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Phrase	Meaning	Origin
1. All for one and one for all.	All members of a group support each individual of the group.	The motto of the characters of the book <i>The Three Musketeers</i> .
2. All's well that ends well.	Problems that occur along the way do not matter as long as the outcome is happy.	Shakespearean play of the same name
3. Bee in your bonnet.	To be slightly daft or crazy.	Original saying dates back to at least the 16 th century, "to have a head full of bees". The saying now in use has been attributed to the poet Robert Herrick in his poem "Mad Maid's song" written in 1648.
4. The best-laid plans of mice and men oft go awry.	No matter how well you plan, things can still go wrong.	The saying is adapted from a line in "To a Mouse," by Robert Burns.
5. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.	It is better to have something small and reliable than something big and risky	The Bible – Old Testament – Ecclesiastes ix
6. Bite the dust.	To die or fall prostrate to the ground.	The Bible – Old Testament- Psalms lxxii,6 "His enemies shall lick the dust" Later used in B-feature cowboy movies.
7. Catch-as-catch-can.	To get in any manner you can – by hook or by crook.	A 600 yr old expression – originally "catch that catch may"
8. Don't cut off your nose to spite your face.	Injure oneself to take revenge upon another.	A 17 th cent. French saying. Henri IV knew to destroy Paris would be to cut off his own nose in taking spite on his own face.
9. Don't lock the stable door after the horse is stolen.	Don't take precautions AFTER something bad happens as it cannot affect the outcome.	
10. Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.	Don't be ungrateful when given something	This expression is so old the exact origin cannot be found. It can be found in the French, Italian, Spanish, and other languages of Europe. It describes the bad manners shown by one who receives a gift if he examines it for defects. A horse's age can be determined by looking in its mouth and seeing how worn the teeth are.
11. Eat humble pie.	To humble oneself or apologize.	This was originally a play upon words. A substitution of "humble" for "umble". Umble pie was, in some parts of England, a pastry made of the edible inward parts of an animal, usually a deer. Some considered it a delicacy, while other thought it fit only for menials.
12. A fool and his money are soon parted.	A person, who is foolish with his money, won't have it for long.	

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Phrase	Meaning	Origin
13. A friend in need is a friend indeed.	Two meanings can be found, although the first one is most commonly used. 1. Someone who helps you when you are in need is a true friend. 2. Someone who needs your help becomes especially friendly to obtain it.	From Ennius: "Amica certus in re incerta cernitur" – from the Latin, "A sure friend is known when in difficulty."
14. Give the devil his due.	Even if you don't like someone, you can still give them credit for their good points.	
15. Good fences make good neighbors	By clearly marking the boundaries between you and other people, you can stay on better terms with them.	A poem by Robert Frost
16. He who hesitates is lost	If you wait too long, you will lose out.	
17. He who laughs last laughs best	People often ridicule others for their new projects or ideas. But in the end, when something works, the person who took it seriously gets the best laugh – the one that proves him right.	
18. Hitch your wagon to a star	You should aim as high as you can.	
19. If wishes were horses, beggars would ride	If wishes were easy to achieve, then everybody would have everything they want.	An old proverb from a time when horses were the main transportation and many people were too poor to own them.
20. The leopard doesn't change his spots.	Things cannot change their innate nature.	The Bible, Jeremiah 13:23. Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? Then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.
21. Little strokes fell great oaks.	A task may seem overwhelming, but if you break it into smaller. Manageable tasks, and persevere, you can achieve it.	
22. Money is the root of all evil.	The love of money is the foundation for all evil and bad thoughts.	The Bible – Timothy 6:10 "For the love of money is the root of all evil, which while some coveted after they have erred from faith, and pierced themselves through many sorrows.
23. Necessity is the mother of invention.	When new problems arise, people will come up with new solutions.	
24. It is never over till it's over	You never know the final outcome of anything until the very end.	

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Phrase	Meaning	Origin
25. Nose out of joint.	Someone's nose is not in its normal position if they are annoyed.	
26. Nothing will come of nothing.	Without effort, you cannot accomplish anything.	
27. Once bitten, twice shy.	People will protect themselves from being hurt, especially if they have been hurt before.	
28. On tenterhooks	In anxious suspense	A tenter is a devise used in the final processes of the manufacture of woolen cloth. It is to stretch the cloth and prevent wrinkles. It had a similar appearance to the torture device "the rack".
29. Pot calling the kettle black	Someone who criticizes another, but who is just as much at fault themselves.	Cervantes' <i>Don Quixote</i> .
30. Procrastination is the thief of time.	If you put off doing something, then you may not have enough time left to do it once you finally get started.	
31. The proof of the pudding is in the eating.	You can't judge something until you have tried it.	
32. RIP	Rest in Peace.	An abbreviation for the Latin <i>requiescat in pace</i> . Often seen engraved on tombstones.
33. The road to hell is paved with good intentions.	Sometimes even with good intentions, the outcome is negative.	
34. Rome wasn't built in a day.	Something worthwhile takes time.	
35. Rule of thumb	According to a rough and ready rule.	Numerous ways the thumb has been used for measurements throughout history – temperature of brews of beer, an estimated inch from the joint to the nail.
36. A stitch in time saves nine.	By taking a little care early on, you may save yourself a lot of trouble later on.	
37. Strike while the iron is hot.	Act quickly when the right opportunity arises.	
38. A tempest in a teapot	To make a big fuss over something small	The old Romans had a similar saying which, when translated, literally means "to stir up a tempest in a small ladle". Other variations are "a storm in a cream bowl" and "a storm in a wash-basin."

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Phrase	Meaning	Origin
39. Tenderfoot	A beginner; someone who doesn't have much experience at something.	
40. There's more than one way to skin a cat	There is more than one way to achieve your goal.	
41. Touché!	Someone has made a good point against you in an argument.	French for "touch". This is used in fencing when one fencer's sword touches another fencer's body and thus scores a point.
42. Truth is stranger than fiction.	What is real is more fantastic than what can be imagined.	