

ONE THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHTS

BY

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A small dictionary created to supplement an interpreter's knowledge of English expressions designed specifically for the specialist in educational interpretations in public schools.

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This brief dictionary is the result of a project which I would like to share with all of you, my interpreter colleagues at APS in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Originally done for English-Spanish interpreters, this effort represents a compilation of idioms, expressions, refrains, and other metaphoric phrases which *have the potential of appearing in school interpretations* when teachers and specialists switch to a less formal and more colloquial mode of conversation. There is no pretense that this effort is either complete or final (nor does it represent a fiftieth of all locutions in English!). The main objective has been to create a document which can be altered by any one of us, at our own pleasure and instantly. For the project to function as such the technology used is either in WORD or PDF which can be used anywhere in the world. Please keep the following in mind:

- This is first and foremost a list of expressions to be used as a reference and as a learning tool.
- About 75% of the expressions *have the potential to emerge in informal conversation* at an educational interpretation...the other +/-25% are included for the sole purpose of linguistic enrichment.
- By using either a WORD or PDF format each user can *add, subtract, delete or otherwise alter* the document to fit his or her own language goals and needs.
- Above all this is a “work in progress” and as such the document belongs to no single individual but to all of us at the same time. Language is rarely still or finite and is always acquiring new words and combinations of words as well as novel nuances.
- It is organized alphabetically and each entry has its own line but no more. Naturally, you have the option to change this at will. I wanted to maintain a degree of simplicity. The great majority of entries are verbal expressions.
- You can add your own equivalents, explanations, or examples of your target language as you so desire on the right side of the page. If you wish to see how this is done kindly refer to the English-Spanish version on the website.
- Of course, as with most languages some expressions have multiple meanings in English. That is the case here. Choose the one most likely to come up in an educational interpretation.

In conclusion, I would greatly appreciate your input at some point and any recommendations for improvement especially expressions you have heard, or ones you believe you might hear, at an interpretation. I consider this project one that can always and continuously be fine-tuned, so by all means do not hesitate to get in touch with me whenever you please and let me know of your suggestions and ideas. My intent is to update the document on APS’s website a couple of times a year. My email address is below.

Thank you,
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IDIOMS, COLOQUIALISMS, REFRAINS, METAPHORIC PHRASES

ENGLISH-???

by

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A

A big mouth, Victor is...
A bit rusty in English, I'm a...
A friend in need is a friend indeed
A hot potato
A leopard never changes his spots
A penny for your thoughts
A real loser! He's a...
A watched pot never boils/He who hesitates is lost
Achilles heel
Across-the-board (adj. phrase)
Act high and mighty
Act cautiously, Tread softly
Actions speak louder than words
Add insult to injury
Afford to... (She can't afford to flunk chemistry)
Against all odds
Airhead, Johnny is an...
All bark and no bite
All in the same boat, We're...
All in a day's work, It's...
All that glitters is not gold
All the rage (in fashion)
All wet, Be...
An apple a day keeps the doctor away
An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure
Ants in his pants, He's got...
Appearances matter
Apple of his eye, She's the...
Around the clock, We worked...
As a last resort
As a matter of course
As a matter of fact
As far as he's concerned
As far as we know...
As likely as not
As luck would have it
As quick as a wink
As the crow flies
At a snail's pace

At first glance
At loggerheads, Be...
At most
At the drop of a hat
At the the request of...
At the top of one's voice
At this point
At your earliest convenience
Avoid someone like the plague
Axe to grind, Have an...

