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## FOREWORD

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## THE DICTIONARY

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These two experiments, together with my own observations, convinced me that no useful statements could be made about the frequency of the kind of idiomatic expression I was collecting. For most of the expressions likely to appear in the dictionary one or two authentic examples might be enough to qualify them for entry, provided they could be elicited with ease from native speakers. I have described this method, and its sometimes unexpected results, in an article contributed to the commemorative volume in celebration of A. S. Hornby's 50th birthday. Briefly, the method was simply to supply several of the entries.

While we were wrestling with Volume 1, I had to address myself to the problem of what was to be done with the huge number of expressions that I had collected which the editors regarded as too numerous to include in an impracticable list as it turned out. The dictionary as it now appears contains many classes of entries, and provides ample evidence both of normal variation in form and of the various contextual effects which they may have. I have already mentioned in my Introduction to the *General Service List of English Words* (London, 1952) that I had been struck by the fact that this idiomatic combination had not occurred a single time in the admittedly limited corpus of written material that they had analysed. The small group of observers collected no less than 50 instances in a period of several months. Yet in all my years of collecting from written sources I had not come across more than three or four occurrences of this expression.

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## Index of nouns etc used in headphrases

This index lists the nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs and prepositions which appear in the headphrases in this volume of the dictionary, whether as part of an entirely fixed expression (eg *feet* in *find one's feet*), or as an optional part of an expression which is otherwise fixed (eg *own* in *on sb's/one's (own) head be it*), or as alternative elements in an expression (eg *finish, play-off* in *a sudden death finish/play-off*). Also listed are the less fixed, but still 'restricted', elements of an expression which can be substituted at one specific point in the headphrase. These are listed in the body of the entry (after **S:**, **n:**, **V:**, etc) beginning with the word given in the headphrase. For example, below the headphrase *a close etc thing* is found the list **adj:** *close*,  $\Delta$  *close-run*, *near*. Each adjective appears in the index, with both the alternative form of the idiom and the form given in the main text being shown where appropriate.

**close** a ~ etc thing

**close-run** a ~ thing: a close etc thing

**near** a ~ thing: a close etc thing

Where two classes of expressions are concerned, not all the restricted alternative elements of a headphrase are indexed. The classes [possess] and [V + Comp] regularly show limited sets of collocating verbs ( $\Rightarrow$  Introduction, 3.1, 3.2). For example, the occurrence of *have (got)*, *get*, *give sb*, *there be* in [possess] entries, and *be*, *become*, *get*, *make sb/sth* in [V + Comp] entries, is so frequent that, in order to avoid confusing the user with a dauntingly long index, these commonly occurring verbs are not indexed. All such idioms can, of course, be found via other significant words which are indexed.

The index will help the user find an entry by means of any of the significant words of the idiomatic expression when he is unsure of the precise form given in the dictionary.

The arrangement of the index is as follows:

1 Each index word (printed in **bold** type) is listed alphabetically and followed by the headphrase(s) (printed in light type) in the form in which it appears in this dictionary, a tilde (~) being used for the indexed word:

**agreement** a gentleman's ~  
in ~ (with sb/sth)

The headphrases themselves are arranged in the order in which they appear in the dictionary and the user will be able to find the main entries by following the alphabetical order of the first important word in the expression (eg *gentleman's* in *a gentleman's agreement*).  $\Rightarrow$  Introduction, 2.

2 Only words that appear in the headphrase are indexed. Where an idiom as a whole collocates regularly with a limited set of verbs, for example, the collocates are listed in the entry but are not indexed. For example, in the entry *child's play* the list **v:**  $\Delta$  *be*, *seem*, *appear* is given. This tells the user that the idiom is used with one of the three verbs shown. However, none of the verbs is indexed because none is an essential part of the idiom itself. The expression is listed in the main text under *child's* and in the index under *play*.

3 Although certain words can function as different parts of speech (eg *bear* can be a verb or a noun), there has been no attempt to show such differences in the index. Foreign users especially will be more interested in the form of a word than in its function when they are trying to find a particular idiom.

**bear** (as) cross etc as a ~ with a sore head  
~ sb (no) hard feelings: have etc (no) hard feelings  
can't/couldn't stand/~ the sight of sb/sth<sup>1,2</sup>  
grin and ~ it  
if there is one thing sb can't ~, it is: if there is one thing, sb hates etc, it is  
keep/~ sb company  
like a ~ with a sore head

