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lesson

weak-kneed [wi:kni:d]
sharp-eyed [ʃɑ:p'aɪd]
proofreader
tight-lipped [taɪt'lɪpt]
two-faced [tu:'feɪst]

Would you use the expression weak-kneed to describe governments that agree to negotiate with terrorists? Why?

Yes, I would use the expression weak-kneed to describe governments that agree to negotiate with terrorists because we shouldn't negotiate with terrorists.

Why are people sometimes weak-kneed when it comes to defending their point of view?

People are sometimes weak-kneed when it comes to defending their point of view because they think it's impolite not to agree with others.

In what situations might it be better to stay weak-kneed?

It might be better to stay weak-kneed when someone threatens to hurt us.

Are you generally sharp-eyed when it comes to spotting your own mistakes in English?

Yes, I'm generally sharp-eyed when it comes to spotting my own mistakes in English.

Who are generally more sharp-eyed: men or women?

I think women are generally more sharp-eyed than men.

What professions require a person to be sharp-eyed?

The profession of a proofreader requires a person to be sharp-eyed.

Do you need to be sharp-eyed to play the stock market?

Yes, you need to be sharp-eyed to play the stock market.

Why are some celebrities so tight-lipped about their private lives?

Some celebrities are so tight-lipped about their private lives because they don't want to share everything with others.

In what situations could being tight-lipped be regarded as a positive feature of character?

If someone asked us to keep a secret then being tight-lipped could be regarded as a positive feature of character.

If you witnessed a shooting between two gangs of youths, would you inform the police about all that you had seen, or would you stay tight-lipped and keep all the information to yourself?

If I witnessed a shooting between two gangs of youths, I would inform the police about all that I had seen.

Why are politicians often tight-lipped about their own mistakes and wrong decisions?

Politicians are often tight-lipped about their own mistakes and wrong decisions because they think they would lose dignity if they admitted to their own mistakes.

Why are some people tight-lipped about their own failures and misfortunes?

Some people are tight-lipped about their own failures and misfortunes because they don't think they should share them with others.

Has anyone ever been two-faced to you?

Yes, one of my friends has been two-faced to me.

If you found out that your best friend's attitude towards you was two-faced, how would you feel?

If I found out that my best friend's attitude towards me was two-faced, I would feel disappointed.

Would you say that countries which sell weapons to both sides of a military conflict were two-faced?

Yes, I'd say that countries which sell weapons to both sides of a military conflict were two-faced.

Would you say that your country's government's attitude towards democracy and human rights has been two-faced?

Yes, I'd say that my country's government's attitude towards democracy and human rights has been two-faced.



**read your book and
listen to the CD
at home**

starry-eyed [stɑ:ri'aɪd]
thick-skinned [θɪk'skɪnd]
dog-eared ['dɒɡɪəd]
single-handed [sɪŋɡl 'hændɪd]

Is it common for people who fall in love to become starry-eyed about their partners?

Yes, it's common for people who fall in love to become starry-eyed about their partners.

How do people behave when they are starry-eyed about each other?

People behave as if the world didn't exist when they are starry-eyed about each other.

Why do teenagers so easily become starry-eyed about celebrities?

Teenagers so easily become starry-eyed about celebrities because young people can be easily manipulated.

What might the consequences be of being too starry-eyed about one's own abilities?

The consequences of being too starry-eyed about one's own abilities might be failure and shame.

Is it common for big-headed people to be quite starry-eyed about their own abilities and values?

Yes, it's common for big-headed people to be quite starry-eyed about their own abilities and values.

Is it necessary for a politician to be thick-skinned to survive in the European Parliament? Why?

Yes, it's necessary for a politician to be thick-skinned to survive in the European Parliament because being a member of the European Parliament means that you are exposed to a lot of criticism.

Can the fact that someone is thick-skinned prove to be a bad thing?

Yes, the fact that someone is thick-skinned can prove to be a bad thing. It can mean that someone has lost all their sensitivity.

Are you a rather thick-skinned person or do you tend to be over-sensitive to criticism?

I'm a rather thick-skinned person.

Would you say that thick-skinned people were better prepared to deal with the difficulties of daily life?

Yes, I'd say that thick-skinned people were better prepared to deal with the difficulties of daily life.



If you had lent a book to your friend and they returned it dog-eared and stained, how would you react?

If I had lent a book to my friend and they returned it dog-eared and stained, I would be very upset and would demand an explanation.

If your English book were dog-eared, what might it be a sign of?

If my English book were dog-eared, it might be a sign of using it very often.

Have you got many dog-eared books at home?

No, I don't have many dog-eared books at home.

Why might it be a bad idea to buy books such as dictionaries or encyclopedias in paperback?

It might be a bad idea to buy books such as dictionaries or encyclopedias in paperback because when we use them we turn the pages often in search of various entries which in turn causes a paperback copy of a dictionary to become dog-eared.

What would you think of a person who decided to go on a single-handed voyage around the world?

I'd think a person who decided to go on a single-handed voyage around the world was very brave.

Would it be wise to go on a single-handed trip to the mountains? Why?

No, it wouldn't be wise to go on a single-handed trip to the mountains because if we needed help there would be no one we could depend on.

Is writing books, such as dictionaries or encyclopedias, usually a single-handed effort?

No, writing books, such as dictionaries or encyclopedias, isn't usually a single-handed effort.

