

**ЎЗБЕКИСТОН РЕСПУБЛИКАСИ ОЛИЙ ВА ЎРТА МАХСУС
ТАЪЛИМ ВАЗИРЛИГИ**

ГУЛИСТОН ДАВЛАТ УНИВЕРСИТЕТИ

“ИНГЛИЗ ТИЛИ ВА АДАБИЁТИ” КАФЕДРАСИ

Д. Т. НОРМАМАТОВА

ИНГЛИЗ ТИЛИ АМАЛИЙ ФОНЕТИКАСИ

Фанидан услубий кўрсатма

Гулистон

Ушбу услубий кўрсатма олий таълим муассасалари 5111400 филология ва тилларини ўқитиш (инглиз тили) бакалавриат таълим йўналиши 1 босқич талабалари учун мўлжалланган бўлиб, услубий кўрсатма фан намунавий дастури асосида замонавий педагогик технологияларга таянган ҳолда тузилган.

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**Услубий кўрсатма Филология факультети :Инглиз тили ва адабиёти:
кафедрасининг 2015 йил 15 Январ 6-сонли йиғилишида муҳокама
этилган ва ўқув жараёнида фойдаланиш учун тавсия этилган.**

1. КИРИШ

Олий таълимнинг Давлат таълим стандартига кўра “Педагогика” таълим соҳасида ўқитиладиган Инглиз тили амалий курси фан дастури хорижий тилни ўрганишда зарур бўладиган тил кўникмалари амалиёти тушунчаларини ўз ичига олади.

1.1. Фаннинг мақсад ва вазифалари

Биринчи курс якунида талабалар Европа Кенгашининг “Чет тилини эгаллаш умумевропа компетенциялари: ўрганиш, ўқитиш ва баҳолаш” тўғрисидаги умумэътироф этилган халқаро меъёрлари (CEFR) га кўра B1 даражасига мос келадиган мавзуларга оид турли матн турларини ўқиб, мазмунини тушунишлари ҳамда турли жанрдаги ёзма матнларни ёза олишлари назарда тутилади.

The Classification of English Vowel Phonemes

A **vowel** is a voiced sound produced in the mouth with no obstructions to the air stream. The English vowel phonemes are divided into two large groups: monophthongs and diphthongs.

A **monophthong** is a pure (unchanging) vowel sound. There are 12 monophthongs in English. They are as follows: [i:], [i], [e], hhhhh

Two of them [i:] and [u:] are diphthongized (diphthongoids).

A **diphthong** is a complex sound consisting of two vowel elements pronounced so as to form a single syllable. The first element of an English diphthong is called the nucleus. The second element is called the glide (it is weak). There are eight diphthongs in English. They are [ei], [ai], [au], hhhhhh

Sounds and their numbers

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 1. [i:] | A friend in <u>nee</u> d is a friend in <u>de</u> d |
| 2. [i] | As <u>fi</u> t as a <u>fi</u> d <u>d</u> le |
| 3. [e] | All is <u>w</u> ell, that ends <u>w</u> ell |
| 4. [æ] | One <u>ma</u> n is no <u>ma</u> n |
| 5. [a:] | He <u>la</u> ughs best who <u>la</u> ughs last |
| 6. [| H <u>o</u> n <u>e</u> stly is the best <u>p</u> o <u>l</u> icy |
| 7. [| New <u>l</u> o <u>r</u> ds-new <u>l</u> aw <u>s</u> |
| 8. [u] | By <u>h</u> o <u>o</u> k or by <u>c</u> ro <u>o</u> k |
| 9. [u:] | <u>S</u> o <u>o</u> n learnt, <u>s</u> o <u>o</u> n forgotten |
| 10. [Δ] | Every <u>c</u> o <u>u</u> ntry has its <u>c</u> u <u>s</u> tom <u>s</u> |
| 11. [ə:] | It's an <u>e</u> ar <u>l</u> y <u>b</u> ir <u>d</u> that catches the <u>w</u> o <u>r</u> m |
| 12. [ə] | <u>A</u> s like <u>a</u> s two <u>p</u> ea <u>s</u> |
| 13. [ei] | No <u>p</u> ai <u>n</u> s no <u>g</u> ai <u>n</u> s |
| 14. [əu] | There's <u>n</u> o <u>p</u> l <u>a</u> ce like <u>h</u> o <u>m</u> e |
| 15. [ai] | Out of <u>s</u> i <u>g</u> ht out of <u>m</u> i <u>n</u> d |
| 16. [au] | From <u>m</u> o <u>u</u> th to <u>m</u> o <u>u</u> th |
| 17. [| The <u>v</u> o <u>i</u> ce of one man is the <u>v</u> o <u>i</u> ce of no one |
| 18. [iə] | <u>N</u> ear and <u>d</u> ea <u>r</u> |
| 19. [eə] | Neither here not <u>th</u> ere |
| 20. [uə] | What can't be <u>c</u> u <u>r</u> ed must be <u>e</u> nd <u>u</u> red |

Reading Rules of English Vowels

A	Stressed Syllable		
	Open syllable	[ei]	take, place, name, cake, state
	Close syllable	[æ]	map, sat, stand, happy, apple
	Before r	[a:]	car, art, dark, farm, party
	Before re	[eə]	care, bare, share, prepare
	Unstressed Syllable		
	Letter Combinations	[ə]	ago, about, legal, formal

	<p>Stressed Syllable Open syllable Close syllable Before r Before re</p> <p>O Unstressed Syllable Suffix ous</p> <p>o Suffix or Letter Combinations</p> <p>o a oi, oy oo+k oo+l, m, n, d, t oo+r ou+gh o+l+consonant ow+consonant ow (at the end)</p> <p>or after w</p>	<p>[əu] [[[[əu] [əs] [ə] [əu] [[u] [u:] [[[əu] [au] [əu] [ə:]</p>	<p>close, note, rose, home stop, long, song, copper form, born, fork, border, store, before, restore photo, motto, Negro, famous, various, numerous doctor, tractor, conductor</p> <p>coat, boat, road, roast oil, noise, boy, enjoy look, book, took cool, room, soon, food, root, door, floor bought, thought, brought old, cold, told, hold town, brown, crown, down know, grow, low, slow, show <i>but: now</i> work, word, world, worse</p>
<p>U u</p>	<p>Stressed Syllable Open syllable Open syllable Close syllable Before r+ consonant Before r+ vowel</p> <p>Unstressed Syllable</p>	<p>[ju:] [u:] [ʌ] [ə:] [juə], [uə]</p>	<p>tube, tune, useful blue, true, June cut, but, hurry, hunter turn, burn, curly, hurt pure, during, sure</p> <p>upon, success, difficult</p>
<p>Y y</p>	<p>Stressed Syllable Open syllable Close syllable Before r+ vowel Before vowel</p> <p>Unstressed Syllable</p>	<p>[ai] [i] [aiə] [j] [i]</p>	<p>my, try, type, cycle symbol, system tire year, you, young, yet</p> <p>any, many, very, only</p>

The Classification of English Consonant Phonemes

A consonant is a sound produced with an obstruction to the air stream. English consonants are usually classified according to the following principle:

- I. According to the type of obstruction and the manner of the production of noise.
- II. According to the active speech organ and the place of obstruction.
- III. According to the work of the vocal cords and the force of articulation.
- IV. According to the position of the soft palate.

