

## COMMON SAYINGS USED IN BUSINESS

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### TO EXPRESS STRESS OR TOO MUCH WORK

**To be the last straw** – the final problem before someone has a breakdown.

*'Running out of paper in the photocopier machine was the last straw! I'm going home for the day.'*

**To bite off more than you can chew** – to have taken on too much work or responsibility.

*'I have had to work all weekend to finish this presentation. I think I have bitten off more than I can chew.'*

**To be snowed under with work** – to have a mountain of work to do (snow is a metaphor for work).

*'Sorry I can't come for lunch today. I am snowed under with work.'*

**To tear your hair out** – to feel very stressed.

*'My sister has to look after five kids today. The poor thing is tearing her hair out.'*

### DEALING WITH PROBLEMS

**To cross that bridge when we come to it** – to deal with that problem when it arrives.

*'We haven't sorted out the paperwork for the new office but we'll cross that bridge when we come to it.'*

**To get to the point** – to arrive at the topic of conversation.

*'I know you're busy so I'll get to the point.'*

**To give someone a break** – to release someone from their obligation or give them the benefit of the doubt.

*'I've answered all your questions already. Give me a break.'*

**To be in the same boat** – we have the same problem as you.

*'I'm not feeling well after that dinner either and so we're in the same boat.'*

**To be on the same page** – we understand one another.

*'Please read our onboarding document so that I know that we are on the same page.'*

**To kill two birds with one stone** – to do two jobs with one action.

*'You can kill two birds with one stone by changing money at the post office when you send the package.'*

**The other side of the coin** – the other side of the argument.

*'Retirement age is rising, on the other side of the coin so is life expectancy.'*

**To take the bull by the horns** – to take control.

*'Let's take the bull by the horns and make the first offer in the negotiation.'*

**That ship has sailed** – that opportunity has passed.

*'I would have liked to have studied in the USA. But now I have a family and that ship has sailed.'*