

28. **Hold a brief** (*to defend someone*) It is very improper for parents to **hold a brief** for their children who are in the wrong.
29. **Hush money** (*a bribe*) He managed to escape punishment by paying **hush money**.
30. **Hold at bay** (*to prevent enemy from coming*) Maharana Partap could not **hold** the Mughal army **at bay** for long.
31. **Hit the jack pot** (*unexpected success*) He **hit the jack pot** by investing his money in shares.
32. **Helter skelter** (*here and there*) When the police arrived the rioters ran **helter skelter**.
33. **Have a brush with** (*to have encounter*) Our principal **had a brush with** the Vice Chancellor over the appointment of a lecturer.
34. **Hornet's nest** (*raise controversy*) The speaker stirred up **hornet's nest** by referring to impending changes in the rules.
35. **Hold somebody to ransom** (*to demand concession by making someone captive*) It is a pity that a handful of militants are **holding the nation to ransom**.
36. **Hole and corner** (*secret*) I have come to know of your **hole and corner** method of dealing with people.



1. **Ill at ease** (*uncomfortable*) A student is often **ill at ease** when he has to see the Principal after he has done something wrong.
2. **In a fix** (*In a dilemma*) The whole police department is **in a fix** about the threatening letters written by the kidnappers.
3. **In a fair way** (*hopeful*) The doctor feels that patient is **in a fair way** on to recovery.
4. **In the good books of** (*to be in favour with a person*) Sunita's brilliant success in her final examination has led her to be **in the good books of** her teachers.
5. **In tune** (*in a mood*) The teacher asked the students if they were **in tune** for study.
6. **In the lurch** (*to leave a friend in difficulty*) You must never leave your best friend **in the lurch**.
7. **Ins and outs** (*secrets*) The servants are generally familiar with the **ins and outs** of the family.
8. **In the blues** (*in dumps, depressed*) After his failure in the Examination he is **in the blues** these days.
9. **In the red** (*suffer a loss*) Most of our Public Sector Undertakings are **in the red** for lack of efficient administration.
10. **In the limelight** (*prominent*) After being out of favour with the leader of the party he is again **in the limelight** these days.

11. **In the teeth of** (*inspite of bitter opposition*) Hindu Code Bill was passed **in the teeth of** opposition by various organizations.
12. **In a tight corner** (*in difficult situation*) After losing in gambling heavily, he is **in a tight corner**.
13. **In cold blood** (*to do something deliberately*) The child was murdered **in cold blood**.
14. **In doldrums** (*to be depressed*) After his failure in the examination he is **in doldrums** these days.
15. **In the family way** (*pregnant*) She has been advised complete rest because she is **in the family way**.
16. **Ivory tower** (*imaginary world*) Those who talk of non-violence as a useful tool in international politics live in **ivory tower**.
17. **In the dumps** (*in low spirits*) Her visit cheered me up as I was **in the dumps** before her visit.
18. **In a flutter** (*excited*) My sister is **in a flutter** today because she is going for the interview.

**J**

1. **Jaundiced eye** (*prejudice*) You must not evaluate the success of your rivals with a **jaundiced eye**.

**K**

1. **Keep body and soul together** (*to maintain life*) These days because of rising prices it is difficult to **keep body and soul together**.
2. **Keep at an arm's length** (*to keep at a distance*) Selfish people should always be **kept at an arm's length**.
3. **Keep the wolf from the door** (*to avoid starvation*) In India millions of people struggle hard to **keep the wolf from the door**.
4. **Kith and kin** (*blood relation*) If we have no love for our **kith and kin**, we cannot be expected to love humanity.
5. **Knit the brow** (*to frown*) Her mother-in-law always **knits the brow** at everything she does.
6. **Kick the bucket** (*to die*) He **kicked the bucket** after long illness in the prime of his life.
7. **Keep up appearances** (*to maintain outward show*) Though he is in financial crisis, he is able to **keep up appearances**.
8. **Keep one's fingers crossed** (*to wait expectantly*) We had to **keep our fingers crossed** till the last ball was bowled.
9. **Keep the pot boiling** (*earn hardly enough for living*) He is earning only to **keep the pot boiling**.