According to the type of obstruction English consonants are divided into **occlusive and constrictive**.

20 betdagini yoz

The Articulatory Processes Assimilation. Aspiration

Assimilation

Two adjacent consonants within a word or at word boundaries often influence each other in such a way that the articulation of one sound becomes similar to or even identical with the articulation of the other one. This phenomenon is called **assimilation**.

In assimilation the consonant whose articulation is modified under the influence of a neighboring consonant is called the **assimilated sound**: the consonant which influences the articulation of a neighboring consonant is called the **assimilating sound**.

While by assimilation we mean a modification in the articulation of a consonant under the influence of a neighboring consonant, the modification in the articulation of a vowel under the influence of an adjacent consonant, or, vice versa, the modification in the articulation of a consonant under the influence of an adjacent vowel is called **adaptation, or accommodation**.

Assimilation may be of three degrees: **complete, partial and intermediate**.

Assimilation is said to be complete when the articulation of the assimilated consonant fully coincide with that of the assimilating one.

For example, in the word horse-shoe [hɜ:v:ʃu:] which is a compound of the words horse [ho:s] and [ʃu:], [s] in the word [ho:s] was changed to [ʃ] under the influence of [ʃ] in the word [ʃu:]. In rapid speech does she is pronounced [dʌʃʃi]. Here [z] in does [dʌz] is completely assimilated to [ʃ] in the word she [ʃi:]

Assimilation is said to be partial when the assimilated consonants retain its main phonemic features and becomes only partly similar in some feature of its articulation to the assimilating sound.

In twice [twais], please [pli:z], try [traɪ] the principal variants of the phonemes [w], [l], [r] are replaced by their partly devoiced variants, while their main phonemic features are retained.

The degree of assimilation is said to be intermediate between complete and partial when the assimilated consonant changes into a different sound, but does not coincide with the assimilating consonant. Examples of intermediate assimilation are: gooseberry ['guzbəri], where [s] in goose [gu:s] is replaced by [z] under the influence of [b] in berry, congress ['kɒŋɡres], where [n] is replaced by [ŋ] under the influence of [g].

Aspiration

The English voiceless plosive consonants [p], [t], [k] are pronounced with aspiration before a stressed vowel.

Aspiration is a slight pull of breath that is heard after the plosion of a voiceless plosive consonant before the beginning of the vowel immediately following.

When a voiceless plosive aspirated consonant is pronounced before a stressed vowel in English, the pressure of the air against the obstruction is rather strong as the glottis is open.

In the pronunciation of the English consonants [p], [t], [k] there can be distinguished 3 degrees of aspiration.

a) it is strongest when [p], [t], [k] are followed either by a long vowel or by a diphthong.

pass [pa:s] tall [tɔl] cause [ku:z]

pair [peə] tear [teə] care [keə]

b) aspiration becomes weaker when [p], [t], [k] are followed by short vowels

pull [pʌl] took [tu:k] cut [kʌt]

pot [pɒt] top [tɒp] cot [kɒt]

Some effects of [d] and [t] elision

1. You hear the final [d] or [t] in the root of some words, but not when a suffix is added. For example:

Without elision

It was perfect
That's exact
She's full of tact
What does she want?
One pound of butter

With elision

It was perfec(t)ly marvelous
That's exac(t)ly right
She's very tac(t)ful
She wan(t)s some butter
Ten poun(d)s of butter

2. Elision can also affect the "ed" for simple past and past participle. This means that, at speed, there may be no difference between present and past simple

Slow version

I watch television every day
I watched television last night
They crash the car regularly
They crashed the car yesterday
I wash my hands before
I have lunch
I washed my hands before
I had lunch
They usually finish their work
at six
They finished work early yesterday

Fast version

I watch television every day
I watch(ed) television last night
They crash the car regularly
They crash(ed) the car regularly
I wash my hands before
I have lunch
I wash(ed) my hands before
I had lunch
They usually finish their work at six
They finish(ed) work early yesterday

Palatalization

Palatalization is a secondary articulation in which the front of the tongue is raised toward the hard palate. Palatalization of consonant is not a phonemic feature in English though the consonants [ʃ], [ʒ], [tʃ], [dʒ] are slightly palatalized.

Flapping

Flapping is a process in which a dental or alveolar stop articulation changes to a flap (r) articulation. In English this process applies to both [t] and [d] and occurs between vowels, the first of which is generally stressed. Flaps are heard in the casual speech pronunciation of words such as butter, writer, fatter, wader and waiter and even in phrases such as I bought it [aɪb'ɔɪt]. The alveolar flap is always voiced. Flapping is considered a type of assimilation since it changes a non-continuant segment (a stop) to a continuant segment in the environment of other continuants (vowels).

Dissimilation

Dissimilation, the opposite of assimilation, result in two sounds becoming less alike in articulator or acoustic terms. The resulting sequence of sounds is easier to articulate and distinguish. It is a much rare process than assimilation. One commonly heard example of assimilation in English occurs in words ending with three consecutive fricatives, such as "fifth". Many speakers dissimilate the final [fθs] sequence to [fts], apparently to break up the sequence of three fricatives with a stop.

Deletion

Deletion is a process that removes a segment from certain phonemic contexts. Deletion occurs in every day rapid speech in many languages. In English, a schwa [ə] is often deleted when the next vowel in the word stressed.

Deletion of [ə] in English

Slow speech	Rapid speech
[pə'reɪd]	[prɪed] parade
[kə'rəʊd]	[krəʊd] corrode
[sə'pəʊz]	[spəʊz] suppose

Comparative Study

Comparative the careful speech and rapid speech pronunciation of the following English words and phrases. Then name the process or process that make the rapid speech pronunciation different from the careful speech.

