

Idioms



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English Idioms

We don't have them in Farsi

A picture paints a thousand words

A visual presentation is far more descriptive than words.



Add insult to injury

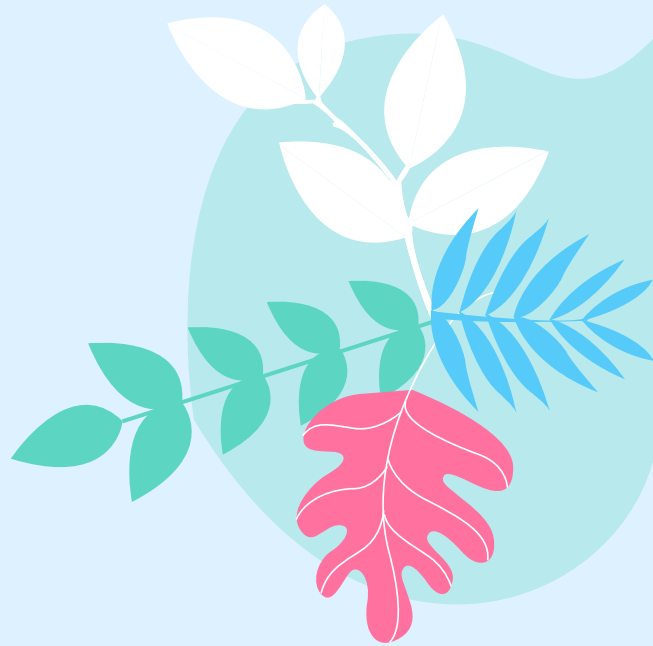
To further a loss with mockery or indignity;
to worsen an unfavorable situation



Add insult to injury origin

The phrase is an ancient one, but was recorded in English in the mid 1700s. The most often cited use is in the Roman writer Phaedrus' fable of a bald man and a fly.





At the drop
of a hat

Without hesitation; instantly



At the drop of a hat origin:

The phrase 'at the drop of a hat' originates in the 19th century. During that time it was common to signal the beginning of a fight or race by either dropping a hat or sweeping it in a rapid downward motion.



Back to the drawing board

When an attempt fails and it's time to start all over again.





Back to the drawing board origin:



The phrase originated as the caption to a cartoon produced by Peter Arno for the New Yorker magazine, in 1941. The cartoon shows various military men and ground crew racing toward a crashed plane, and a designer, with a roll of plans under his arm, walking away saying, "Well, back to the old drawing board".

Barking up the wrong tree

Looking in the wrong place;
Accusing the wrong person.





Barking up the wrong tree origin:

The origin of the idiom 'barking up the wrong tree' dates back to **early 1800s** , when **hunting** with **packs of dogs** was very popular. The term was used literally at first, when wily **prey animals** such as raccoons would **trick dogs** into believing they were up a certain tree when in fact **they had escaped**. Thus, dogs barking at the base of an empty tree were said to be "barking up the wrong tree."

Beat around the bush

Avoiding the main topic. Not speaking directly about the issue



Beat around the bush origin

The idiom 'beating around the bush' is associated with **hunting**. Hunters hired men to **beat the area around bushes with sticks** in order to **flush out game** taking cover underneath. They **avoided hitting the bushes directly** because this could sometimes prove dangerous. For example, whacking a bees nest.



Bite off more than you can chew

To take on a task that is way too big.





Bite of more than you can chew origin:

To bite off more than he can chew dates back to the 1800s in America. Back then it was common to chew tobacco. People would offer others a bite of their tobacco block, and some would greedily take a bite bigger than they could chew. People began to notice this and warned others not to bite off more than they could chew.

Caught between two stools

When someone finds it difficult to choose between two alternatives.



Caught between two stools origin

This is an old proverbial phrase. The full version is 'between two stools one falls to the ground'. Which means when somebody **sits between two stools**, they tend to **fall** on the ground



Cut corners

When something is done badly to save money.





Cut corners idiom origin:



The idiom has been used since the 1800s. It is related to rounding a corner instead of taking the proper route. This shortened the distance from one end to another.