10. **Kick one's heels** (*to waste time in waiting*) As the train was late we had to **kick our heels** at the station.
11. **Keep abreast of** (*not to fall behind*) It is very important for the young persons to **keep abreast of** political developments in the country.

**L**

1. **Lost in the clouds** (*confused*) My psychology teacher is often **lost in the clouds** as she sometimes is unable to explain the questions clearly.
2. **Lose ground** (*fail to keep position*) The belief in prophecies and horoscopes is **losing ground** these days.
3. **Laugh in one's sleeves** (*to laugh secretly*) The students **laughed in their sleeves** at the teacher's ignorance of the subject.
4. **Leave no stone unturned** (*to make all possible efforts*) The minister assured the poor that he shall **leave no stone unturned** to uplift their condition.
5. **Leap in the dark** (*to take a risk deliberately*) You must not **leap in the dark** by entering the business without experience.
6. **Look sharp** (*to make haste*) **Look sharp**, the bus is moving.
7. **Let the cat out of the bag** (*to disclose*) Sunita has, at last, **let the cat out of the bag**, by confessing that she had stolen her brother's money.
8. **Live in a fool's paradise** (*false hope*) My brother is **living in a fool's paradise** if he thinks that he can be a rich man without working hard.
9. **Lion's share** (*large part*) Generally the sons as compared to daughters have a **lion's share** of their mother's affection.
10. **Loaves and fishes** (*material benefit*) Most of the ministers are more concerned with the **loaves and fishes** of office than the service of man.
11. **Live-wire** (*energetic*) India needs **live-wire** political leaders who can put the country on the right track.
12. **Look a gift horse in the mouth** (*criticize a gift*) One should not **look a gift horse in the mouth** because it is given out of love and regards.
13. **Lose one's head** (*to be carried away*) One should not **lose one's head** even in such a victory.
14. **Long and short** (*in brief*) The **long and short** of the principal's speech was that examination would be held on time.
15. **Latin and Greek** (*incomprehensible*) The speech of literary persons is always **Latin and Greek** to illiterate persons.
16. **Last nail in the coffin** (*causing ruin*) Second world war proved to be a **last nail in the coffin** of British imperialism.
17. **Lead up the garden path** (*to cheat*) The traders **lead the credulous customers up the garden path** by assuring them of warranty.

18. **Leaps and bounds** (*rapidly*) In comparison to India, China has progressed by **leaps and bounds** in every field.
19. **Last straw** (*the final trial of patience*) The Rowlet Act was the **last straw** on the Camel's back and the whole India rose in protest against the British rule.
20. **Let the grass grow under feet** (*to delay the matters*) We are bound to suffer if we **let the grass grow under feet** by postponing action.

M

1. **Make both ends meet** (*to live within one's means*) As my uncle has to bring up five children, he finds it difficult to **make both ends meet**.
2. **Mend one's fences** (*to make peace*) It is high time for the two brothers to bury the hatchet and **mend their fences**.
3. **Make a clean breast** (*to confess*) When asked by the Magistrate sternly, the thief **made a clean breast** of the whole crime.
4. **Make amends** (*to give compensation*) The government **made amends** to the family for the loss of their earning member in the war.
5. **Make the most of** (*to utilize time*) Students should **make the most of** their time if they want to get an administrative job.
6. **Move heaven and earth** (*to try utmost*) Ramesh **moved heaven and earth** to gain his end but failed.
7. **Make sure** (*to ascertain*) We went to the office to **make sure** if our exams would start in the next week.
8. **Make neither head nor tail** (*not to understand*) The students can **make neither head nor tail** of what Mr. Dev teaches them.
9. **Moot point** (*a debatable point, undecided*) The question of abolition of child marriage is a **moot point** as far as Indians are concerned.
10. **Meet one's Waterloo** (*to face final defeat*) Tipu Sultan **met his Waterloo** in the fourth battle of Mysore.
11. **Man of letters** (*literary person*) Dr. Radhakrishnan was a **man of letters**.
12. **Make light of** (*not to care*) He is in the habit of **making light of** the advice of his parents.
13. **Midas touch** (*a touch which turns anything into gold*) Our manager seems to be gifted with **Midas touch** because he is capable of selling every product.
14. **Man of parts** (*a man of qualities*) Our Principal is a **man of parts** and is respected by all and one.
15. **Mealy mouthed** (*soft spoken*) A **mealy mouthed** shopkeeper is always successful.
16. **Man of straw** (*a weak person*) The king being a **man of straw**, his orders were often disobeyed.

