

COMMON SAYINGS USED IN BUSINESS

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.'