Cross the bridge when you come to it

Deal with a problem when you come to it



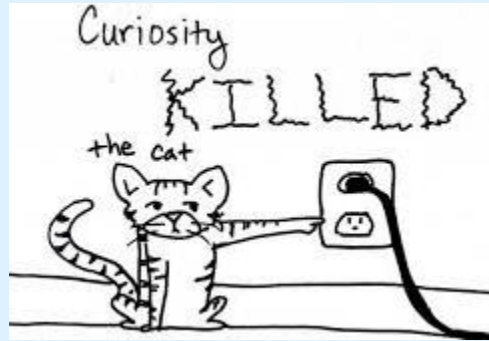


Cross a bridge when you come to it origin

This idiom has been used since well **before the 1800s** where the crossing of bridges was quite a literal thing with long travels being done either on **foot or horseback**. So crossing a bridge in today's terms is used as a **synonym of solving problems**. Although life is not at stake in the usage of the phrase today, it used to be when people were discussing about **actually crossing shaky bridges**

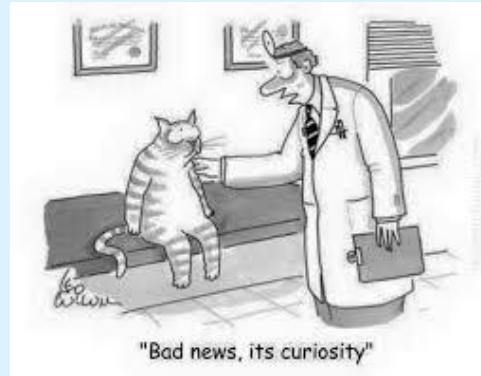
Curiosity killed the cat

Being Inquisitive can lead you to an unpleasant situation



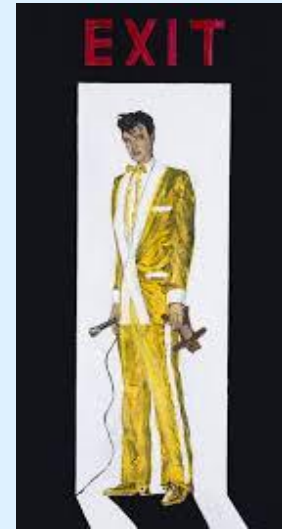
Curiosity killed the cat origin

The saying 'curiosity killed the cat' highlights a certain aspect of a cat's personality. So this idiom is based on the cats curious behavior.



Elvis has left the building

The show has come to an end. It's all over.



Elvis has left the show origin

"Elvis has left the building" used to be announced at the end of Elvis's concerts to encourage people to accept that the show is over and to go home. It is now used more widely to indicate that someone has made an exit or that something is complete.



Every cloud has a silver lining

Be optimistic, even difficult times will lead to better days



Every cloud has a silver lining origin

The origin of this idiom is from a quote by **John Milton** that says “Was I deceived or did a sable cloud Turn forth her silver lining on the night?”





It takes two to tango

Actions or communications need more than one person





Keep something at bay

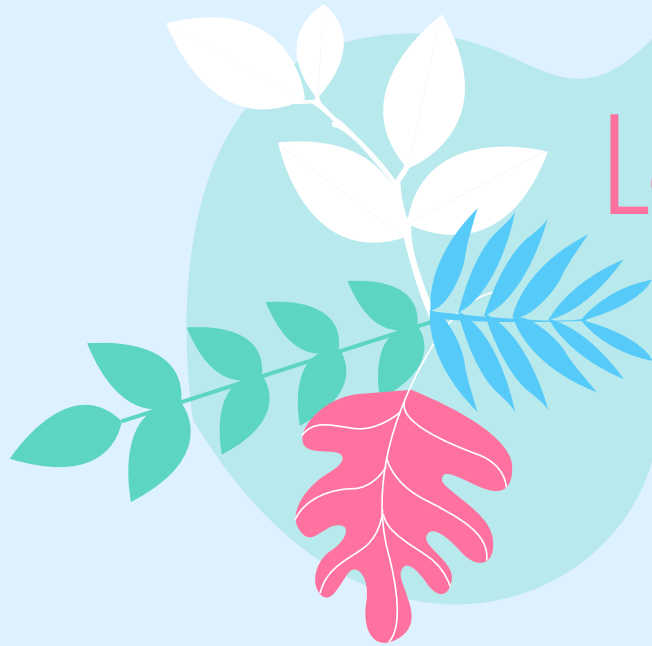
Keep something away



Keep something at bay origin

In the 14th century, barking hounds were said to be "at bay." When dogs are kept at bay, they are kept from attacking.





Last straw

The final problem of a series of problems.



