

# Idioms: Dealing with Problems & Change

Intermediate (B1-B2)



## WARM UP

**Part 1. Discuss the following questions.**

1. Can you think of a situation in your life that was **a blessing in disguise**?
2. Have you ever reached a point where something felt like **the final straw**?
3. How do you usually react when it's time to **face the music**?

## READING ACTIVITY

**Part 1. Read the following dialogue carefully.**

**Harriet:** Things were so tough last month — I honestly thought I wasn't going to cope.

**Daniel:** Same here. I had to just **grin and bear it**.

**Harriet:** For me, when the heating broke during that cold spell, it was **the final straw**.

**Daniel:** That's rough. For me, the wake-up call was when I missed a deadline. I had to **face the music** at work.

**Harriet:** Oof. But hey — we're still here. Maybe we've **turned a corner**.

**Daniel:** I think so. Honestly, some of the chaos helped me reflect. Might've been **a blessing in disguise**.

**Harriet:** You really did **weather the storm**. Credit to you.

## Part 2. Answer the comprehension questions.

1. What idiom did Daniel use to describe enduring a difficult time?
2. What does Harriet say was her "final straw"?
3. How did Daniel face consequences at work?
4. What positive reflection did he share at the end?

## DEFINITION MATCHING

**Part 1. Match each idiom to its correct definition. Can you guess any before looking at the options?**

Weather the storm

Grin and bear it

Face the music

A blessing in disguise

The final straw

Turn a corner

1. \_\_\_\_\_ to accept consequences for your actions
2. \_\_\_\_\_ to go through a very difficult time and survive it
3. \_\_\_\_\_ to tolerate a problem or pain without complaining
4. \_\_\_\_\_ something that seems bad but turns out to be good
5. \_\_\_\_\_ to begin to improve after difficulties
6. \_\_\_\_\_ the last in a series of problems that causes someone to lose patience



## TYPICAL USAGE MATCHING

**Part 1. Match the idioms with what they are typically used with.**

Weather the storm

Grin and bear it

Face the music

A blessing in disguise

The final straw

Turn a corner

1. \_\_\_\_\_ when another problem arose
2. \_\_\_\_\_ after months of stress and burnout
3. \_\_\_\_\_ when things get hard
4. \_\_\_\_\_ when you lost your job / when a relationship ended
5. \_\_\_\_\_ when you've done something wrong or made an error
6. \_\_\_\_\_ through financial struggles

## SENTENCE TRANSFORMATION

**Part 1. Rewrite the following sentences using the target idioms so that the meaning stays the same.**

1. He stayed calm and pushed through the difficult time.
2. I didn't like the situation, but I stayed quiet and accepted it.
3. That last problem finally made me snap.
4. After everything went wrong, I had to accept the consequences.
5. At first I thought it was a bad thing, but later it turned out to be helpful.
6. Things were difficult for a while, but now they're starting to improve.

## SENTENCE GAP-FILL

**Part 1. Use the correct form of the idiom in brackets to complete each sentence.**

1. We \_\_\_\_\_ (weather the storm) during the pandemic by staying adaptable.
2. I \_\_\_\_\_ (grin and bear it) through the endless delays.
3. She \_\_\_\_\_ (face the music) after missing several meetings.
4. What seemed like a failure \_\_\_\_\_ (be a blessing in disguise) in the long run.
5. It \_\_\_\_\_ (the final straw) when I got locked out of the house.
6. They \_\_\_\_\_ (turn a corner) after months of stress and uncertainty.

## SPEAKING

**Part 1. Use at least 5 idioms from today's lesson to talk about:**

Weather the storm

Grin and bear it

Face the music

A blessing in disguise

The final straw

Turn a corner

- A difficult situation you've experienced
- How you reacted or adapted
- Whether the experience changed you or your perspective
- If anything good came from it in the end