



# 50 ILLUSTRATED — IDIOMS

# Index

Curiosity killed the cat.....	5	On a slippery slope.....	5
Fit like a glove.....	9	Put your head in the sand.....	7
Fly by the seat of your pants.....	9	Quiet as mouse .....	15
Get blood from a stone.....	3	Rain cats and dogs.....	14
Have two left feet.....	2	Spill the beans. ....	9
If the shoe fits, ( <i>wear it</i> ). ....	14	Take something with a grain of salt.....	8
Jump through hoops. ....	11	The third time's a charm. ....	5
Knock your sock off.....	7	Under the table.....	11
Like water off a duck's back.....	12	Volte-face.....	13
Needle in a hay stack.....	3	Walk on eggshells. ....	5
Never look a gift horse in the mouth .....	9	Wolf in sheep's clothing. ....	8
Out of the frying pan and into the fire .....	3	X-rated. ....	12
		You are what you eat.....	13



## Have two left feet.

to move in an awkward way when you are running or doing a sport, a dance

*Vụng về khi chơi thể thao hay nhảy nhót.*

E.g.

a. I love to dance, but my wife has two left feet.

b. You never want to see me dancing with my two left feet. Trust me.

## 27 Needle in a hay stack.

An item that is very hard or impossible to find.

*Một vật cực kỳ khó tìm; “Mò kim đáy bể”.*

E.g.

a. Looking for one person in this crowd is like looking for a needle in a haystack.

b. My husband's office is so messy that looking for anything is like looking for a needle in a haystack.

## Get blood from a stone.

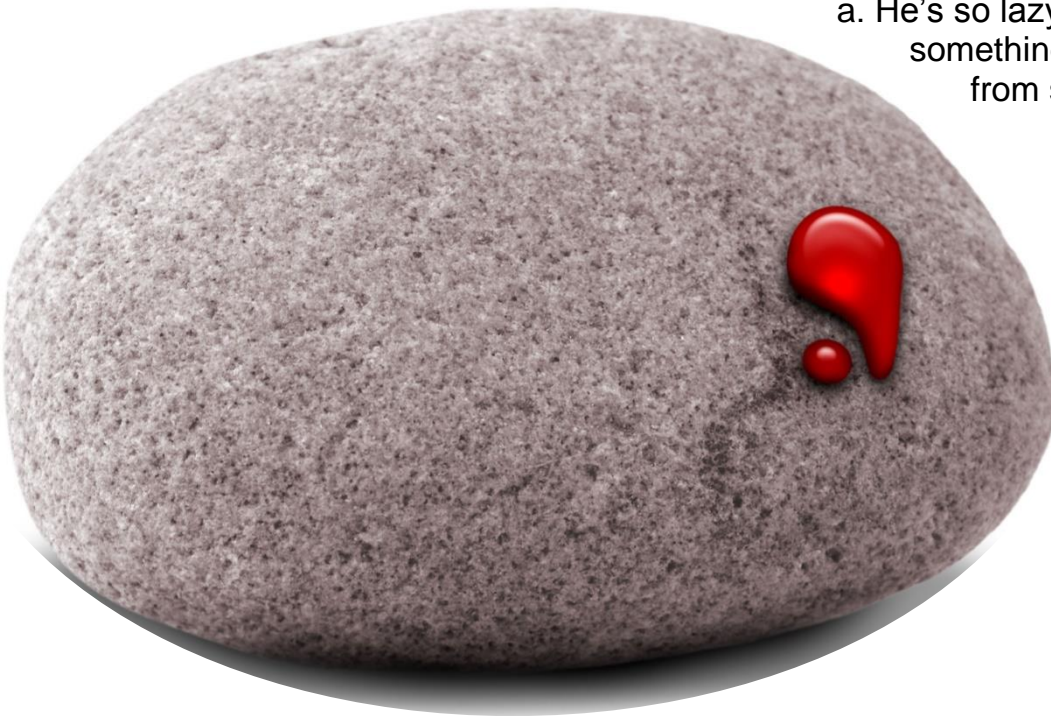
Almost impossible to obtain.

*Gần như không thể nào thể nào làm được, tương đương “trứng chọi đá”.*

E.g.

a. He's so lazy! Getting him to clean something is like getting blood from stone.

b. Getting an apology from my husband is like getting blood from a stone.



