

SSC CGL 2023 Idioms and Phrases

- **Lily-livered**- coward
- **Tie someone up in knots**- to confuse someone and make them unable to explain something clearly
- **To kick the bucket**- To die
- **Miss the boat**- Missing a good opportunity
- **To bell the cat**- To face risk
- **Sharp practice**- dishonesty
- **A storm in a teacup**- to make a big fuss about a small problem
- **Rule the roost**- to be in charge
- **Keep some at arm's length**- avoid becoming friendly with someone
- **Scrape the barrel**- to be forced to use one's last and weakest resource
- **A dime a dozen**- very common
- **Beat about the bush**- to avoid giving a definite answer
- **Back against the wall**- be in a difficult situation from where escape is difficult
- **To prime the pump**- encourage the growth or action of something
- **Bad iron**- bad luck
- **By the skin of your teeth**- just barely
- **Through thick and thin**- in good times and bad times
- **Blessing in disguise**- has a good effect even though at first it seemed it would be bad
- **Falling foul of everybody**- quarrelling with
- **To be in two minds**- to be uncertain
- **Gift of the gab**- fluency of speech
- **Get into a scrape**- involved in a problem
- **Blow something out of proportion**- Behave as if something that has happened is much worse than it really is
- **To go to dogs**- to become worse
- **Go back to the drawing board**- to start over
- **On the ball**- doing a job in a quick and competent manner
- **To face the music**- to bear the negative consequences of wrongful actions
- **Stir up a hornet's nest**- provokes trouble
- **Raining cats and dogs**- raining very heavily
- **Taking bull by the horns**- to deal with a difficult situation in a very direct or confident way

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- **Call it a day**- stop working
- **Under the cloud**- under suspicion
- **Once in a blue moon**- very rare
- **A perfect storm**- the worst possible situation
- **Bad blood**- a feeling of anger, hostility with someone
- **As dead as a doornail**- completely obsolete, to be clearly and obviously dead
- **To catch a tartar**- to encounter with someone that proves more powerful and troublesome
- **Cut corners**- to do something in easiest, cheapest or fastest way
- **Hit the jackpot**- gaining a big success
- **Bolt from the blue**- something completely unexpected that surprises you
- **Throw caution to the wind**- take risk
- **To weather the storm**- to deal with a difficult situation without being harmed
- **Speak his eye**- speak his mind, to talk to someone in an honest way
- **Pass the duck**- blaming other person
- **Apple pie order**- in perfect order
- **Chewing the cud**- to think slowly and carefully about something
- **At cross purposes**- disagreeing with each other's ideas
- **By the ear**- to act spontaneously and according to the situation
- **You snooze, you lose**- if you are not alert, you are likely to miss opportunities
- **No smoke without fire**- there's always some reason for rumor
- **Save for a rainy day**- save money for later
- **Get on one's nerves**- irritate someone
- **In a soup**- in trouble
- **Familiarity breeds someone**- the better you know someone the less you like him
- **To pour cold water on**- to be critical or doubtful of a plan someone is excited about
- **Hard nut to crack**- a problem difficult to solve
- **First and foremost**- highest priority
- **Dance attendance**- to please someone
- **Threading on thin ice**- to be in a dangerous risky position
- **Get up on the wrong side of the bed**- someone who is having a horrible day
- **Bird's eye view**- aerial view