

Bored to death

Meaning/Usage: Very bored

Explanation: Death is the worst thing, so using it to compare how you feel is telling someone that you are very bored.

"I have nothing to do. I'm *bored to death*."

"I hate it when I'm *bored to death*."

"Would you rather be super busy or *bored to death*?"

A: "Hey Seth, what are you doing?"

B: "I'm reading a book. What are you doing?"

A: "I'm *bored to death*. Let's do something."

B: "Sure. Come over and we can play some games."

Other Common Sentences

"I'm so bored, I could die."

"I'm dying of boredom."

You've got to be kidding

Meaning/Usage: This is used when a true statement is ridiculous.

Explanation: "Kidding" is the same as joking. When a person hears something that is true, but it is not expected, the person will use this idiom to express that the statement is ridiculous.

A: "Hey Jared. Mom told me to tell you that you shouldn't stay out too late."

B: "*You've got to be kidding me*. I'm 30 years old."

A: "Patrick won the school election by two votes."

B: "He's not that popular how did this happen?"

A: "Nobody voted because they expected Jason to win."

B: "*You've got to be kidding me*."

Other Common Sentences

"I really hope you're wrong."
"Please tell me it ain't so."

Sick and Tired

Meaning/Usage: Used when you no longer enjoy something because you have done it too many times.

Explanation: It is common to say, "I'm sick of it" or "I'm tired of it." Both of these are negative terms. If you have to do something again, it will either make you feel sick or tired because you do not enjoy it.

"I'm *sick and tired* of eating the same thing for lunch everyday."
"I'm getting *sick and tired* of this song. They play it way too often at this club."
"I'm *sick and tired* of listening to him nag all the time."

A: "Where are you going for lunch today?"
B: "I don't know... how about a burger?"
A: "No. I eat that almost everyday. I'm getting *sick and tired* of them."
B: "Let's go eat teriyaki then."

Other Common Sentences

"I'm getting sick of this phone. I think I'll buy a new one."
"I'm tired of the same routine. I need to find something new and different."

Call it a day

Meaning/Usage: Used to express that the work day is over.

Explanation: "Call it" is often times used to make a decision. When you add "day" to this, then a person is making a decision to say that the day is over. This is mostly used to end a working day.

"Let's *call it a day*. I'm too tired to continue working."
"We can't continue working without Mike, so let's *call it a day*."
"It's already nine o'clock. Let's *call it a day*."

A: "How much more work do we have for tonight?"

B: "I think we finished everything for the day."

A: "Good. Let's *call it a day* then."

Other Common Sentences

"Let's turn in for the night."

"I think we should pick it up from the morning."

pick it up = continue

Get on one's nerves

Meaning/Usage: Used when someone or something is bothering you.

Explanation: Your body uses your "nerves" to feel any sensation such as a tap on the shoulder, a poke, a hot fire that is too close, or anything else. In this phrase, "nerves" is not used in a physical way, but to express that they are **feeling** bothered by what is happening.

"You're beginning to *get on my nerves*."

"Will you please stop doing that? It's *getting on my nerves*."

"His whining is *getting on my nerves*."

A: "He doesn't like his birthday present."

B: "He's starting to *get on my nerves*. It's one thing to not like it, but it's another to complain about it. We tried our best to get him a good present."

A: "Yeah. It's bothering me too."

Other Common Sentences

"You're beginning to annoy me."

"His complaints are starting to bother me."

Couch potato

Meaning/Usage: Used when someone watches too much television.

Explanation: This was created for someone watching too much television because in some western countries, a person usually sits on the "couch" and eats "potato" chips while watching television.

"My husband is a *couch potato*. He sits in front of the TV all day long."

"You have a huge belly because you're a *couch potato*."

"I should be more active and less of a *couch potato*."

A: "James. We're going to play basketball. Do you want to play?"

B: "No, I'm going to watch TV today."

A: "You did that all day yesterday. You better stop being a *couch potato* or you're going to get a big fat belly."

Other Common Sentences

"Good luck trying to get his attention. He's glued to the television."

Read one's mind

Meaning/Usage: When someone says something that you were also thinking about.

Explanation: This is a stronger way of saying, "I was thinking of that too."

"You *read my mind*."

"I was going to suggest that. You must have *read my mind*."

A: "Do you want to go play pool?"

B: "You *read my mind*. That's exactly what I was thinking too."

Feel blue

Meaning/Usage: Feel sad

Explanation: Long time ago, blue was related to the rain. Whenever the fictional god Zeus was

sad, he would make it rain (crying).

"What a gloomy day. It makes me *feel blue*."

"Whenever I *feel blue*, I like to listen to upbeat music."

"Matt's feeling a little *blue right* now. Let's go cheer him up."

A: "Where is Matt these days? I haven't seen him in a while."

B: "He *feels a little blue* because he can't find a girlfriend."

A: "Let's go cheer him up."

Other Common Sentences

"I feel a little depressed right now."

"I don't know why, but I just feel sad."

"Even though it's a nice day, I feel gloomy inside."

Fender bender

Meaning/Usage: A small car accident

Explanation: "Fender" is the car body part that is right above the tire. "Bender" is derived from bend. Since the fender is a small part compared to the hood and door, and bend is not as bad as break or crack, combining these two indicates that the accident is very small. Like a small dent or scratch.

