

IDIOMS & PHRASAL VERBS

Plans and Change

B2 | Adults | Idioms + Discussion | 45-60 minutes
Topic: Everyday English | Skills: Vocabulary, Speaking

Study the phrases and examples. Discuss the questions and try to use the new language.

USEFUL LANGUAGE

1. put something off	delay doing something	We put the meeting off until everyone could attend.
2. call something off	cancel an event or plan	They called the trip off because the roads were flooded.
3. play it by ear	decide what to do as a situation develops	We haven't booked dinner; we'll play it by ear.
4. go back to square one	return to the beginning after an attempt fails	The venue closed, so we had to go back to square one.
5. come up with something	think of an idea or solution	Mina came up with a cheaper way to run the event.
6. keep your options open	avoid deciding too early so several choices remain possible	I'm keeping my options open until I hear from both colleges.
7. work something out	find a solution by thinking or discussing	We worked out a timetable that suited everyone.
8. a change of heart	a change in your feelings or opinion about something	He had a change of heart and decided to join us.

DISCUSSION

1. What kinds of tasks do people put off, and how can they break that habit?
2. When should organisers call an outdoor event off rather than continue?
3. When travelling, do you prefer a detailed plan or to play it by ear? Why?
4. How could a team stay motivated after having to go back to square one?
5. What helps you come up with ideas when you feel stuck?
6. When is it sensible to keep your options open, and when can it cause problems?
7. How would you work out a fair schedule for a shared activity?
8. What might cause someone to have a change of heart about moving abroad?