	Careful Speech	Rapid Speech
a) in my room	[ɪn maɪ'rʊm]	[ɪm maɪ rʊm]
b) I see them	[aɪ'si:ðəm]	[aɪ'si:ə]
c) within	[wɪð'in]	[wɒɪn]
d) balloons	[bə'lu:nz]	[blu:nz]
e) sit down	['sɪt'daʊn]	['sɪ'daʊn]
f) Pam will miss you	['pæm wɪl'mɪsju:]	['pæmɪ'mɪ ʃʃu]

Reduction

In English, vowel in unstressed syllables are usually reduced. Reduction is a historical process of weakening, shortening or disappearance of vowel sounds in unstressed positions. This phonetic phenomenon, as well as assimilation, is closely connected with the general development of the language system. Reduction reflects the process of lexical and grammatical changes.

Reduction may be of the following types:

1) qualitative, which is divided into reduction Type A and Type B.

Type A (when the vowels i, e, y are in an unstressed position). Subjecting to this type of reduction these vowels are pronounced [ɪ]

busy ['bɪzi] de'cay [dɪ'keɪ] dɪ'vide [dɪ'vaɪd]

Type B (when the vowels a, o, u are in an unstressed position)

Subjecting to this type of reduction these vowels are pronounced [ə]

pə'lite [pə'lɪt] 'lyrical ['lɪrɪkəl]

2) quantitative. It is shortening of the length of a long vowel sound.

me [mi] he [hi]

3) complete. It is the disappearance of a vowel sound. It occurs when an unstressed vowel occupies the position after the stressed one and it is between a noiseless sound and a sonorant one.

'cotton ['kɒtn] 'lesson ['lesn]

Intonation

Intonation. The Components of Intonation

Intonation may be defined as such a unity of speech melody, sentence-stress (accent), voice quality (timbre) and speech tempo which enables the speaker to adequately communicate in speech his thoughts, will, emotions and attitude towards reality and the contents of the utterance.

Speech melody, or the pitch component of intonation, is the variation in the pitch of the voice which takes place when voiced sounds, especially vowels and sonorants, are pronounced in connected speech. The pitch of speech sounds is produced by the vibration of the vocal cords.

Stress in speech is the greater prominence which is given to one or more words in a sentence as compared with the other words of the same sentence.

The voice quality (timbre) is a special coloring of the voice on pronouncing sentences which is superimposed on speech melody and shows the speaker's emotions such as joy, sadness, irony, anger, indignation, etc.

The tempo of speech is the speed with which sentences or their parts are pronounced. Closely connected with the tempo of speech is its rhythm: the recurrence of stressed syllables at more or less equal intervals of time.

Intonation serves to form sentences and intonation groups, to define their communicative type, to express the speaker's thoughts, to convey the attitudinal meaning. One and the same grammatical structure and lexical composition of the sentence may express different meaning when pronounced with different intonation.

1. **Intonation of the Declarative sentence (statements)** A declarative sentence states a fact in the affirmative or negative form. In a declarative sentence the subject precedes the predicate. It is generally pronounced with a falling intonation.

I like music. _____

2. **Intonation of the exclamatory sentence.**

An exclamatory sentence expresses some kind of emotion or feeling. It often begins with the words "what" and "how", it is always in the declarative form (no inversion takes place). It is generally spoken with a falling intonation.

What a lovely day it is! _____

3. **Intonation of the Imperative sentences**

An imperative sentence serves to induce a person to do something, so it expresses a command, a request, an invitation. Commands are characterized by a falling tone.

Come to the blackboard! _____

Requests and invitations are characterized by a rising intonation.

Open the door, please! _____

4. **Intonation of the Interrogative sentences**

An interrogative sentence asks a question. It is usually formed by means of inversion (by placing the predicate before the subject). There are four kinds of questions:

GENERAL QUESTION requiring the answer 'yes' or 'no' and spoken with a rising intonation. They are formed by placing part of the predicate (the auxiliary or modal verb) before the subject of the sentence. According to whether they are asked for the first time or repeated, general questions are divided into groups: first-instance questions and second- instance question.

The first-instance questions comprise the following main subtypes: basic questions, confirmatory questions, questions put forward as a subject for discussion, comments.

The second-instance questions comprise echoing questions and insistent question.¹

ALTERNATIVE QUESTIONS (“or” questions) are those in which the hearer is asked to choose from two or more alternatives. An alternative question consist of two or more parts. As a rule, each of the alternatives is pronounced as a separate sense-group. There are two kinds of alternatives: **limited** and **unlimited**.

The choice is limited when the list of alternatives is complete. Non-final sense-groups in such questions take the Low or the High Narrow Rise which may be preceded by the Descending Stepping Scale, while the last sense-group is pronounced with the falling tone (Low or High Wide).

'Do you pre'fer, apples, or, pears?

, Is this ex'pression 'used in 'actual, ,speech or 'is it 'only a, bookish expression?

The choice is unlimited when the list of alternatives is incomplete and the hearer may add to it. In such alternative questions all the sense-groups take a rising tone (Low or High)

'Can I 'get you a 'cup of coffee, | an 'ice cream | or a lemonade?

DISJUNCTIVE (TAG) QUESTIONS contain two sense-groups. The first sense-group is a statement (affirmative or negative), the second- a question tag. If the statement is affirmative, the tag is usually negative and vice versa.

When the speaker is certain that his statement is obviously true and he demands that hearer agrees with him, both sense-groups take a fall (High Wide or Low)

You 'can't 'do 'two 'things at a 'time, | can you?

This is a ,book, ,| ,isn't it?

Rhythm

Rhythm in speech is the recurrence of stressed syllables in a sense-group at certain intervals of time. In connected English speech stressed syllables have a strong tendency to follow each other as nearly as possible at equal intervals of time and the unstressed syllables (whether many or few) occupy the time and the between the stressed syllables. The greater the number of unstressed syllables, the quicker they are pronounced, e.g.

'Andrew 'went 'back to London.

'Andrew has 'gone 'back to London.

'Andrew should have 'gone back to London.

¹ Insistent general questions are those which are repeat by the speaker either because he didn't get an answer to his first question or because he wants the listener to keep to the point.

Contraction

Contraction are two words that are combined to form one. Contraction are used frequently in spoken English and are grammatically correct. If you use the full form in conversation, your speech will sound stilted and unnatural.

