

Choose one. Make example

Legality, Illegality

above board – honestly and openly done

It fell off the back of a lorry. (UK) – It was stolen, but the person who took it is pretending it's not stolen

in deep water – in serious trouble

under the table – secretly, because the activity is illegal

IDIOM IN THE MIND



IDIOM IN USE

The governor was accused of taking money under the table to help a construction company get big government contracts.

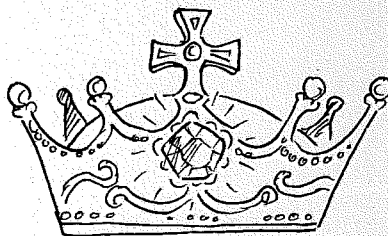
Excellence, Uselessness

carrying coals to Newcastle (UK) – taking something to a place where there is already plenty of it

the cat's meow – a thing that's as good as it could possibly be

the jewel in the crown – the best thing you have

IDIOM IN THE MIND



IDIOM IN USE

All luxury cars are elegant, but nothing surpasses the new Emerald Luxus 750Y. It is truly the jewel in the crown.

not worth the paper it's printed on – worthless

out of your depth – attempting something that you are not able to do well

up to the mark – up to the standard or level generally expected

Choose one. Make example.

Difficulties and Reacting to Them (continued)

- the last straw** – the last in a series of bad things, the one that brings you to the point of not being able to tolerate the situation any more
- making the best of a bad job (UK)/
making the best of a bad situation (US)** – doing as well as you can in difficult circumstances
- playing something by ear** – dealing with a situation step by step as it develops
- taking something with a pinch of salt (UK)/
taking something with a grain of salt (US)** – not completely believing something, usually because the person who said it is known to lie or exaggerate
- taking the rough with the smooth** – accepting the good and bad things that happen
- the straw that broke the camel's back** – in a series of bad things, the one that finally causes damage or forces you to act
- thin end of the wedge** – the first stage in a problem that will get much worse
- tip of the iceberg** – a small, easy-to-see problem that indicates a much larger, harder-to-see problem

IDIOM IN THE MIND



IDIOM IN USE

The losses that the company announced were just the tip of the iceberg. They had much worse problems that they didn't announce.

- there's not enough room to swing a cat** – this place is very small and cramped
- turning a blind eye to something** – choosing to ignore a bad thing; pretending not to see it
- turning the tables on someone** – putting someone in a bad situation that he had earlier put you in