Out of the  
frying pan  
and into  
the fire.

To escape a bad situation only to find yourself in a worse situation.

*Thoát khỏi một tình huống bất lợi và lâm vào tình huống khác tệ hơn; “Tránh vỏ dưa, gặp vỏ dừa”.*

E.g.

a. Biology was too hard so I transferred to engineering, but I just went out of the frying pan and into the fire!

b. He didn't like his boss so he quit and found a new job. He realized he had gone out of the frying pan and into the fire when he met his new boss!



## Walk on eggshells.

to try very hard not to upset someone or something. To be very diplomatic and inoffensive.

*Cố gắng không làm buồn lòng người nào đó, tỏ ra tế nhị và giữ ý tứ; “giữ mồm, giữ miệng”.*



E.g.

- a. I was walking on eggshells trying to explain the comment to her without offending her further.
- b. I'm sick of walking on eggshells around you. Why do you have to be so sensitive?



used to talk about a process or habit that is difficult to stop and which will develop into something extremely bad.

*Trượt dốc: Một hành động khó bỏ mà nếu tiếp tục sẽ trở thành thói quen xấu.*

E.g.

- a. It's a slippery slope from drugs to prison.
- b. Cheating on a diet is a slippery slope. Before you know it, you'll be fat again.

**On a slippery slope.**

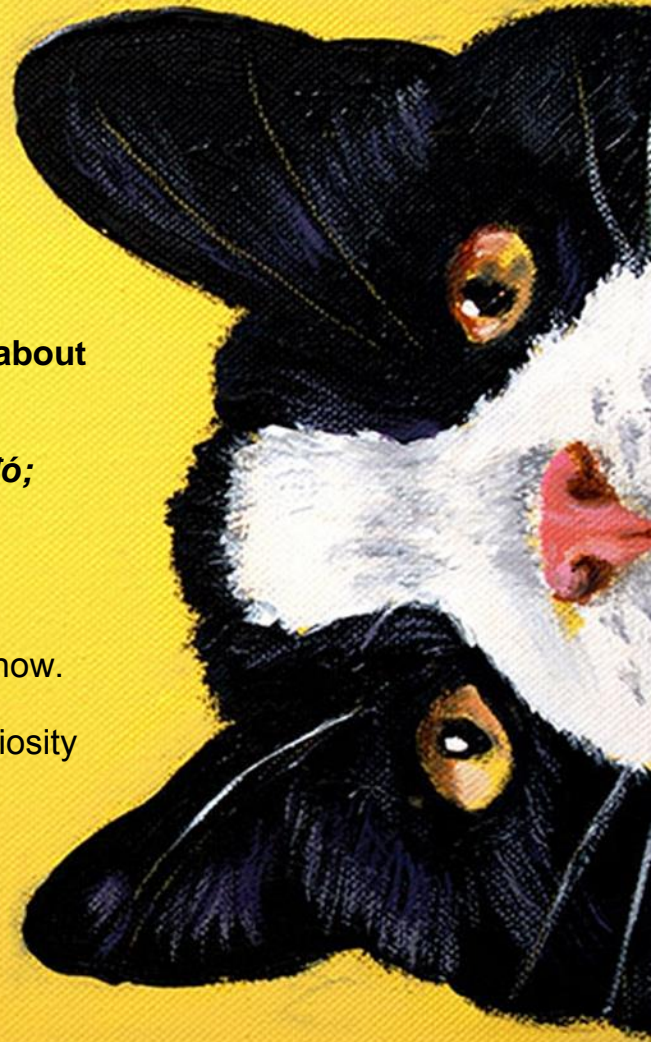
## Curiosity killed the cat.

used to tell someone not to ask too many questions about something.

*Dùng để nhắc ai đó đừng quan tâm thái quá việc gì đó; “chết vì tò mò”.*

E.g.

- a. Don't ask me about that. Curiosity killed the cat, you know.
- b. I don't want to know what is down that dark street. Curiosity killed the cat.



## The third time's a charm.

The third try is always lucky.

*Lần thử thứ 3 thường mang lại may mắn; “quá tam ba bận”.*

E.g.

- a. Ask her out on a date again. Don't give up. The third time's charm.
- b. The third time was a charm for Korea's Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympic bid committee.