Examples:	Contraction	Full form
	I'll	I will
	You're	you are
	He's	he is
	We've	we have
	Isn't	is not

A List of English Proverb and Sayings

1. A bad workman always blames his tools.
2. A friend in need is a friend indeed.
3. After a storm comes a calm.
4. After dinner sleep a while, after supper walk a mile.
5. A good beginning is half the work.-A good beginning makes half the battle.
6. A good beginning makes a good ending.
7. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.
8. An attempt is not torture.
9. An ant is small but digs hills.
10. A new broom sweeps clean.
11. All is well that ends well.
12. All roads lead to Rome.
13. All that glitters is not gold.
14. An apple a day keeps the doctor away.
15. An hour in the morning is worth two in the evening.
16. Appearances are deceptive.
17. As clear as day.
18. A sea gathers by drops.
19. A small pot is soon hot.
20. A sound mind in a sound body.
21. As you sow, so you reap.
22. Barking dogs seldom bite.
23. Better a tomtit in the hands than a crane in the sky.
24. Better late than never.
25. Better the foot slip than the tongue.
26. By hook or by crook.
27. Chickens are counted in autumn.
28. Choose an author as you choose a friend.
29. Curiosity killed the cat.
30. Dog does not eat dog.
31. Don't bite off more than you can chew.
32. Don't count your chickens before they are hatched.
33. Don't carry coals to Newcastle.

34. Don't cross a bridge before you come to it.
35. Don't cut the bough you are standing on.
36. Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.
37. Don't trouble trouble till trouble troubles you.
38. Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise
39. East or West, home is best.
40. Everything is good in its season.
41. Extremes meet.
42. Forbidden fruit is sweetest.
43. God gives to those who get up early.
44. Good health is above wealth.
45. Half heart is no heart.
46. Handsome is as handsome does.
47. Haste makes waste.
48. Healthy habits make healthy bodies.
49. He laughs best who laughs last.
50. He who likes borrowing dislikes paying.
51. Health is not valued till sickness comes.
52. Hungry is a hunter.
53. If you chase (run after) two hares, you will catch none.
54. If you hurry you will make people laugh.
55. I'll weeds grow apace.
56. It's never too late to learn.
57. It's never too late to mend.
58. Learn to walk before you run.
59. Let bygones be bygones.
60. Live and learn.
61. Live and let live.
62. Lost time is never found again.
63. Love is blind.
64. Make hay while the sun shines.
65. Much ado about nothing.
66. Much work and no play never makes people gay.
67. Man proposes, God disposes.
68. Necessity is the mother of invention.
69. Near and dear.
70. Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today.
71. No gain without pain.
72. No news is good news.
73. Nothing venture, nothing have.
74. Of two evils choose the best.
75. One man no man.
76. One who does not do anything never makes mistakes.
77. One swallow does not make a spring.
78. Out of slight out of mind.
79. Promise little but do much.
80. Roll my log, and I'll roll yours.
81. Rome wasn't built in a day.
82. So many men, so many minds.
83. Soon learnt soon forgotten.
84. Speak less but do more.
85. Still waters run deep.

86. Strike the iron while it is hot.
87. Such carpenters, such chips.
88. Talk of the devil and he appears.
89. Tastes differ.
90. Take the bull by the horns.
91. The appetite comes with eating.
92. The devil is not so frightful as he is painted.
93. The early bird catches the worm.
94. The exception proves the rule.
95. The frightened crow is afraid of a bush.
96. The game is not worth the candle.
97. The leopard can't change his sports.
98. There is no evil without good.
99. There is no place like home.
100. There is no rose without a thorn.
101. There is no smoke without fire.
102. Time and tide wait for no man.
103. Time cures all things.
104. Time flies.
105. Time is money.
106. Time works wonders.
107. To be as like as two peas.
108. To know everything is to know nothing.
109. Too many cooks spoil the broth.
110. Two heads are better than one.
111. Walls have ears.
112. Well begun is half done.
113. What can't be cured must be endured.
114. When in Rome, do as the Romans do.
115. When misfortune has come, open the gate.
116. Where there is a will, there is a way.
117. You can not be fed on "tomorrows".
118. You can not make an omelet without breaking eggs.
119. You can not unscramble eggs.
120. You can not judge a book by its cover.

EXPRESSION

Checkered past

⇒ a personal history that includes both successes and failures, or both ethical and unethical behavior. The expression is generally used in a negative sense, focusing more on the failures and unethical behavior than on the successes and behavior.

1. I don't think Larry is a very good marriage prospect. I've heard he has quite a *checkered past*.
2. The personnel director of the company refused to consider Mr. Dupont's application for employment because of his *checkered past*.

The expression originates from the alternating black and white (opposite colors) of a checker board.

Chew it over

⇒ to think carefully and slowly about something.

1. I know the idea doesn't seem appealing at first, but why don't you **chew it over** for a few days before you decide?

2. Janice is not sure she is going on vacation in August. She's **chewing it over**.

The expression probably originates from another expression, chew the cud, referring to the fact that a cow chews slowly and regurgitates its food to chew it a second time.

Chicken

⇒ slang for scared, frightened. The expression is generally used by children.

1. The boy dared his little brother to jump from the high diving board into the pool below. When his little brother said he wouldn't, the boy called him **chicken**.

2. Are you too **chicken** to play a trick on the teacher?

Compare to: chicken out.

Chicken out

⇒ to become too frightened to do something; to lose one's nerve.

1. The girls were just about to ask the movie star for his autograph, but then they got scared and **chicken out**.

2. You said you wanted to try parachuting, so we came in this airplane. The door is open and it's time to jump. Don't **chicken out** now.

Synonyms: *get cold feet, back out*.

Compare to: *chicken*.

Chip off the old block

⇒ the son is very much like the father.

1. The young man likes to do the same things his father does. He's a **chip off the old block**.

2. Now that Ralph has grown up, he and his father are as different as night and day. But when Ralph was younger, he was a **chip off the old block**.

The expression probably originates from the idea that a chip off a block of wood or stone, though smaller, has the same characteristics as the block itself.

The expression is almost always used to describe a son, not a daughter.

Similar to: *spitting image; follow in someone's footsteps*. *Spitting image* refers to a physical likeness; *follow in someone's footsteps* mean to have the same career as one's father; a chip off the old block usually refers to a likeness in character or personality.

Climb the walls

⇒ to be extremely uneasy or restless.

1. Peter had been studying in his small room for more than ten hours. He was beginning to have trouble concentrating on his books. He was starting to climb the walls.

2. That child's behavior is intolerable. If I'm around him for more than a few minutes, he has me climbing the walls.

Similar to: go bananas; at the end of one's rope; go haywire; beside oneself.

