topics of the Bible (which recently turned around a leading U.S. mega church), see our FREE web site, www.WillYouLiveForever.org

For a broad treatment of common sense, common ground solutions to politics-as-usual, see our FREE website, www.AmericanAnswers.org

JOB OFFERS?

Until such time as I am allowed to pursue my true passion—*Politics*—I would be happy to consider professional opportunities in the areas of:

- **PRODUCT DESIGN (R & D)**
- **ADVERTISING**
- **ARCHITECTURE DESIGN**
- **BUSINESS MANAGEMENT CONSULTING (STRATEGY, EFFICIENCY)**

Please review the tabs on innovation & architecture to review my credentials (as well as the over 3,000 new product ideas throughout our three books), & contact us.

If any Management Consulting firm needs an Innovation Specialist (as Ernst & Young had in the 1990's), I would *love* to be considered.

Any business needing freelance consulting services for increasing sales through product offerings/R & D, advertising, architectural changes, problem identification and solutions, competitor analysis, employee motivation and customer interaction analysis, please give me a call. Thanks.

JAMES MERONEY

FREELANCE DESIGNER (& BUSINESS CONSULTANT)

EXPERIENCE

Fortune 500 Management Consultant (for a Big Four Consulting Firm), Houston, TX
Managing Attorney, Houston, TX
Advertising Executive, Houston, TX
Business Development Executive, Plano, TX

EDUCATION

MBA/JD, Texas Tech University
M.Div., Southwestern Seminary
BBA, Baylor University

* Graduate Architecture studies at University of Illinois, Texas A & M and University of Houston

More details at:



IDIOMS, MORALS & DECISION-MAKING

Idioms can mirror that which is written in Scripture, oppose its contents or be partly mirroring or similar. For the Christian, at least, assessing commonly accepted justification for decisions (in the form of idioms) must first be assessed by their conformity to God's truth.

MORALS

(Moral assessments in red)

1. Abuse & Teaming Up

Ganging up on someone—Bad/Evil (Pv. 24:15)

2. Adultery

A fling—Adultery spun more positive

A home wrecker—Not all are women; so many disrespect them, yet so many engage in adultery

3. Aggression

Going for the kill—Depends on what's targeted and the circumstances

4. Anger

Flying off the handle—Bad (Eph. 4:26; Jas. 1:19-20)

Hair-trigger temper—Bad

5. Anxiety & Impatience

Shoot first and ask questions later—Bad

6. Bitterness & Grudges

Nursing a grudge—Bad

Sour grapes—Bad

7. Charity

Be just before you are generous—Doesn't mean there's no place for mercy. Don't give freebies to the lazy

8. Cheating

Cheaters never prosper—Cheaters

9. Chewing Out

Jumping down one's throat—Bad (unless needed)

10. Cleanness

Cleanness is next to godliness—Not necessarily true

11. Competition

Keeping up with the Joneses—Unnecessary

12. Confession

Confession is good for the soul—Can be bad for First 48 interviewees, legally

13. Cooperation

It takes two to Tango—Depends on what's united upon

14. Cussing

He curses like a drunken sailor—Sin

Pardon my French—Funny excuse for cussing

15. Deception

What a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive—Often true

16. Discernment & Judgment

Separate fact from fiction—Good
Separate the wheat from the chaff—Good

17. Dishonesty

Going back on your word—Usually bad, unless you shouldn't have promised (or over-promised)

18. Disloyalty

He stabbed me in the back—Bad (i.e., disloyalty)

19. Effort

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again—Yes

No guts, no glory—Often true

Nothing ventured, nothing gained—True

20. Ego/Pride

People who think the world revolves around them have no sense of direction—True

21. Empathy

Walk a mile in another man's moccasins—Good

22. Encouragement to Evil

Don't reward bad behavior—Encourage goodness

23. Excuses

It's easier to ask forgiveness than permission—Immoral, but funny

There's an exception to every rule—Not always true

24. Fairness

All's fair in love and war—Still, those events usually have rules

Fair is fair—Common sense

25. Faithfulness

Keep your own counsel—Good

26. Fast Money

Make a fast buck—Usually bad

27. Forgiveness & Reconciliation

Mended fences—Good

To err is human, to forgive divine—True and good

28. Frugal

Penny pincher—Good, if not abused

29. Generalization

Painted with a broad brush—Often bad

30. Generosity

He would give the shirt off his back—Good, if not naive

31. Good Intentions

His heart's in the right place—Good

32. Good Sportsmanship

It's not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game—It's both/and, with ethics trumping winning

33. Homosexuality

Coming out of the closet—Homosexuality (sin)

34. Honesty

Eyes are the window of the soul—Often, if not usually true

Honesty is its own reward—Not always

Honesty is the best policy—Usually

35. Humility

Don't forget where you came from—Retain humility

Don't toot your own horn—Humility vs. boastful pride

Keep both feet on the ground—Good

36. Ignorance

Blind leading the blind—They ALL have to go by feel

37. Image

Image is everything—Untrue, but rarely agreed with

38. Inaccuracy or Unpreparedness?

Playing fast and loose with the facts—Bad

Went off half-cocked—Bad

39. Indecision

Sitting on the fence—Usually bad (at least long-term)

40. Independence & Initiative

No man is an island unto himself—True, though often denied

Pick yourself up by your own bootstraps—Good aspirational goal

41. Injustice & Unfairness

He got away with murder—Bad, as no justice

Hit below the belt—Bad, as unfair

42. Indecision

Wishy-washy—Bad, as inconsistent

43. Judging

You can't judge a book by its cover—Usually true

44. Justice

Those who live by the sword, must die by the sword—Not always true

A fair exchange is no robbery—True, if the offeror is not lying or deceptive

Eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth—Amish mafia error

What goes around comes around—Not always true

45. Justification

The end justifies the means—Untrue

46. Kindness

Kindness in words creates confidence; kindness in thinking creates profoundness—A moral sentiment

47. Knowledge

Ignorance is bliss—Often true, but always bad

48. Laziness

Idle hands are the Devil's workshop—Not always true

When the cat's away, the mice will play—Often true

Work expands so as to fill the time available—Often true

49. Lying

Children and fools speak the truth—Insulting the Bible

Crying wolf—Lying to the point others can't take it

Fools and madmen speak the truth—Very untrue; Moral people DO

I gave at the office—Often a lie our seared consciences have no trouble making
Speaks with a forked tongue—Bad
You're talking out both sides of your mouth—Bad

50. Love

Love is never having to say you're sorry—A lie

51. Loyalty

Dance with the one which brung ya'—Faithfulness, loyalty
Everything in moderation—Not necessarily everything
Moderation
Too much of a good thing is not a good thing—Often true

52. Necessity

Desperate times call for desperate measures—Necessity; you don't chew out your child for sneezing

53. Need

God helps those who help themselves—Not true (i.e., that He only helps those), but right to encourage action, if you expect results

54. Niceness

Nice guys finish last—Not always true

55. Not Hypocrisy

Practice what you preach—Good

56. Opportunity or Stealing?

Finders keepers, losers weepers—A culturally accepted rule, but not always legal

57. Over-Generous

He's generous to a fault—Bad

58. Patience

Good things come to those who wait—Often true
Hold your tongue—Ditto
Patience is a virtue—True IF not confused with not maximizing your time

59. Peace & Balance

Keep an even keel—Good, if also emotional when needed
Keep your cool—Good

60. Perseverance

You've got to learn to take the bitter with the sweet—Good

61. Privacy

Don't air your dirty laundry in public—Discretion, privacy

62. Purity

He's pure as the driven snow—Usually good (i.e., if not naïve)

63. Reasonable

Reasonable minds can differ—Good

64. Relationships

Good fences make good neighbors—Often true

65. Resilience

It's not how far you fall but how quickly you get up—Good attitude

Sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me—Good, and so often forgotten after Kindergarten

66. Respect & Dignity

Don't speak ill of the dead—As they can't defend themselves; speak truth, however(?)