- A**
- aah** ooh and ~
- ABC** (as) easy/simple as ~ etc
- abet** aid and ~
- abhors** nature ~ a vacuum
- abilities** to each according to his need(s), (from each according to his ~)
- ability** to the best of one's ~
- abject** cut an ~ figure: cut a fine etc figure
- abode** (of) no fixed ~ /address
- about** give sb/have something to think/talk ~  
(it is) high/~ time (that) just ~  
know etc one's way ~ /around the other way ~ / (a)round (~) par for the course that's all you know ~ it that's (~) it<sup>1,2</sup>
- above** over and ~
- absence** conspicuous/ distinguished by one's/its ~ in the ~ of sb/sth
- absolute** be the (~ etc) limit
- abstract** in the ~
- academic** (a matter etc) of ~ interest/concern
- academy** the laughing ~
- accept** ~ sth as/for gospel etc: take etc sth as/for gospel etc ~ the consequences (of sth): take etc the consequences (of sth) ~ sb's (bare) word (for sth): have etc sb's (bare) word (for sth)
- accident** by ~
- accidents** a chapter of ~
- accord** ~ sb a warm welcome/ reception: give sb etc a warm welcome/reception ~ sb/sth the (full) works: give sb/sth etc the (full) works of one's/its own ~
- accordance** in ~ with sth
- according** cut one's coat ~ to one's cloth  
it/that is all ~  
to each ~ to his need(s), (from each according to his abilities)
- account** give a good etc ~ of oneself  
on ~ of sb/sth  
on no ~  
on one's own (~)  
on one's own ~
- accounts** by/from all ~
- accurate** to be ~: to be exact etc
- accustomed** in the manner to which one is ~
- achieve** ~ wonders/miracles (for/with sb/sth): do etc wonders/miracles (for/with sb/sth)
- acorns** tall etc oaks from little ~ grow
- acquaintance** a chance ~ / companion  
have etc nodding/bowing ~ (with sb/sth)
- act** a song-and-dance ~ etc (do) a/one's disappearing ~ read the Riot ~
- action** all talk (and no ~)  
clear the decks (for ~)  
a course of ~  
industrial ~  
a man of ~  
one's/the springs of ~  
where the ~ is
- Adam** not know sb from ~ the old ~
- Adams** sweet Fanny ~ /f.a.
- add** (~ /put) the finishing touches (to sth) (~ to) the gaiety of nations I may/might say/~  
two and two ~ up to four: two and two make etc four
- addition** in ~ (to sth)
- address** a cover ~  
a good ~  
(of) no fixed abode/~
- administration** a caretaker ~: a caretaker government etc
- admiration** a mutual ~ / congratulation(s) society
- admission** on one's own ~
- ado** without more/further ~
- advance** ahead of/in ~ of one's time  
in ~
- advantage** to ~  
to sb's ~ /disadvantage
- advised** be well etc ~ to do sth
- advocate** the devil's ~
- aegis** under the ~ of sth/sb
- afar** from ~
- affair** (a) hole and corner ~: (a) hole and corner business etc
- affairs** a state of ~
- affection** the object of one's ~ (s)
- affirmative** the answer is in the ~ /negative
- afflictions** the ~ that flesh is heir to: the ills etc that flesh is heir to
- afford** can/could ill etc ~ to do sth
- afraid** far ~
- aforethought** with malice ~
- afraid** be ~ (that)  
be ~ for sb/sth  
be ~ to do sth  
be ~ etc of doing sth
- be ~ etc of sb/sth  
be ~ of one's (own) shadow  
I'm ~
- Africa** darkest ~
- after** live happily ever ~
- afternoon** (not) be/take all ~: (not) be/take all day etc (only) the other ~: (only) the other day etc
- afterwards** shoot first and ask questions ~ /later
- again** (all) over ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
be oneself ~  
can breathe (easily/freely) ~  
cut and come ~  
(not) darken sb's door(s) (~)  
every now and ~ /then  
here/there we go (~)  
not see etc sb's/sth's like(s) ~  
now and ~ /then  
once ~ /more<sup>1,2</sup>  
over and over (~)  
(the) same ~ (?)  
something else ~  
then/there ~  
time and (time) ~  
you can say that ~
- against** hope ~ hope (that)
- age** at a tender ~  
the awkward ~  
be your ~  
death/old ~ comes to us all  
feel one's ~  
the golden ~ (of sth)  
in this day and ~  
a ripe old ~
- agent** a double ~
- ages** the dust of ~  
for ~ (and ~)
- aggregate** in (the) ~
- agley** the best-laid schemes of ~ mice and men (gang aft ~)
- ago** many moons ~
- agog** all ~
- agony** one's death ~ /throes  
prolong the ~
- agree** couldn't ~ more
- agreement** a gentleman's ~ in ~ (with sb/sth)
- ahead** full steam ~  
streets ~ (of sb/sth)
- aid** what is all this etc in ~ of(?)
- aim** defeat one's/its (own) ~: defeat one's/its (own) purpose etc
- ain't** you ~ seen nothing yet
- air** (as) free as (the) ~ /a bird (as) light as ~  
a breath of fresh ~  
clear the ~  
have etc an/the ~ of sb/sth  
hot ~  
(a/an life/~ of) quiet desperation

take the ~  
**airing** get etc an ~  
 (sweet ~/noises that) give  
 delight and hurt not  
**itches** drop one's ~  
**alarm** a false ~  
 give etc the ~/alert  
 take fright/~  
**Albion** perfidious ~  
**ale** cakes and ~  
**alec** a smart ~ (k)  
**alert** give etc the alarm/~  
**alike** share and share ~  
**alive** be ~ to tell the tale: live etc  
 to tell the tale  
 bury sb ~  
 come ~  
**dead** and ~  
 dead or ~  
 eat sb ~/for breakfast  
 flay/skin sb ~  
 look ~: look sharp etc  
 more dead than ~  
**all above** ~ (else)  
 after ~<sup>1,2,3</sup>  
 after ~ one's efforts etc  
 and ~  
 and ~ that  
 and ~ that jazz etc  
 aren't etc we ~  
 at ~  
 at ~ costs  
 at ~ events  
 at ~ hours (of the day/night)  
 at ~ times  
 (not) be ~ beer and skittles  
 (not) be/take ~ day etc  
 be downhill ~ the way<sup>1,2</sup>  
 be ~ Greek to sb  
 a/the bed etc to end ~ beds  
 etc/to end them ~  
 beggar (~) description  
 (in) the best of ~ possible  
 worlds  
 better etc ~ round (for sb) (if)  
 beyond (~) measure  
 a bit of ~ right  
 by/from ~ accounts  
 by ~ means  
 come one, come ~  
 (to) crown it ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 the daddy of them ~  
 damn ~  
 damn etc it (~)  
 death/old age comes to us ~  
 (why should) the devil have ~  
 the best/good tunes  
 everything/~ (that) the heart  
 (of a man) could desire  
 feel (~) (the) better for  
 (having done) sth  
 first of ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 for ~ one cares  
 for ~ the difference it makes etc  
 for ~ one's efforts etc  
 for ~ one/it is worth  
 for ~ one knows  
 for ~ (the world) to see  
 for ~ that  
 for ~ time