B

Back to square one/the drawing board
Backhanded compliment
Ball is in your court, The...
Bark up the wrong tree
Be a big fish in a small pond
Be a small fish in a big pond
Be a born leader
Be a dead duck
Be a diamond in the rough
Be a nerd/geek
Be a party pooper/Rain on one's parade
Be all there, Not...
Be as bad as all that, Not...
Be at wit's end
Be beside oneself
Be born yesterday
Be cold comfort
Be conspicuous by one's absence
Be dead tired
Be dumbfounded, dumbstruck
Be ill at ease
Be in someone else's shoes
Be on pins and needles
Be on the fence
Be onto someone
Be short tempered/ill-tempered/ornerly
Be sky high, having a trip (drug ralted term)
Be stuck with
Be that as it may
Be the cream of the crop
Be the icing on the cake
Be the real thing
Be tops (in one's class)
Be up and about
Be up to no good

Be up to par
Be-all and end-all
Beat a dead horse
Beat around the bush
Beat the rap
Beside oneself, Be...
Best thing since sliced bread
Better alone than with bad company
Better half/spouse, She's my... He's my ex
Better late than never
Better safe than sorry, An ounce of prevention...
Between a rock and a hard place
Birds of a feather flock together
Bite off more than one can chew
Bite one's tongue
Bite the bullet
Black sheep in the family, Be the...
Blow one's horn
Blow hot and cold
Blow off steam
Blue funk, Francisco's in a...
Blurt out, let something slip
Bone of contention
Bone tired, Be...
Break one's word
Break the ice
Brown nose (verb)
Brown noser, He's a...
Bull in a china shop, Like a...
Bump into, Run into
Burn one's bridges behind you
Burn the midnight oil
Bury one's head in the sand
Bury the hatchet
Busy as a bee/beaver
Butter up (flatter)
By all means
By means of (prep.)
By the same token...
By the skin of his teeth

C

Call a spade a spade, Call it like it is
Call one's bluff
Can't see the forest for the trees
Can't stand the sight of him/her/it
Cards on the table, Put one's...

Cart before the horse, Put the...
Cast pearls before swine
Cast the first stone
Cat nap, Take a...
Catch more flies with honey than with vinegar, You can...
Catch 22, It's a..., It's an impasse
Caught red-handed/with his hands in the cookie jar
Change of heart
Checkered career, A...
Chestnuts out of the fire, Pull his...
Chew out
Chicken out, Get cold feet
Chickens have come home to roost, And now the...
Clear-cut plan, It's a...
Close but no cigar
Close call, Have a...
Clothes don't make the man
Cloud nine, On...
Cloud one's judgement
Coast is clear, The...
Come off it! You've got to be kidding!
Come/get to the point
Come to grips with
Come what may/Come hell or high water
Come up smelling like roses
Cool as a cucumber (unfazed, unrattled)
Cost an arm and a leg
Crack a book
Cracks about, Make...
Crocodile tears (false grief)
Cross that bridge when you get to it
Cross the line
Cross the Rubicon
Cry wolf
Cry over spilt milk
Crying over spilt milk, It's no use...
Cup of tea, Not my...
Cuss, swear
Cussing a blue streak (swear profusely)
Cut and dried
Cut corners
Cut in line
Cut off one's nose to spite one's face
Cut short (i.e a meeting)
Cut someone some slack
Cut the mustard, He couldn't...

D

Daily grind, It's the...
Dawn on (it dawned on me today...)
Daydreaming, Veronica's always...
Devil's advocate
Devil-may-care attitude
Die is cast, The...
Dirt cheap
Do a halfway/halfassed job, Paco did a...
Do an about face
Do one's homework grudgingly
Dog-ear (v.)
Dog-eared (adj.)
Don't count your chickens before they hatch
Don't judge a book by its cover
Don't look a gift horse in the mouth
Don't (even) mention it!
Don't put all your eggs in one basket
Don't spill the beans!
Dot every i and cross every t
Down and out, He's...
Draw a blank
Draw a line
Dream on! Not in your wildest dreams!
Dressed to the nines (adj. phrase)
Drive one up a wall
Drop in the bucket, It's a...
Dull as dishwater (adj. phrase)
Dyed-in-the-wool (adj.)

