

IDIOMS & PHRASAL VERBS

Challenges and Progress

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. a steep learning curve	a situation requiring you to learn a lot quickly	My first week as a team leader was a steep learning curve.
2. get the hang of something	learn how to do or use something	It took me a while to get the hang of the new software.
3. hit a brick wall	reach a point where you cannot make further progress	We hit a brick wall when we couldn't get the equipment.
4. work through something	deal with a difficulty gradually and carefully	We worked through our differences one issue at a time.
5. throw in the towel	stop trying because you accept that you cannot succeed	After several failed attempts, he was ready to throw in the towel.
6. turn things around	change a bad situation so that it improves	A clearer plan helped the team turn things around.
7. bounce back	recover after a problem or disappointment	She bounced back after missing out on the promotion.
8. a blessing in disguise	something that seems bad at first but later has a good result	Missing that job was a blessing in disguise; I found a better one.

DISCUSSION

1. How could a workplace support someone facing a steep learning curve?
2. What helps you get the hang of something unfamiliar?
3. What could you do if you hit a brick wall while working on a project?
4. How can two people work through a disagreement constructively?
5. When is throwing in the towel a sensible decision rather than a failure?
6. What can help a struggling organisation turn things around?
7. What helps people bounce back from disappointment?
8. Can you imagine a setback that could become a blessing in disguise? Explain.