# فرهنگ اصطلاحات کاربردی انگلیسی

# انگلیسےبه فارسے به همراه معادل های انگلیسے

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### A bit much

If something is excessive or annoying, it is a bit much.

# A chain is no stronger than its weakest link

This means that processes, organizations, etc, are vulnerable because the weakest person or part can always damage or break them.

### The strength of the chain is in the weakest link

### A day late and a dollar short

(USA) If sth is a day late and a dollar short, it is too little, too late.

# A fool and his money are soon/easily parted

This idiom means that people who aren't careful with their money spend it quickly.

### A fool's bolt is soon shot

# A fool at 40 is a fool forever

If someone hasn't matured by the time they reach forty, they never will.

# Have a hitch in your giddy-up/gittie-up

If you have a hitch in your giddy-up, you're not feeling well.

Feel under the weather Look off-color/fragile

He's not in the mood

As weak as water

Not feeling well

As sick as a dog

Not feel like it

Off your feet

Out of sort

Laid low

# Give sth a lick and a promise

If you give sth a lick and a promise, you do it hurriedly, most often incompletely, intending to return to it later.

با عجله و سرسری کاری را انجام دادن

Do things by halves

Do sth against the clock

### A little bird told me

If sb doesn't want to say where they got some information from, they can say that a little bird told them.

كلاغه به من گفت

# A little learning is a dangerous thing

A small amount of knowledge can cause people to think they are more expert than they really are.eg. he said he'd done a course on home electrics, but when he tried to mend my table lamp, he fused all the lights! I think a little learning is a dangerous thing

کم آموختن، چیز خطرناکی است

### There is no royal road to learning

### A long row to hoe / A hard/tough roe to hoe

Sth that is a long row to hoe is a difficult task that takes a long time.

A Herculean task / A labor of Hercules
Like getting blood out of a stone
Like trying to swim upstream
An elephantine task

The devil it does

Juggle the frog

Vale of tears

# A lost ball in the high weeds

A lost ball in the high weeds is sb who does not know what they are doing, where they are or how to do sth.

گیج، سر به هوا، آشفته، سردرگم

In a fog

At a loss

(All) at sea

Out to lunch

**Shot to pieces** 

Your head is mince

Thrown off balance

Be at sixes and sevens

Run around like a chicken with its head cut off

He doesn't know whether he's going or coming

# A month of Sundays

A month of Sundays is a long period of time: I haven't seen her in a month of Sundays.

مدتها، قرنى

Once in the blue moon

For/In donkey's years

For ages

# A- OK /eI.../

If things are A OK, they are absolutely fine.

عالی، معرکه، بی نظیر، شماره ۱، باب میل

**A-1** 

An ace

**Best ever** 

Zero cool

**Top-notch** 

Bee's knees

Crackerjack

**Hunky Dory** 

Out of sight

Super-duper

Your cup of tea

Up to snuff/code

Out of this world

**Cooking with gas** 

In a class all by itself

Cat's whisker/pajamas

The greatest/best thing since sliced bread

# A penny for your thoughts

This is used as a way of asking someone what they are thinking about.

### A penny saved is a penny earned

This means that we shouldn't spend or waste money, but try to save it.

### ≠A penny does not make me or break me

### A picture is worth a thousand words

A picture can often get a message across much better than the best verbal description.

# A poor man's something

Sth or sb that can be compared to sth or sb else, but is not as good is a poor man's version; a writer who uses lots of puns but isn't very funny would be a poor man's Oscar Wilde.

### A problem shared is a problem halved

If you talk about your problems, it will make you feel better.

### Two heads are better than one

### It makes two to tango

# A rising tide lifts all boats

This idiom, coined by John F Kennedy, describes the idea that when an economy is performing well, all people will benefit from it.

# A rolling stone gathers no moss

People say this to mean that that an ambitious person is more successful than a person not trying to achieve anything. Originally, it meant the opposite and was critical of people trying to get ahead.

# A steal (A real steal)

If sth is a steal, it costs much less than it is really worth.

مفت، خیلی ارزان

It's a bargain (at the price)

Cost next to nothing

Do sth on the cheap

It goes for a song

Dime a dozen

# A still tongue keeps a wise head

Wise people don't talk much.