CLOSE SHAVE

⇒ a narrow escape.

1. The driver was distracted for just a moment and nearly hit another car, but it was a **close shave**.

2. The men were working in the chemical factory when a spark ignited some of the chemicals. They ran out of the building just as the building exploded. They had had a ***close shave*** with death.

The expression probably originates from the idea that a man who shaves closely is narrowly escaping cutting his skin.

Compare to: hair's breadth; by the skin of one's teeth.

CROWN AROUND

⇒ to act silly.

1. The teacher asked the students to stop being silly. She told them to stop ***clowning around***.
2. Jerry is never serious. He is always playing practical jokes on everyone. He likes to ***clown around***.

The expression suggests that to act like a clown is to act silly.

Similar to: fool around, horse around, monkey around.

COCK-AND BULLY STORY

⇒ a story that can not be believed because it is too unlikely.

1. You want me to believe some ***cock-and-bull story*** that you're late getting home because you got lost and then ran out of gas?
2. The driver tried to explain his way out of getting a speeding ticket by inventing a ***cock-and-bull story***.

The expression probably originates from an English fable in which a cock and a bull had an unbelievable conversation.

Similar to: (give someone) a song and dance; (give someone) a snow job; pull the wool over someone's eyes.

Compare to: fall for something.

COLD TURKEY

⇒ abruptly; not gradually.

1. Harry decided to stop smoking cigarettes all at once. He decided to quit ***cold turkey***.
2. The medical profession believes that if you want to give up using a drug, you can't do it gradually. You have to stop ***cold turkey***.

This slang expression was originally used to describe a way of stopping the intake of addictive drugs. It is still most often in reference to drugs, including cigarettes.

COME HOME TO ROOST

⇒ to return to cause trouble for a person.

1. If you tell a lie, you may get caught up in it and find that it ***comes home to roost***.
2. Dorothy is convinced that she is ill and dying because her unhealthy lifestyle has ***come home to roost***.

The expression probably originates from the idea of a bird leaving and then returning to its roost, the perch on which a bird rests. It is usually used to refer to something like bad luck happening to someone who has demonstrated some bad behavior in the past.

COME OFF IT

⇒ what has been said can not be believed (sentence 1) or that some ridiculous behavior must stop (sentence 2)

1. You expect me to believe that you don't know how that dent in the car fender got there?
Oh, ***come off it!***
2. First you ask for juice and then change your mind and say you want milk. I get it for you and now you beg for water. ***Come off it!***

The expression is always used as an expletive in the command form. It is very informal and normally only be used by parents with their children, or between equals.

COME OUT OF ONE'S SHELL

⇒ to stop being shy and withdrawn.

1. Is that Tom dancing with all the girls? He used to be so shy and look at him now! He certainly has ***come out of his shell***.
2. Patty has been sitting on the couch by herself since she arrived. Why don't you go over and start a conversation with her? See if you can get her to ***come out her shell***.

The expression suggests that a person who lives in a shell is withdrawn, like a snail.

COME OUT SMELLING LIKE A ROSE

⇒ to avoid blame that one deserves; to seem to be innocent.

1. Larry should have gotten into trouble for what he did, but he was lucky and ***came out smelling like a rose***.
2. Everyone in the government is accusing everyone else of wrongdoing and corruption. No one is going to ***come out of this affair smelling like a rose***.

COOK UP

⇒ to invent or plan.

1. They had to ***cook up*** a good excuse to get Paul to come to the restaurant for his surprise retirement party without his suspecting a thing.
2. The prison inmates ***cooked up*** a scheme to break out of jail. The expression connotes dishonesty.

COOL ONE'S HEELS

⇒ to wait.

1. The assistant had a 3 o'clock appointment with the boss kept his assistant ***cooling his heels*** in the outer office till well past 4:30.
2. I'm sorry I'm late getting home. The profession had me ***cooling my heels*** in his office while he was on the telephone.

The expression connotes some degree of annoyance and would usually be used in informal situation.

CORNERED

⇒ to be trapped with no means of escape.

1. The dogs chased the rabbit into the barn. There was no escape for the rabbit. It was ***cornered***.
2. The police followed the thief into the back of the market. The thief tried to open the back door but found it locked. The police called out to the thief, "Come out now. There's no way to escape. We've got you ***cornered***"

Similar to: have one's back to the wall.

CREAM OF THE CROP, THE

⇒ the best.

1. The students in this math class are the best in the school. They are the *cream of the crop*.
2. That computer company never hires mediocre employees. It's such an outstanding company that they hire only the *cream of the crop*.

Synonym: first-rate.

Antonym: third-rate.

CROCODILE TEARS

⇒ false, exaggerated tears.

1. I don't believe Tommy really hurt himself when he fell. I think he's crying just to get attention. He's crying *crocodile tears*.
2. The little girl started to cry but you could tell she was watching everyone to see what kind of reaction she was getting. They were nothing but *crocodile tears*.

CRY OVER SPILLED MILK

⇒ to be unhappy because of a past event that can not be changed.

1. There's no use worrying about a test you didn't pass. You can't make it up, so stop *crying over spilled milk*. Concentrate on doing well on the next test instead.
2. When Martin didn't get the job he wanted so badly, his father gave him good advice. He told him not to *cry over spilled milk* and that another, equally good job would come his way eventually.

Compare to: eat one's heart out. Whereas cry over spilled milk is to grieve over some event that has happened and cannot be changed, eat one's heart out is to grieve over an emotional situation that cannot be changed.

CRY WOLF

⇒ to raise a false alarm or exaggerate so often that one is no longer believed.

1. Every Friday that man comes in to the police station and says he thinks he has been robbed. When we get to his house, there is never anything missing.

I think he's just *crying wolf*. You can't believe him anymore.

2. In order to get his mother's attention. Terry regularly complained to her that his older brother hit him on the head. He did it so frequently that she stopped believing him and told him that one day he would be sorry that he had *cried wolf* so often.

The expression originates from one of Aesop's fables in which a young shepherd boy falsely alerts people that a wolf is attacking the sheep. At first, people respond to the boy's cries, but he cries "wolf" so many times just for fun that eventually they stop. When the wolf really does come and the boy cries "wolf", no one comes to his aid.

CUP OF TEA, (NOT) ONE'S

⇒ to suit someone; to one's liking. Not one's cup of tea means not to suit someone; not to one's liking.

1. I like going to parks and doing things outdoors. I don't care for going to museums and galleries. That just isn't my *cup of tea*.
2. The man Joann met at the party was nice, but he wasn't her *cup of tea*.

