

# 1. **Everyone and his brother**:- A large number of people

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** Geez, everyone and his brother were riding the subway with me this morning. I could barely push through the crowd at my stop.

## 2. **Feel the pinch**:- Having financial problems all of a sudden

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** All the major companies are feeling the pinch this year. It's the worst financial downturn we've seen for a decade.

### **3. The feathers fly:-** To fight and argue a lot

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** They made the feathers fly over a trivial issue.



## 4. **A foregone conclusion**:- An inevitable result

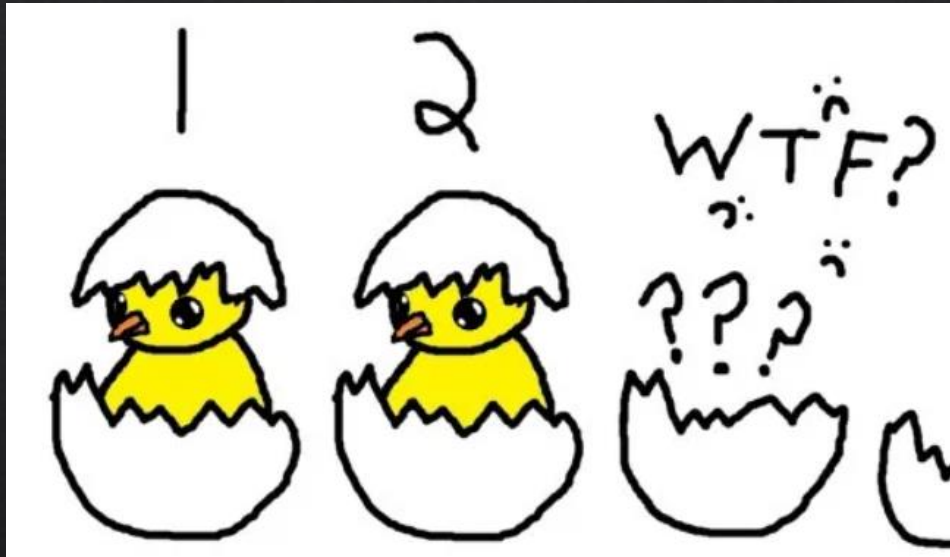


Aman Sir English

**Eg:-** Tom's failure in the final exam is a foregone conclusion because he didn't learn anything.

## 5. Counting your chickens(before they hatch):- assuming to be successful when it is not certain

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** I know you have motivated plans for your industrial endeavor, but don't count your chicken.

**6. The icing on the cake:-** extra benefit over and above an already good deal

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** Everyone expected him to do well in the exams. Getting first rank was the icing on the cake.



## 7. **A stitch in time (saves nine)** :- timely action that prevents a negative outcome

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** John said to his brother,  
” You better bring your car to  
the shop while it’s still  
running, because a stitch in  
time saves nine“.

## 8. **At sixes and sevens**:- state of total confusion

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** After the president's announcement, we were all left at sixes and sevens.



## 9. Talking twenty to dozen:- talking hurriedly and rapidly

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** My aunt can get talking twenty to the dozen if you get her on a topic she's passionate about.

**10. Be in eclipse:-** much less successful and important than before.

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** Even when her career was temporarily in eclipse she had no financial worries.

## **11. Ways and means:-** Methods of achieving something

Aman Sir English

IF YOU REALLY  
WANT TO DO  
SOMETHING, YOU'LL  
FIND A WAY. IF YOU  
DON'T, YOU'LL FIND  
AN EXCUSE.  
- JIM ROHN

**Eg:-** We're here to discuss the goals of the project, not the ways and means.



## 12. Big-ticket :- Very costly

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** We've never had much money, so a brand new furniture set is something of a big- ticket item for us.

**13. Be a law unto yourself** :- Behave in an unconventional and unpredictable manner.

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** She was a law unto herself and did what she wanted to do.

**14. Spiff up** :- to make someone or something look more stylish, or clean and tidy:

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** He's really spiffed up his wardrobe since he started his new job.



## 15. Run wild :- To grow without any control

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** The mob was running wild in the streets.

**16. Wind down** :- to start to relax gradually after a period of hard work or a worrying situation:

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**Eg:-** I sank into a hot bath in order to wind down.