17. **Mince matters** (*hide the truth and pretend*) Tell the truth to your parents because it does not pay to **mince matters**.
18. **Mare's nest** (*a false invention*) The involvement of teachers in the scheme proved to be a **mare's nest**.

**N**

1. **Null and void** (*ineffective*) Strangely, the laws made by the British in India are not yet **null and void**.
2. **Next to nothing** (*almost nothing*) The thieves made off with everything from the kitchen and there was **next to nothing** left.
3. **Neck and crop** (*completely*) The decoits finished him off **neck and crop** beyond recognition.
4. **No love lost** (*intense dislike*) There is **no love lost** between the two neighbours.
5. **Nip in the bud** (*to destroy in the very beginning*) The evils of the society must be **nipped in the bud**.
6. **Not worth one's salt** (*not deserving*) We should not help the persons who are **not worth their salt**.

**O**

1. **Off hand** (*without preparation or delay*) I am very poor in English grammar & can't answer all the questions **off hand**.
2. **Over head and ears** (*excessively*) Mohan is **over head and ears** in love with Neena.
3. **Out of question** (*certain*) His success is **out of question** because he is working hard these days.
4. **Out of the question** (*unlikely, uncertain*) His success is **out of the question** because he is not working hard these days.
5. **Out of the woods** (*out of danger*) The patient is not **out of the woods** yet.
6. **Order of the day** (*in fashion*) It is difficult to get any work done without bribery because bribery is the **order of the day**.
7. **On the score of** (*on the grounds of*) He was debarred from appearing in the examination **on the score of** indiscipline.
8. **On that score** (*for the reason*) You need not worry **on that score**.
9. **Over and above** (*moreover, besides*) I shall lend you books **over and above** what I have promised to give you in cash.
10. **Out and out** (*completely*) Shri Bhagat Singh was a patriot **out and out**.
11. **Off and on** [*occasionally (now & then)*] Since she is over busy these days, she visits me **off and on**.

12. **One's Achilles heel** (*a weak point*) Howsoever powerful a person may be, he is vulnerable because of **his Achilles' heel**.
13. **Off colour** (*not in usual form*) Once a glamorous actress, she is **off colour** these days.
14. **Odds and ends** (*scattered things*) The thief made away with the **odds and ends** lying about the drawing room.
15. **Off the hook** (*out of trouble*) He is not yet **off the hook** because Income Tax department is making a thorough inquiry into his financial status.
16. **Oily tongue** (*flattering words*) He has often won over the enemies by his **oily tongue**.
17. **On the horns of dilemma** (*in a fix*) He is **on the horns of dilemma** in the matter of his marriage.
18. **One's cup of tea** (*to one's liking*) Teaching is not **my cup of tea**.
19. **Out of sorts** (*to be unwell*) Sohan had been **out of sorts** the whole day and could not do his office work properly.
20. **On its last legs** (*about to collapse*) In many sections of Indian society the system of child marriage is **on its last legs**.
21. **On the carpet** (*to be under consideration*) What is **on the carpet** these days is in the newspapers.

