

IN THE NAME OF GOD,
THE MERCIFUL, THE COMPASSIONATE

*Dictionary
Of
Current English
Idioms
And
Proverbs*

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Abbreviations

ant.	antonym
e.g.	for example
esp.	especially
etc.	etcetera; and so on
exclam.	exclamation
lit.	literature
n.	noun
rhym.	rhyming
s.b.	somebody
sl.	slang
s.o.	someone
sth	something
syn.	synonym
usu.	usually
v.	verb
var.	variation

Preface

This Dictionary of Current English Idioms and Proverbs has been written and compiled specially to meet the needs of foreign students of English. It does not, therefore, claim to include every idiom in the language. On the contrary, it seemed to me that it was much more useful for the purpose to select the most frequently used expressions and phrases in modern English, than to include a much wider range that would be of doubtful value to the foreign learners.

By idioms, we mean a commonly used phrase or expression. In writing this Dictionary, however, I have concentrated on what I consider to be of most practical use to the students; consequently, I have included common phrasal verbs in the variety of meanings and contexts in which they appear and have also paid particular attention to the different ways in which they are used.

I have also paid special attention to the durability of the expressions. Many students are keen to speak the language in its most up-to-date form and often look for such expressions in newly published books and dictionaries. They realize that the expressions frequently disappear or change their meanings within at least 20 years. I have, therefore, been sparing in the inclusion of expressions and idioms that have entered the language recently.

Contextualization is of vital importance in learning new lexical items of any kind in a language. Throughout this Dictionary, my aim has been not only to define the meaning of the expression but also to give one or two examples of how it is used as far as to suggest any limitations that might apply to the usage logically. The correct use of an idiom in a language depends, after all, not only on knowing what it means but when to use it effectively.

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