## Put your head in the sand.

to ignore an unpleasant situation and hope it will stop if you do not think about it

*Vùi đầu vào cát: làm ngơ, trốn tránh sự thật không vui vẻ; “Giả câm, giả điếc”.*

E.g.

a. Stop burying your head in the sand. Look at the statistics on smoking and cancer.

b. He's about to lose his job but he's just sitting there with his head in the sand!



## Knock your sock off

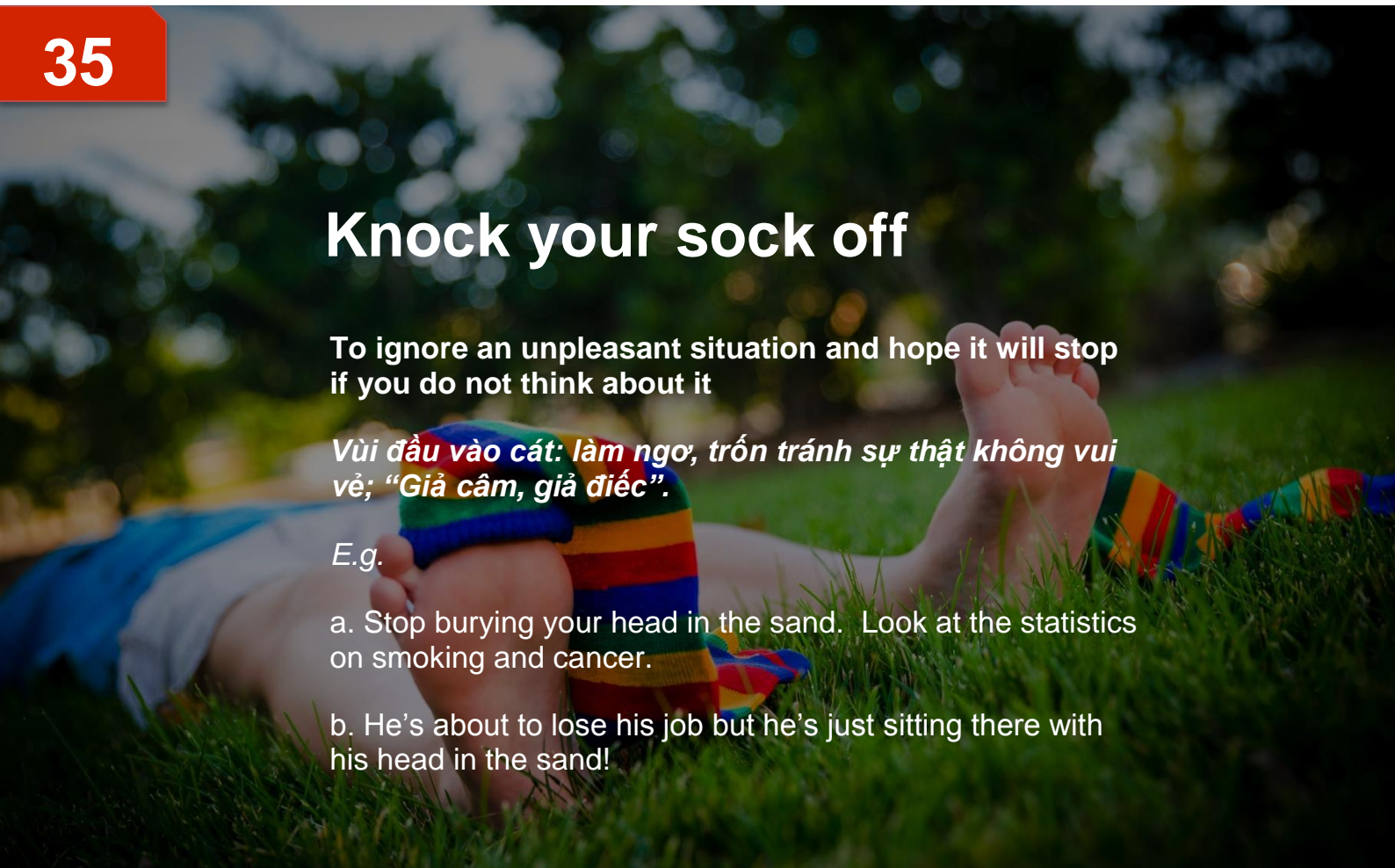
To ignore an unpleasant situation and hope it will stop if you do not think about it

*Vùi đầu vào cát: làm ngơ, trốn tránh sự thật không vui vẻ; “Giả câm, giả điếc”.*

E.g.

a. Stop burying your head in the sand. Look at the statistics on smoking and cancer.

b. He's about to lose his job but he's just sitting there with his head in the sand!