E

Earn one keep
Easier said than done
Eat crow/humble pie/dirt
Eat one's words
Eleventh hour, At the...
Engage in small talk
Everyone touts his own accomplishments
Everything's going great/running smoothly/like gangbusters
Everything's upside down/topsy-turvy
Explore every/any avenue

F

Face up to...
Facts speak for themselves, The...
Fair and square

Fair to middling
Fair weather friend, He's a...
Fall flat on one's face (lit.)
Fall flat on one's face (fig.)
Fall for it
Fall in the trap
Fall on deaf ears
Far be it from me (to tell you...)
Fast one, Pull a...
Fat chance! No way!
Feather in his cap, It's a...
Feather one's own nest
Feel cruddy/crappy...It's crappy
Feel out of it
Feelings are hurt, His...
Few and far between, They are...
Fight like cats and dogs, The twins...
Fight tooth and nail
Finishing touches, Put on the...
First and foremost
First come first served
First things first
Fish in troubled waters
Fish to fry, Have other...
Fits and starts, He works by...
Flash in the pan, He's a...
Flesh and blood, He's my...
Follow in the footsteps of...
Follow suit
Food for thought, It's...
Fool around
Fool of someone, Make a...
Fool of oneself, Make a...
Foot-in-mouth disease, He's got...
For better or for worse
For the record...Off the record
For what it's worth
Forewarned is forearmed
Freaked me out, It...!
From A to Z
From the frying pan into the fire, Go...
From sunup to sunset
From top to bottom, Know...

G

Generation gap
Get a handle on

Get a word in edgewise
Get away with it
Get butterflies in your stomach
Get cracking!
Get even, Avenge, Take it out on
Get into a jam/fix
Get involved in
Get it/Have it down pat
Get it over (with)
Get lucky
Get mixed up, Get confused
Get off your soapbox!
Get on one's nerves
Get one's back up, Get one's goat
Get one's come-uppance
Get one's way
Get one's wires crossed (mentally)
Get rid of one's... (e.g. bad habits)
Get taken/fleeced/swindled
Get the lead out (of your feet)
Get to the bottom of it
Get to the point/the nub of it
Get under one's skin
Get up on the wrong side of the bed
Get what is coming to him
Get worked up
Get one's act together
Give and take (noun phrase)
Give his shirt off his back
Give one the business
Give short shrift
Give someone a big hand
Give someone a dirty look
Give someone a "talking to"
Give someone an inch and he'll take a mile
Give someone something to think about
Give someone the cold shoulder
Give someone too much rope
Give the benefit of the doubt
Go against the grain
Go along with
Go all out
Go bananas
Go fifty-fifty
Go it alone
Go jump in the lake!, Go fry an egg!
Go on a wild goose chase
Go out of one's way (to help/please someone)

Go over with a bang
Go overboard
Go scot free
Go to pot
Go to the dogs
God helps those who help themselves
Good egg, He's a...
Goose bumps
Grab/Take the bull by the horns
Grasp at straws
Grin and bear it
Grind it out, make a concerted effort

H

Hack (a computer)...Hacker
Hand in glove, They're...
Handwriting on the wall, See the...
Hang it up (give up)
Hang out
Hard and fast rule, A...
Haste makes waste
Have a bad streak of luck
Have a chip on one's shoulder
Have a good command of
Have a nice way with people
Have a rough idea
Have a rough time
Have all one's marbles
Have egg on one's face
Have it up to here, be fed up with
Have no objection to
Have on the tip of one's tongue
Have one's feet on the ground
Have one's heart set on
Have one's say
Have the upper hand
Have to do with
He cooked his own goose
He quit cold turkey
He's my ex
He swallowed it hook, line, and sinker
Head and shoulders above, Sara is...
Heart of gold
Heart of the problem, Get to the...
Heavy schedule
He's all thumbs
He's in a real pickle/mess!

He's in his element/comfort zone
He's ornery/in a bad mood
He's up to not good
Hit the ceiling
Hit the nail on the head
Hold one's own
Homesick, Miguel is...
Hop, skip, and a jump from, Be a...
Hope springs eternal
Horse sense, He has good...
Hot water, Be in...
Hyper, Quico is very...