for ~ the world like/as if  
 (~) for the best  
 for good (and ~)  
 for (~) practical purposes  
 (you can't) fool etc ~ (of) the  
 people ~ the time  
 (~) the fun of the fair  
 (~) sb's geese are swans  
 give sth ~ one's got  
 go the way of ~ flesh  
 (~) good men and true  
 have etc ~ day  
 have (got)/with ~ one's  
 marbles  
 have (got)/with ~ the marks of  
 sb/sth  
 have etc ~ the money etc in the  
 world  
 have seen etc it ~  
 (~) hell breaks/is let loose  
 (~) hot and bothered  
 and I don't know what (~)  
 I'm ~ right, Jack  
 if at ~  
 in ~/total  
 in ~/everything but name  
 in ~ conscience  
 in ~ one's/its glory/majesty  
 in ~ honesty/sincerity  
 in ~ probability/likelihood  
 in ~ shapes and sizes  
 in ~ weathers  
 (never) in (~) one's born days  
 (~) in good part  
 (~) in good time  
 in no time (at ~)  
 it is ~/as much as one can do  
 (to do sth)  
 it is ~ in the day's work  
 it/that (~) depends  
 it/that is ~ according  
 it takes ~ sorts etc (to make a  
 world)  
 it takes one ~ one's time (to do  
 sth)  
 it's ~ in the mind  
 a jack of ~ trades (and (a)  
 master of none)  
 know ~ the answers  
 know (~) the dodges/tricks  
 (~) labourers etc in the  
 vineyard  
 let 'em ~ come  
 the lights are going out ~ over  
 Europe  
 (~) a load/lot of (old) rubbish  
 etc  
 (~) Lombard Street to a China  
 orange  
 the love of money is the root of  
 ~ evil  
 (just/~) the luck of the game  
 a maid etc of ~ work  
 (~) men/women of goodwill  
 (~) my eye (and Betty Martin)  
 no/not any trouble etc (at ~)  
 not ~/always (that)/what one/  
 it might be  
 not for ~ the tea in China  
 of ~ the nerve etc(!)

of ~ people etc<sup>1,2</sup>  
 of ~ shapes and sizes  
 of ~ time  
 old Uncle Tom Cobbleigh  
 and ~  
 on ~ counts: on both etc  
 counts  
 on ~ fours  
 on ~ sides/every side  
 once and for ~  
 one and ~  
 (~) over again<sup>1,2</sup>  
 pass ~ understanding  
 (~) plain sailing  
 play ~ one's cards  
 (~) power corrupts, (and  
 absolute power corrupts  
 absolutely)  
 (not) roses ~ the way  
 (it's) the same the whole/~ the  
 world over  
 see sb (~) right  
 (~) sisters etc under the skin  
 sugar and spice (and ~ that's/  
 things nice)  
 tell ~  
 that's ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 that's ~ I can say  
 that's ~ you know about it  
 there is etc the devil (and ~  
 (hell)) to pay  
 to ~ appearance(s)  
 to ~ intents (and purposes)  
 (~) to no/little avail  
 to the pure ~ things are pure  
 to understand ~ is to forgive ~  
 the (most) unkindest cut of ~  
 warts and ~  
 what is ~ this etc in aid of(?)  
 when ~ is said and done  
 with ~ one's might  
 (~) the world and his wife  
 you've said it ~  
**all-clear** give sb/sth etc the ~  
**alley** (as) lean as an ~ cat  
 a blind ~  
 Tin Pan A ~  
**allow** ~ the benefit of the  
 doubt: give sb etc the benefit  
 of the doubt  
 ~ sb a fair crack of the whip:  
 have etc a fair crack of the  
 whip  
 ~ sb a free hand: get etc a free  
 hand  
 ~ free play to sth: give etc free  
 play to sth  
 ~ sb/sth full play: give sb/sth  
 etc full play  
 ~ sb some rope: give sb etc  
 some rope  
 ~ sb/sth the vices/defects of  
 one's/its virtues/qualities:  
 have etc the vices/defects of  
 one's/its virtues/qualities  
 if there is one thing sb won't ~,  
 it is: if there is one thing sb  
 hates etc, it is  
 (not) let/~ the grass (to) grow  
 under one's feet

**nouns etc used in headphrases**

**allowance** a day-to-day ~: a day-to-day arrangement etc  
**alone** go it ~  
 laugh and the world laughs with you, (weep and you weep ~)  
 leave/let sb/sth ~  
 leave/let well ~  
 let ~  
 time (~) will tell etc  
**along** all ~  
 all ~ the line etc  
 somewhere etc ~ the line  
**aloof** hold (oneself) ~ (from sb/sth)  
**alter** circumstances ~ cases  
**altogether** not ~  
**always** as ~: as usual etc  
 can/could ~ do sth<sup>1,2</sup>  
 the customer is ~ right  
 the grass is (~) greener on the other side (of the fence)/in the other man's field  
 not all/~ (that)/what one/it might be  
 once a gentleman etc, ~ a gentleman etc  
 the poor are ~ with us  
 that's what I (~) say  
 there is ~ room at the top  
**am** do I/~ I to understand etc?  
**amber** like a fly in ~  
**amiss** (not) come ~  
 take sth/it ~  
**ammunition** praise the Lord and pass the ~  
**amok** run ~  
**ample** in ~ measure: in full etc measure  
**amused** (we are) not ~  
**analysis** in the final/last ~  
**anchor** weigh ~  
**angel** be an ~ (and do sth): be a good chap etc (and do sth)  
 a/one's guardian ~  
 a ministering ~  
 the recording ~  
**Angels** Hell's ~  
**anger** more in sorrow than in ~  
 not let the sun go down (up) on one's ~/wrath  
 righteous ~/indignation  
**anguish** a howl/storm of ~: a howl/storm of protest etc  
**ann** san fairy ~  
**Anne** Queen ~ is dead  
**anon** ever and ~  
**another** ~ opinion: a second etc opinion  
 as one man etc to ~  
 ask me ~  
 at one time or ~  
 for one reason or ~  
 for one thing (...and) for ~ thing  
 have (got) ~ think/guess coming  
 a horse of ~ colour  
 just ~ game etc  
 life/it is one (damn(ed)) thing

