

IDIOMS & PHRASAL VERBS

Reputation and Relationships

C1 | Adults / Teens | Idioms + Discussion | 45-60 minutes

Topic: Personal Topics | Skills: Vocabulary, Speaking

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

USEFUL LANGUAGE

1. live up to	be as good as expectations or promises	The service failed to live up to its reputation.
2. rub someone up the wrong way	annoy someone, often unintentionally (mainly British)	His joking tone rubbed several colleagues up the wrong way.
3. give someone the benefit of the doubt	judge someone favourably when the facts are uncertain	We gave her the benefit of the doubt about the missed message.
4. clear the air	discuss a disagreement to remove bad feelings	A private conversation helped them clear the air.
5. burn your bridges	damage relationships so that returning becomes difficult	She left firmly but carefully avoided burning her bridges.
6. save face	avoid public embarrassment or loss of respect	A private correction allowed him to save face.
7. stand by someone	continue supporting someone through difficulties	Her colleagues stood by her during the investigation.
8. build bridges	improve relationships between people or groups	The joint project helped build bridges between the departments.

DISCUSSION

1. How can a strong reputation make it harder to live up to expectations?
2. How can you respond when someone's communication style rubs you up the wrong way?
3. When should you stop giving someone the benefit of the doubt?
4. What conditions make it possible to clear the air after a misunderstanding?
5. Can burning your bridges ever be justified when leaving a job or group?
6. How can you let someone save face without hiding an important mistake?
7. How can you stand by someone while still questioning their actions?
8. What practical steps build bridges more effectively than a public statement?