Still waters run deep

Speech is silver, silence is golden

There is a time to speak and a time to be silent

He cannot speak well that cannot hold his tongue

### A watched pot never boils

Some things work out in their own time, so being impatient and constantly checking will just make things seem longer.

**A1** 

If something is A1, it is the very best or finest.

**☞**A OK

### Abide by a decision

If you abide by a decision, you accept it and comply with it, even though you might disagree with it.

# Abject lesson/object lesson

(India) An abject lesson serves as a warning to others.

درس عبرت

An eye-opener

**Lightning bolt** 

# About as useful as a chocolate teapot

Sb or sth that is of no practical use is about as useful as a chocolate....

کار یا شخص بیفایده

As much use as a chocolate fire-guard/teapot

As much use as a handbrake on a canoe

**Good-for-nothing (for people)** 

No use to man or beast

Take sand to the beach

**Good-for-nothing** 

Ne'er-do-well

# About face

If sb changes their mind completely, this is an about face. It can be used when companies, governments, etc, change their position on an issue.

تحول کلی، تغییر نود درجه

**U-turn** 

Volte-face

Do a volte-face

A perfect sweep

A turnaround / turnabout

Make a clean sweep of something

### Above board

If things are done above board, they are carried out in a legal and proper manner.

به صورت قانونی، از راه درست

گرد و خاک خوردن (وسیلهٔ بلا استفاده)

### Come clean

To confess or reveal all the facts about something

اعتراف كردن

Confession is good for the soul

Come out of the closet about

Spill your guts about (slang)

Make a clean breast of something

Fess up to / Own up to

### Come a cropper

(UK) Someone whose actions or lifestyle will inevitably result in trouble is going to come a cropper.

Suffer a misfortune

Fail miserably

Run aground

### Come rain or shine

If I say I'll be at a place 'Come rain or shine', I mean that I can be relied on to turn up; nothing, not even the vagaries of British weather, will deter me or stop me from being there.

### Come hell or high water

### Come what may

If you're prepared to do sth come what may, it means that nothing will stop or distract you, no matter how hard or difficult it becomes.

\*Be that as it may ....

### Comfort zone

It is the temperature range in which the body doesn't shiver or sweat, but has an idiomatic sense of a place where people feel comfortable, where they can avoid the worries of the world. It can be physical or mental.

### Have the **constitution of an ox**

If someone has the constitution of an ox, they are less affected than most

people by things like tiredness, illness, alcohol, etc.

قوى بنيه

Have hair on your chest

Tough as old boots

As strong as an ox

As hard as nails

### Corner a market

If a business is dominant in an area and unlikely to be challenged by other companies, it has cornered the market.

اشغال کردن بازار، در دست داشتن بازار

# Cost a pretty penny / Cost a penny penny

If something costs a pretty penny, it is very expensive.

بسیار گران تمام شدن

Cost the earth

Cost a king's ransom

Cost an arm and a leg

Pay through your nose

# Cost an arm and a leg / Cost the earth

If sth costs an arm and a leg / cost the earth, it is very expensive indeed.

Cost a pretty penny

### Couch potato

A couch potato is an extremely idle or lazy person who chooses to spend most of their leisure time horizontal in front of the TV and eats a diet that is mainly junk food.

كرم تلويزيون

### Could eat a horse

If you are very hungry, you could eat a horse.

بسیار گرسنه بودن، که بتونی یه گاو بخوری

Starved to death

On empty stomach

Having the munchies

Make a pig of yourself

# Crash a party

If you crash a party, or are a gatecrasher, you go somewhere you haven't been invited to.

مهمان ناخوانده بودن

### Who comes uncalled, sits unserved

### Crocodile tears

If sb cries crocodile tears, they pretend to be upset or affected by sth.

اشک تمساح

Lip service

False show of emotion

**Academy Award performance** 

False/affected/insincere/fake tears

### Cry your eyes out

If you cry your eyes out, you cry uncontrollably.

به شدّت گریه کردن

### Cry-baby

A cry-baby is a person who gets emotional and cries too easily.

### Turn on the waterworks

### Her tear-bag is precious near her eye

### Curate's egg

(UK) If sth is a bit of a curate's egg, it is only good in parts and also sth with both good and bad qualities. From a story in Punch about a curate who, having been served a bad egg by his bishop, said that parts of it were excellent.