after ~  
 (one/~ of) life's little ironies  
 live to fight ~ day  
 not have/without one penny to rub against ~  
 one after ~/the other  
 one good turn deserves ~  
 one man's meat etc is ~ man's poison etc  
 one thing and ~  
 (in) one way and/or ~  
 tomorrow is ~ day  
 what with one thing and ~  
**answer** get etc a dusty ~  
 give (sb) etc a civil ~ to a civil question  
 in ~/reply (to sth)  
 make ~/reply  
 a soft ~ (turneth away wrath)  
 a straight ~  
**answers** know all the ~  
**ants** have etc ~ in one's pants  
**any** (at) ~ moment  
 at ~ moment  
 at ~ price  
 at ~ rate  
 by ~ chance  
 (not) go ~/go no farther/further  
 if ~  
 (not) know ~ better  
 not at ~ price  
 not grow/get ~ younger/thinner  
 not need ~ telling  
 not want ~ part of sth  
 a rose by ~ other name would smell as sweet  
 they don't make etc them like that ~ more  
 (every/~) Tom, Dick and/or Harry  
**anybody** hard work never hurt etc ~ (yet)  
 just ~ etc  
 nobody/~ in his/their right mind could/would do sth  
**anybody's** by ~/sb's standards  
**anyhow** all ~  
 just ~: just anybody etc  
**anything** as coolly etc as you like/as ~  
 (as) pleased etc as ~  
 bet sb ~/what he likes (that)  
 do nothing/not do ~ by halves  
 don't do ~ I wouldn't do if ~  
 if ~ happens to sb  
 if one believes that, one will believe ~  
 just ~: just anybody etc  
 like ~  
 more than ~ (else) (in the world)  
 not know ~ about sth but know what one likes  
 ready for ~  
 try ~ once  
 you can prove ~ with/by statistics/figures

**anytime** just ~: just anybody etc  
**anywhere** get ~: get nowhere etc  
 get sb ~: get sb nowhere etc  
 just ~: just anybody etc  
 you can/can't take sb/sth ~  
**apart** poles etc ~  
 things fall ~, the centre cannot hold  
**ape** the naked ~  
**appeal** sex ~  
**appear** make oneself/sb ~ a fool etc: make oneself/sb look etc a fool etc  
**appearance** make an/one's ~ to-all ~ (s)  
**appears** talk of the devil (and he ~)  
**applecart** upset the/sb's ~  
**apples** (as) sure as (God made) little ~  
**approval** on ~  
**apron-strings** one's mother's etc ~  
**are** (all) sb's geese ~ swans  
 the odds ~ (that)  
 right you ~  
 two and two ~ four: two and two make etc four  
**area** a disaster ~  
 a distressed ~  
 a no-go ~/district  
**argument** a ding-dong (~): a ding-dong (battle etc)  
 see both sides (of the ~): see both sides (of the question etc)  
**argument's** (just) for ~ sake  
**arise** (~ /rise like) a phoenix from the ashes  
 rise/~ and shine(!)  
**arises** the question (of sth) ~  
**arm** as long as one's ~  
 chance one's ~/luck  
 get etc a shot in the ~  
 jog/nudge sb's ~/elbow (to do sth)  
 the long ~ of the law etc  
 sb's/one's right(-)hand (man)/right ~  
 stretch the (long) ~ of coincidence  
 twist sb's ~  
**armour** a chink/crack in one's ~  
 a knight in shining ~  
**arms** a babe in ~  
 (by) force of ~  
**army** you and whose ~?  
**around** know etc one's way about/~  
 (just) round/around the (next)/ (every) corner  
 the second/third time ~/round  
**arrangement** a caretaker ~: a caretaker government etc  
 a day-to-day ~ etc  
**arrive** to travel hopefully is a better thing/is better than to ~

**arrow** (as) straight as an ~  
**arrows** the slings and ~ (of outrageous fortune)  
**arse** lick sb's boots/~  
**my** ~ (!): my foot etc(!)  
**artful** as ~ etc as a wagon-load etc of monkeys  
**article** the genuine ~  
**artist** a quick-change ~  
**ashes** dust and ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 (arise/rise like) a phoenix from the ~  
**sackcloth** and ~  
**ask** ~ for a blank cheque: give sb etc a blank cheque  
 ~ for a fair/square deal: get etc a fair/square deal  
 ~ for a free hand: get etc a free hand  
 ~ for a good hiding etc: give sb etc a good hiding etc  
 ~ for a/one's slice/share of the cake: get etc a/one's slice/share of the cake  
**I** ~ you  
 if you ~ me  
 a lot to ~ (of sb)  
**may/might I** ~ what etc?  
 one may well ~  
**shoot first** and ~ questions afterwards/later  
 what more can one ~ etc?  
**asking** can have sth for the ~  
**asleep** fast/sound ~  
**ass** the law is an ~  
**association** free ~  
**assure** I can ~ you: I can tell etc you  
**assured** rest ~  
**Atkins Tommy** ~  
**attached** with etc (no) strings (~ /binding its use)  
**attempt** at the first ~  
 if one dies in the ~  
**attention** catch sb's ~  
 escape (sb's) ~ /notice  
 exercise due/proper care (and ~)  
 (not) pay a blind bit of attention: (not) be etc a blind bit of use etc  
**attitude** strike an ~ /pose  
**attraction** the centre of ~  
**attracts** like ~ /calls to like  
**audience** a captive ~  
**Augean** cleanse the (~) stables  
**Aunt** an ~ Sally  
**my** ~ Fanny(!): my foot etc(!)  
**authenticity** have (got)/with the ring of ~: have (got)/with the ring of truth etc  
**avail** of/to little/no ~  
 (all) to no/little ~  
**avenue** explore every ~  
**average** a batting ~  
 on (an/the) ~  
**aversion** one's pet ~ /hate  
**awake** (would) ~ the dead: (would) wake etc the dead  
**lie** ~