The respect you give is the respect you get—You can't demand it just because you've been born

67. Revenge (or Justice?)

Pay backs are hell—Usually morally bad

Let him stew in his own juice—Often vengeful (i.e., bad)

68. Sameness

Nothing new under the sun—Sometimes untrue, though often just a re-tread of old ideas packaged differently

69. Slander, Insults & Rumors

Dragged his name through the mud—Insults and slander

70. Spoiling

Spare the rod, spoil the child—True, though often denied

71. Stealing

Sticky fingers—Bad

72. Submission Abused

Doormat—False humility and false submission

73. Sympathy & Judging

Don't judge a man until you've walked in his boots—Empathy and compassion; mercy over judgment

74. Tolerance (Often of Evil)

Boys will be boys—True, but do we allow all behaviors they engage in?

75. Trials

Into each life a little rain must fall—Often true

76. Truth & Honesty

If I'm lyin' I'm dyin'—Only figuratively, often you're rewarded in this life

Nothing hurts like the truth—Sometimes true

77. Watered Down, or Spin

Sugar-coated—Usually bad

78. Wisdom

Give a man a fish and he eats for a day, teach a man to fish and he eats for a lifetime—Excellent ethic

79. Winning

Winning's not everything, it's the only thing—Untrue. It's important—but not god.

81. Will

You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink—True

RULES OF LIFE

(Moral assessments in red)

1. A rising tide lifts all boats—Only if connected by the same waterway(s)
2. A miss is as good as a mile—Only where accuracy is needed
3. A fool and his money are soon parted—Sadly, often true
4. A friend in need is a friend indeed—Could just be a moocher

5. A good name is better than a good face—True, but rarely agreed with (Pv. 22:1)
6. A hedge between keeps friendship green—Often quite helpful; could be exceptions
7. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing—Often true
8. A man is known by the company he keeps—Often true (Pv. 13:20; I Cor. 15:33)
9. A penny saved is a penny earned—True (moral)
10. A picture is worth a thousand words—Often true (observational)
11. A slip of the tongue is no fault of the mind and he who laughs is very unkind—True, but we enjoy doing it anyway
12. A woman's place is in the home—One place where she (and he) belongs (Pv. 31:13-16; Tit. 2:15)
13. Absolute power corrupts absolutely—Not necessarily always true
14. Actions speak louder than words—Often true (Jas. 2:16, etc.)
15. A tidy house holds a bored woman—Not always true (Cf.: cleanliness is next to godliness)
16. A zebra can't change his stripes—Scientifically, absolutely true (Jer. 13:23)
17. If it sounds too good to be true, it usually is—True, probably always (i.e., always usually)
18. It takes money to make money—Often true, but not always
19. Living well is the best revenge—Can be true
20. Money makes the world go 'round—Often true, or true only on a secular level (Lk. 12:15)
21. No one can make you feel inferior without your consent—True, but not always agreed with
22. Practice makes perfect—Often true; savant and natural child prodigy exceptions
23. Save for a rainy day—Good advice
24. The customer is always right—Not always true
25. The police always get their man—Usually true
26. There is nothing good or bad but thinking makes it so—Not always true (Pv. 23:7)
27. Whether you think you can, or you think you can't, you're right—Usually true, but sometimes you can't do something, even with a positive mental attitude (PMA)
28. To the victor goes the spoils—Often true, but not always moral
29. Two heads are better than one—Depends on the quality of the brains
30. Watch your pennies, and your dollars will take care of themselves—Sometimes true; you can also be penny wise and pound foolish
31. You can't teach old dogs new tricks—Often true
32. You cannot serve God and mammon—True, but rarely agreed with (Lk. 16:13-17)

IDIOMS, MORALS & POLITICS

Idioms are often the language of common sense. They rarely contradict each other, and bear a direct relation to people's common experience of life. Their often picturesque nature allow the 'average Joe' to relate to them, and can make more complex policies easier to understand. At the same time, unscrupulous politicians often use them to 'trick' voters into warming up to *bad* ideas disguised as good ones, due to our natural *emotional affinity* to these catch phrases. Consider your own *intuitive* knowledge of coined phrases you hear every day...

- ▶ All bark and no bite. [MEAN YOUR THREATS, OR DON'T MAKE THEM]
- ▶ Always leave them wanting more. [OFFER MEASURED INITIATIVES, OVER TIME]
- ▶ At arm's length. [OBJECTIVE/INDEPENDENT]
- ▶ Back against the wall. [PRESSURE TO ACT]
- ▶ Bargaining chip. [POLITICAL CAPITAL/LEVERAGE]
- ▶ Bean counters. [TOO DETAILED IS BORING]
- ▶ Beyond the pale. [BOUNDARIES EXIST]
- ▶ Bit off more than he could chew. [UNFOCUSED]
- ▶ Built a fire beneath his feet [PRESSURE TO ACT]
- ▶ Bull headed [NOT OPEN-MINDED]
- ▶ Clean hands [HYPOCRISY REDUCES CREDIBILITY]
- ▶ Close, but no cigar [ACHIEVE GOALS]
- ▶ Cut off one's nose to spite his face [PRIORITIZE]
- ▶ Devil's in the details [BEWARE OF CONTENTS IN LONG BILLS; IT TAKES MORE WORK TO AGREE TO SPECIFICS VS. GENERAL OBJECTIVES]
- ▶ Different strokes for different folks [ALLOW FOR VARIETY]
- ▶ Do justice to [FAIRNESS]
- ▶ Dollar for dollar [VALUE]
- ▶ Domino effect [INERTIA]
- ▶ Fanning the flames [PROVOCATEURS/INCITERS]
- ▶ Have ones day in court [JUSTICE]
- ▶ Kill 2 birds with one stone [EFFICIENCY]
- ▶ Live in a goldfish bowl [PUBLICITY/CELEBRITY]
- ▶ Live in an ivory tower [EGG HEADS/IDEALISTS]
- ▶ Look at the big picture [OVER-DETAILED]
- ▶ Method to one's madness [ORDER/RATIONALITY]
- ▶ Naming names [ATTACHING BLAME]
- ▶ Need it like a hole in the head [SENSELESS]
- ▶ Need to know basis [SECRETS/PRIVACY]
- ▶ One stop shop [EFFICIENCY]
- ▶ Peel back the onion [ANALYSIS]
- ▶ Put two and two together [THINK]
- ▶ Raise the stakes [IMPORTANCE]
- ▶ Reality check [RATIONALITY VS. DREAMING]