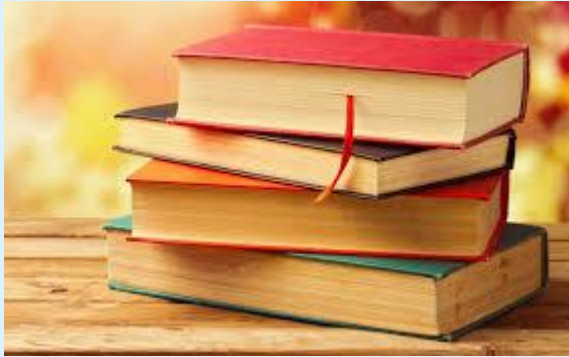
Last straw origin

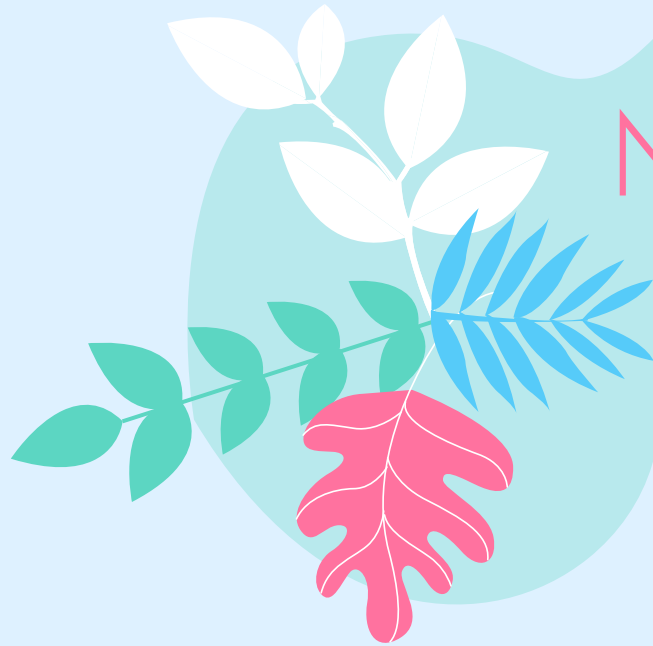
This idiom is the short form of “it is the last straw that breaks the camel’s back.” It was first seen around 1755, and many different forms of the statement were used between then and about 1836, with the suffering animal occasionally described as a horse or an elephant rather than as a camel.



Make a long story short

Come to the point; leave out the details





Not a spark of decency

It is said when someone has no manner.

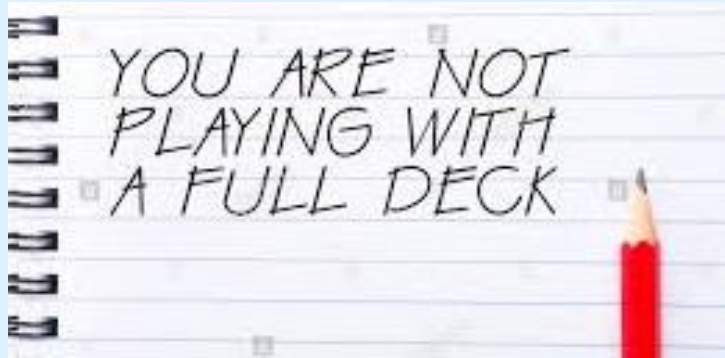


**NOT A SPARK
OF DECENCY**

NOT A
SPARK OF
DECENCY

Not playing with a full deck

Meaning someone who lacks intelligence



Not playing with a full deck origin

The phrase is one of the many derogatory ones that originated in America. The implication of the insult is that the person has some part of the brain missing. Deck is a reference to a deck of cards.



Once in a blue moon

Meaning: happens very rarely



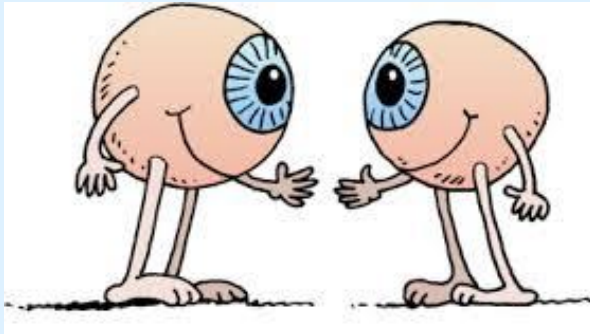
Once in a blue moon origin

“Once in a blue moon” today means “very rarely,” though it used to mean something that was absurd, right along the lines of “when pigs fly.”