I

I could care less where you are from
I have no "pull" here
I heard it through the grapevine
I hope things get better
I say what I mean and mean what I say
If it's not one thing it's another
If pigs could fly
If you play you pay
I'll have to sleep on it
In a nutshell
In a rut, She's...
In a row
In (a) single file
In broad daylight
In her element/comfort zone, María is...
In hot water/In a pickle, Be...
In mourning, Be...
In no time
In over his head
In the doghouse, Alberto is...
In the groove, Elena is...
In the heat of the moment
In the know about, The principal is
In the long run
In the nick of time
In the pink
In the twinkling of an eye/In no time
In vogue
It can't be helped
It doesn't ring a bell
It fits him to a "T"
It gives me the creeps/the shivers
It makes me envious

It makes no difference
It never rains but it pours
It stands to reason
It went to his head
It'll all come out in the wash, The truth will out
It will cost an arm and a leg
It's a balancing act, It'll take some juggling
It's a deal
It's a dog-eat-dog world
It's a double-edged sword
It's a small world
It's a tempest in a teapot
It's about time!
It's all Greek to me
It's all in the way you say it
It's all relative
It's all the rage
It's as good as done
It's as good as gold
It's beside the point
It's BS, It's a cock and bull story
It's grist for the mill
It's in the bag
It's just gossip/rumors
It's like looking for a needle in a haystack
It's like putting the cart before the horse
It's like putting the fox in the chicken coop
It's no sooner said than done
It's none of his business
It's the last/final straw!, It's outrageous!
It's the pits!
It's the same old thing
It's the straw that broke the camel's back
It takes two to tango

J

Jack of all trades master at none
Jaundiced eye, He looked at me with...
John Hancock, Please put/write your...
Judge too quickly
Jump at the chance
Jump the gun
Just as I thought
Just in case, On the off chance

K

Keen about, Be...

Keep a straight face
Keep abreast of/Keep up with
Keep one's chin up
Keep tabs on
Keep up with the Joneses
Keep your fingers crossed!
Keep your shirt on
Keeps to herself, Julia...
Kick up a fuss
Kid-gloves, She was handled with...
Kill the goose that lays the golden egg
Kill two birds with one stone
Kit and caboodle/nine yards, The whole...
Knock off
Know-it-all, He's a...
Know on which side his bread is buttered
Know only too well
Know the ropes
Know when to pick your battles
Know your stuff

L

Lags behind his classmates, Pedro...
Last but not least
Laughingstock of the class, Beto is the...
Lay a finger on
Lay an egg
Lead astray
Least of it, That's the...
Leave a bad taste in one's mouth
Leave no stone unturned
Leave out in the cold
Leave well-enough alone
Leave word
Leg to stand on, I don't have a...
Lesser of two evils
Let bygones be bygones
Let one's hair down
Let sleeping dogs lie
Let the cat out of the bag, Spill the beans
Let the chips fall where they may
Let you down, Your teachers won't...
Let's face it
Let's not go round and round over this...
Lift a finger, He didn't...
Like a fish out of water
Likes to be in the limelight, He...

Live and let live
Live in an ivory tower
Live up to (the teacher's) expectations
Long shot, It's a...
Look a gift horse in the mouth, Don't...
Look askance
Look down one's nose (be snobbish)
Look for trouble
Look forward to
Look into (i.e. find out about)
Look the other way
Look up (...on the internet, in a dictionary)
Looking up, Things are...
Loose tongue
Lose face
Lose one's temper
Lose the thread (ie.of one's argument)
Lost in thought
Lost-and-Found office, They are in the...
Lower one's sights

M

Mad as a hatter, Furious
Maiden name
Make a deal
Make a good/poor showing
Make a long story short
Make a mountain out of a molehill
Make a nuisance of himself
Make a point of
Make faces
Make false promises
Make it known
Make life miserable for
Make my point, I would like to...
Make nothing of it
Make one sick (disgust)
Make oneself understood
Make out the meaning of, Figure out
Make out (well, badly)
Make out
Make out a check
Make out/Fill out a form
Man proposes, God disposes
Make up for lost time
Make up one's mind
Manner of speaking, In a...

