



# WAR & PEACE

## idioms you must know

Hi friends. We are  
**HOPPER & CROCKY.**  
It's time to end 'battle of nerves' and  
'bury the hatchet'

### At gunpoint

**Meaning:** If you have to do something at gunpoint, you are forced into doing it.  
**Example:** Don't try to hold me at gunpoint—I'll make a decision when I'm good and ready!

revenge or sort it out.  
**Example:** They have been constantly arguing with each other. They seem to have an axe to grind.

### Battle of nerves

**Meaning:** A battle of nerves is a situation where neither side in a conflict or dispute is willing to back down and is waiting for the other side to weaken.  
**Example:** The union has been locked in a battle of nerves with the management over pay.



Photo: Getty Images

## WAR

### Act of war

**Meaning:** An act of war is an action that is either intended to start a war or that is interpreted as being sufficient cause for a war.  
**Example:** If we invade that country, it will be an act of war.

### Arrow in the quiver

**Meaning:** An arrow in the quiver is a strategy or option that could be used to achieve your objective.  
**Example:** If you are having a job interview, improving your communication skills can be another arrow in your quiver.

### At daggers drawn

**Meaning:** If people are at daggers drawn, they are very angry and close to violence.  
**Example:** The two sides have been at daggers drawn for some months now with no sign of improvement in relations.

## PEACE

### To bury the hatchet

**Meaning:** Make peace; end a quarrel, settle one's differences to become friends again.  
**Example:** They need to calm down and bury the hatchet before someone gets hurt.

**Example:** I'm sure she tells Kiran everything we say—they're as thick as thieves, those two.

### To hit it off

**Meaning:** To find yourself immediately and naturally friendly with someone  
**Example:** These children hit it off well in the kindergarten.

### In seventh heaven

**Meaning:** Bliss; to be so happy it feels like you are in heaven.  
**Example:** I was in seventh heaven when I landed my dream job.

Photo: Getty Images

### To build bridges

**Meaning:** To promote friendly relations between people or groups.  
**Example:** The police are trying to build bridges with the local community.

### Close-knit

**Meaning:** United or bound together by strong relationships and common interests.



**Example:** We have such a wonderfully close-knit group of friends who all did their bit to make this an event to remember.

### Happy-go-lucky

**Meaning:** To be cheerful and carefree all the time.  
**Example:** I always think of you as such a happy-go-lucky sort of person.

### Be in a transport of delight/joy

**Meaning:** to feel extremely happy or pleased

### To be as thick as thieves

**Meaning:** To be very close or friendly.

**Example:** I've been in a transport of delight ever since I cracked the IAS exam.

# Body language dilemmas

Here are some ways to enhance your communication skills

### NOT MAKING EYE CONTACT

Eyes speak a language that is inescapable from others' eyes and a big part of eye contact is building trust. A person with whom you are talking to will be more likely to trust and respect you as eye contact indicates an openness in communication.

### MAKING TOO MUCH EYE CONTACT

Not looking someone in the eyes can make you seem dishonest, but looking them in the eyes for too long is usually a sign of aggression. To make people feel comfortable and trusting, hold their gaze for just a second or two at a time, but do it often.

### REMEMBER TO NOD

Offering the speaker a few simple nods shows you understand what they're saying. A nod is a helpful, supportive cue, and doesn't necessarily communicate that you agree with the speaker—only that you're able to process the meaning of their message.

### DON'T GO OVERBOARD

Nodding too many times can make you seem weak. It can also come across as a sign of indifference.

### MAKING YOURSELF TOO SMALL

Author Amy Cuddy's fascinating work proves that people who practise expansive body language feel more confident or secure as a result. The reverse is also true: Body language that makes you seem small will make you feel small.

### OVERLY BIG GESTURES

Your body language should be expansive to project confidence. But don't make the mistake of making great big gestures (unless you're on stage speaking to an audience). In a non-performance context, it can be seen as arrogant.

### LEARN TO SMILE

A warm, genuine smile is the most beautiful curve on the human body. Your friendly expression says, "I'm approachable and interested," and it can immediately put others at ease. When you smile during small talk you let people know you appreciate talking to them and you increase your longevity.

### TOO MUCH SMILING

When you smile too much, you appear as if you're trying too hard to be agreeable and likable. Instead, smile when you first meet up with another person, smile at several appropriate points along the conversation, and be sure to smile as you say goodbye. Avoid a fixed, blank, never-changing smile that appears forced.