**wide** ~  
**awaken** (would) ~ the dead: (would) wake etc the dead  
**awakening** have etc a rude ~  
**award** ~ sb full marks (for sth): give sb etc full marks (for sth)  
**aware** only too ~ /conscious of sth/that  
 well ~ of sth/that  
**away** far/miles ~  
 far/out and ~  
 old soldiers never die (they only fade ~)  
 the one(s) that got ~  
**right/straight** ~  
 a soft answer (turneth ~ wrath)  
 a stone's throw ((~) from sth)  
 when/while the cat's ~, the mice will play  
 a world ~ from sth  
**awhile** yet ~  
**B**  
**babe** (as) helpless as a (new-born) ~ etc  
 (as) innocent as a (new-born) ~ etc  
**Babel** (the) tower of ~  
**babes** out of the mouth(s) of ~ and sucklings  
**baby** leave sb holding/to hold the ~ etc  
**baby's** (as) smooth as a ~  
 bottom  
 wet the ~ head  
**bachelor** a confirmed ~  
**back** be glad etc to see the ~ of sb/sth  
 behind sb's ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 give (sb) (~) as good as one gets  
 have etc eyes in/at the ~ of one's head/neck  
 know sth like the ~ /palm of one's hand  
 like water off a duck's ~  
 meanwhile, ~ at the ranch  
 short ~ and sides  
 the small of one's ~  
 take a ~ seat  
 there and ~  
 turn one's ~  
 with one hand/both hands tied behind one's ~  
 you scratch my ~ and I'll scratch yours  
**back-handed** a left-handed/~ compliment  
**backside** my ~ (!): my foot etc(!)  
**backwards** look as if/though one has been dragged through a hedge ~  
**bacon** save one's (own)/sb's ~  
**bad** ~ luck (on sb): hard etc

luck (on sb)  
 (a) ~ show(!): (a) good etc show(!)  
 be to the ~ /good  
 be too ~ (that)<sup>1,2</sup>  
 better ~ now than worse later  
 bring sb (~ /good) luck  
 create/make a ~ etc impression  
 do (sb) a good/~ turn  
 every bit as ~ etc (as)  
 get etc a ~ name  
 get etc a good/~ press  
 give a dog a ~ /ill name (and hang him)  
 a good/~ listener  
 a good/~ loser  
 the good/~ old days  
 good riddance (to ~ rubbish)  
 a good/(not) a ~ thing  
 hard cases make ~ law(s)  
 have/give sb a ~ etc time (of it)  
 have/be one of one's ~ days:  
 have/be one of one's good etc days  
 in good/~ faith  
 like a ~ penny  
 look ~ /not look good  
 look ~ etc (for sb)  
 not ~  
 not half ~ /badly  
 strike etc a ~ patch  
 a stroke of (good/~) luck etc to the ~ /good  
**baddies** the goodies and (the) ~  
**badly** every bit as ~ etc (as)  
 have got it ~  
 not half bad/~  
**bag** a mixed ~ etc  
 an old ~  
 the whole/full ~ of tricks  
**baggage** bag and ~  
**bags** have etc ~ under one's eyes  
 pack one's ~  
**baked** the funeral ~ meats  
**balance** on ~  
 tip/turn the ~ /scale(s)  
**bald** as ~ as a coot  
**ball** have (oneself) a ~  
 keep the ~ rolling  
 open the ~  
 set/start the ~ rolling  
**ball-game** be a different etc  
**balls** (all) a load/lot of (old) ~:  
 (all) a load/lot of (old) rubbish etc  
**band** beat the ~  
 to beat the ~  
 a one-man ~ etc  
**bandbox** look as if/though one has (just) stepped out of a ~  
**bang** not with a ~ but a whimper  
**bank** break the ~  
 cry/laugh all the way to the ~  
**bar** the colour ~  
**bare** have etc sb's (~) word (for sth)  
 lay sth ~

**nouns etc used in headphrases**

**bargain** a bargain's a ~ / a promise is a promise  
 drive a hard ~  
 into the ~  
 keep one's side of a/the ~  
**bark** keep a dog and ~ oneself  
**baron** a beef etc ~  
**barred** (with) no holds ~  
**barrel** lock, stock and ~  
 scrape (the bottom of) the ~  
**barrier** break the sound etc ~  
**basement** a bargain ~ / counter  
**basinful** have etc a/one's  
 bellyful/a ~ (of sb/sth)  
**basis** a day-to-day ~: a day-to-day arrangement etc  
 on the ~ of sth  
**bat** (as) blind as a ~  
 like a ~ out of hell  
 not/never ~ an eyelid  
 off one's own ~  
**bated** with ~ breath  
**bath** a blood ~  
**bats** have (got)/with ~ in the belfry  
**battalions** the big ~  
**battery** assault and ~  
**battle** be half the ~  
 a ding-dong (~ etc)  
 fight a losing ~  
 a running ~ / fight  
 a war/~ of nerves  
**battleship** have etc enough  
 luggage etc to sink a ~  
**bay** flourish like the green ~ tree  
**be** as the case may ~  
 ~ at rock bottom: reach etc  
 rock bottom  
 ~ off like the wind: go like the wind  
 chance would ~ a fine thing  
 far ~ it from me to interfere etc  
 (but/yet)  
 if need ~  
 it is not/has to ~  
 leave/let sb/sth ~  
 let bygones ~ bygones  
 not as/so young as one used to  
 ~ / (once) was  
 on sb's/one's (own) head ~ it  
 the powers that ~  
 praise ~ (to God)  
 publish and ~ damned  
 say/~ one's last word  
 sit/~ bolt upright  
 take sb/sth to ~ sth  
 that is as (it) may ~  
 that will ~ the day  
 (take/~) a turn for the better/  
 worse  
 where would one ~ / what  
 would one do without sb/sth?  
**beach** not the only pebble on the ~  
**bean** not have etc a ~  
**beans** full of ~  
 know how many ~ make five  
 spill the ~ etc  
 (not) worth a row of ~  
**bear** (as) cross etc as a ~ with a