"I got into a small accident. It was just a *fender bender*."

"I got into a *fender bender* in the parking lot."

"I can't believe the damage is going to cost me 800 bucks. It was just a *fender bender*."

A: "I got into a car accident."

B: "That sucks. You didn't get hurt did you?"

A: "No. It was just a *fender bender*."

Other Common Sentences

"It was a small accident."

"I rear ended him, but luckily there was no damage."

Get foot in the door

Meaning/Usage: Taking or passing the first step of a longer process; Generally used when referring to an entry level position that will eventually lead to better opportunities.

Explanation: There is no use trying to get to the 10th floor if you can't even get through the door. So getting through the door is extremely important. This statement expresses optimism.

"It's not a great position, but at least my *foot is in the door*."

"I need to find a way to *get my foot in the door*."

"I'm doing an internship for SK Telecom. It's an opportunity to *get my foot in the door*."

A: "Did you find a job yet?"

B: "No. I'm still looking."

A: "With the sagging economy, it's hard to find a job."

B: "Yeah. I'm even considering a lower position. At least I'll have *my foot in the door*."

Other Common Sentences

"I'm working in the mail room. But I'm hoping I can change positions now that I'm in the company."

"I hate my position, but it's the only way I could start in this company."

Chicken

Meaning/Usage: Being afraid or scared

Explanation: Chickens are very timid, afraid or scared of many things. It is common to use animals to express traits such as "sly as a fox" or "strong as a bear."

"There's nothing to be scared of. Don't be a *chicken*."

"Everyone thinks I'm a *chicken* because I didn't go bungee jumping with them."

"Stop being a *chicken* and just go."

A: "Did you ask Martha on a date?"

B: "No. I was about to, but I got a little nervous."

A: "You're such a *chicken*."

Other Common Sentences

"I didn't know you were afraid of insects. You're a scaredy cat."

"He's a coward. He wouldn't even go on the rollercoaster ride."

"Jack is scared of everything. He's such a sissy."

Give somebody a hard time

Meaning/Usage: Make someone feel bad for making a mistake.

Explanation: This can be done by complaining to the person a lot, ignoring the person, giving them a punishment, or anything that will make the person go through a hard or difficult time.

"Suzie *gave him a hard time* for not showing up to her recital."

"Stop *giving me a hard time*. There was nothing I could do about it."

"If you don't finish your project, the manager is going to *give you a hard time*."

A: "My mom *gave me a hard time* for one bad grade on my report card."

B: "That's a tough situation. My parents never *gave me a hard time* for bad grades."

Other Common Sentences

"Albert is making it difficult for me."

"He's getting on my case about my comment."

Make up one's mind

Meaning/Usage: Make a decision

Explanation: This is usually used when someone can't make a decision. Not only does it mean to make a decision, it also implies to do it quickly.

"We don't got all day, *make up your mind*."

"*Make up your mind*, we don't have much time."

"I can't *make up my mind*. Can you help me decide?"
"If you don't *make up your mind*, I'll choose for you."
"Both of them look really good. I can't *make up my mind*."

A: "I don't know which one to get."
B: "They're both pretty good, so just pick one."
A: "I always regret it when I pick the wrong one."
B: "You're picking between white chocolate or regular chocolate. There is no wrong answer so hurry up and *make up your mind*."

Other Common Sentences

"I can't decide which one to take."
"I don't know if I should get the Volvo or the Ford."
"I like both of them too much to decide."

Go Dutch

Meaning/Usage: Each person paying for themselves. For example, going Dutch on a date is indicating both guy and girl will pay for themselves instead of one buying for the other.

Explanation: Why "Dutch" is used in this way is not completely confirmed. One reason is because of Dutch doors that contained two equal parts. Another reason was due to the rivalry between the English and Dutch in the 17th century.

"You don't have to pay for me. Let's *go Dutch* today."
"I can't believe John didn't pay for me. We ended up *going Dutch* on the whole date."
"I actually prefer *going Dutch* because I don't want to feel indebt to anyone."

A: "How was your date with Sarah?"
B: "I'm not sure. It was just ok."
A: "Why do you say that?"
B: "She didn't let me pay for her share. She insisted that we *go Dutch* for everything."

Other Common Sentences

"I'll pay half of it."
"Let's pay together."

"I didn't pay for her. We paid our own share."

Throw in the towel

Meaning/Usage: Give up; quit; surrender

Explanation: When a boxer was getting beaten so badly, the coach or manager would throw a towel in to stop the fight. This phrase can be used outside of boxing to simply express quitting.

"I was ready to *throw in the towel*, but I stayed with it."

"He's not a quitter, so he's not going to *throw in the towel*."

"I saw a fight last almost two hours before one guy *threw in the towel*."

A: "The boxing match is great."

B: "One guy is really getting beat up."

A: "Do you think he's going to give up?"

B: "He's not going to *throw in the towel*, they rarely do that these days."

Other Common Sentences

"There's no chance for me to win. I'm calling it quits."

"I don't think I can win, so I'm going to give up."

"I'd rather surrender than get the hell beaten out of me."