Meddle, Stick one's nose in someone else's business
Meet halfway
Meet the standards
Memory serves me right, If...
Method to my madness, There's a...
Millstone/albatross around one's neck , Be a...
Mind one's P's and Q's
Mind your own business!
Miss the boat
Mixed feelings, I have...
Moment of truth
Monday morning quarterback, to second guess
Move to tears
Movers and shakers
Much ado about nothing
Must, It's a...
Muddy the waters

N

Neither fish nor fowl
Nervous wreck, Be a...
No dice!
No love lost (they dislike each other)
No man is an island
No matter how...
No matter what
No pain no gain
No skin off my nose, It does not affect me
No strings attached
No wonder!
Nose to the grindstone, Have one's...
Not hold a grudge against...
Not in the mood for joking around
Not know a thing about...
Not know where to turn for help
Not worth a hill of beans
Not worth making a fuss over, It's no big deal
Nothing to write home about, It's...
Nothing ventured nothing gained

O

Odds and Ends
Off and on
Off-color jokes
Old hand, Be an...
Old hat, It's...
On one's toes, Be/Keep...

On one's way, Be...
On purpose
On second thought
On the ball/with it, Be...
On the occasion of...
On the rise
On the spur of the moment
On the up-and-up
On the verge of
Once and for all
Once in a blue moon
Once too often
Once upon a time
One good turn deserves another
One man's meat is another man's poison
One shall be known by the company he keeps
One step at a time
Open and shut case
Open secret, It's an...
Other things being equal, All...
Out of sight out of mind
Out of the blue
Out of the question/unthinkable, Be...
Out of the woods, Be...
Out of touch
Out to lunch/Not with it/Clueless/Not all there
Overdue, Be...

P

Pain in the neck, He's a...
Pass the buck (i.e. not take responsibility for)
Pat on the back (verb phrase)
Pats on the back (noun phrase)
Pave the way for
Pay lip service to
Pay through the nose
Penchant for, Alicia has a...
Phonier than a two \$ bill/Not authentic
Pick on, harass
Piece of cake/Duck soup
Pins and needles, We are on...
Play a dirty trick on
Play a joke on
Play (it) by ear
Play chicken
Play dumb, Play the fool
Play hooky, Skip school, Cut class

Play the role of
Pot calling the kettle black, It's the...
Pouring oil on the flames, It's like...
Practice what you preach!
Pull off (succeed in, manage to)
Push comes to shove, When...
Put all one's eggs in one basket, bet the farm
Put down
Put in a good word for
Put it mildly
Put off , Delay, Pospone
Put on airs
Put one's best foot forward
Put one's foot down
Put one's shoulder to the wheel
Put oneself out, Make a great effort
Put someone on the spot
Put the matter on the backburner
Put to a test
Put two and two together
Put up or shut up, Fish or cut bait
Put up with

Q

Quack, The doctor is a...
Query, She accepted it without a...
Quick study, César is a...
Quibble (e.g.my only quibble is...)
Quandary, Be in
Question, Call into...