sore head  
 ~ sb (no) hard feelings: have  
 etc (no) hard feelings  
 can't/couldn't stand/~ the  
 sight of sb/sth <sup>1,2</sup>  
 grin and ~ it  
 if there is one thing sb can't ~,  
 it is: if there is one thing sb  
 hates etc, it is  
 keep/~ sb company  
 like a ~ with a sore head  
**bearing** fear the Greeks, ~ gifts  
**bearings** find etc one's ~  
**beast** beauty and the ~  
 man and ~  
 the nature of the ~  
**beat** can you ~ it!  
 dead ~  
 one's heart misses etc a ~  
 if you can't ~ them, join them  
 pound the ~  
 a rod/stick to ~ sb with  
**beating** take a ~ etc  
 take some ~  
**beats** it/sb ~ me  
**beautiful** black etc is ~  
**beauty** a raving ~  
 a thing of ~ is a joy forever  
**beaver** an eager ~  
**becomes** it ill ~ sb to do sth  
**bed** as one makes one's ~, so  
 one must lie on it  
 at the foot of one's/the  
 (on) one's death ~  
 early to ~ and early to rise,  
 (makes a man healthy, wealthy  
 and wise)  
 in ~  
 life is (not) a ~ of roses  
 Reds under the ~  
**bedfellows** strange etc ~  
**bee** (as) busy as a ~  
 have etc a ~ in one's bonnet  
**bee's** be the ~ knees  
**bees** the birds and the ~  
**been** sweet sixteen (and never  
 ~ kissed)  
**beer** (not) be all ~ and skittles  
 small ~ / potatoes  
 we're only here for the ~  
**before** coming events cast their  
 shadow(s) ~  
 the mixture as ~  
 more than ever (~)  
 not ~ time  
**beg** I ~ to differ  
 I ~ your pardon  
**begetter** the only ~  
**beggars** if wishes were horses,  
 (then) ~ would ride  
**begging** go ~  
**beginning** (right) from the ~:  
 (right) from the start etc  
 from ~ etc to end etc  
 make a ~ / start  
**begins** charity ~ at home  
 the fur (~ to) fly  
 life ~ at forty etc  
**behalf** on sb's/sth's ~ <sup>1,2</sup>  
**behest** at sb's ~

**behind** the power ~ the throne  
 with one hand/both hands tied  
 ~ one's back  
**behold** lo and ~  
**beholder** beauty etc is/lies in  
 the eye of the ~  
**being** all ~ well  
 for the time ~: for the moment  
 etc  
 other things ~ equal  
**belfry** have (got)/with bats in  
 the ~  
**belief** beyond ~  
 explode a ~: explode a myth  
 etc  
 (in) the fond ~: (in) the fond  
 hope etc  
 pass (sb's) ~: pass (sb's)  
 comprehension etc  
**believe** (not) ~ a word (of sth/  
 (that))  
 can/could well ~ it  
 I'll ~ it/that when I see it  
 lead sb to ~ (that)  
 would you ~ (it)?  
**believed** have (got) to/must be  
 seen to be ~  
**believes** if one ~ that, one will  
 believe anything  
**believing** seeing is ~  
**bell** (as) clear as a ~  
 (as) sound as a ~  
 ring a ~  
**bells** born within the sound of  
 Bow ~  
**belly** one's/sb's eyes are bigger  
 than one's/his ~ / stomach  
 the way to a man's heart is  
 through his stomach/~  
**bellyful** have etc a/one's ~ / a  
 basinful (of sb/sth)  
**below** here ~  
**belt** tighten etc one's ~  
**benefit** for sb's ~ <sup>1,2</sup>  
 give sb etc the ~ of one's  
 advice etc  
 give sb etc the ~ of the doubt  
 reap the ~ (s) (of sth)  
 without ~ of clergy etc  
**bent** follow one's (own) ~  
 have etc a natural ~ (for sth/  
 doing sth)  
**berry** (as) brown as a ~  
**berserk** go etc ~  
**berth** give sb/sth a wide ~  
**best** all the ~  
 as ~ one can  
 at ~ / worst  
 at the ~ of times  
 attack is the ~ form of defence  
 the ~ best of luck to sb: good  
 luck to sb  
 by far the ~ etc / (the) ~ by far  
 (why should) the devil have  
 all the ~ / good tunes  
 diamonds are a girl's ~ friend  
 do/try one's ~  
 do/try one's (level/very) ~ (to  
 do sth)  
 don't shoot the pianist etc (he's