- ▶ Red flag [DANGER WARNING]
- ▶ Rock and a hard place [DIFFICULTY]
- ▶ Rubber meets the road [PRACTICAL]
- ▶ Rush to judgment [OVER-HASTY]
- ▶ Russian roulette [OVERLY RISKY/STUPID]
- ▶ Shoot from the hip [SPONTANEOUS]
- ▶ Street smarts vs. book smarts [IMPRACTICAL THINKING & THEORIES]
- ▶ Tables have turned [MOMENTUM SHIFT]
- ▶ Tared with the same brush [OVER-GENERALIZATION]
- ▶ The best things in life are free. [MONEY DOESN'T SOLVE EVERYTHING]
- ▶ The jury is still out on that [UNSETTLED MATTER]
- ▶ Thinking out loud [NOT NECESSARILY YOUR FINAL ANSWER]
- ▶ Tightwad [CHEAPSCATE]
- ▶ Trial balloon [TESTING OUT AN IDEA]
- ▶ Wash my hands of that [SEEKING TO AVOID BLAME/GUILT]

Application.

As a demonstration of how often idioms are used in political discussions, and as proof of the tight connection between morals and politics (as well as common sense with morals), please consider the following idioms used in sample sentences, and try making your own political statements using our huge list of idioms in our book, *Idioms for Immigrants*. [idioms in *italics*]

a) Morals

- Better to be a *cheapskate* than a wasteful fool.
- Those on *easy street* need to care more about those on *Main Street*.
- There is no such thing as *fighting words*—words whose content alone justify fighting.
- Until we establish *ground rules*, anything's considered "fair" by selfish human nature.
- Never let your opponents' tactics distract you. Always *keep your eye on the prize*.
- Have you ever noticed that everyone *passes the hat* for YOU to contribute? Do you really feel that financially endowed?
- Whenever the *price is right*, take the deal.
- Things rarely *raise more questions than they answer*, except for doubt-filled procrastinators.
- Seeing through *rose colored glasses* never helped anyone but the glasses manufacturer.
- If a policy stands to reason, pass it.
- There is not a *silver lining* for everything. Some bad decisions have bad consequences—which is exactly why they should not be made in the first place.
- Often times, giving someone a *taste of their own medicine* is a disguise for evil revenge.
- When you face an *uphill battle*, re-double your inertia.
- We don't need less difficulties—we need stronger people (TV ad, adapted from '*tough times call for tough people*').

b) Politics

- An economy based on credit is like being *all dressed up and no place to go*.

- Our crippling debt is a drag on our economy like a *ball and chain*.
- Congress' tricks and bad decisions makes them look like a *barrel full of monkeys*.
- Americans love getting the *best of both worlds*, and deserve no less from the two political parties.
- On major spending cuts, many Americans believe we are *between a rock and a hard place*, though if everyone put country above self, that would not nearly be the case.
- We need more *blood, sweat and tears* out of Congress, rather than battles between the Hatfields and McCoys.
- Is our economy only *boom or bust*, or is there a more stable and predictable middle ground more of us could enjoy?
- The *bread and butter* of Republicans is catering to the rich, and for Democrats, to the poor.
- If we want parties with new ideas, we'll have to abandon our comfort zones to *break new ground*.
- Lobbyists are professional *brown-nosers*.
- Republicans teach that you are the *captain of your own destiny*, even if you can't afford a boat.
- We voters have negligently given Congress near *carte blanche* with our money, and it's time to tighten the reins.
- Liberals seek a *cash cow* in soaking the rich, while conservatives seek to gore the ox of government.
- Partisanship demands all members *close ranks, circle the wagons* and go on the attack.
- Whenever legislation is offered, *consider the source* (and their core agendas).
- Printing funny money to ease economic woes is as ethical as *cooking the books*.
- With extremists having the loudest voices, we have to hope and insist on *cooler heads prevailing*.
- Government should never buy anything that *costs an arm and a leg* (like \$600,000 fighter toilet seats).
- No one should rely on government for any *creature comforts*—only necessities for sustenance.
- Because we are so often *creatures of habit*, it is unlikely that Pledged candidates will prevail long, if ever.
- For America, the 2016 election may be a *defining moment* for our bright future.
- *Divide and conquer* is a political trick some parties use to divide conservatives from moderates.
- The debt ceiling solution of 2011 only *dodged a bullet*—it resolved little.
- Giving tax rebates to the rich when we are drowning in debt just *doesn't add up*, at least long-term.
- If you want things to change in Washington on their own, *don't hold your breath*.
- *Drastic times call for drastic measures*. We have drastic problems, and need new and better ideas (and personnel) to “get ‘er dun.”
- If one's attitude is that *it is easier to ask forgiveness than permission*, forget any serious ethics reform.
- Welfare, as currently formatted, may not be a lot but is ‘*easy money*.’
- Congress should never *drag their feet* in passing good legislation.
- Washington needs to be reformed *from the ground up* by the grass roots up.
- Politicians should daily *give their job the old college try*.
- We have to *get a handle* on our many problems.
- Ethics standards in politics have *gone to pot*.
- When a politician's mouth is moving, ask yourself if you can strain to find a *grain of truth* in what's heard.
- Government should be the *gravy train* for no one.

- Give the voters better options and you will see a *ground swell* of support.
- The *handwriting is on the wall* about how Washington politics is broken and needs fixing.
- ‘Principled Politics’ is *just what the doctor ordered*.
- Government hurting business is like *killing the goose that laid the golden egg*.
- *Lame duck* presidents can quack and ruffle feathers, but are often just sitting ducks and party decoys.
- The results in Washington *leave something to be desired*.
- On our economy and huge debt, America has to *make the best of a bad situation*.
- In some Middle East nations, what poses as Democratic reform can be just *nature abhorring* another dictatorial *vacuum*.
- Raised taxes, over-time may end up being a *necessary evil*.
- The 2008 global economic *nose dive* was due, in significant part, to America’s sub-prime debacle.
- Political solutions need to *get down to nuts and bolts* solutions.
- In political campaigns, it’s *open season* on one’s opponent.
- When government spends tax payer money to garnish votes, we’ve *opened Pandora’s box* and a *can of worms*.
- Both parties need to *own up to* their own failings and self-serving, polar opposite agendas.
- If we cease to cut expenses, and respond rightly to punishing China’s currency tricks, we’ll have to *pay though the nose* to fund that debt until it is brought under control.
- Is America at the *point of no return* in its outgo exceeding its income?
- Neither party will *raise a white flag*, nor do they need to, but debating issues does not have to devolve into fighting and gridlock.
- 82% of us are fed up with Washington, and they need to be *read the riot act* on election day.
- Solving America’s problems is not *rocket science* or *brain surgery*, if one has not forgotten their common sense.
- Congress needs to *roll up its sleeves* and get to work.
- Social Security is an unnecessary *sacred cow* in politics.
- America’s *safety net* need not be so wide or so thick. Encouraging and assisting toward self reliance is a much better longer-term solution.
- There is no single *silver bullet* to our bad economy.
- Some politicians have *staying power*, without enough good reasons to stay.
- Our votes in 2020 could *stem the tide* of out-of-control Washington.
- *Stop gap measures* are never long-term solutions to anything. You have to address the root that grows the fruit.
- Congress should be made to *stretch our dollars* as much as we have to in this down economy.
- Political distractions are like a *three ringed circus*, to get public attention off bad coverage.
- Conservatives would *throw the baby out with the bath water* in cutting back government to essentially cops and the military.
- The *wheels of justice* always spin, but sometimes spin backwards.