**P**

1. **Past master** (*an expert*) He is a **past master** in befooling the people by his oily tongue.
2. **Palmy days** (*prosperous, affluent days*) We still remember the **palmy days** of our life when we had nothing much to do and still got everything to fulfil our needs.
3. **Part and parcel** (*inseparable part*) Every Indian citizen living in India must regard himself as **part and parcel** of a larger whole.
4. **Pass the buck** (*to blame each other*) Political parties **pass the buck** on to one another for failure on economic front.
5. **Pay off old scores** (*to take revenge*) The way he is treating his younger brother makes it quite obvious that he is **paying off old scores**.
6. **Pay through one's nose** (*to pay dearly*) A hapless customer has to **pay through his nose** when there is shortage of goods in the market.
7. **Pay lip service** (*pretend to regard*) Most of the political parties **pay lip service** to the plight of the poor.
8. **Pay one back in the same coin** (*tit for tat*) We should not hesitate in **paying** China and Pakistan **back in their own coins**.
9. **Pin-money** (*allowance given to housewife for personal use*) She is frugal and saves even out of **pin-money**.

10. **Pell-mell** (*great confusion*) After the thieves had ransacked the house, every thing was **pell-mell**.
11. **Play fast and loose** (*repeatedly change one's attitude*) No one can trust Rohan as he is used to **playing fast and loose** with his friends.
12. **Play second fiddle to** (*to play a subordinate part*) A self-respecting man can never **play second fiddle** to anyone.
13. **Play truant** (*to be absent from duty without permission*) It is a very bad habit of the employees to **play truant** from office.
14. **Play to the gallery** (*to gain cheap popularity*) The speeches of our leaders are not sincere; they are intended to **play to the gallery**.
15. **Play ducks and drakes** (*to squander money*) After the death of his father he got into heavy debt by **playing ducks and drakes** with money.
16. **Play foul** (*to do something wrong*) Don't **play foul** with your well-wishers.
17. **Plough the sands** (*futile labour*) He cannot make money because he appears to be **ploughing the sands**.
18. **Pour oil on troubled waters** (*to pacify the matters*) The two good friends exchanged hot words but the intervention of their teacher **poured oil on troubled waters**.
19. **Pull a long face** (*to look sad*) Seema **pulled a long face** when she was scolded by her teacher for her carelessness.
20. **Pull one's socks up** (*work hard*) You must **pull your socks up** to get over financial problems.
21. **Pull strings** (*to exercise influence secretly*) He managed his promotion by **pulling strings**.
22. **Put heads together** (*consult seriously*) Our leaders should **put their heads together** to solve national problems.
23. **Put a spoke in a wheel** (*to obstruct*) He would not like me to succeed; so he always **put a spoke in a wheel**.
24. **Put the cart before the horse** (*to do wrong thing first*) Our leaders **put the cart before the horse** by neglecting villages in the name of industrial progress.
25. **Pros and cons** (*for and against a thing*) We must always consider the **pros and cons** of any new project that we take in hand.
26. **Pyrrhic victory** (*victory at a high cost*) Greek victory over Trojans proved to be **pyrrhic victory**.
27. **Pick holes** (*to find fault with*) He is always **picking holes** in every project.

**Q**

1. **Queer fish** (*strange person*) One cannot make anything out of Sohan's attitude as he is such a **queer fish**.
2. **Quixotic project** (*foolishly ideal*) Being not worldly wise he wasted his money in **quixotic projects**.

**R**

1. **Rise to the occasion** (*to act as the occasion demands*) To face critical situations boldly you should **rise to the occasion**.
2. **Run short of** (*shortage*) These days due to some financial crises my friend is **running short of** money.
3. **Rank and file** (*common man*) If we want our country to progress in every field, we must improve the economic lot of the **rank and file**.
4. **Red tapism** (*official delay*) **Red tapism** is a bane of Indian bureaucracy.
5. **Rest on one's laurels** (*complacent, self satisfied*) Ambitious persons never **rest on their laurels** because they dream of unending achievements.
6. **Rock the boat** (*upset the balance*) If your party withdraws the support from the Government, it may **rock the boat**.
7. **Red herring** (*something to distract attention*) The demand of inquiry into his conduct is just a **red herring** as there is no truth in it.
8. **Rip up old sores** (*to revive forgotten quarrel*) Rahul and his wife can't live in peace; they are always **ripping up old sores**.
9. **Read between the lines** (*to understand the hidden meaning*) If her essay is **read between the lines**, we will find that she has made comments against the Government.
10. **Rule the roost** (*to dominate*) Today the rich **rule the roost**.
11. **Red rag to a bull** (*anything that provokes*) The law against the dowry system is, for the greedy persons, like a **red rag to a bull**.
12. **Ride rough shod over** (*to treat in a high handed fashion*) Don't **ride rough shod over** a person when he is down and out.
13. **Rub one the wrong way** (*annoy*) If you **rub him the wrong way**, he is bound to react.

