

**beat about
the bush**

**go round
in circles**

**catch
someone's drift**

**do things by
the book**

**find common
ground**

**be in
the loop**

**get wires
crossed**

**start from
scratch**

**think outside
the box**

touch base

**come out of
one's shell**

**have a chip on
one's shoulder**

people person

**stumbling
block**

**be on
the right track**

**get the wrong
end of the stick**

do things by the book

What does it mean?

to follow established rules or guidelines

Example:

In this company, we always **do things by the book**, following strictly established procedures to ensure the highest standards of quality.

catch someone's drift

What does it mean?

to understand despite missing information

Example:

I like your proposal for the upcoming event. I see you **have caught my drift** about everything that needs to be prepared.

go round in circles

What does it mean?

to repeat without making any progress

Example:

No matter how many times we discuss this matter, we always seem to **go round in circles** without resolving the problem.

beat about the bush

What it mean?

to avoid talking about the main point or issue

Example:

Rather than **beating about the bush** during the debate, the candidate bravely tackled complex social issues, outlining specific policies to address them.

start from scratch

What does it mean?

to begin a task or project from the very beginning

Example:

When my novel's first draft was turned down by publishers, I decided to **start** again **from scratch**, reimagining the plot and characters for a fresh perspective.

get wires crossed

What does it mean?

get confused and fail to understand each other

Example:

We **got** our **wires crossed** when planning the meeting with the investor resulting in a mix-up of dates and venues.

be in the loop

What does it mean?

to be informed and involved

Example:

To **keep** everyone **in the loop** before our family reunion, we created a group chat to share everyone's availability and agree on the menu.

beat about the bush

What does it mean?

to reach a mutual agreement

Example:

During the negotiation, both parties worked hard to **find common ground**, identifying shared interests that would lead to a mutually beneficial agreement.

have a chip on a shoulder

What does it mean?

to seem angry all the time because you think you have been treated unfairly

Example:

Ever since their argument, Sarah seemed to **have a chip on her shoulder**, making it challenging to rebuild their friendship.

come out of your shell

What does it mean?

to become more comfortable and friendly with people

Example:

John used to be quite shy, but lately, he's been trying to **come out of his shell** by volunteering to give presentations at community events.

touch base

What does it mean?

to briefly get in contact with someone

Example:

It's always great to **touch base** with old friends, even if it's just a quick phone call to check in and say hello.

think outside the box

What does it mean?

to think creatively or unconventionally

Example:

For our university project, let's encourage creativity and **think outside the box** to come up with an original and engaging idea.

get the wrong end of the stick

What does it mean?

to understand a situation incorrectly

Example:

In the gossip circle, information often gets twisted, and people easily get the **wrong end of the stick**, leading to unnecessary misunderstandings.

be on the right track

What does it mean?

to be doing something in a way that will bring good results

Example:

After seeking therapy and making positive changes, James finally feels he's on the **right track** to managing his mental health and well-being.

stumbling block

What does it mean?

a difficulty that prevents progress, understanding, or agreement

Example:

For many students, procrastination can be a **stumbling block** to academic success, highlighting the importance of time management skills.

people person

What does it mean?

someone who is friendly and enjoys meeting and talking to people

Example:

Lena is a true **people person**; she effortlessly connects with her neighbours, always organising community events to bring everyone together.