doing his ~ )  
 East, (or) West, home's ~  
 for the ~  
 (all) for the ~  
 for reasons/some reason ~/  
 only known to oneself  
 have/give sb ~  
 honesty is the ~ policy  
 hunger is the ~ sauce  
 in the ~/worst of taste  
 know ~  
 look one's/its ~  
 the next ~ thing  
 the pick/~ of the bunch  
 the right/~ people  
 (the) second ~  
 six of the ~  
 some of one's ~ friends are  
 English etc  
 one's Sunday ~ etc  
 to the ~ of one's ability  
 to the ~ of one's knowledge  
 etc  
 with the ~ (of them)  
 with the ~ will in the world  
 your ~ friend won't tell you  
**bestow** ~ the freedom of the  
 city on sb: give sb etc the  
 freedom of the city  
**best-regulated** accidents etc  
 will happen in the ~ families  
 etc  
**bet** I ('ll) ~  
 I ('ll)/you ~ (that)  
 a safe ~  
 you (can) ~ your (sweet) life  
 (that)  
**betide** woe ~ sb  
**bets** hedge one's ~  
**better** against one's/sb's ~  
 judgement  
 be ~ advised to do sth: be well  
 etc advised to do sth  
 be no/not any ~ than one  
 should/ought to be  
 the best/~ part of sth  
 (for) the best/~ part of an hour  
 etc  
 ~ luck to sb: good etc luck to  
 sb  
 bigger and ~  
 the bigger etc the ~  
 can't/couldn't do ~ than  
 a change for the ~/worse  
 the devil one knows is ~ than  
 the devil one doesn't  
 discretion is the ~ part of  
 valour  
 do ~ to do sth  
 feel (all) (the) ~ for (having  
 done) sth  
 find etc a ~ hole  
 for ~ or (for) worse  
 for want of a ~ name etc  
 get ~: get well etc  
 go one ~ (than sb/sth)  
 half a loaf is ~ than no bread/  
 none  
 have etc nothing ~ to do  
 (than)

kick it ~  
 (not) know any ~  
 know ~ (than to do sth)  
 the less/least said (about sb/  
 sth) the ~  
 look ~ (for sb): look bad etc  
 (for sb)  
 prevention is ~ than cure  
 so much the ~/worse (for sb/  
 sth)  
 they order things ~ in France  
 etc  
 to travel hopefully is a ~ thing/  
 is better than to arrive  
 (take/be) a turn for the ~/  
 worse  
 two heads are ~ than one  
**Betty** (all) my eye (and ~  
 Martin)  
**between** betwixt and ~  
 few and far ~  
 have etc one's tail ~ one's legs  
**bewitched** as one ~: as one  
 enchanted etc  
**beyond** the back of ~  
 circumstances ~ one's control  
**bib** one's best ~ and tucker  
**Bible** thump a/the tub/~  
**bid** (~sb) a fond farewell  
**bidding** at sb's ~  
**big** (as) ~/round as saucers  
 (as) large/~ as a cabbage  
 ~ oaks from little acorns grow:  
 tall etc oaks from little acorns  
 grow  
 get/be too ~ for one's boots  
 give sb/get a ~ hand  
 in a ~/small way  
 make a (~/tremendous) splash  
 a (~) night out  
 one ~ happy family  
 open one's (~) mouth  
 what's the ~ idea?  
**bigger** a cloud no ~ than/the  
 size of a man's hand  
 one's/sb's eyes are ~ than  
 one's belly/stomach  
 have (got)/with other/~ fish to  
 fry  
**bill** fill/fit the ~  
 foot the ~ (for sth)  
 top the ~  
**billet** a cushy ~: a cushy  
 number etc  
**billiard-ball** (as) smooth as a  
 ~/pebble  
**billiard-table** (as) smooth as a  
 ~/glass  
**billy** a puffing ~  
 a silly ~  
**billy-o(h)** like ~  
**bind** a double ~  
 fast ~, fast find/safe ~, safe  
 find  
**binding** with etc (no) strings  
 (attached/~ its use)  
**bird** (as) free as (the) air/a ~  
 do ~: do time etc  
 an early ~  
 the early ~ catches the worm

get/give sb the ~  
 (a ~ in) a gilded cage  
 a home ~  
 a little ~ told me (that)  
 a lone wolf/~  
 an odd fish/~  
 a rare ~  
**birds** be (strictly) for the ~  
 fine feathers make fine ~  
**biscuit** take the ~/cake  
**bit** (not) be etc a blind ~ of use  
 etc  
 the biter ~  
 do one's ~  
 do oneself a ~/piece of no  
 good  
 every ~ as bad etc (as)  
 every ~ as badly etc (as)  
 a fancy ~: a fancy man etc  
 for a ~/while  
 a/the hair of the dog (that ~  
 one)  
 more than a ~/little  
 not a ~ of it  
 not a/one (little) ~  
**bitch** a son of a ~  
**bite** sb's bark is worse than his  
 ~  
**bites** have/get two ~ at the  
 cherry  
 man ~ dog  
**bitten** once ~, twice shy  
**bitter** to the ~ end  
**black** (as) ~ as coal etc  
 as ~ as ink etc  
 a ~ patch: a bad etc patch  
 have etc a ~ eye  
 have etc a ~ mark (against  
 one)  
 look ~  
 look ~ (for sb): look bad etc  
 (for sb)  
 the pot calls the kettle ~  
 swear ~ is white  
 talk etc till/until one is ~/blue  
 in the face  
 work like a ~: work like a  
 Trojan etc  
**blacks** two ~/wrongs do not  
 make a white/right  
**blame** have (got)/with only  
 oneself to ~/thank (for sth)  
**blanche** give sb etc carte ~  
**blank** draw (a) ~  
 give sb etc a ~ cheque  
 give sb/get a ~ look  
 one's/the mind goes ~  
**blanket** a wet ~  
**Blarney** kiss the ~ Stone  
**blast** damn and ~ (sb/sth)  
 (at/in) full ~  
**blazes** how the ~?: how the hell  
 etc?  
 like ~ etc  
 what the ~?: what the hell etc?  
 where the ~?: where the hell  
 etc?  
 who the ~?: who the hell etc?  
 why the ~?: why the hell etc?  
**bleed** make sb's heart ~