“SLANGUAGE”

Figures of speech work in business to influence us to buy their products, and in politics to get us to vote for or support politicians. The point is to be aware of the techniques so as to think for yourself. Independently know what you want to purchase and what political values you support (Ex.: More clever, more word pictures vs. words, and more emotion- vs. thought-based, often from childhood).

Examples:

a) Clever Talk

Eye candy. Easy on the eyes.

Having the munchies.

Elevator music (insult for boring, slow music).

Automagically. Gynormous. (Word combinations)

b) Tech Talk (Ex.: NASA)

Mission critical, deodorant reflective (NASA speech). Critical mass. Case sensitive, etc. Slanguage.

Heart healthy (NASA speak and alliteration method).

c) Speed Speech

Texting acronyms

Tats (tattoos).

McD's or Mickey D's (Cf.: nicknames); JCP

We even omit commas for lack of time: Ex.: When there, see the animals, dogs and (,) cats. () Then go.

Fast-paced grammar.

d) Nicknames

Saturday night special.

e) Hedged Words

Probably, nearly, likely, around, could be (Ex.: experts suggest never going out on a limb with clear commitments or predictions).

f) Political Correctness

Bum vs. homeless (or domestically challenged?).

Experimenting (trial homosexuality).

g) Cultural Nuances

Brush vs. wash your teeth (US vs. Britain). Cue, loo, flats (Britain).

Figures of Speech

(**See also:** AmericanRhetoric.com/rhetoricaldevicesinsound.htm)

Politicians (and advertisers) are trying to influence you to make the decision they want you to make. They use their clothes, gestures, props, facial expressions, their tone of voice, but also, their speeches sometimes have techniques intended to affect you even below the surface level. It is not evil for them to do so, but it is also better for you if you know the techniques they are trying to influence you with. It is for that reason this section is offered.

This is also given for aspiring politicians, comedians, actors, advertisers (even ministers) to enhance your crafts. They may have more in common than first thought.

Please Note: Due to this author's disdain for subjects presented in ways the "Average Joe" may not be able to understand (like legal jargon), there is no desire for you to read the technique names—just understand their concepts, and how to use them for comedy, advertising and persuasive speech. Hence, the *italicized* titles. Actual definitions (and more figures of speech) are found at '**Sources.**' Gray text gives summary content only. Note, as well, ministers would do well to observe the following possibly related verses—Jn. 16:25; I Cor. 1:17; Gal. 2:14; II Cor. 2:17.

1. Accumulation: Forceful summary.

Example: Now Senator McCain suggests that somehow, you know, I'm green behind the ears, and I'm just spouting off and he's somber and responsible. Senator McCain—this is a guy who sang 'bomb, bomb, bomb Iran,' who called for the annihilation of North Korea. That I don't think is an example of speaking softly. This is the person who after we hadn't even finished Afghanistan where he said—'next up, Baghdad.' So I agree that we have to speak responsibly. **–Senator Barack Obama**

2. Adynaton: Impossible extremes.

Example: I will sooner have a beard grow in the palm of my hand than he shall get one of his cheek.

3. Alliteration: Repeat initial sound.

Examples:

Greyhound going great. **–Greyhound**

Don't dream it. Drive it. **–Jaguar** (Buzzle.com)

My style is public negotiations for parity, rather than private negotiations for position. **–Jesse Jackson**

Cancer on conservatism; ...from the Alamo to Afghanistan. **–Rick Perry**

4. Allusion: Indirect reference.

Examples:

It has rained so long, it seems as though it has rained for 40 days and nights. (This is reference to Noah's Arc which is a well-known event).

The final game was John's Waterloo.

Sue did not want to endure Eve's curse, so she opted for the epidural.

5. *Ambiguity*: Multiple meanings.

Example: Russians want to keep them in Czech vs. check.

6. *Anadiplosis*: Last word repeated near the beginning.

Example: Tonight, we are a country awakened to danger and called to defend freedom. Our grief has turned to anger, and anger to resolution. **–George W. Bush**

7. *Analogy*: Reasoning or arguing from parallel cases.

Example: Pupils are more like oysters than sausages. The job of teaching is not to stuff them and then seal them up, but to help them open and reveal the riches within. There are pearls in each of us, if only we knew how to cultivate them with ardor and persistence. **–Sydney J. Harris** (Grammar.About.com)

8. *Anaphora*. Word emphasis.

Examples:

...this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth. **–Abraham Lincoln**

Brylcreem, a little dab'll do ya'
Brylcreem, you'll look so debonair!
Brylcreem, the gals'll all pursue ya!
They'll love to get their fingers in your hair. (Ask.com)

We shall not flag or fail.

We shall go on to the end.

We shall fight in France,

We shall fight on the seas and oceans,

We shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air,

We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be,

We shall fight on the beaches,

We shall fight on the landing grounds,

We shall fight in the fields and in the streets,

We shall fight in the hills.

We shall never surrender. **–Winston Churchill** (Ask.com)

9. *Anesis*: Conclusion lessens the beginning's impact.

Example: We are here today and have been this week for one single reason—because the Soviet Union secretly introduced this menacing offensive military buildup into the island of Cuba while assuring the world that nothing was further from their thoughts. The argument, in its essence, of the Soviet Union is that it was not the Soviet Union which created this threat to peace by secretly installing these weapons in Cuba, but that it was the United States which created this crisis by discovering and reporting these installations. This is the first time, I confess, that I have ever heard it said that the crime is not the burglar but the discovery of the burglar. **–Adlai Stevenson,**

10. *Anticlimax*: Important to mundane.

Example: The great Dalhousie, he, the god of war, Lieutenant-colonel to the earl of Mar.

11. *Antimetabole*. Reverse word order.

Examples:

I know what I like, and I like what I know.

Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country. **–John F. Kennedy**

You stood up for America, now America must stand up for you. **–Barack Obama**

12. *Antistrophe*: Multiple repetitions.

Example: I know the best party. The Democrats are the best party. I will vote for the best party.

13. *Antithesis*: Balanced contrasts.

Examples:

Everybody doesn't like something, but nobody doesn't like Sara Lee. **–Sara Lee**

We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools. **–Martin Luther King, Jr.**

14. *Antonomasia*: Nic name for real name.

Examples:

Calling a lover Casanova, an office worker Dilbert, Elvis Presley the King, Bill Clinton the Comeback Kid, or Horace Rumpole's wife She Who Must Be Obeyed.

When I eventually met Mr. Right I had no idea that his first name was Always. **–Rita Rudner**

15. *Aphorism*. Question the definition.

Examples:

It depends on what the meaning of the word 'is' is. **–Bill Clinton**

How can you call yourself a man?

16. *Aposiopesis*: Cease completing a statement.

Example: At this juncture I want to get into—By the way I was told to give you some advice about the media. You don't know how small I feel giving you advice, but I'll be glad to anyway since I've been asked to. **–Rush Limbaugh**

17. *Apposition*: Second clump defines the first.