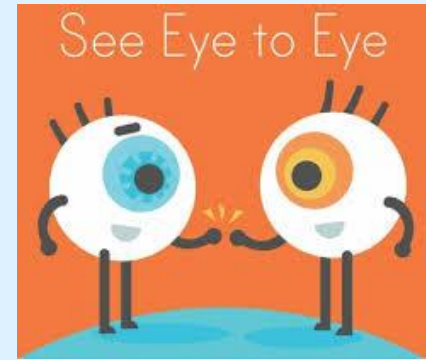
See eye to eye origin

While many idioms are relatively new, the origin of the idiom 'see eye to eye' is quite old; in fact, it's ancient and is found in the Bible.



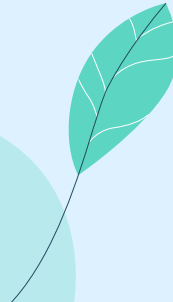
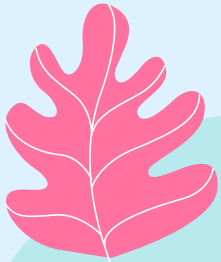
See eye to eye

This idiom is used to say that two (or more) people agree on something



Sit on the fence

This is used when someone dose not want to choose or make a decision



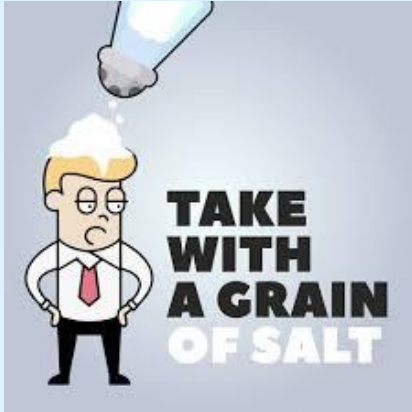
Sit on the fence origin

Fences often **define ownership**, and to sit on a physical fence is to straddle a position between **two different properties**. So, sitting on the fence is straddling the **position between two ideas without committing** to either of them.



Take with a grain of salt

This means not to take what someone says too seriously.



Take with a grain of salt origin

The idea comes from the fact that food is more easily swallowed if taken with a small amount of salt.





Idioms with uses in Farsi

They are used in both English and Farsi

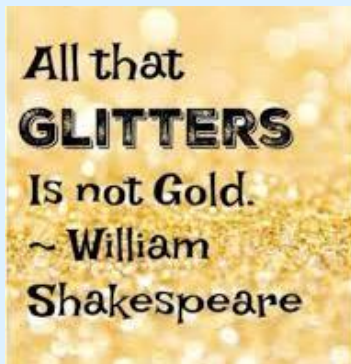
All that glitters is not gold

Not everything that looks precious, turns out to be so.



All that glitters is not gold origin

While early expressions of the idea are known from at least the 12th-13th century, the current saying is derived from a 16th-century line by William Shakespeare, "All that glisters is not gold"



Be slow but sure

If something or someone is slow but sure, they may take their time to do something, but they are reliable.



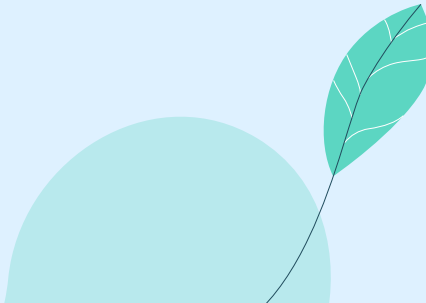
Be slow but sure origin

Consistent, effective effort leads to success. This is the moral of one of Aesop's fables, "The Tortoise and the Hare."



Charity begins at home

Be generous to your family before helping others



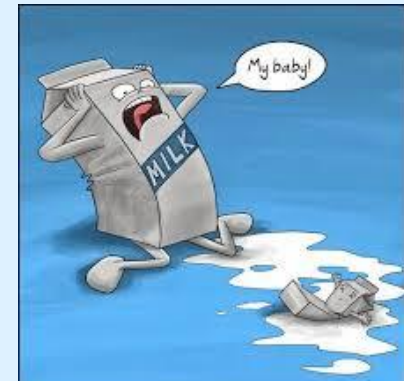
Cry over spilt milk

When you complain about a loss from the past



Cry over spilt milk origin

In the days when people believed strongly in fairies, it was common to lay out a shrine for them, consisting of food and drink, particularly of their favorite drink, milk. Whenever milk was spilled, it was considered to be nothing more than a little extra offering to the fairies, and nothing to worry about.