R

Rain cats and dogs
Rain on someone's parade
Raincheck, Take a...
Rake someone over the coals
Rank (Alice ranks high in her class)
Rat race, Life's a...
Reach, Be out of...
Reach, Be within...
Reach an understanding
Regarding...
Reputation, Live up to one's...
Reputation of/as, Have the.....
Resign oneself to...
Rest assured that...
Rest on one's laurels

Rightly or wrongly
Rise to the occasion
Rob Peter to pay Paul
Rock the boat
Roll with the punches (adjust to adversity)
Rome was not built in a day
Rub shoulders with the...
Rub someone the wrong way
Rule of thumb, as a general rule
Rule out
Rule the roost, Wear the pants
Run down, Speak ill of
Run of the mill (ordinary)
Run out of
Rush through

S

Sacred cow
Safe and sound
Salad days
Salt of the earth
Save face
Save for a rainy day
Scapegoat
Scarce, Make oneself...
Scavenger hunt
See it through (...to the end)
See light at the end of the tunnel
See no objection to
See to it
Seeing is believing
Send for
Separate the wheat from the chaff
Set/put aside
Seventh heaven, Be in...
Shoot the bull/the breeze
Short leash, Keep someone on a...
Shortcut
Shot in the arm, He needs a...
Show must go on, The...
Shut down (i.e. the school)
Silence is golden
Sit idly by, We won't...
Six of one, half dozen of the other
Sixth sense
Skate on thin ice
Skin of his teeth, By the...

Sleep like a log
Slip of the tongue, A...
Slip one's mind
Slouch (in a seat)
Small world, It's a...
Snack, A...
Snack, Have a snack
Snow job, Give a/Do a...
So-so, Anita feels...
So-and-so
Someone else's shoes, Be in...
Something like that
Speaking of the devil
Speak off the cuff
Speak one's mind, Be outspoken
Speak out of turn
Speak to the point
Spend a sleepless night, not sleep a wink
Split hairs
Square peg in a round whole, Marco is a...
Stake, Be at...
Stand for
Stand on one's own two feet
Stand (him/her/me) up
Stand one's ground
Start from scratch
Stay out all night
Stay out of trouble
Steal someone's thunder
Stew in one's own juice
Stick-in-the-mud, He's a...
Stick it out till the end
Stick one's foot in one's mouth
Stick one's neck out
Stick one's nose in someone else's business
Stick to
Stick to your guns
Stickler for the rules
Stir up a hornet's nest
Stop studying
Straight from the horse's mouth, It's...
Stream of consciousness
Street smarts, He has...
Strike back at
Stuck up
Stronger than an ox, Manuel is...
Stuffed shirt, He's a...
Suit to a T

Survival of the fittest
Swallow one's pride
Sweat buckets
Sweat like a pig

T

Take a crack at
Take a dim view of
Take a joke
Take a shot at
Take amiss
Take for granted, Be a given
Take for granted (treat indifferently or unappreciatively)
Take it easy
Take it easy!
Take it the wrong way
Take it with a grain of salt
Take sides
Take one's breath away
Take someone at his word/someone's word for it
Take to heart, Take something hard
Take the cake, Take the prize
Take the necessary steps to...
Take the wind out of one's sails
Take things in stride
Take under one's wing
Taken aback, Be...
Talk back to
Talk gibberish, Talk nonsense
Talk one's ear off
Talk turkey, Let's...
Talk through one's hat, Talk nonsense
Tall order, A lot to ask
Taste of your own medicine
Tattletale, Be a... (Be a rat)
Tell a white lie
Tell it like it is
Tell (someone) off
Terms, Be on good...
Thank goodness!
That/it blew me away
That goes without saying
That makes no sense at all
That takes the cake!
That'll do
That's a horse of a different color
That's asking for the impossible

That's just the point!
That's not/beside the point
That's the way the ball bounces, That's life
The acorn does not fall far from the tree, He's a chip off the old block
The burning question
The cure is worse than the disease
The early bird catches the worm
The fly in the ointment
The grass is always greener on the...
The ins and outs
The leopard never changes its spots
The long and short of it
The squeaky wheel gets the grease
The straw that broke the camel's back
The vicissitudes/twists and turns of life
There is more than meets the eye
There is more than one way to skin a cat
There's a silver lining in every cloud, A blessing in disguise
There's a time for everything
There's no getting around it
There's not a grain of truth to it
There's something fishy going on, I smell a rat
There's the rub
They caught him red-handed
Thingamabob, thingamajig, thingie
Things are looking up
Think it over
Think outside the box
Through thick and thin
Throw a monkey wrench in the works/gum up the works
Throw a tantrum
Throw caution to the wind
Throw in the sponge/towel, Give up
Throw up one's hands
Thumb-nail sketch, A...
Tied to the mother's apron strings
Tighten one's belt
Tilt at windmills
Time and again, year in and year out
Tis many a slip between the cup and the lip
Tit for tat, Give tit for tat
To a great extent
To each his own
To the bone, Through and through
To the letter
Toe the line
Tongue-in-cheek, With...
Touch a sore spot

