

The Business  
Jam

Soft Skills  
Framework

Learning Skills  
Communication  
**Language Primer**  
**B2+**

# BUSINESS IDIOMS 2



# Information Page



Topic:

Business Idioms 2



Target Language:

Business Idioms



Level:

Upper Intermediate/Advanced



Duration:

45 min



Format:

Self-study



# Business Idioms 2

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UPPER INTERMEDIATE/ ADVANCED

SELF-STUDY

**Do you  
know any  
idioms using  
these  
words?**

Shot

Board

Hands

Air

Ropes

Curve

Swinging

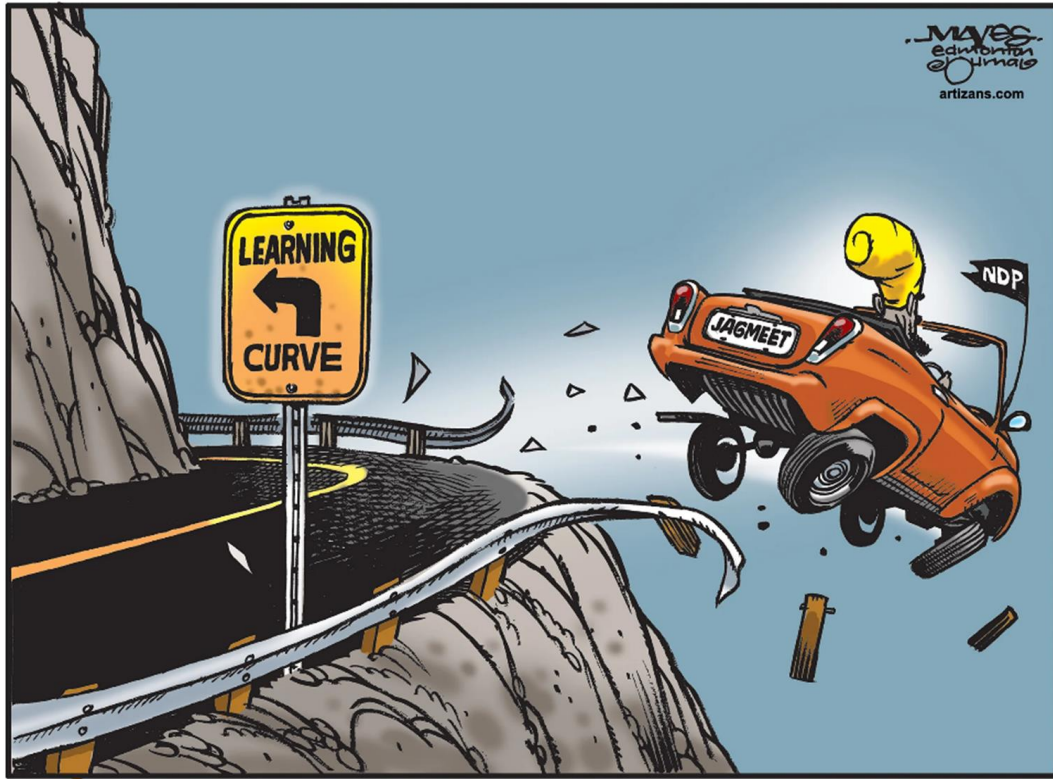
Book

Corners

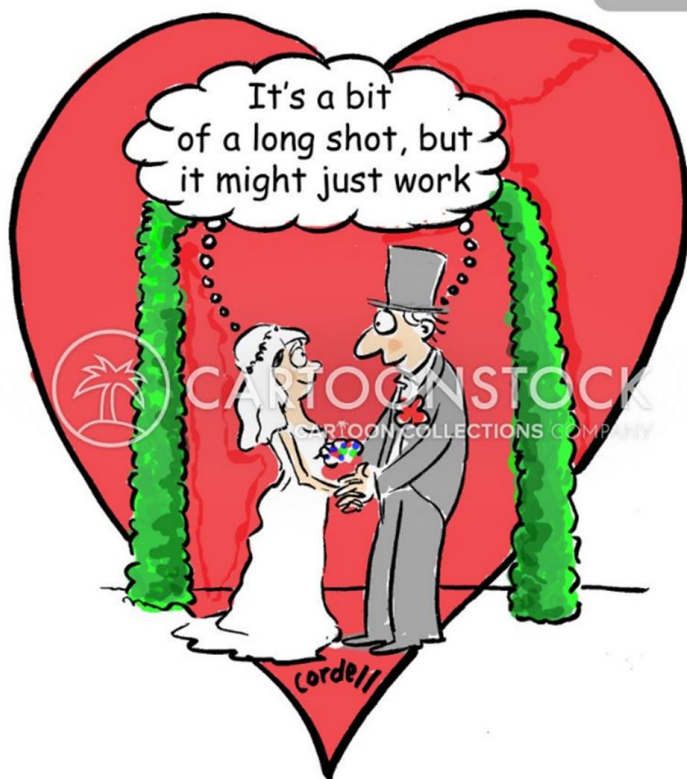
# Cartoons

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Look at the following cartoons and try to explain what they mean.



CS180951



CS497763



"I'd like to help, but my hands are tied."



"My assistant will show you the ropes."

**What do  
you think  
these  
idioms  
mean?**

- A long shot
- Back to the drawing board
- Hands are tied
- Up in the air
- To learn the ropes
- A learning curve
- By the book
- To cut corners



# Match the idiom on the left with the definition on the right

- A long shot
- Back to the drawing board
- Hands are tied
- Up in the air
- To learn the ropes
- A learning curve
- By the book
- To cut corners
- To do things strictly by the rules
- Process of learning
- To start something again from the beginning
- Not strictly following all the rules
- Highly uncertain/a decision has not been made
- Something is unlikely to happen.
- To learn the basics of a profession
- Unable to take meaningful action

# Match - Answers

- A long shot
- Back to the drawing board
- Hands are tied
- Up in the air
- To learn the ropes
- A learning curve
- By the book
- To cut corners
- Something is unlikely to happen.
- To start something again from the beginning
- Unable to take meaningful action
- Highly uncertain/a decision has not been made
- To learn the basics of a profession
- Process of learning
- To do things strictly by the rules
- Not strictly following all the rules



**Gap Fill**

---



There was a steep \_\_\_\_\_ when I started out trading stock options.

by the book