**17. Mellow out** :- To enjoy oneself without doing much

Aman Sir English

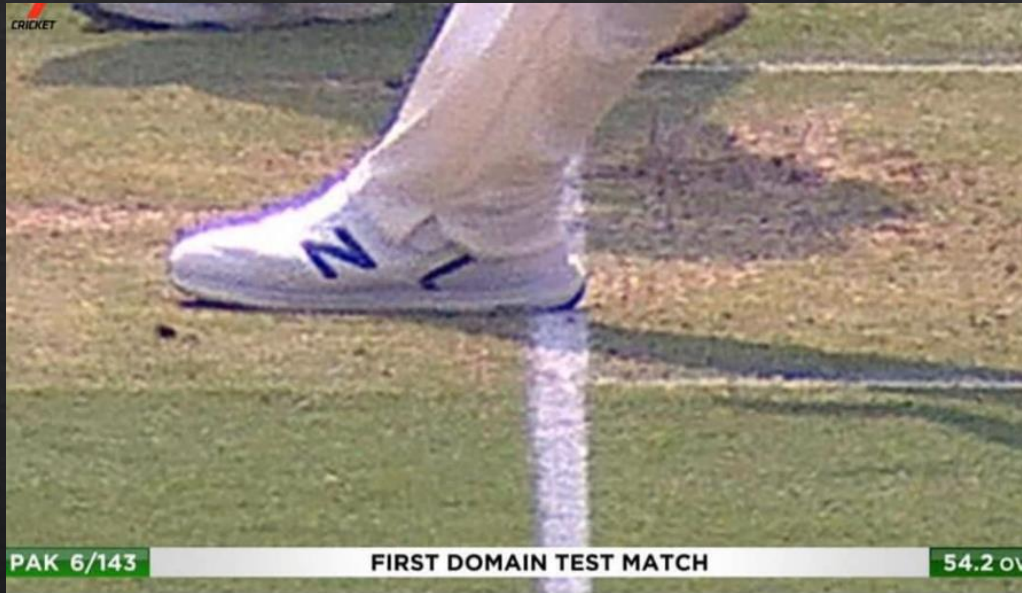


**Eg:-** We had worked hard all morning, so in the afternoon we just listened to music and mellowed out.



**18. Overstep the mark:-** To upset someone by doing/saying more than you should

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** She will lose her temper, if you overstep the mark.

## 19. Palsy-walsy :- Good friends

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** You should not try to get palsy-walsy with Henry because he is a criminal.

**20. Open a Pandora's box:-** To do something that causes a lot of new problems that you did not expect

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** This court case could open a Pandora's box of similar claims.



## 21. Pull your socks up :- Improve your work or behavior

Aman Sir English

**Eg:-** She has pulled her socks up and has promised me to complete the course.



**22. get under skin** :- To annoy someone/ to be irritating

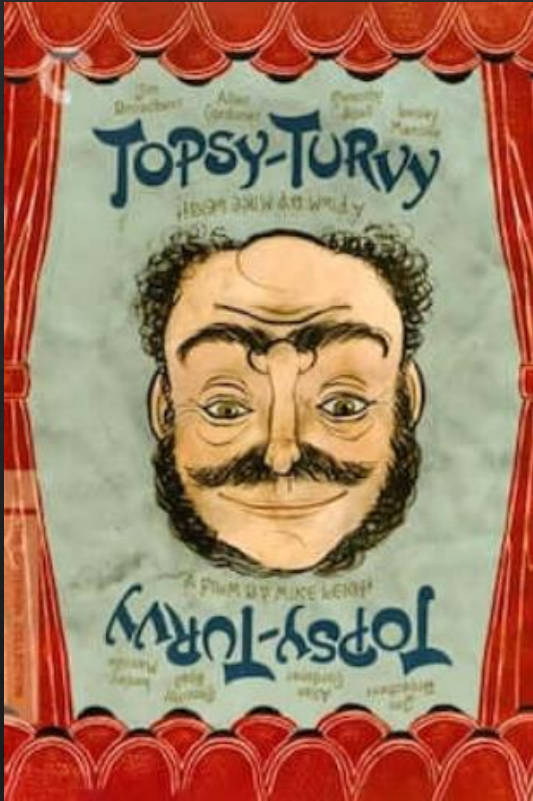
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**Eg:-** Initially I tried to ignore but she got under my skin.

## 23. Turn topsy-turvy:- To completely change something

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** The garden is all topsy-turvy after last night's storm. The shed has blown over and the table and chairs are in the hedge.



**24. A clarion call:-** A strong and clear request for people to do something.

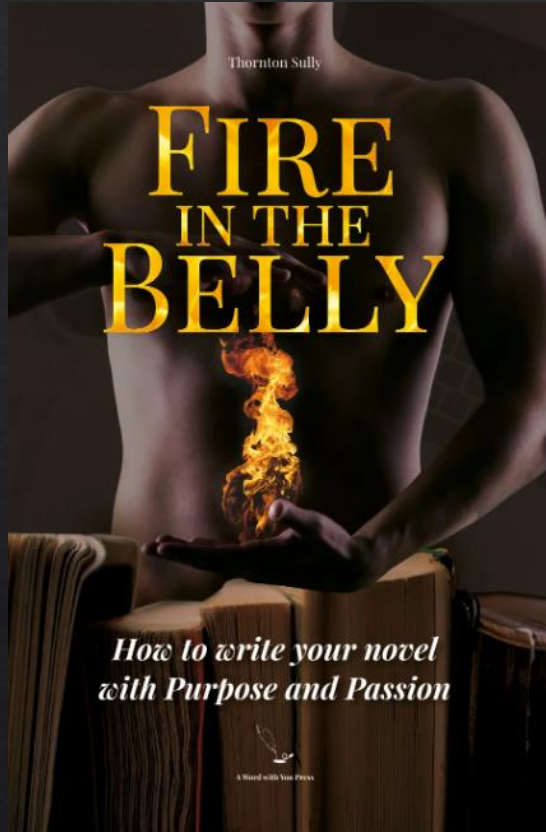
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**Eg:-** All of the citizens heard the clarion call and prepared themselves to defend their city.