Touch-and-go situation
Touch off
Toy with an/the idea
Too good to be true, Is it...?
Too many cooks spoil the broth
Too many irons in the fire
Tread softly, be cautious, walk on eggs
Treat someone like dirt
True to one's word, Be...
Truth is stranger than fiction
Try one's patience
Turn a deaf ear
Turn down, reject
Turn over a new leaf
Turn the corner
Turn the other cheek
Turning point (critical juncture), Be at a...
20-20 hindsight
Twiddle one's thumbs/Kill time
Twist his arm
Two by two, by twos
Two-faced

U

Under the weather
Undertake the task
Uninvited touching
Until the cows come home, Until hell freezes over
Unvarnished truth, The...
Up a creek without a paddle
Up against it
Up and coming (adj.)
Up for grabs
Up to here with
Up-to-date
Uphill battle/struggle
Upset the applecart
Utmost, To the...

V

Vacuum, Live in a...
Variety is the spice of life
Vent one's spleen
Vicious circle
Virtue of, By...
Vis-a-vis (French phrase used a lot in English)

W

Walk on air
Wander, Lets his mind...
Wander off the point
Wash/Air one's dirty linen in public
Waste time, do useless things
Water over the dam/under the bridge
Wear many hats
Wear your heart on your sleeve
Weather, Be under the...
Wet behind the ears
What a pain/nuisance!
What difference does it make?
Whatever!
What's bugging/eating you?
What's good for the goose is good for the gander
What's the point?
What's up?
When all is said and done
When in Rome do as the Romans
When it comes right down to it
When you least expect it
Where there's a will there's a way
Wherewithal, Have the...
Without batting an eye
Without rhyme or reason
Whiz by
Will, against one's...
Will wonders never cease!
Wing it
Wipe the slate clean
Wishful thinking, It's...
With all due respect
With the understanding that...
Withdrawals, Suffer from...
Without further ado
Without much thought, quickly
Work one's butt off
Work one's way up
Work out well
Work your way through college
Worst comes to worst, If...
Worthwhile, Be...

X

Xerox (verb)
X factor, The...

Xmas
X-rated
XXX

Y

Yap (all they do in class is yap yap yap!)
You are judged by the company you keep
You can't get something for nothing
You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear
You can't teach an old dog new tricks
You couldn't hear a pin drop
You get what you pay for
Your guess is as good as mine, Beats me

Z

Zenith
Zero, He's a total...
Zero in on
Zest, Lack...
Zip about
Zonk out
Zoom through one's homework

BOOKS, DICTIONARIES, AND WEBSITES CONSULTED

- 1. SIMON AND SCHUSTER'S INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY English-Spanish/Spanish-English**
- 2. 2001 Spanish and English idioms (2ND edition) by Eugene Savaiano & Lynn Winget**
- 3. THE OXFORD SPANISH DICTIONARY (2nd edition) Spanish-English/English-Spanish**
- 4. THE DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH CLICHES by James Rogers**
- 5. WEBSTER'S NEW UNIVERSAL UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY**
- 6. Wordreference.com**
- 7. LA REAL ACADEMIA ESPAÑOLA**
- 8. The Dictionary of Euphemisms and Other Doubletalk (Rawson)**
- 9. ROGET'S THESAURUS**
- 10. THE DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN SLANG**