Diamonds cut diamonds

A situation in which two equally cunning or devious people spar or interact.



Don't count the chickens before they hatch

you should not make plans that depend on something good happening before you know that it has actually happened



Don't count the chickens before they hatch origin

The origin of the expression 'don't count your chickens before they hatch' is a direct reference to the fact that eggs sometimes fail to hatch, reducing the number of live chicks in a clutch. The first printed example is seen in a 1570 work



Goes around, comes around

If someone treats other people badly he or she will eventually be treated badly by someone else.



I wasn't born yesterday

I am not extremely naive, gullible, or unintelligent.



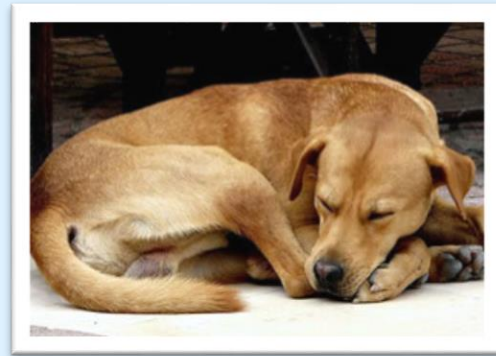
Let the sleeping dog lie

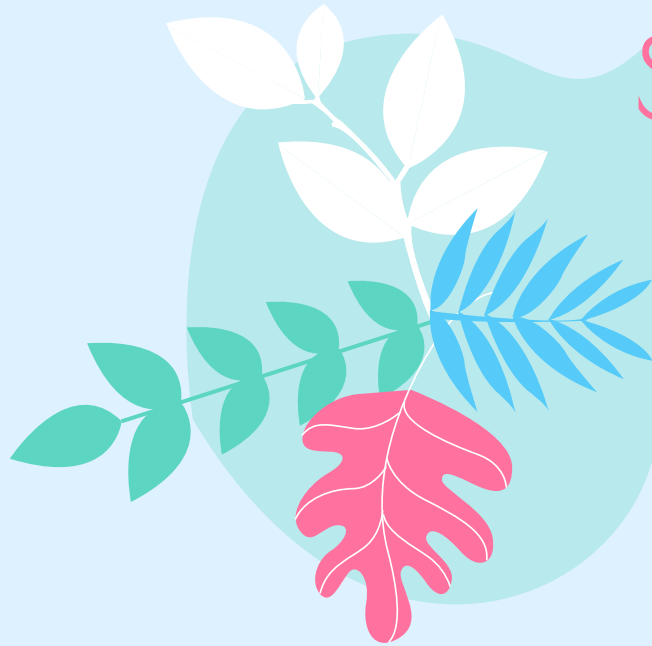
Do not disturb the situation as it is _since it would result in trouble or more complications



Let the sleeping dog lie origin

'Let sleeping dogs lie' derives from the long-standing observation that dogs are often unpredictable when they are suddenly disturbed.





Seeing is believing

If you see something yourself, you will believe it to exist or be true, even if it is extremely unusual or unexpected



Seeing is believing origin

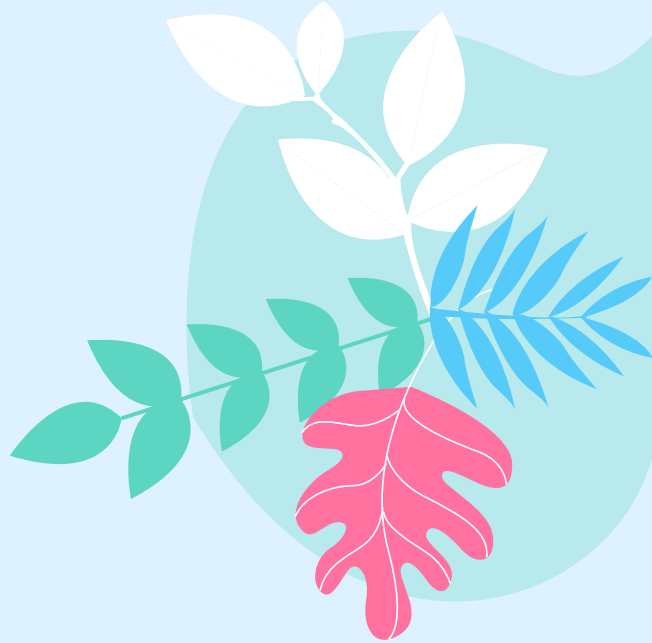
The idea dates from ancient Greek times, and the expression appears in numerous proverb collections from 1639 on, in English and many other languages.