Example: Barry Goldwater, the junior senator from Arizona, received the Republican nomination in 1964.

18. *Apostrophe*: Addressing a non-existent (or figurative) audience.

Examples:

A newspaper ad from a tobacco company purportedly directed at young people, but appearing in the business or editorial section of the newspaper, uses young people as a frame through which to reach a different audience. **–James Jasinski**

Lincoln purported to 'say a few words' to the people of the South. In so doing, he spoke to his New York audience by using fictional southern listeners as a frame.

19. *Assonance*: Rhyming vowels.

Examples:

It beats... as it sweeps... as it cleans! –**Hoover vacuum cleaners**

I must confess that in my quest I felt depressed and restless. –**Thin Lizzy** (YourDictionary.com)

Poetry is old, ancient, goes back far. It is among the oldest of living things. So old it is that no man knows how and why the first poems came. –**Carl Sandburg** (YourDictionary.com)

20. *Asyndeton*: Shortening clumps.

Examples:

Veni, vidi, vici and its English translation ‘I came, I saw, I conquered.’ Its use can have the effect of speeding up the rhythm of a passage and making a single idea more memorable. ‘...and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.’ –**Abraham Lincoln**

When he arrived home, John went to sleep.

21. *Bdelygmia*: Listing negatives.

Example: There is not a more mean, stupid, dastardly, pitiful, selfish, spiteful, envious, ungrateful animal than the Public. –**William Hazlitt**

22. *Boosting*: Exaggerate a claim (for emphasis).

Example: Without doubt, machinery has greatly increased the number of well-to-do idlers. –**Karl Marx**

23. *Cacophony*: Word collisions.

Example: She sells sea shells by the sea shore.

24. *Catachresis*: Association by outrageous comparison.

Example: The President's decision yesterday, to set into motion the development of the hydrogen bomb, has placed us on a knife edge of history. –**Henry M. Jackson**

25. *Chiasmus*: Morphed following clump.

Examples:

But O, what damned minutes tells he o'er.

Who dotes, yet doubts; suspects, yet strongly loves. –**Shakespeare**

‘Dotes’ and ‘strongly loves’ share the same meaning and bracket ‘doubts’ and ‘suspects.’

You can take it out of the country, but you can't take the country out of it. –**Salem cigarettes**

In the end, the true test is not the speeches a president delivers; it's whether the president delivers on the speeches. –**Hillary Clinton**

26. *Chleuasmos*: Silencing sarcasm.

Example: Senator, I served with Jack Kennedy. I knew Jack Kennedy. Jack Kennedy was a friend of mine. Senator, you're no Jack Kennedy. **–Lloyd Bentsen** (to Dan Quayle)

27. *Classification:* Making categories.

Example: There are three kinds of book owners. The first has all the standard sets and best sellers—unread, untouched. (This deluded individual owns wood pulp and ink, not books.) The second has a great many books—a few of them read through, most of them dipped into, but all of them as clean and shiny as the day they were bought. (This person would probably like to make books his own, but is restrained by a false respect for their physical appearance.) The third has a few books or many—every one of them dogeared and dilapidated, shaken and loosened by continual use, marked and scribbled from front to back. (This man owns books.). **–Mortimer J. Adler**

28. *Climax:* Increasing importance.

Examples:

There are three things that will endure: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love. (I **Corinthians 13:13**)

I think we've reached a point of great decision, not just for our nation, not only for all humanity, but for life upon the earth. **–George Wald**

...the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. **–Martin Luther King**

29. *Commoratio:* Repeated re-phrasing (of a concept).

Example:

'He's gone off his rocker!' shouted one of the fathers, aghast, and the other parents joined in the chorus of frightened shouting. 'He's crazy!' they shouted. 'He's balmy!' 'He's nutty!' 'He's screwy!' 'He's batty!' 'He's dippy!' 'He's dotty!' 'He's daffy!' 'He's goofy!' 'He's beany!' 'He's buggy!' 'He's wacky!' 'He's loony!' 'No, he is not!' said Grandpa Joe. **–Roald Dahl**

30. *Conduplicatio:* Key word repetition, in separate clumps.

Example: This afternoon, in this room, I testified before the Office of Independent Council and the Grand Jury. I answered their questions truthfully, including questions about my private life—questions no American citizen would ever want to answer. **–Bill Clinton**

31. *Crot:* Non-segwayed story clumps.

Example: Twenty million voters with IQs below 60 have their ears glued to the radio; it takes four days' hard work to concoct a speech without a sensible word in it. Next day a dam must be opened somewhere. Four senators get drunk and try to neck a lady politician built like an overloaded tramp steamer. The Presidential automobile runs over a dog. It rains. **–H.L. Mencken**

32. *Deduction:* Conclude from what's proven.

Example: Everything made of copper conducts electricity. (Premise)
This wire is made of copper. (Premise)
This wire will conduct electricity. (Conclusion)

33. *Dehortatio*: Authoritative under-persuasion.

Examples:

Never look a gift lion in the mouth. –**Lemony Snicket**

If you want more time in your life, don't watch TV. –**Captain Kangaroo**

34. *Diacope*: Break in repetitive pattern.

Examples:

I hate to be poor, and we are degradingly poor, offensively poor, miserably poor, beastly poor. –**Bella Wilfer**

It is the tragedy of the world that no one knows what he doesn't know; and the less a man knows, the more sure he is that he knows everything. –**Joyce Cary**

35. *Diatyposis*: Free advice.

Examples:

Think Small. –**Volkswagen**

My father gave me these hints on speech-making: 'Be sincere. Be brief. Be seated. –**James Roosevelt**

36. *Distinctio*: Second definition is more revealing.

Example: We need a re-moralization of society. And we need it most urgently today because we are approaching a state of demoralization. Two senses of demoralization: the familiar one of the loss of morale—of contentment and good spirit; and the more serious one of the loss of morality, of moral bearings and convictions. –**Gertrude Himmelfarb**

37. *Ellipsis*: Word omissions.

Example: He will help, and she will (help), too.

38. *Encomium*: Verbal praise.

Example: [Tater Tots] These are nuggets of bliss, small prayers answered by the flinty russet fields of Idaho. Potatoes fresh as an autumn dawn, fried deep, oh so deep, right down to their very souls. Potatoes so well coddled and lovingly cared for are bound to be grateful for their tuberous vegetable lives, and, being so loved, they in return extend every bit of potatoey flavor outward from themselves as they die, not unlike the Buddha, reclining on his side, growing to massive proportions as he transformed from this life to the next, the confines of the earth no longer large enough to contain the boundlessness of his nature. I might simply have said that these are damn good tater tots, but I doubt you would have taken me at my word. –**Kevin Murphy**

39. *Enthymeme*: Repeat with re-phrase.

Examples:

The king is dead, long live the king.

Beloved is mine; she is Beloved.

Nice to see you, to see you, nice. –**Bruce Forsyth**

40. *Enumeratio*: Detailing parts of the whole.

Example: We formed in 1979, June, in Washington D.C. the Moral Majority, with a handful of people... which has grown now to over a hundred thousand priests and rabbis and pastors and blacks and whites and young and old and all kinds. Catholics are the largest part of the constituency—30%—because of our strong pro-life emphasis. **–Jerry Falwell**

41. *Epanalepsis*: Repeat front and back.