## Take something with a grain of salt.

to not completely believe what someone tells you, because you know that they do not always tell the truth.

*Không tin tưởng hoàn toàn vào điều người khác nói, vì bạn biết người đó thường hay nói dối; “Bán tín, bán nghi”.*

SALT

E.g.

- You should always take everything you see on TV with a grain of salt.
- This research was based on a small group of people, so we have to take the results with a grain of salt.

## Wolf in sheep's clothing.

Someone who seems to be friendly or harmless but is in fact dangerous, dishonest

*Sói đội lốt cừu: Người có tình tỏ ra thân thiện, hiền lành nhưng thực chất rất nguy hiểm và gian xảo.*



E.g.

- She may look cute, but that girl is a wolf in sheep's clothing.
- Carla thought the handsome stranger was gentle and kind, but Susan suspected he was a wolf in sheep's clothing.



38

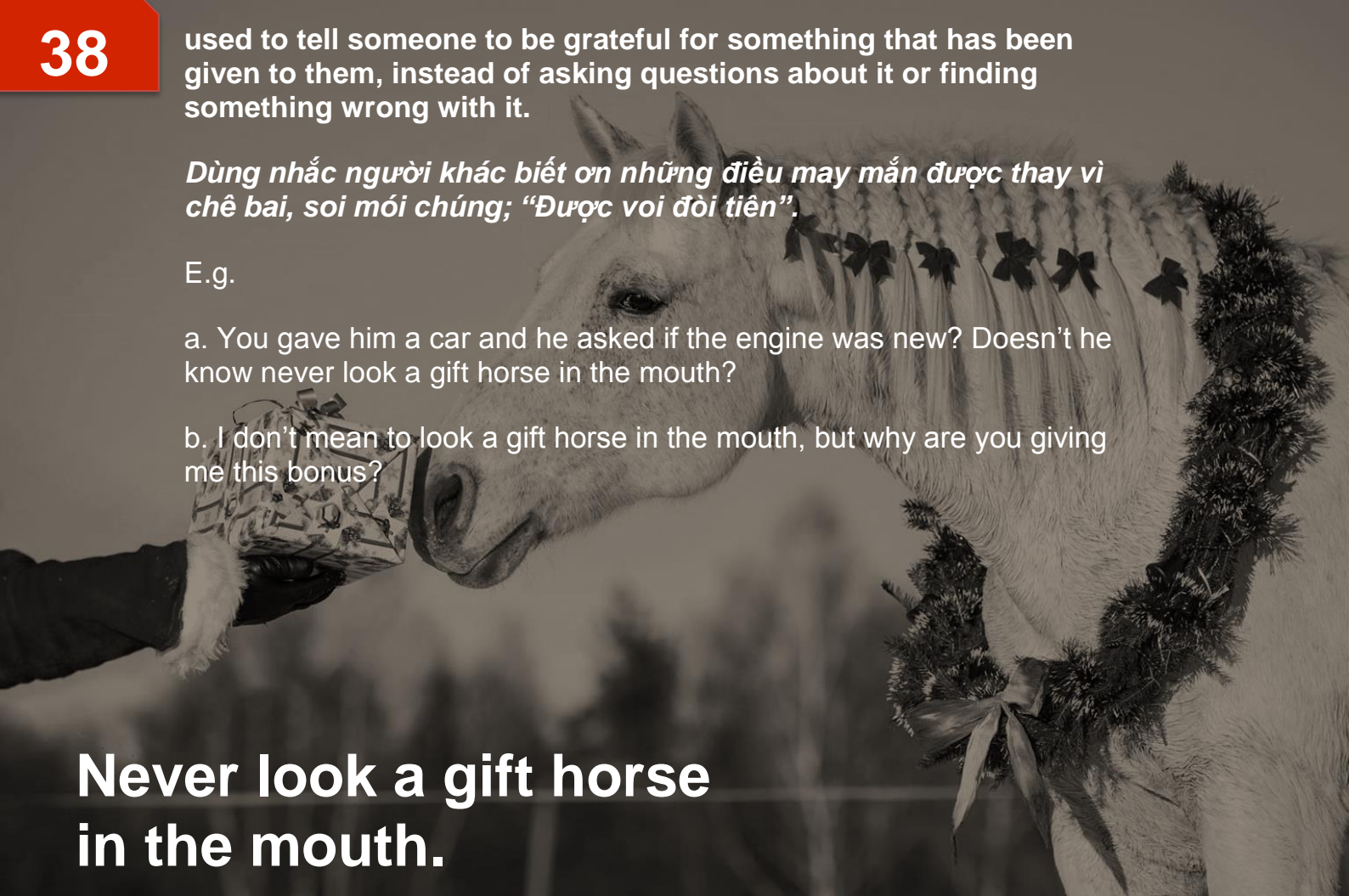
used to tell someone to be grateful for something that has been given to them, instead of asking questions about it or finding something wrong with it.