**25. Fire in the belly :-** A very strong sense of enthusiasm and determination.

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** The player is on the comeback trail with fire in his belly after a serious knee injury.

**26. hunky-dory** :- There are no problems and people are happy

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** You can't lose your temper with everyone like that and then expect everything to be hunky-dory.



## **27. leg up:-** To help someone to be successful



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**Eg:** This technology will give me a leg up in the competition.

**28. Call the shots:-** To be in a position to make decisions that influence a situation

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** The security forces will call the shots all around during the political gatherings.



## 29. Sell like hot cakes:- Quick sell out

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** The 2K model cars by BMW sold like hot cakes, and it was hard to produce them by company to fulfill the demands.



### 30. Cup of tea:- Something one likes/excels in

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** This music is much more my cup of tea than this new stuff.

### 31. baker's dozen:- A group of 13



Aman Sir English

**Eg:-** I needed only 10 cars and my car dealer friend arrange me baker's dozen of cars.

## 32. Go for a song :- at a cheap rate

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** She bought those lovely shoes at a flea market for a song.



### 33. Bark up the wrong tree:- to make a wrong choice

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** If you think you will solve the problem by following those steps, you are barking up the wrong tree.

**34. To cut someone some slack:-** To not manage someone very strictly or critically.

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** Had he explained the situation to me, I would have cut him some slack and not have been so hard on him.



## 35. In the fast lane:- A life filled with excitement



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**Eg:-** He lived life in the fast lane when he was young.



### 36. sly as a fox:- smart and clever

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** Do not trust him; he is as sly as a fox.

## 37. To keep one's temper:- To remain calm

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** Some players couldn't keep their tempers and charged at their opponents.

**38. Bigger fish to fry:-** Having something more important to take care of

Aman Sir English

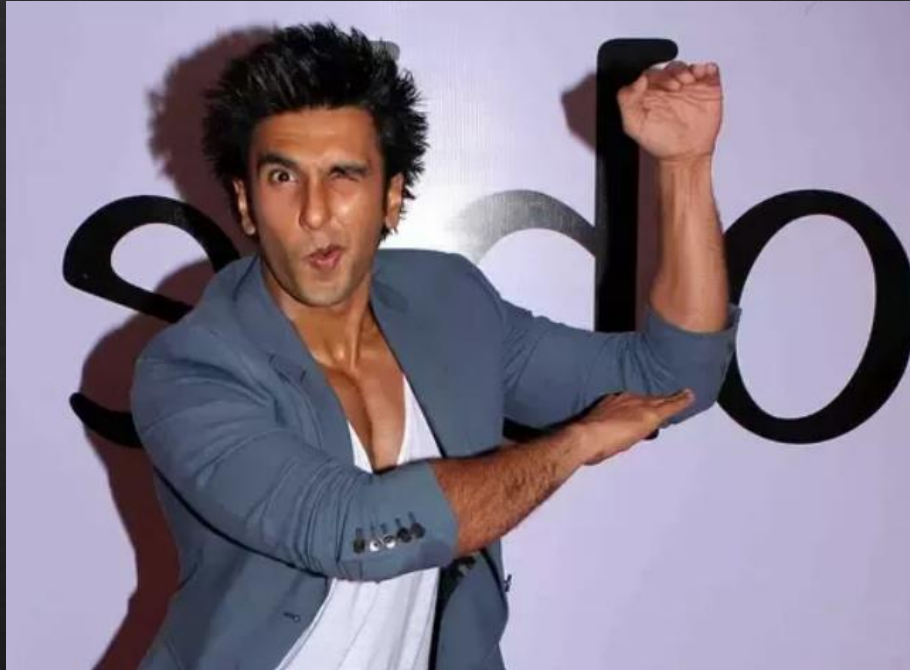


**Eg:-** I do not have a lot of time to spend on this issue. I have bigger fish to fry.



## **39. Ball of fire:-** An active and energetic person

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** The new manager turned out to be a ball of fire.

**40. By fair means or foul:-** To get one's way with honesty or dishonesty

Aman Sir English



**Eg:-** He will try anything to graduate on time, by fair means or foul.