Examples:

Next time there won't be a next time. **–Phil Leotardo**

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. **(Phil. 4.4)**

42. *Epicrisis*: Quote and comment.

Example: Kiss your hemorrhoids goodbye,' the commercial said. Not even I could do that. **–John Mendoza**

43. *Epiphora*: End with repetition.

Examples:

I'm a Pepper, he's a Pepper, she's a Pepper, we're a Pepper. Wouldn't you like to be a Pepper, too? **–Dr. Pepper**

We deal in illusions, man. None of it is true! But you people sit there, day after day, night after night—all ages, colors, creeds. You're beginning to believe the illusions we're spinning here! You're beginning to think that the tube is reality and that your own lives are unreal. You do whatever the tube tells you. You dress like the tube. You eat like the tube. You raise your children like the tube. You even think like the tube. This is mass madness, you maniacs! In God's name, you people are the real thing. We are the illusion! **–Network** (movie)

44. *Epiplexis*: Reproving question.

Example: Let us not assassinate this lad further, Senator. You have done enough. Have you no sense of decency, sir, at long last? Have you left no sense of decency? **–Joseph Welch**

45. *Epistrophe*: End with same word(s).

Examples:

There is no Negro problem. There is no Southern problem. There is no Northern problem. There is only an American problem. **–Lyndon B. Johnson**

What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny compared to what lies within us. **–Ralph Waldo Emerson**

46. *Epithet*: Negative word connotation.

Example: As a result of the feminist revolution, 'feminine' becomes an abusive epithet. **–Wyndham Lewis**

47. *Epitheton*: Phrase amplifies, for positive or negative.

Example: Happy coincidence, cheerful giver, bad omen.

48. *Epizeuxis*: Word repeated for emphasis.

Examples:

I undid the lantern cautiously—oh, so cautiously—cautiously. —**Edgar Allan Poe**

I love scotch. Scotchy, scotch, scotch. Here it goes down, down into my belly. —**Will Ferrell**

49. *Erotesis*: Affirm-or-deny questions.

Examples:

Am I my brother's keeper? (**Gen. 4:9**)

Another thing that disturbs me about the American church is that you have a white church and a Negro church. How can segregation exist in the true Body of Christ? —**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

50. *Euphemism*: Soften the term's blow.

Examples:

Pre-owned for used or second-hand; enhanced interrogation for torture; industrial action for strike; misspoke for lie; tactical withdrawal for retreat; revenue augmentation for raising taxes; wind for belch or fart; convenience fee for surcharge; courtesy reminder for bill; unlawful combatant for prisoner of war. Wardrobe malfunction. —**Justin Timberlake**

51. *Euphony*: Pretty (pleasant sounding) words.

Example: 'The Road Not Taken' by Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both...

52. *Exemplum*: Amplify by example, to make a point.

Example: All this stuff you've heard about America not wanting to fight, wanting to stay out of the war, is a lot of horse dung. Americans, traditionally, love to fight. All real Americans love the sting of battle. When you were kids, you all admired the champion marble shooter, the fastest runner, the big league ball players, the toughest boxers. Americans love a winner and will not tolerate a loser. Americans play to win all the time. Now, I wouldn't give a hoot in hell for a man who lost and laughed. —**George C. Scott** (*Patton*)

53. *Exordium*: Empathetic topic introduction.

Example: I have often thought of it as one of the most barbarous customs in the world, considering us as a civilized and a Christian country, that we deny the advantages of learning to women. We reproach the sex every day with folly and impertinence; while I am confident, had they the advantages of education equal to us, they would be guilty of less than ourselves. —**Daniel Defoe**

54. *Expletive*: Interjection, for emphasis.

Example: It would be fitting and good, I think, if, on each inaugural day in future years, it should be declared a day of prayer. **–Ronald Reagan**

55. *Exuscitatio*: Emotional appeal.

Example: To the People of the Philippines: I have returned. By the grace of Almighty God our forces stand again on Philippine soil—soil consecrated in the blood of our two peoples. We have come, dedicated and committed, to the task of destroying every vestige of enemy control over your daily lives, and of restoring, upon a foundation of indestructible, strength, the liberties of your people. **–Douglas MacArthur**

56. *Gapping*: Split repetition.

Example: Should I call you, or should you call me?

57. *Hendiadys*: Grammatically unique descriptions.

Example: Am I to praise a man abounding in good luck, but lacking in virtue?

58. *Hendiatrix*: One idea expressed three ways.

Examples:

Wine, women and song. **–Johann Heinrich Voss**

Sex and Drugs and Rock and Roll.

Truth, Justice, and the American Way. **–Superman**

Lock, stock, and barrel.

Every Tom, Dick, and Harry.

59. *Homographs*: Same spelling, different meaning.

Examples:

Bear (verb)—to support or carry.

Bear (noun)—the animal.

Sow (verb)—to plant seed.

Sow (noun)—female pig.

60. *Homonyms*: Same sound, different meanings.

Example:

Aisle—walkway.

I'll—I will.

Isle—[island](http://www.About.com). ([About.com](http://www.About.com))

61. *Homophones*: Same sound, different concept.

Examples:

I will not scream for ice cream. **–Bart Simpson**

Sealing the popcorn ceiling will not eliminate that old-fashioned cottage cheese look.

Pay is higher when there is greater competition to hire people.

62. *Hypallage*: Abnormal word associations.

Examples:

'Restless night'—The night was not restless, but the person who was awake through it was.

'Happy morning'— Mornings have no feelings, but the people who are awake through them do.

63. *Hyperbole*: Exaggerated statement.

Examples:

Principal Skinner: The things you don't know would fill a whole library and leave room for a few pamphlets. —**The Simpsons**

His teeth were blinding white. Her eyes were as wide as saucers. I had a ton of homework. (Buzzle.com)

My toaster has never once worked properly in four years. I follow the instructions and push two slices of bread down in the slots, and seconds later they rifle upwards. Once they broke the nose of a woman I loved dearly. —**Woody Allen**

64. *Hypophora*: Raising and asking questions.

Example:

You ask, what is our policy? I will say it is to wage war, by sea, land, and air, with all our might and all the strength that God can give us; to wage war against a monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark, lamentable catalog of human crime. That is our policy. You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word: Victory. Victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror; victory, however long and hard the road may be, for without victory, there is no survival. —**Winston Churchill**

65. *Hysteron Proteron*: Backward normal order.

Example: I'm going to kill that magician. I'll dismember him and then I'll sue him. —**Woody Allen**

66. *Identification*: Common ground.

Example: You're an improbable person, Eve, and so am I. We have that in common. Also a contempt for humanity, an inability to love and be loved, insatiable ambition—and talent. We deserve each other . . . and you realize and you agree how completely you belong to me? —**All About Eve**

67. *Internal Rhyme*: Middle rhyming words.

Examples:

The light of day, The bright of noon.

I was sad because my dad, Made me eat every beet.

68. *Irony*: Opposite of expected.

Examples:

He is as smart as a soap dish.