The expression is usually used in the negative.

CUT AND DRIED

⇒ routine (sentence 1) or clear and unequivocal (sentence 2)

1. The boss said that there wouldn't be a problem with my getting a pay raise. I was long overdue for one, so the matter was *cut and dried*.

2. The case was *cut and dried*. It was clear to everyone that the man was guilty of the crime, and the best he could hope for was a short prison sentence.

CUT CORNERS

⇒ to economize by reducing the cost; to do things poorly or incompletely.

1. It doesn't pay to *cut corners* by buying cheap tires for your car. You'll only have to buy new ones much sooner, and the cheap ones may cause you to have an accident.
2. Don't *cut any corners* when you write that report. Spend as much time as you need on it and do a good job. It will be important when the boss decides who gets the next promotion.

DARK HORSE

⇒ a competitor who is little known by the majority of people but who is expected to win by someone more knowledgeable. It is often used to mean a surprise candidate in a political election.

1. The voters know very little about Mr. Johnson. He's a *dark horse* and I think he'll win the election.
2. At the racetrack, we placed our money on "Best Ride". A small but fast horse. Most people had never seen him race before, but he was expected to do well. He was a *dark horse* in the race.

The expression originates from horse racing jargon.

DAYS ARE NUMBERED, SOMEONE'S/ SOMETHING'S

⇒ there is only a short time before the existing situation for someone or something ends. It is usually used about someone facing death or dismissal.

1. Judy always comes to work late. The boss is really fed up with her. I think he is going to fire her soon. Her *days are numbered*.
2. It's only a matter of time before you have to get a new car. Your old one can't last much longer. Its *days are numbered*.

The expression suggests that if one can the number of days that a situation will last, it is not indefinite.

DOG EAT DOG

⇒ ruthless, competitive and fast-paced.

1. Ed decided to quit his job in business everyone seemed so dishonest. Everyone was trying to get his job and steal his clients. It was a *dog eat dog* world.
2. John moved away from New York City to a small town in the Midwest because life in the big city was *dog eat dog*.

The expression suggests the idea of animals who are so desperate that they eat their own kind.

DOG-EARED

⇒ well worn

1. The pages these library books are really *dog-eared*. A lot of people must have borrowed it and read it. It must be a popular book.
2. I've put the report in a plastic folder so the pages don't get *dog-eared*.

The expression suggests the idea of a dog's ears, which are pliable and limp, just as the page corners of a book become after extensive fingering and frequent turning.

DOWN AND OUT

⇒ having no money, no job and often no home.

1. Years ago Sam was ***down and out***. He had no job and no money.
2. This is a government-run shelter for the ***down and out*** of the city. The homeless can come here for a hot meal and a place to sleep at night.

The expression suggests the idea of being down at the bottom of society and out of luck or out of the mainstream of life.

DOWN IN THE DUMPS

⇒ unhappy or depressed.

1. I'm not feeling very cheerful these days. I've been ***down in the dumps*** for a while.
2. We've been ***down in the dumps*** ever since our pet cat died. I wonder if getting a new kitten would make us feel better.

Synonyms: blue; down in the mouth.

DOWN TO THE WIRE

⇒ to the deadline.

1. The newspaper article was due no later than 4 o'clock and the editor got it in at exactly 3:59. He went right ***down to the wire***.
2. Some students write their best research papers if they wait until the night before they are due. They leave them until they are ***down to the wire***.

Similar to: eleventh hour; in the nick of time. Compare to: under the wire. Whereas eleventh hour means late, down to the wire, under the wire and in the nick of time convey the sense of being just barely in time.

DRAW A BLANK

⇒ to be unable to remember.

1. Charles drew a blank when he tried to remember the date of his wedding anniversary. He had to ask his wife when it was.
2. Andrea always draws a blank when she runs into people she doesn't know very well. She's never quite sure she has met them before.

DIVIDE THE SPOILS

⇒ to divide the goods captured during war among the winners.

1. Several centuries ago, it was common practice for invading armies to divide the spoils after they had won a battle. Whatever goods they had captured, such as money or livestock, would be divided among themselves to keep.
2. The boys from two rival camps decided to compete for a gallon of ice cream. The winning team would get to divide the spoils. The losing team would get nothing.

The expression is used literally in the context of war, but it can also be used figuratively as in sentence 2.

DO A SLOW BURN

⇒ to be quietly angry.

1. Jack didn't get promoted to a new job and, although he hasn't said anything about it. I know he's doing a slow burn.
2. I do a slow burn every time my husband expects me to look after the children while he plays golf with his friends.

DO OR DIE

⇒ the time has come to act, even if the outcome is unpleasant (sentence 1 and 2) or to try one's hardest despite the likelihood of failure (sentence 3)

1. We decided the time had come to make a decision and act on it. As Harvey said to me, "It's do or die."
2. The soldiers had been trapped in their fort, waiting for the best time to mount an attack on the enemy. Finally, the captain said, "Men the time is now. We do or die"
3. The boys tried their hardest to succeed. They had a real do-or-die attitude

The expression can function as a noun phrase (sentence 1), a verb (sentence 2), or an adjective (sentence 3). When used as a verb, the expression is never conjugated (i.e, never "does or dies") and thus is only used with I, we, and they.

DOG DAYS

⇒ very hot days.

1. Summer in the southern United States is uncomfortably hot and humid. In July and August we suffer through the dog days.
2. I can't stand the dog days of summer. Next years I'm going to buy an air conditioner!

The expression has an astronomical source. It is the in July and August when, in the northern hemisphere, the Dog Star, Sirius, rises in conjunction with the sun. in ancient times it was believed that it was the combined heat of Sirius and the sun which caused the hot, sultry weather.

DRESSED TO KILL

⇒ dressed to make a strong impression, usually in fancy or stylish clothes.

1. I was very embarrassed when I walked into the party thinking it was informal and found that everyone except me was dressed to kill.
2. Marjorie wanted to make a lasting impression on John. She decided to wear her most sophisticated outfit to the restaurant they were going to. When John arrived, she was dressed to kill.

DROP IN THE BUCKET

⇒ to expel someone from a group or organization.

1. If I suggested to the boss that the company pay for the Christmas party, he'd probably fire me. I'd get drummed out of the corps.
2. When Henry recommended that the men's club should admit women as members, they drummed him out of the corps.

The expression probably originates from a military setting where, when someone left the corps, he was escorted out with a drum roll. Its usage includes any group and carries with it a sense of disgrace or rejection.