### **♦** Jekyll and Hyde (for people)

### Curiosity killed the cat

As cats are naturally curious animals, we use this expression to suggest to people that excessive curiosity is not necessarily a good thing, especially where it is not their business.

### The fish will be soon caught that nibbles at every bait

### Too much curiosity lost paradise

### Cut and dried

If something is cut and dried, then everything has already been decided and, in the case of an opinion, might be a little stale and predictable.

### In the cry

### Cut the mustard

(UK) If somebody or something doesn't cut the mustard, they fail or it fails to reach the required standard.

غير استاندارد بودن

### Be below par

# ≠ Come up to scratch

### Cut to the chase

If you cut to the chase, you get to the point, or the most interesting or important part of sth without delay.

≠ Beat/run around the bush

# Cut to the quick / Cut someone to the quick

If someone's cut to the quick by sth, they are very hurt and upset indeed.

# Rub someone up the wrong way

### Cut your teeth on

The place where you gain your early experience is where you... teeth.

# Cutting edge / leading edge

Something that is cutting edge is at the forefront of progress in its area.

### All at rage

# ${ m D}$

### As daft as a brush

(UK) Someone who is daft as a brush is rather stupid.

خًل وضع، مشنگ

Out of his gourd Silly as a goose In the ozone Off his nut

### Dark horse

1- One who achieves unexpected support and success as a political candidate, typically during a party's convention. 2- If someone is a dark horse, they are a bit of a mystery. 3- A little-known, unexpectedly successful entrant, as in a horserace.

۱- آدمی که از طرف دستهای پنهان حمایت میشود ۲- آدم مرموز ۳- ناشناس، گمنام (مانند اسب مسابقه)

# Daylight/highway robbery

If you are overcharged or underpaid, it is a daylight robbery; open, unfair and hard to prevent.

دزدی سر گردنه، دزدی تو روز روشن

### Rip-off

# As dead as a dodo/doornail

If sth's dead as a dodo, it is lifeless and dull. The dodo was a bird that lived the island of Mauritius. It couldn't fly and was hunted to extinction.

مرده، هفت كفن يوسانده

### Dead and gone

### Dead heat

If a race ends in a dead heat, two or more of the rivals finish with exactly the same result.

Mexican standoff

**Neck-and-neck race** 

Blanket/photo finish

Six of one and half a dozen of the other

### Dead in the water

If something is dead in the water, it isn't going anywhere or making any progress. (Originally nautical)

### Dead men's shoes

If promotion or success requires replacing somebody, then it can only be reached by "dead men's shoes" by getting rid of them.

### O Dead men tell no tales.

### Dead to the world

If somebody's fast asleep or intoxicated and completely unaware of what is happening, they're dead to the world.

### Dear John letter

A letter written by a partner explaining why they are ending the relationship is a Dear John letter.

# Look like death warmed up (UK) / warmed over (US)

If someone looks like death warmed up, they look very ill indeed.

بسيار بيمار

# Deliver the goods / Come up with the goods

The goods here mean an expected- or hoped for- result. Deliver means to come forth with

### Cloud cuckoo land

### Your **head is mince**

(Scot) When sb's thoughts are in a state of abject confusion, especially when facing a severe dilemma, their head is mince.

### A lost ball in the high weeds

### Can't make **head nor tail**

If you can't make head nor tail of something, you cannot understand it at all or make any sense of it.

### Beat your brains out

### Want a **head on a spike**

If someone wants a head on a spike, they want to be able to destroy or really punish a person.

### Bring someone to book

### His head is on the block

If someone's head is on the block, they are going to be held responsible and suffer the consequences for something that has gone wrong.

### Face the music

### Head over heels in love

When sb falls passionately in love and is intoxicated by the feeling has fallen head over heels in love.

Stuck on someone or something

Hang on someone's every word

Carry the torch (unilateral love)

Over head on ears in love

Have a crush on someone

Be hot and heavy

Fall for someone

### Head south

If sth heads south, it begins to fail or start going bad. 'The project proceeded well for the first two months, but then it headed south.'

### Go awry

# Heads will roll

If heads will roll, people will be punished or sacked for something that has gone wrong.