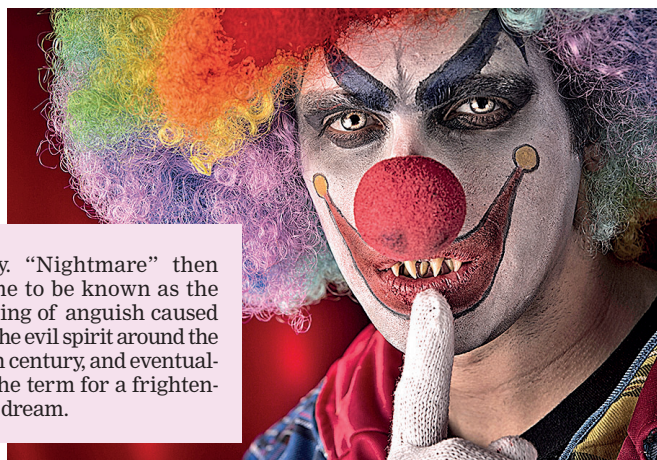


# Hidden meanings behind words

Like many languages, English borrows words and phrases from others. The etymology behind things we say and write every day can have some unexpected roots...

## PHONY

The word "phony," meaning not genuine or real, comes from the British word "fawney," a brass ring that con artists would pretend to find and make an unsuspecting chump pay to keep.



## NIGHTMARE

The "mare" in "nightmare" refers to an evil spirit that was believed to cause feelings of suffocation in one's sleep around the 14th century.

"Nightmare" then came to be known as the feeling of anguish caused by the evil spirit around the 16th century, and eventually the term for a frightening dream.

## DISASTER

"Disaster" comes from the Middle French and the Old Italian word "disastro," meaning "star," a relic from when stars and astrology were believed to determine one's fate and cause calamities.

## SARCASM

There's a reason why sarcastic remarks are often described as "cutting" or "biting." The word comes from the Greek verb "sarkazein," meaning "to tear flesh like a dog."

## PAMPHLET

It comes from the name of a Latin love poem, "Pamphilus seu De Amore" ("On Love") from the 12th century. It was passed around due to its popularity, the same way pamphlets are distributed today.

## SALARY

"Salary" comes from the Latin word "salarium" containing the root "sal," meaning "salt." Ancient Roman soldiers used to be paid in salt, then a valuable substance, instead of money.

## EAVESDROP

"Eavesdrop" refers to someone who stands under the drips from eaves, the part of a building's roof that sticks out and hangs over the side, to listen to conversations. The word dates back to 1606.

## ALARM

"Alarm" comes from the Italian battle cry "all'arme!" meaning "to arms" or "to your weapons." The word then transitioned to describing the warning itself and any object used to sound it. It became a verb by the 17th century.

# 10 most commonly mispronounced words

## \*AÇAÍ

**Wrong:** "Uh-kai" or "Ah-kai"  
**Right:** "Ahh-sai-ee"

## LIBRARY

**Wrong:** "Lie-bear-ee"  
**Right:** "Lie-brair-ee"

## FLAUTIST

**Wrong:** "Floo-tist"  
**Right:** "Flo-h-tist"

## ITINERARY

**Wrong:** "Eye-tin-air-ee" or "Eye-ten-ee-air-ee"  
**Right:** "Eye-tin-er-air-ee"

## DEFINITELY

**Wrong:** "Dee-fie-ant-lee" or "Def-in-it-lee"  
**Right:** "Def-in-it-lee"

## PSEUDONYM

**Wrong:** "Puh-soo-doh-nim" or "Soo-doh-name"  
**Right:** "Soo-doh-nim"

## SALMON

**Wrong:** "Saul-mon" or "Saul-man"  
**Right:** "saemen"

## SUBTLE

**Wrong:** "Sub-tell"  
**Right:** "Suh-tell"

## \*CHIMERA

**Wrong:** "Chim-air-uh" or "Kim-air-uh"  
**Right:** "Kie-mear-uh"

## STOMACH

**Wrong:** "Stoh-mahk" or "Stoh-mahk"  
**Right:** "Stuh-muhk"

\*Açaí berries are a type of South American fruit. \*Chimera is a mythical fire-breathing monster



Photo: Getty Images

## QUERIES RELATING TO LANGUAGE SKILLS

Do you find grammar confusing? Do you get stuck with words when writing a letter, an essay or a blog? Do you have a fear of public speaking? Or do you simply want to improve

your communication skills? Times NIE is here to help you to master the intricacies of the English language. Just shoot us your queries on

toinie175@gmail.com