An ambulance driver rushes to the scene of an accident, only to run the victim over, because the victim crawled into the middle of the street in the darkness of night.

69. *Isocolon*: Balanced, mirrored clumps.

Examples:

They have suffered severely, but they have fought well. –**Winston Churchill**

Let each man search his conscience and search his speeches. –**Winston Churchill**

Many will enter. Few will win. –**Nabisco**

70. *Kenning*: Clumped similar sounds.

Example: Sirens of the tundra,

Of eel-road, seal-road, keel-road, whale-road, raise

Their wind-compounded keen behind the baize

And drive the trawlers to the lee of Wicklow. –**Chris Jones**

71. *Litotes*: Understatement with negative affirmation.

Example: We made a difference. We made the city stronger, we made the city freer, and we left her in good hands. All in all, not bad, not bad at all. –**Ronald Reagan**

72. *Meiosis*: Insulting humorous terms.

Examples:

‘Grease monkey’ for mechanic.

‘Shrink’ for psychiatrist.

‘Right-wing nut jobs’ for Republicans; ‘left-wing pansies’ for Democrats.

‘Ambulance chaser’ for personal injury lawyer.

‘Tree hugger’ for ‘environmentalist.’

73. *Merism*: Parts make the whole.

Example: Most people, including most academics, are confusing mixtures. They are moral and immoral, kind and cruel, smart and stupid—yes, academics are often smart and stupid, and this may not be sufficiently recognized by the laity. –**Richard A. Posner**

74. *Metaphor*: Implied comparison.

Examples:

‘Night owl.’

‘Early bird.’

‘Life is a journey, travel it well.’ –**United Airlines**

‘Life is a journey. Enjoy the Ride.’ –**Nissan**

‘Life is a journey. Enjoy the ride with a GM reward card.’ –**General Motors**

Pork barrel, landslide victory, grass roots, character assassination.

75. *Metonymy* Indirect associative reference.

Examples:

Metonymy is common in cigarette advertising in countries where legislation prohibits depictions of the cigarettes themselves or of people using them. **–Daniel Chandler**

The suits on Wall Street walked off with most of our savings.

Detroit is still hard at work on an SUV that runs on rain forest trees and panda blood. **–Conan O'Brien**

76. Non Sequitur: Irrelevant conclusion from proposition.

Example:

A non sequitur is any pretended jump in logic that doesn't work cleanly, perhaps because of unfounded premises, unmentioned complicating factors, or alternative explanations, such as 'This war is righteous because we are French!' or 'You will do what I say because you are my wife!' **–Steve Hindes**

77. Onomatopoeia: Sound sounding word.

Examples:

Tick-tock or boom.

'Plop, plop, fizz, fizz.' **–Alka-Selter**

Snap, crackle and pop.' **–Rice Krispies**

78. Oxymoron: Contradictory neighbors.

Example: Bitter sweet, deafening silence, quiet riot.

79. Parable: Illustrative short story.

Example: Right now, as [Elizabeth] Warren and [Scott] Brown meet voters, they are telling their stories as political parables, loaded with ideas about opportunity versus just deserts, social investment versus making your own way, fairness versus the free market. The ordinary Massachusetts voter—the kind who doesn't tune in until the last minute—will have to choose between two story lines. They will talk about it this way: he's a small-town Wrentham boy who solves problems based on facts, while she's a leftist ideologue from Harvard. Or they will talk about it this way: he's a lightweight with a pretty face and a truck; she's a real person who will fight off the banks and others trying to ruin the middle class. They will assess which one is more likable and sincere. They will (or won't) be pulled to the polls by more politically motivated neighbors. In such haphazard ways, Massachusetts independents will decide one of the most closely watched and possibly most expensive races of the 2012 campaign, outside the presidency. **–E.J. Graff**

80. Paradiastole: Repeating 'neither' and 'nor.'

Example: Who were born
not of blood,
nor of the flesh's desire,
nor of a man's desire,
but of God were born. **(John 1:13)**

81. Paradox: A seeming contradiction.

Example: Stability-instability paradox.

82. *Parallelism:* Similar clump set-ups.

Example: The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of blessing; the inherent virtue of socialism is the equal sharing of miseries. –**Winston Churchill**

83. *Paraprosdokian:* Surprise ending.

Examples:

You can always count on the Americans to do the right thing—after they have tried everything else.
–**Winston Churchill**

I've had a perfectly wonderful evening, but this wasn't it. –**Groucho Marx**

If I could just say a few words... I'd be a better public speaker. –**Homer Simpson**

I don't belong to an organized political party. I'm a Democrat. –**Will Rogers**

84. *Parataxis:* Separate listed clumps.

Example: We lived and laughed and loved and left.

85. *Parenthesis:* Interrupting explanation.

Examples:

Billy-bob, a great singer, was not a good dancer.

My umbrella (which is somewhat broken) can still shield the two of us from the rain.

86. *Parrhesia:* Unapologetically speaking your mind.

Example: What is basically at stake in parrhesia is what could be called, somewhat impressionistically, the frankness, freedom, and openness, that leads one to say what one has to say, as one wishes to say it, when one wishes to say it, and in the form one thinks is necessary for saying it. The term parrhesia is so bound up with the choice, decision, and attitude of the person speaking that the Latins translated it by, precisely, *libertas* [speaking freely]. –**Michel Foucault**

87. *Periodic Sentence:* Wordy sentence with meaning at the end.

Example: Democracy is that system of government under which people, having 60,000,000 native-born adults to choose from, including thousands who are handsome and many who are wise, pick out a Coolidge to be head of state. It is as if a hungry man, set before a banquet prepared by master cooks and covering a table an acre in area, should turn his back upon the feast and stay his stomach by catching and eating flies.
–**H. L. Mencken**

88. *Perissologia:* Verbosity, or ‘To make a short story long.’

Example: Would that I could sing my heart, the birds and bees would faint with the sounds of such ecstasy that burns my very soul in sacred flame! (= I'm happy)–(ChangingMinds.org)

89. *Personification:* Human inanimate object.

Examples: Mr. Goodwrench, Magde (Palm Olive), Where's the beef?, Mr. Whiffle, Pillsbury dough boy, Michelin man.

90. Ploce: Word repeated for unique importance.

Examples:

I am stuck on Band-Aid, and Band-Aid's stuck on me.' **-Band-Aid**

If it wasn't in Vogue, it wasn't in vogue. **-Vogue magazine**

First she ruins my life. And then she ruins my life! **-Maggie O'Connell**

When you look good, we look good. **-Vidal Sassoon**

91. Polyptoton: Repeating same-rooted words.

Examples:

The Greeks are strong, and skillful to their strength, Fierce to their skill, and to their fierceness valiant; Absolute power corrupts absolutely. **-Lord Acton**

92. Polysyndeton: Repeated contingencies.

Example: The 'premium support' idea [U.S. House of Representatives member Paul] Ryan touts might be defensible if it were part of an effort to insure everybody; if we could enact stringent regulations to prevent insurance companies from gaming the system; if the government provided subsidies large enough to make insurance affordable, and if there were a public option as an alternative to private insurance. That's a lot of ifs. **-E. J. Dionne**

93. Prolepsis: Back from the future.

Example: In the movie *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980), Luke Skywalker says, 'I'm not afraid,' to which Jedi master Yoda responds, 'You will be.'