DUTCH UNCLE, (TALK TO SOMEONE LIKE A)

⇒ person who talks to one like a close relative, advice which is fair, sound, well-meant, sometimes stern.

1. The young man and woman were about to run away to get married. The boy's older brother took them aside and talked to them like a Dutch uncle. He told them that what they were doing was foolish and might ruin their futures.
2. The boy's father and mother could talk no sense into him so they asked a teacher at the boy's school to talk to him like a Dutch uncle.

DYED IN THE WOOL

⇒ having a trait that is basic to one's nature; permanent; stubborn; thoroughly ingrained.

1. Ron and Ted love baseball. They know all the players on every team and all the statistics about each one. They are dyed-in-the-wool baseball fans.
2. No one works harder than Ann for the protection of the environment and wildlife. She is dyed in the wool as far as conservation goes.

EAT ONE'S HAT

⇒ to be so sure about something that one is willing to eat one's hat if proven wrong.

1. I don't believe the boss is going to give us an extra day off work at Christmas time. If he does, I'll eat my hat.
2. Matthew told me he would eat hat if my favorite football team won the championship this year. He felt there was no possibility that they could win.

Compare to: bet one's bottom dollar; one's boots.

EGG ON ONE'S FACE

⇒ embarrassed at the way one has behaved.

1. I can tell by the way you look that you've been caught doing something you shouldn't have been doing. You have egg on your face.
2. Andy sure had egg on his face when he realized he had made a fool of himself at the party.

ELEVENTH HOUR

⇒ late or last minute.

1. You certainly left making your decision to take this flight until the eleventh hour. You're lucky there were still seats available.
2. Don't wait until the eleventh hour to decide to see the doctor. If you do, you may find that it's too late.

Similar to: down to the wire; in the nick of time. Down to the wire and in the nick of time convey a greater sense of being just barely in time than the eleventh hour.

ETERNAL TRIANGLE, THE

⇒ the situation in which two men love the same woman or two women love the same man.

1. Both Robert and Craig love Rebecca. It's the age-old story of the eternal triangle.
 2. The theme of the eternal triangle recurs throughout the literature of many cultures.
- The triangle (three people) is described as eternal because it is such a common situation.

EVERY TOM, DICK AND HAPPY

⇒ everyone

1. I know the car salesman made you think he was only offering a great deal to you, but in fact he has offered the same deal to every Tom, Dick and Harry that has walked into his showroom.
2. My rug is ruined. Every Tom, Dick and Harry must have come through here with muddy shoes.

FAIR AND SQUARE

⇒ honest(ly)

1. Some people believe Andrew cheated, but he won the contest fair and square.

2. The working people didn't like the result of the election but the opposition's candidate won honestly. The election was fair and square.

In this expression, 'square' means right.

Related to: a square deal.

FAIR TO MIDDLING

⇒ average; not good but not bad.

1. Don asked Melissa what she thought of the new restaurant. She told him she had been to better ones but it wasn't bad. It was fair to middling.
2. I'm beginning to get over my cold. I feel better than I did last week, but I still have a stuffy nose. I'm feeling fair to middling.

FAIR-WEATHER FRIEND

⇒ a person who is loyal in good times but not when times are difficult.

1. They thought Charles would help them when they needed it because they had helped him. But as soon as they asked for help, he disappeared. He turned out to be just a fair-weather friend.
2. Sally won the lottery and suddenly everyone wanted to be her friend. They weren't real friends, however; they were fair-weather friends.

The expression suggests the idea that someone is a friend only when the weather is good, i.e. in good times.

FALL BY THE WAYSIDE

⇒ to drop out of the situation.

1. Greg started to ignore his friends. They stopped including him in their activities. His parents begged him not to let his good friends fall by the wayside.
2. Larry's parents told him to look to the future and to concentrate on his long-term goals. They advised him to let the unimportant things fall by the wayside.

FALL FOR SOMETHING

⇒ to believe an unlikely story or to be deceived.

1. You want me to believe that you're late because you ran out of gasoline? You must think I'm a fool if you think I'm going to fall for that.
2. The judge said she didn't believe the thief excuse that he simply forgot to pay for the food. The judge told him, "I'm not going to fall for that old story"

Compare to: a cock-and-bull story; give someone a song and dance; pull the wool over someone's eyes.

FAR CRY FROM

⇒ much less than what was expected or anticipated.

1. The bellboy took them to their hotel room. It was small, dark and dirty. It was a far cry from what they were used to and what they were expecting.
2. Don't get your expectations up too high. What you get may be a far cry from what you want.

FAT CAT

⇒ a rich but usually lazy person.

1. Now that Mr. Anderson is rich, he rides around town in a fancy car like a fat cat letting everyone else do the work.
 2. Richard is fat cat businessman. He owns several supermarkets.
- The expression is primarily used to describe a man (not a woman) who, although rich, is not seen as industrious. He has perhaps become wealthy through hard work but is now relaxing, or he has never had to work for his wealth.

FEEL THE PINCH

⇒ to have less money than one used to have and less than one feels is necessary; to be strapped for money.

1. The government raised taxes so much that even the rich began to feel the pinch.
2. When our third daughter went away to college and we had to pay for the university education of all three of our children at the same time, we really felt the pinch.

FIELD DAY

⇒ a wild and uncontrolled time; a time of especially pleasant or exciting action.

1. The dogs got loose in Rachel's flower beds and had a field day. They virtually destroyed it.
2. The children had a field day spraying each other with the water hose. They were soaked within minutes.

FIGHT TOOTH AND NAIL

⇒ to fight fiercely.

1. The candidate said he would fight tooth and nail to get elected.
2. The woman was attacked by a stranger. She fought tooth and nail until finally free and ran.

The expression suggests that the fighter uses both teeth and nails.

FILL/ FIT THE BILL

⇒ to suit or satisfy the need.

1. I'm looking for a lightweight gray suit. I like the look of this one. I think it fits the bill.
2. We thanked the real estate agent for trying to find us a house, but all the ones she showed us just didn't fill the bill.

Compare to: hit the spot.

FINE KETTLE OF FISH

⇒ a terrible mess. The word "fine" is meant ironically.

1. You borrowed money from the bank without telling me and we don't have enough to pay it back. This is a fine kettle of fish you've gotten us into.
2. Lois told her boss she could work on Saturday. Then she forgot and promised her girlfriend she would help her move on Saturday. Both were expecting her. She had gotten herself into a fine kettle of fish.