**S**

1. **Sit on the fence** (*not to commit oneself*) When the party split Ramesh was accused of **sitting on the fence**.
2. **Smell a rat** (*to be suspicious*) I **smelt a rat** in the bargain that my uncle made with my father.
3. **Shed crocodile tears** (*to show false sorrow*) The mother **shed crocodile tears** on the death of her step daughter.
4. **Split hair** (*to indulge in over refined arguments*) We should not try to **split hair** with our elders.
5. **Stand in good stead** (*to be helpful in need*) During the time of distress the advice of elders always **stands in good stead**.
6. **Show white feather** (*to show cowardice*) Brave people never **show white feather** in the face of difficulties.



7. **See eye to eye** (*to agree*) Neema could never **see eye to eye** with her elder brother.
8. **Set store by** (*to value*) I have always **set store by** my father's opinion.
9. **Snap one's fingers at** (*to show contempt*) The industry owner feels that he may **snap his fingers at** the demands of his workers, but he is greatly mistaken.
10. **Speak volumes for** (*to have abundant proof*) The amount of sacrifice made by Reena's friend **speaks volumes for** her true love for her friend.
11. **Steal a march** (*to get ahead secretly*) Rohan **stole a march** on my brother in business and is very rich today.
12. **Steer clear of** (*to avoid*) Everyone, if possible, should **steer clear of** selfish people.
13. **Swan song** (*last creation*) 'Lament' was **the swan song** of Shelley.
14. **Snake in the grass** (*a secret enemy*) The country is always betrayed by the **snakes in the grass**.
15. **Sword of Damocles** (*facing imminent danger*) A **sword of Damocles** is always hanging over the head of a soldier in the event of war.
16. **Sail under false colours** (*a hypocrite*) We should not believe our leaders because they **sail under false colours**.
17. **Spartan life** (*life of ascetic*) Swami Vivekanand led a **spartan life** for promoting health of mind and body.
18. **Save one's face** (*to avoid disgrace*) He is making lame excuses to **save his face** because he could not qualify the examination.
19. **A scarlet woman** (*a woman with loose morals*) Being a **scarlet woman** she is looked down upon by her neighbours.
20. **Set people by ears** (*to incite people*) The communal speeches **set people by ears**.
21. **To set Thames on fire** (*to achieve something impossible*) Qualifying Civil Services examination for you is like **setting Thames on fire**.
22. **Sweat of the brow** (*hard labour*) The honest persons live by **sweat of the brow**.
23. **Steal someone's thunder** (*make a better impression*) The young actor performed so well that he **stole his rival's thunder**.
24. **Straight from the shoulders** (*candidly*) My lawyer told me **straight from the shoulders** that my case was weak.
25. **Shop lifter** (*one who steals from the shop*) A **shop lifter** often visits a shop as a customer.
26. **Spick and span** (*in order*) Her house looked **spick and span** because everything was in its place.
27. **Shot in the arm** (*encouraging*) A victory in Kargil war proved a **shot in the arm** of our Defence Forces.

28. **Something up one's sleeve** (*a secret plan*) She is quite a mischievous lady. There is always **something up her sleeve**.
29. **Send about one's business** (*to dismiss*) His employees **sent him about his business** when he behaved insolently.
30. **Stand one's ground** (*remain firm*) He did not yield to pressure and **stood his ground** till the end.
31. **Small fry** (*insignificant person*) Who cares for him, he is a **small fry** in the office.
32. **Seamy side of life** (*immoral side of society*) The picture depicts realism and presents the **seamy side of life** in modern India.
33. **Sow wild oats** (*irresponsible pleasure seeking*) After **sowing his wild oats** Ram has decided to stick to the straight and narrow path in future.
34. **Spill the beans** (*to give information*) Continuous interrogation finally made the man **spill the beans** and the disaster was averted.
35. **A stalking horse** (*pretence*) The trade union's seemingly rightful demand is only a **stalking horse** to black-mail the management.