94. Proverb: Life generalization.

Examples:

Time heals all wounds. (ancient proverb)

Time wounds all heels. **-Jane Ace**

95. Pun: One word, two meanings.

Example: Customer: I'd like a Caesar salad.

Italian waiter: Sir! Are you sure you want the Scissor salad? You'll cut your mouth!

96. Rhetorical Question: A question desiring no answer.

Examples:

Marriage is a wonderful institution, but who would want to live in an institution? **-H. L. Mencken**

Aren't you glad you use Dial?

Don't you wish everybody did? **-Dial soap**

If practice makes perfect, and no one's perfect, then why practice? **-Billy Corgan**

Isn't it a bit unnerving that doctors call what they do 'practice'? –**George Carlin**

97. *Scesis Onomaton*: Variety saying the same thing.

Example: America is all about opportunity. That's why my parents came to America more than 40 years ago. And that's why most of your parents came here generations ago in search of an opportunity, a chance, a fair shake. –**Bobby Jindal**

98. *Sententia*: Witty line sums up all prior.

Example: So, I'm happy tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. 'Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.' –**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

99. *Series*: Three balanced and similar concepts.

Examples:

Twitter has become a playground for imbeciles, skeezy marketers, D-list celebrity half-wits, and pathetic attention seekers: Shaquille O'Neal, Kim Kardashian, Ryan Seacrest. –**Daniel Lyons**

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and the success of liberty.

–**President John Kennedy**

There is not a more mean, stupid, dastardly, pitiful, selfish, spiteful, envious, ungrateful animal, than the public. –**William Hazlitt**, 'On Living to One's Self.'

100. *Simile*: Similarity in the unrelated.

Examples:

Good coffee is like friendship: rich and warm and strong. –**Pan-American Coffee Bureau**

You know life, life is rather like opening a tin of sardines. We're all of us looking for the key. –**Alan Bennett**

101. *Spoonerism*: Changing word portions for humor.

Examples:

Three cheers for our queer old dean! (dear old queen, referring to Queen Victoria).

Is it kisstomary to cuss the bride? (customary to kiss).

A blushing crow. (crushing blow).

A well-boiled icicle (well-oiled bicycle).

102. *Sprezzatura*: Practiced spontaneity.

Examples:

Float like a butterfly; sting like a bee. –**Muhammed Ali**

It takes a great deal of experience to become natural. –**Willa Cather**

A good style should show no sign of effort. What is written should seem a happy accident. –**W. Somerset Maugham**

103. *Superlative*: A concept to the max.

Example: The ugliest, the most precious; healthiest, weakest.

104. *Syllogism*: Logical conclusions from proffered propositions.

Example: Major premise: All mammals are warm-blooded.

Minor premise: All black dogs are mammals.

Conclusion: Therefore, all black dogs are warm-blooded.

105. *Symploce*: Words repeated at beginning and end.

Example: When there is talk of hatred, let us stand up and talk against it. When there is talk of violence, let us stand up and talk against it. **-Bill Clinton**

106. *Synchysis*: Dyslectic word order.

Examples:

Abraham George Lincoln Washington.

I run and shoot, fast and accurate.

107. *Synechdoche*: Part as the whole, or vice versa.

Examples:

The sputtering economy could make the difference if you're trying to get a deal on a new set of wheels.

-Al Vaughters

All hands on deck.

General Motors announced cutbacks.

108. *Synesis*: Right words, wrong order.

Examples:

The majority of all the shareholdings are in the hands of women.

Fat, drunk and stupid is no way to go through life, son. **-Dean Vernon Wormer** (Animal House)

109. *Synonymia*: Same concept, different expressions in same clump.

Example: You fool! You dolt! You unmitigated idiot!!

That is worthless, useless and of no value.

I want him, desire all that he means, cannot live my life without him beside me always.

110. *Tapinosis*: Insults spun against the person.

Examples:

Hah! You say your team won! More like the other team lost.

Yes, I know I saved the boy, but I didn't really think and anyone would have done the same.

(ChangingMinds.org)

111. *Testimony*: Telling your story.

Example: Four out of five dentists surveyed recommend Trident sugarless gum for their patients who chew gum!

112. *Tetracolon Climax*: Conclusion from four proofs.

Examples:

The same government that you go abroad to fight for and die for is the government that is in a conspiracy to deprive you of your voting rights, deprive you of your economic opportunities, deprive you of decent housing, deprive you of decent education. –**Malcolm X**

Life is truly known only to those who suffer, lose, endure adversity and stumble from defeat to defeat. –**Ryszard Kapuscinski**

113. *Tmesis*: Blown-up word.

Examples:

Well la-di-frickin-da. –**Chris Farley**

It's a sort of long cocktail—he got the formula off a barman in Marrakesh or some-bloody-where. –**Kingsley Amis**

114. *Tricolon*: Clumps three long.

Examples:

Be sincere, be brief, be seated. –Advice to speakers (attributed to **President Franklin D. Roosevelt**).

Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn. (attributed to **Benjamin Franklin**)

115. *Trope*: Changed repeated word's meaning.

Examples:

...referring to actions of the U.S. President as 'actions of the White House.'

If we don't hang together, we'll hang separately. –**Benjamin Franklin** (Rhetoric.byu)

116. *Understatement*: De-emphasizing a concept's importance.

Examples:

A soiled baby, with a neglected nose, cannot be conscientiously regarded as a thing of beauty. –**Mark Twain**

The new EU member states of Poland and Lithuania have been arguing this week for the summit to be called off, and criticizing the German preparations. For historical reasons, the east Europeans are highly sensitive to any sign of Germany cutting deals with Russia over their heads. –**The Guardian**

117. *Zeugma*: Multiple descriptions, some misused.

Example:

You are free to execute your laws, and your citizens, as you see fit. –**Star Trek**

SOURCES: Unless otherwise stated, all references are from [About.com](#), [Wikipedia.com](#) and [AmericanRhetoric.com](#).

QUIZ

2012 Presidential debates examples (and others):

From the above list, can you determine what figure of speech or strategic method is being used?

- Changed with grit and genius.
- Greater than party or persons.
- Trickle-down government.
- We have got to pull this country together to push this country forward. –**Bill Clinton** (9/15/14)
- Is it going to be conflict, or is it going to be cooperation? –**Bill Clinton** (9/15/14)
- You don't go to heaven to find Christ, you find Christ to go to heaven. –**Greg Laurie** (9/15/14)
- Medical science tries to add years to your life. Christ adds life to your years. –**Greg Laurie** (12/18/14)
- Baby Boomers are getting older. The Who's *My Generation* is now my medication; The Beatles' *A Little Help From My Friends* is now a little help from Depends. –**Greg Laurie** (12/18/14)
- God is not interested in your misstep but your next step. –**Ed Young Jr.** (Mark Davis Show, 9/19/14)
- We don't get to get, we get to give. We don't give to get, we give to live. Get it? –**Ed Young Jr.**
- The church is amazingly simple... and simply amazing! –**Ed Young Jr.**
- In marriage, the heart of the problem is the problem of the heart. –**Kirk Cameron** (*paraphrased*; see how figures of speech make you *sound* smart and wise/deep?)