*Dùng nhắc người khác biết ơn những điều may mắn được thay vì chê bai, soi mói chúng; “Được voi đòi tiên”.*

E.g.

a. You gave him a car and he asked if the engine was new? Doesn't he know never look a gift horse in the mouth?

b. I don't mean to look a gift horse in the mouth, but why are you giving me this bonus?



**Never look a gift horse in the mouth.**

39



**Spill the beans.**

to give away a secret or a surprise.

*Để lộ bí mật, điều bất ngờ ra ngoài.*

E.g.

a. There is surprise party for Heidi on Wednesday. Please don't spill the beans.

b. You met Natalie Portman? You **MUST** tell me what's she really like. Come on, SPILL!!!

## Fly by the seat of your pants.

to do something by using only your own skill and experience, without any help from anyone or anything else, especially when this is risky or dangerous.

*Hành động chỉ dựa trên mỗi kinh nghiệm bản thân mà không có sự hỗ trợ của người khác, đặc biệt là trong các tình huống nguy hiểm, tương đương “làm việc theo cảm tính, tới đâu hay tới đó”*

E.g.

- a. I'm not one to plan everything in detail. I prefer to fly by the seat of my pants.
- b. You can't expect to do this job by flying by the seat of your pants. You need to be organized.

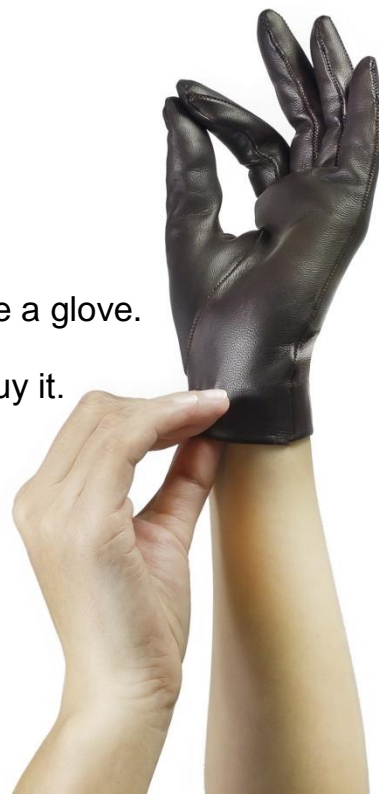
## Fit like a glove.

To fit perfectly and comfortably

*Vừa vặn, vừa khít.*

E.g.

- a. I'm so happy with my new jeans. They fit like a glove.
- b. If the car doesn't fit you like a glove, don't buy it.



## Jump through hoops.

to do a series of things that are difficult or annoying, but that are necessary in order to achieve something

*thực hiện nhiều việc khó khăn nhưng cần thiết để đạt được điều gì đó.*



E.g.

a. We had to jump through hoops to get our visas in time.

b. If you want to get a promotion, you'll have to jump through a few hoops.

## Under the table.

Money that is paid under the table is paid secretly and illegally.

*Tiền hối lộ bất hợp pháp.*

E.g.

- a. Payments were made under the table to local officials.
- b. Employers who pay an employee under the table or misclassify an employee as an independent contractor.

## Like water off a duck's back.

if criticism, warnings etc are like water off a duck's back, they have no effect on the person you are saying them to.