FINE-TOOTH COMB

⇒ an imaginary device one uses to look for something very carefully.

1. That professor goes over his students' research papers with a fine-tooth comb looking for mistakes. If there are any, he finds them.
2. The police examined the weapon for fingerprints. They over it with a fine-tooth comb, but they couldn't find any.

The expression suggests the idea that if something can be found (i.e, if it exists), it can be found by using a comb with very fine (i.e, closely spaced) teeth.

FIRST-RATE

⇒ the best quality.

1. George did a first-rate job on these drawings. I've never seen better.
2. Lynn's work is always the best. It's always first-rate.

First-rate is usually used to describe work. Excellent service would be labeled first-class and goods may be called top quality or top of the line.

Antonyms: second-rate, third-rate.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

⇒ something to think about ; thought-provoking.

1. The governor was asked whether he supported a tax increase on gasoline to help pay for public education. He said he hadn't considered raising the necessary money by means of that kind of tax, but he said it certainly was food for thought.
2. Sarah read the book that had been recommended to her and found that it contained a lot of food for thought.

FOOL'S GOLD

⇒ something that appears to have great value but which is in fact a cheap imitation, an illusion or unreal.

1. The scientists thought they had discovered a source of cheap energy through their experiments, but it later proved to be nothing but fool's gold.
2. Don't invest all your money in a fancy scheme that seems too good to be true. All you'll end up with is fool's gold.

The expression originates from miners who often found veins of a gold-colored substance called pyrite which they mistook for gold.

FOR THE BIRDS

⇒ pointless, futile, a waste of time, crazy, mixed up or confused.

1. We've been waiting in this line for movie tickets over four hours. Let's go home. This is for the birds.
2. The boss wants us to work every Saturday for the next three months without pay. He's/ or the birds.

Similar to: all wet, out to lunch.

FORBIDDEN FRUIT

⇒ something which one can not have.

1. When a child can readily have something, he doesn't want it, but when you tell him he can't have it, that's all he wants. There's nothing like the attraction of forbidden fruit.
2. Jody's parents told her not to date Dennis because they think he might be a bad influence on her. But now that they've made him forbidden fruit, he's the only boy who interests her

The expression originates from the Biblical story of Adam and Eve. According to the story, God forbade Adam and Eve to eat the fruit from one of the trees in the Garden of Eden.

FITS AND STARTS

⇒ in short bursts of motion or short periods of time.

1. When you play the violin, you must move the bow across the strings smoothly, not in fits and starts.
2. It took Sally a long time to finish her education. She pursued it in fits and starts.

FIX SOMEONE'S WAGON

⇒ to return some irritation caused by someone through some form of mild revenge.

1. They think they can just come in here and order us around like servants. Well, we will fix their wagon. Next time they come, we will ignore them.
2. That guy always parks his car in front of my driveway so I can't get out. Next time he does that, I'm going to let the air out of his tires. That'll fix his wagon.

Similar to: give someone a taste of his own medicine.

Compare to: tit for tat.

FLASH IN THE PAN

⇒ a temporary or passing fancy; a fad or attraction that will fade quickly.

1. I know he's been acclaimed as the best new playwright in the country, but frankly I think he's just a flash in the pan. No one will know who he is by next year.
2. Short skirts are in fashion again but I hope they're just a flash in the pan. I would hate to have to start wearing them again.

The expression comes from an old type of weapon, the flintlock musket. In these muskets, gunpowder was first ignited in a small depression or pan; this powder was supposed to cause the charge in the musket to explode. But sometimes the powder just burned harmlessly, giving off a flash but nothing more.

FLAT BROKE

⇒ have absolutely no money.

1. I'd gladly loan you the money, but I can't because I'm flat broke.
2. They lost all their money in the stock market crash. Now they're flat broke.

Compare to: to go broke.

Antonym: filthy rich.

FLY IN THE FACE OF SOMETHING

⇒ to go against something; to show disrespect for something or someone.

1. John has decided not to go to college. It's a bad decision on his part. It flies in the face of all common sense.
2. If you marry someone your parents disapprove of so much, it will fly in the face of everything your parents want for you.

FLY IN THE OINTMENT

⇒ a new and unpleasant element that has been added to a situation; an unexpected difficulty in a previously uncomplicated situation.

1. The trip was all planned. Our tickets were paid for. Then the boss said we had an unexpected increase in orders and that we would have to take our vacation another time. What a fly in the ointment!
2. I'm not sure, but I think we have a fly in the ointment. I know I said I would take you to the ball game this weekend, but I remembered this morning that I already offered to give my extra ticket to someone at work.

FLY OFF THE HANDLE

⇒ to become suddenly very angry.

1. Dana had had a rough day at the office and now her children were screaming and jumping around in the back of the car. She couldn't stand it anymore. She flew off the handle and started to yell at them.
2. Nathan has a very short temper. He gets angry and flies off the handle for the slightest reason.

Synonyms: blow one's stack, see red.

FLY THE COOP

⇒ to escape.

1. The prisoner waited until the guards were fast asleep. With a hairpin he unlocked his cell door and flew the coop.
2. The man felt trapped in a bad marriage. All he wanted to do was fly the coop.

The expression is usually used in connection with being in jail (sentence 1) but can also be used figuratively (sentence 2).

FLY-BY-NIGHT

⇒ undependable; untrustworthy.

1. The small trading company opened for business at the beginning of the week. They took in a lot of money from trusting investors and then closed up. It had been a fly-by-night operation.
2. Although Darlene had been working for the company for a few months and they had paid her, she still didn't trust them. She felt she was working for a fly-by-night company.

The expression suggests the idea that the company or operation closes up and flees under the cover of darkness rather than in the clear light of day.

FROM THE WORD GO

⇒ from the outset, from the beginning.

1. I was lost the moment the math teacher opened his mouth. I didn't understand a thing. I was lost from the word go.
2. The candidate was convinced she could win the nomination from the first day of the campaign. She was never half-hearted about winning she was serious from the word go.

The expression suggests a race in which the very beginning is marked by the word go.

Synonym: from day one.

FULL STEAM AHEAD

⇒ to proceed with maximum and speed.

1. We finally got the money from the bank to build our house and now we are ready to go full steam ahead.
2. Patrick wasn't fully aware of how bad the situation was but he charged in full steam ahead away.

The expression suggests the idea that when a steam engine is full of steam, it operates at maximum power. The expression a force to be reckoned with is frequently used to describe something or someone whose power is not apparent or immediately evident and who may instill fear in others.

Scolding children or complaining.