## CONTENTS


**Animals**

1) Have bats in the belfry 19
2) Bear up 20
3) Beeline 20
4) A little bird told me. 21
5) Like a bull in a china shop 23
6) Bunny Boiler 24
7) Bell the cat 24
8) Skin a cat 25
9) Has the cat got your tongue? 26
10) Cock and bull story 27
11) Crocodile tears 28
12) As the crow flies 30
13) Top dog, under dog 30
14) Go to the dogs 31
15) Dog days 32
16) In the doghouse 33
17) Shaggy dog story 34
18) Lame duck 35
19) Play ducks and drakes 36
20) Get one's goat 37
21) Hare-brained 37
22) Have kittens 38
23) A lion's share 39
24) Freeze the balls off the brass monkey 40
25) Foul your own nest 42
26) Buy a pig in a poke 42
27) Pigs might fly. 44
28) A snake-oil merchant 44
29) A stool pigeon 45
30) A swan song 46
31) A toady 47
32) Talk turkey 47
33) Cry wolf 49
34) A wolf in sheep's clothing 50
35) Keep the wolf from the door 51

**Body parts**

36) Rack one's brains 53
37) Wet behind the ears 54
38) Turn a blind eye 55
39) Jaundiced eye 56
40) A sight for sore eyes 56
41) Face the music 57
42) A poker face 58
43) Right-hand man 58
44) Be born with a silver spoon in the mouth 59
45) Cut off one's nose to spite one's face 61
46) On the nose 62
47) Give someone the cold shoulder 62
48) Bit between your teeth 63
49) Thumb a ride 64
50) A rule of thumb 65
51) Toe the line 66

**Colours**

52) A black box 68
53) Black dog mood 69
54) The black sheep of the family 69
55) A bolt from the blue 70
56) Blue blood 71
57) Once in a blue moon 72
58) Take the blue ribbon 73
59) Dark horse 74
60) A green room 76
61) Green with envy 76
62) Be born to the purple 78
63) A red letter day 79
64) Whiter than white 80

**Food and Drink**

65) The apple of someone's eye 82
66) Give an apple to the teacher 83
67) Bring home the bacon 83
68) A baker's dozen 85
69) Barbecue 86
70) Spill the beans 86
71) A bean feast 88
72) On the breadline 88
73) Butter someone up 89
74) Nest egg 90
75) Don't try to teach your Grandma to suck eggs. 91
76) As sure as eggs is eggs. 91
77) Break the ice 92
78) There's no such thing as a free lunch. 93
79) Pour oil on troubled waters 93
80) Know your onions 94
81) The world is your oyster. 95
82) Worth its salt 96
83) Open sesame 97
84) In the soup 97
85) A storm in a tea cup 99
86) Teetotal 100
87) Blood is thicker than water. 100
88) In hot water/ get into hot water 102

**General**

89) Have an axe to grind 104
90) Blood money 105
91) Wouldn't touch it with a barge pole 106
92) Barge in/ into 107
93) Get up on the wrong side of bed 108
94) Rings a bell 108
95) Saved by the bell 109
96) Bootleggers 110
97) Kick the bucket 111
98) Beat about the bush 112
99) Put my two cents in 113
100) Chalk it up 114
101) Cheers! 115
102) The benefit of clergy 116
103) Dead ringer 117
104) Cheat the devil 118
105) Make (both) ends meet 119
106) Jaywalk 120
107) Cut of someone's jib 121
108) Turn over a new leaf 121
109) The last straw 122
110) Spick and span 123
111) Hat trick 124
112) Sixes and sevens 125
113) Neither rhyme nor reason 126
114) (Just) In the nick of time 128
115) Many happy returns. 128
116) Skeleton in the cupboard 129
117) Call a spade a spade 130
118) Lead someone up the garden path 130
119) Hijack 131
120) Bark up the wrong tree 133
121) On cloud nine 134
122) Lightning never strikes twice (in the same place). 135
123) A leap/ shot in the dark 135
124) Time immemorial 136
125) Play hookey 137
126) Mum's the word. 138
127) Below the belt 138
128) Throw in the towel 139
129) Could sleep on a clothes line 141
130) Laugh like a drain 143

**Love and Romance**

131) Best man 145
132) Better half 146
133) Bridegroom 147
134) Honeymoon 147
135) Absence makes the heart grow fonder. 149
136) Kiss of death 149
137) Kiss the wound and make it well 150
138) Wear your heart on your sleeve 151
139) A rose by any other name would smell as sweet. 152
140) Sapphic love 154
141) Platonic love 154
142) Puppy love 155
143) Marriage knot 156

**Nautical**

144) You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours. 158
145) Knock seven bells 159
146) Cut and run 160
147) Three sheets to the wind 161
148) The smoking lamp is out. 162
149) Under the weather 162
150) Tell it to the marines 164
151) Pass with flying colors 165
152) Show your true colors 166
153) Walk chalks 166
154) Hit the hay 168
155) Know the ropes 169
156) When my ship comes in 170

**People and Names**

157) The alpha and omega 172
158) The Augean stables 173
159) Adam's apple 173
160) Bikini 174
161) Bob's your uncle 175
162) Boxing Day 176
163) Caesarean section 177
164) Go to the dickens 178
165) Disco 178
166) Cut the Gordian knot 179
167) Guillotine 180
168) Hobson's choice 182
169) Jack of all trades 183
170) Happy as Larry 184
171) Dr. Livingstone, I presume? 184
172) The real McCoy 185
173) Carry coals to Newcastle 188
174) Nosy parker 189
175) Posh 189
176) Live the life of Riley 191
177) All round Robin Hood's barn 192
178) When in Rome, do as the Romans do. 193
179) Peeping Tom 194

**Swords and Guns**

180) The die is cast. 195
181) To the last ditch 196
182) Armed to the teeth 197
183) Beware of Greeks bearing gifts 198
184) Bite the bullet 199
185) A feather in your cap 200
186) Fifth column(ist) 202
187) Stab in the back 203
188) Use your loaf 204
189) The whole nine yards 205

**Work**

190) Left holding the bag 207
191) Double in brass 208
192) Get down to brass tacks 208
193) Close, but no cigar. 209
194) Irons in the fire 210
195) Masterpiece 212
196) Put your shoulder to the wheel. 212
197) Get the sack 213
198) Leave no stone unturned 215
199) Swing the lead 216
200) Dot your "i"s and cross your "t"s 217
201) Deadline 218
202) Hold the candle 220
203) Know where all the bodies are buried 221
204) A legend in their own lifetime 222
205) Put a spoke in someone's wheel. 223
206) Steal my thunder 224
207) Stick to your last 225


★ ★ ★