learning curve



I wish I could help you, but my \_\_\_\_\_.  
My boss won't let me.

cut corners

back to the drawing board



The company's decision to \_\_\_\_\_ ended up costing them a lot of money.

up in the air

learn the ropes

hands are tied



It took her a while to \_\_\_\_\_, but now she is a good sales person.

long shot



There was a steep \_\_\_\_\_ learning curve \_\_\_\_\_ when I started out trading stock options.



I wish I could help you, but my \_\_\_\_\_ hands are tied \_\_\_\_\_.  
My boss won't let me.



The company's decision to \_\_\_\_\_ cut corners \_\_\_\_\_ ended up costing them a lot of money.



It took her a while to \_\_\_\_\_ learn the ropes \_\_\_\_\_, but now she is a good sales person.

by the book

learning curve

cut corners

back to the drawing board

up in the air

learn the ropes

hands are tied

long shot



Becoming the CEO in the company is a \_\_\_\_\_, but you should try.

by the book

learning curve



We were hoping to sign the contract by the end of the month, but there are still too many things \_\_\_\_\_.

cut corners

back to the drawing board



I don't want to take any chances with our tax report. We have to do everything \_\_\_\_\_.

up in the air

Learn the ropes

hands are tied



This project is not going as planned, let's get \_\_\_\_\_.

long shot



Becoming the CEO in the company is a long shot, but you should try.

by the book

learning curve



We were hoping to sign the contract by the end of the month, but there are still too many things up in the air.

cut corners

back to the drawing board



I don't want to take any chances with our tax report. We have to do everything by the book.

up in the air

Learn the ropes

hands are tied



This project is not going as planned, let's get back to the drawing board.

long shot

# Talk about a time when:

---

you had to learn the ropes

---

your hands were tied

---

you had to go back to the drawing board

---

the learning curve was steep

---

you had to do everything by the book

---

you had to cut corners

---

you had to do something that was a long shot



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