**T**

1. **Turn the tables** (*to reverse the condition*) A batsman often **turns the table** on the opposite team by his good batting.
2. **Turn up one's nose** (*to take lightly with contempt*) Meena has failed twice in her class and yet she **turns up her nose** at my advice.
3. **Turn coat** (*one who changes political affiliations*) Anti-defection bill is aimed at checking the evil practices indulged in by **turn coats**.
4. **Take up the cudgels** (*to support or defend*) One of my lawyer friends **took up the cudgels** on my behalf to defend me.
5. **Turn the corner** (*to pass a critical stage*) After long illness at last my friend **turned the corner** and was completely out of danger.
6. **Tall talk** (*exaggerate the matters*) No one likes to be in the company of Neema as she always indulges in **tall talk**.
7. **Tooth and nail** (*violently*) All the students revolted **tooth and nail** against the partiality of the teachers towards some students.
8. **Throw in a towel** (*to be defeated*) When the wrestler could not resist the opponent, he had to **throw in a towel**.
9. **Take with a pinch of salt** (*to accept with doubt*) Everybody **takes** Rahul's problems **with a pinch of salt** because he is an unreliable person.
10. **Turn a hair** (*show any reaction*) Although his friends provoked him against Rohit, he did not **turn a hair** and remained calm.
11. **Tall stories** (*exaggerated stories*) Since he retired from Army, he has been famous for his **tall stories** which regale the villagers.

12. **Take the floor** (*make a speech*) When the Prime Minister **took the floor** in the cabinet meeting there was pin drop silence.
13. **Take lying down** (*accept insult*) It is impossible for me to **take** his remarks **lying down**. It amounts to meek surrender.
14. **Turn to account** (*turn to advantage*) The brave **turn** their failures **to account**.
15. **Take heart** (*feel bold*) You must **take heart** and face life boldly.
16. **Take to heart** (*feel excessively*) He **took** his failure **to heart** and lost interest in worldly affairs.
17. **Take bull by horns** (*to meet the danger boldly*) You can succeed in life only if you have courage to **take bull by horns**.
18. **Through and through** (*entirely*) He was drenched in the rain **through and through**.
19. **To the back bone** (*thoroughly*) We need leaders who are selfless **to the back bone**.
20. **Take wind out of another's sails** (*to gain advantage by anticipation*) Farsighted Generals can win war by **taking wind out of enemy's sails**.
21. **Throw down the glove/gauntlet** (*to challenge*) China had **thrown down the glove** by not recognising Sikkim as part of India.
22. **Take leaf out of somebody's book** (*to emulate*) The young should **take leaf out of great men's books**.
23. **Take people by storm** (*to surprise unexpectedly*) The successful launching of GSLV-1 **took the nation by storm**.
24. **Tall order** (*something difficult*) It is a **tall order** to check population explosion in India.
25. **Throw a spanner** (*to sabotage a plan*) He refused to finance my project and so **threw a spanner** in it.
26. **Take to task** (*punish, ask for explanation, to scold*) I **took** my younger sister **to task** for not obeying her elders.
27. **Turn a deaf ear** (*not to pay attention to, refuse to listen*) All the party members **turned a deaf ear** to their leader.
28. **Throw out of gear** (*not working properly*) Many of our small scale industries have been **thrown out of gear** because of lack of finance.
29. **Take to heels** (*to run away*) The students making mischief **took to their heels** on seeing the Principal.
30. **Throw cold water** (*to discourage*) Instead of encouraging me my business partner **threw cold water** on my plans.
31. **Turn over a new leaf** (*to be entirely changed*) After the sudden death of his father Rajesh **turned over a new leaf** and took all the responsibilities of the family on himself.
32. **Take somebody for a ride** (*to deceive a person*) The traders **take the customers for a ride** by selling fake foreign goods to them.