# Headstrong

A headstrong person is obstinate and does not take other people's advice readily.

### Bull-headed

# Healthy as a horse

If you're as healthy as a horse, you're very healthy.

### Feel like a million

# Heap coals (of fire) on someone's head

To do sth nice or kind to sb who has been nasty to you. If sbe felt bad because they forgot to get you a Christmas gift, for you to buy them a specially nice gift is heaping coals on their head.

# Hear a pin drop

If there is complete silence in a room, you can hear a pin drop.

بسیار ساکت

# As silent as the dead/grave

# Hear on the grapevine

To receive information indirectly through a series of third parties, similar to a rumor.

By word of mouth

By verbal evidence

From pillar to post

### Heart in the right place

If sb's heart is in the right place, they are good and kind, though they might not always appear to be so.

### All heart

### Your **heart is in your boots**

If you're heart is in your boots, you are very unhappy.

# Feeling blue

# Heart in your mouth

If your heart is in your mouth, then you feel nervous or scared.

### Cold sweat

### Your **heart isn't in it**

If your heart is not in sth, then you don't really believe in or support it.

# ≠ Set your heart in doing something

# Heart misses/skips a beat

If your heart misses a beat, you are suddenly shocked or surprised.

### Bounce off the walls

# Have a **heart of glass**

When sb has a heart of glass, they are easily affected emotionally.

# Wear your heart on your sleeve

# Have a short temper

### Be thin-skinned

# Heart of gold

Sb with a heart of gold is a genuinely kind and caring person.

### All heart

### Heart of steel

When sb has a heart of steel, they do not show emotion or are not affected emotionally.

### As hard as nails

### Heart-to-heart

A heart-to-heart is a frank and honest conversation with sb, where you talk honestly and plainly about issues, no matter how painful.

### Call a spade a spade

### Heaven knows / God knows

If you ask someone a question and they say this, they have no idea.

خدا میداند، من چه میدانم؟

### Search me!

# How long is a piece of string?

# **Heavenly bodies**

The heavenly bodies are the stars.

ستار گان

# Heavy-handed

If sb is heavy-handed, they are insensitive and use excessive force or authority when dealing with a problem.

### Have a heart of steel

### As hard as nails

# Hedge your bets

If you hedge your bets, you don't risk everything on one opportunity, but try more than one thing.

# Don't put all your eggs in one basket

### Hell for leather

If you do something hell for leather, especially running, you do it as fast as you can.

با سرعت تمام

# At full speed/tilt

### Go to **hell in a handcart**

If sth is going to hell in a handcart, it is getting worse and worse, with no hope of stopping the decline.

رو به فساد و تباهی رفتن

### Go awry

### Here today, gone tomorrow

Money, happiness and other desirable things are often here today, gone tomorrow, i.e., they don't last for very long.

آنچه را نپاید، دلبستگی نشاید

# That dog won't hunt (slang)

(USA) A Very common Southern US expression meaning: What you say makes no sense.

# That is the way the cookie crumbles

"That's the way the cookie crumbles" means that things don't always turn out the way we want.

### That's the way the ball bounces. (US informal)

### That makes two of us

A speaker says "that makes two of us" to indicate agreement with what another speaker just said. For example, I can say, "I wish I would win the lottery." A listener who says "That makes two of us" is indicating the he or she wants to win the lottery, too.

# That ship has sailed

A particular opportunity has passed you by when that ship has sailed.

# That's all she wrote

(USA) This idiom is used to show that sth has ended and there is nothing more to say about sth.

# The apple does not fall far from the tree

Offspring grow up to be like their parents.

# Like mother, like daughter

Like father, like son

### The be all and end all

'The be all and end all' means that a sth is the final, or ultimate outcome or result of a situation or event.

# The bigger they are, the harder they fall

This idiom means that the more powerful have more to lose, so when they suffer sth bad, it is worse for them.

### The common weal

Something which is done in the interests and for the benefit of the majority or the general public.

عامالمنفعه

# The line forms on the right

Sth's meaning is becoming clear when the line forms on the right.

# The more, the merrier

The more the merrier means that the greater the quantity or the bigger the number of something, the happier the speaker will be.

# The Mountie always gets his man

(Canada) The Mounties are the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and they have a reputation for catching criminals they are after.