*Lời phê bình không có tác dụng gì với người mà bạn đang chỉ trích, phê bình; “nước đổ đầu vịt”, “Nước đổ lá khoai”.*

E.g.

- If you want to be on TV, you have to be able to let personal attacks roll off you like water off a duck's back.
- Baseball players don't care when you yell insults at them. It's like water off a duck's back.



## X-rated.

Used in the past to describe a film that was officially approved as only suitable for people over 18.

*Từng dùng để mô tả phim chỉ dành cho người từ 18 tuổi trở lên.*

E.g.

- X-rated films are not allowed for public showing.
- Children mustn't watch X-rated films.





## Volte-face.

A change to a completely opposite opinion or plan of action.

*Sự thay đổi đột ngột trong hành động, trái ngược hoàn toàn so với ban đầu, sự trở mặt.*

E.g.

a. The government has done a volte-face on the research.

b. Everyone was thrown into confusion by her volte-face.

## You are what you eat.

To be healthy, you must eat healthy food.

*Để khỏe mạnh, bạn nên ăn thức ăn bổ dưỡng. ~ Ăn gì bổ nấy.*

E.g.

a. You shouldn't eat so much junk food. You are what you eat, you know.

b. I believe strongly that you are what you eat, so I try to eat only healthy food.



# Rain cats and dogs.

It is raining very hard.

*Mưa rất lớn.*

E.g.

- a. It's been raining cats and dogs all week.
- b. It rained cats and gods on my wedding day.

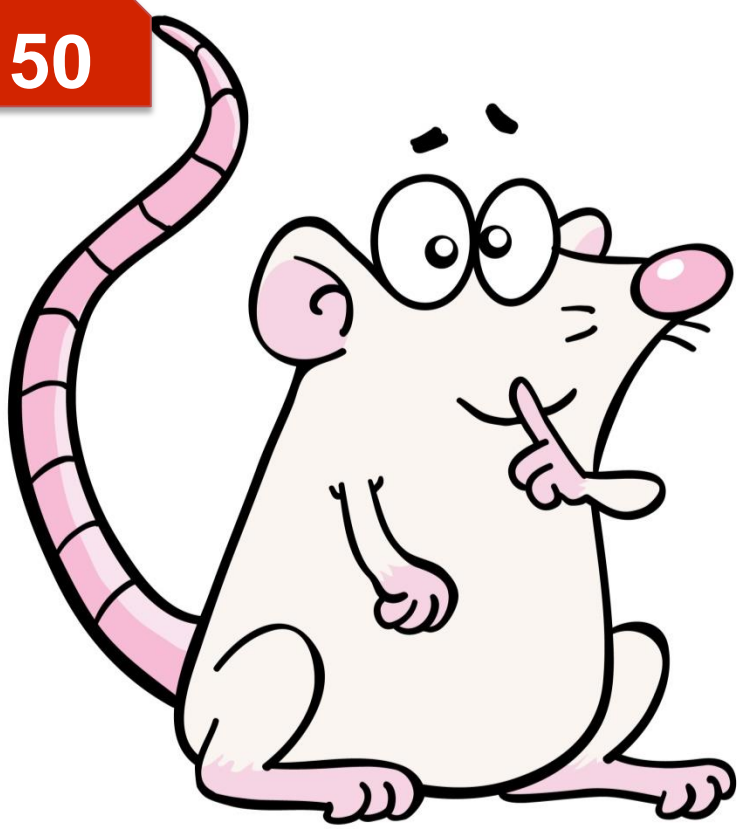
# If the shoe fits, (*wear it*).

used to tell someone that you think a criticism of them is true.

*Đồng ý với lời chỉ trích/ phê bình về mình.*

E.g.

- a. 'So you think I'm a liar.' 'Well, if the shoe fits...'
- b. You are ignoring all the facts. If the shoe fits, wear it.  
(-by The Return of Light Joker)



## Quiet as mouse

Very quiet

*Im lặng; “Câm như hén”*

E.g.

- a. I'll be as quiet as a mouse.
- b. You can hide quiet as a mouse.

**-The end-**

[Read 50 ILLUSTRATED IDIOMS – PART 1](#)

But, don't be quiet as mouse; enjoy this e-book with your friends! Let's share to be shared!



(08) 6288 3566

[wallstreetenglish.edu.vn](http://wallstreetenglish.edu.vn)