Short accounts make long friends

Borrowed money should be paid back as soon as possible to maintain a good friendship.





The early bird catches the worm

One who arrives first has the best chance for success



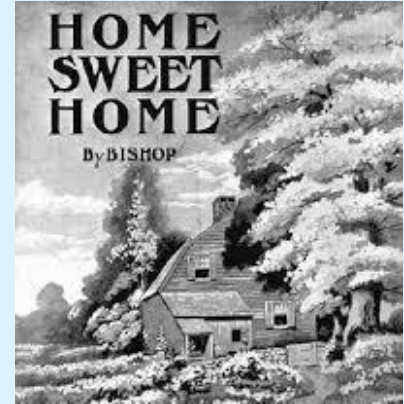
The early bird catches the worm origin

This expression first appeared in a 1605 book by William Camden. The idea behind the expression is that the birds that wake up the earliest have the best chance of catching a good meal, since no other birds have awoken to pick for worms.



There is no place like home

Home is the best of all places.



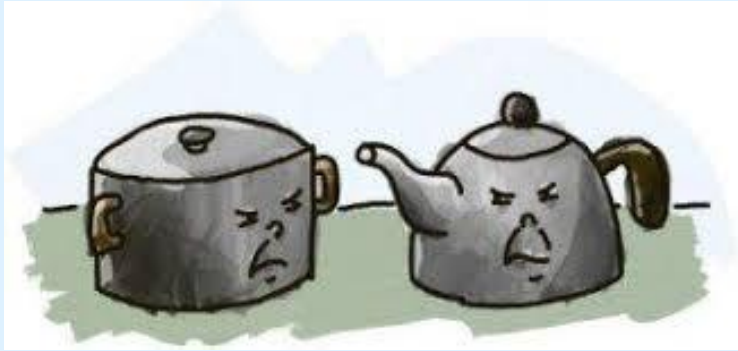
There is no place like home origin

This idiom has been originated from the 14th century when the institution of family started taking precedence over other factors. Society, environment and family life all came into being and also the realization that the person is truly at ease when at home.



The pot is calling the kettle black

A situation in which somebody comments on or accuses someone else of a fault which the accuser shares



The pot is calling the kettle black origin

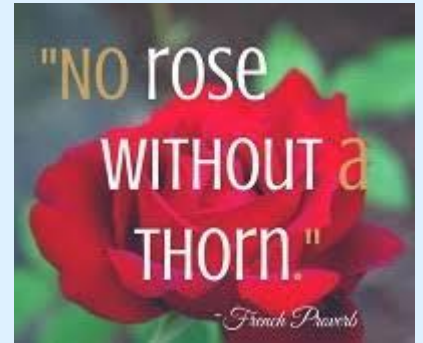
"The pot calling the kettle black" is a proverbial idiom that may be of Spanish origin, of which English versions began to appear in the first half of the 17th century





There is no rose without a thorn

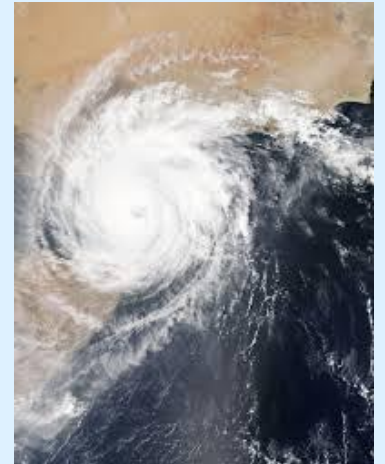
To enjoy something
that is beautiful
and pleasurable,
you must endure
something that is
difficult or painful.





What comes with wind,
goes with water

at a vulnerable point.



What comes with wind goes with water origin

This is a nautical metaphor referring to **the part of a ship's side** near the waterline that is sometimes above the water and sometimes submerged; **damage to the ship** at this level is particularly **dangerous**.



You can't have a cake and eat it too

It means there are two options that someone wants, but they can't have both because the options conflict with each other, so they can only pick one.



You can't have a cake and eat it too origin

An early recording of the phrase is in a letter on 14 March 1538 from the Duke of Norfolk, to Thomas Cromwell, as "a man can not have his cake and eat his cake"



A decorative border surrounds the central text, featuring stylized leaves and flowers in shades of blue, green, pink, and white. The border is composed of various leaf shapes and floral motifs, creating a vibrant and naturalistic frame.

Thank you...

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