# The penny dropped

When the penny drops, sb belatedly understands sth that everyone else has long since understood.

# The plot thickens

When the plot thickens, a situation gets more complicated and difficult.

# The rough and tumble (of....)

The rough and tumble refers to areas of life like business, sports, politics, etc, where competition is hard and people will take any advantage that they can: Children learn a lot in the rough and tumble of school life.

# The sands of time are running out (for sb/sth)

This means that time runs out either through something reaching an end or through a person's death. It comes from the sand used in hourglasses, an ancient way of measuring time.

### Take the **short straw**

If you take the short straw, you lose a selection process, which means that you have to do something unpleasant.

### The sun might rise in the west

When people say this, they mean that they don't expect sth to happen.

# The whole shooting match

Everything, the entire object, or all the related parts.

### Box and dice

### The world and his wife

If the world and his wife were somewhere, then huge numbers of people were present.

# F Every man and his dog

# There are many ways to skin a cat (informal)

This means there are many different ways of doing the same thing.

### All roads lead to Rome

### There is no time like the present

If people say this proverb, they believe that it is far better to do sth now than to leave it for later, in which case it might never get done.

### F He who hesitates is lost

### There's never a road without a turning

No situation in life stays the same forever.

### There's no such thing as a free lunch

This idiom means that you don't get things for free, so if sth appears to be free, there's a catch and you'll have to pay in some way.

### There's the rub

The meaning of this idiom is 'that's the problem'.

مشكل همينجاست.

# Thick and fast

If things are happening thick and fast, they are happening so fast they seemed to be joined together.

### As thick as mince

(UK) If someone is as thick as mince, they are very stupid indeed.

### Bird-brained

### As thick as thieves

If people are thick as thieves, they are very close friends who have no secrets from each other.

# Alter ago

### Thick-skinned

If a person is thick-skinned, they are not affected by criticism.

### Thin as a rake

A rake is a garden tool with a long, thin, wooden handle, so someone very thin is thin as a rake.

# All skin and bone

### Thin blue line

(UK) The thin blue line is a term for the police, suggesting that they stand between an ordered society and potential chaos. (Police uniforms are blue.)

# Thin end of the wedge

The thin end of the wedge is sth small and seemingly unimportant that will lead to sth much bigger and more serious.

### Thin line

If there's a thin line between things, it's hard to distinguish them- there's a thin line between love and hate.

### Thin-skinned

If sb is thin-skinned, they are very sensitive to any sort of criticism.

# Have a heart of glass

Have a short temper

### Think outside the box

If you think outside the box, you think imaginatively and creatively.

# Think the world of sb/sth

To hold sth or sb in very high esteem. To love or admire immensely.

# The **third degree**

If sb is given the third degree, they are put under a great deal of pressure and intimidation to force them to tell the truth about sth.

# Third rail of something

The third rail of something is dangerous to alter or change. Originally, the third rail is the one carrying the electricity for a train.

# Third time's the charm / Third time lucky

This is used when the third time one tries something, one achieves a successful outcome.

# Thorn in your side / Thorn in the flesh

A thorn in your side is someone or something that causes trouble or makes life difficult for you.

### A pain in the neck

### Those who live by the sword die by the sword

This means that violent people will be treated violently themselves.

# Three/seven sheets in/to the wind

(UK) Someone who is three sheets in the wind is very drunk.

# High as a kite

### Thrilled to bits

If you are thrilled to bits, you are extremely pleased or excited about something.

### Over the moon

# Through gritted teeth

If you do something through gritted teeth, you accept or agree with it against your will and it is obvious to others how you really feel.

# Through the ceiling

If prices go through the ceiling, they rise very quickly.

# Through the floor

If prices go, or fall, through the floor, they fall very quickly.

# Through thick and thin

If someone supports you through thick and thin, they support you during good times and bad.

# $Throw\ someone\ a\ curve/curve ball$

(USA) If you throw someone a curve, you surprise them with sth they find difficult to deal with.

### Bounce off the walls

# Throw a monkey wrench into the works (USA)

If you throw a monkey wrench into the works, you ensure that sth fails.

### Throw a sickie

If you pretend to be ill to take a day off work or school, you throw a sickie.