33. **Take up arms** (*to fight*) The tribals of this region have **taken up arms** against the government.
34. **To and fro** (*forward and backward*) He was strolling in the garden **to and fro**.
35. **Throw up the sponge** (*surrender*) He never **threw up the sponge** and at last got over his problems.

U

1. **Uphill task** (*difficult task*) The problem of holding exams on time is an **uphill task** for the V.C. of Ch. Charan Singh University.
2. **Ups and downs** (*change in fortune*) My uncle has experienced many **ups and downs** in his furniture business.
3. **Under the rose** (*secretly*) When the parents of Amul did not agree to the marriage of their son, he married Meeta **under the rose**.
4. **Up and doing** (*active*) A labourer should be **up and doing** daily if he has to earn his living.
5. **Under a cloud** (*to be under suspicion*) His secret connections with the smugglers have brought him **under a cloud**.
6. **Upto the mark** (*as good as should be*) Your speech was **upto the mark**.

W

1. **With open arms** (*cordially, warmly*) When my cousin came back from England after ten years he was welcomed **with open arms** by all the relatives.
2. **Win laurels** (*to win distinction*) Dr. Tagore **won laurels** in the world of literature.
3. **White elephant** (*anything with less utility and more expenditure*) The Public Sector Undertakings have proved **white elephants** to our economy.
4. **Well disposed to** (*friendly or helpful to somebody*) One is always **well disposed to** those who are honest and hard working.
5. **Writing on the wall** (*signal, warning*) The factory owner read the **writing on the wall** and closed down the factory.
6. **When the crunch comes** (*the moment of decision*) Brave persons never despair **when the crunch comes**.
7. **Willy-Nilly** (*whether one wishes or not*) **Willy-Nilly**, she has to agree to the views of her husband all the time.
8. **Window shopping** (*to look at goods displayed but not for buying*) Though I did not have any mind to make purchases, I just went out **window shopping** in the evening.
9. **Wear and tear** (*damage caused by use*) **Wear and tear** of the machinery is known as depreciation in accountancy.

10. **Weal and woe** (*joy and sorrow*) We must learn to bear **weal and woe** of life patiently.
11. **Wash hands of** (*to have nothing to do*) I have **washed hands of** your affairs because you do not take me seriously.
12. **Wide berth** (*keep away*) We should give a **wide berth** to bad characters.
13. **Will o' the wisp** (*elusive, unreal*) To Romantic poets reality appears to be **will o' the wisp**.
14. **Wry face** (*disappointed look*) He made a **wry face** when he was refused admission to the college of his choice.
15. **Win hands down** (*win easily*) Australia **won hands down** in the Davis Cup finals.
16. **Within an ace of** (*close to something*) When our team was **within an ace of** victory, Iraq scored a last minute goal to draw the game.
17. **Wear the trousers** (*dominant*) It is Leena who **wears the trousers** and her husband simply obeys her.
18. **Wee hours** (*at dawn*) The old couple was murdered in the **wee hours** of the day.
19. **With a high hand** (*oppressively*) He was a king who ruled his subjects **with a high hand**.
20. **Wet blanket** (*any person that dampens enthusiasm*) The principal proved a **wet blanket** while the students were on picnic.
21. **Wild-goose chase** (*unprofitable*) All the efforts of the government to remove illiteracy in India is like a **wild-goose chase**.
22. **Wind fall** (*sudden gain*) The legacy left by his uncle proved a **wind fall** for Arnav.
23. **Wide berth** (*keep away*) We should give a **wide berth** to bad characters.
24. **Wrangle over an ass' shadow** (*to quarrel over trifles*) Their long friendship ended because they **wrangled over an ass' shadow**.

**Y**

1. **Yellow press** (*newspaper publishing sensational news*) In recent times there is a spurt of sensational newspapers making **yellow press** popular.
2. **Yeoman's service** (*excellent work*) Sardar Patel did a **Yeoman's service** by welding numberless States into one strong nation.