**nouns etc used in headphrases**

**bleeds** one's heart ~ for sb  
**bless** (God) ~ my soul(!)  
 (God) ~ you!  
 (God) ~ you  
**blessedness** single ~  
**blessing** a boon and a ~  
 give sb/sth etc one's ~  
 a mixed ~  
**blessings** count one's ~  
**Blimp** Colonel ~  
**blind** (as) ~ as a bat  
 (not) be etc a ~ bit of use etc  
 eff and ~  
 in the land of the ~ the one-  
 eyed man is king  
 love is ~  
 a nod is as good as a wink (to a  
 ~ horse)  
 (there are) none so ~ /deaf as  
 those who will not see/hear  
 swear ~ (that)  
**block** a chip of/off the old ~  
 a stumbling ~  
**blonde** a/the dumb ~  
**blondes** gentlemen prefer ~  
**blood** bad ~ (between A and  
 B)  
 chill sb's/the ~: chill sb's/the  
 spine etc  
 draw ~  
 flesh and ~  
 have etc blue ~ (in one's veins)  
 have etc sth in one's ~  
 in cold ~  
 new/fresh ~  
 one's own flesh and ~  
 stir the/one's ~  
 sweat ~  
**bloody** be the (~) limit: be the  
 (absolute etc) limit  
 create (~) hell/murder  
 not (~) likely  
**blow** at a/one (single) ~  
 a body ~  
 deal sb/sth a ~  
 a death ~  
 puff and ~  
**blowed** be ~: be damned etc  
 (well,) I'll be/I'm ~!: (well,) I'll  
 be/I'm damned etc!  
 I'll be/I'm ~ if: I'll be/I'm  
 damned etc if  
**blowing** see etc which way the  
 wind is ~  
**blows** it's an ill wind (that ~  
 nobody (any) good)  
**blue** between the devil and the  
 deep ~ sea  
 black and ~  
 a bolt from the ~  
 the boys in ~  
 go etc ~ (in the face)  
 have etc ~ blood (in one's  
 veins)  
 once in a ~ moon  
 scream etc ~ murder  
 talk etc till/until one is black/~  
 in the face  
 true ~  
 a white-/~-collar job etc

**blue-eyed** sb's/the ~ boy  
**bluff** call sb's ~  
**blunt** to be ~: to be honest etc  
**blush** at first ~  
 do good by stealth (and ~ to  
 find it fame/know)  
**blushes** spare sb's ~  
**board** across the ~  
 (as) flat as a ~  
 sweep the ~ (clean)  
**boards** tread the ~  
**boat** miss the ~/bus  
**boats** burn one's ~/bridges  
 (behind one)  
**bobs** bits and ~  
 odds and ~/sods  
**bobtail** the rag-tag and ~ (of  
 sth)  
**bodily** grievous ~ harm  
**body** a fine ~ of men etc  
 a foreign ~  
 in a ~  
 over my dead ~  
**bogey** lay a/one's ~: lay a/  
 one's ghost etc  
**boggles** one's/the mind/  
 imagination ~ ~  
**boiling** keep the pot ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
**boils** one's blood ~  
 a watched kettle/pot never ~  
**bold** (as) ~ as brass  
 (as) ~ /brave as a lion  
 make ~ to do sth  
**bolt** ~ the stable door after the  
 horse has run away: lock etc  
 the stable door after the horse  
 has bolted etc  
 shoot one's ~  
 sit/be ~ upright  
**bolts** the nuts and ~ (of sth)  
**bomb** go like a ~  
**bond** sb's word is (as good as)  
 his/her ~  
**bone** (as) dry as a ~  
 near/close to the ~/knuckle  
 a/the rag and ~ man etc  
 skin and ~  
**bones** a bag of ~  
 the bare ~ (of sth)  
 break no ~  
 make old ~  
 sticks and stones will break my  
 ~ but names will never hurt  
 me  
**bonkers** drive sb ~: drive sb  
 mad etc  
 stark raving/staring mad/~  
**bonnet** have etc a bee in one's  
 ~  
**boo** not say ~ to a goose  
**book** a closed/sealed ~ (to sb)  
 a coffee-table ~  
 the good ~  
 in sb's ~  
 an open ~  
 play it/do sth by the ~  
 read sb like a ~  
 suit/fit one's/sb's ~  
**books** cook the ~  
**boot** (as) tough as leather/an

old ~  
 give sb the ~  
 give sb/get the ~  
 to ~  
**boots** die in harness/one's ~  
 get/be too big for one's ~  
 lick sb's ~ /arse  
**bore** a crashing ~  
**born** (not) be ~ yesterday  
 (never) in (all) one's ~ days  
 not know one is ~  
 poets etc are ~, not made  
 there is a sucker/one ~ every  
 minute  
 (as/as if) to the manner ~  
**borrow** beg, ~ or steal  
**boss** show (sb) who's ~  
 you're the ~  
**both** burn the candle at ~ ends  
 cut ~ /two ways  
 each way/~ ways  
 have etc one's/~ feet on the  
 ground  
 have etc it/things ~ ways  
 make (~) ends meet  
 on ~ etc counts  
 a plague on ~ your houses  
 see ~ sides (of the question  
 etc)  
 with one hand/~ hands tied  
 behind one's back  
**bother** fuss and ~  
 have etc a spot of ~ /trouble  
 no/not any ~ (at all): no/not  
 any trouble etc (at all)  
**bothered** (all) hot and ~  
**bottle** crack a ~  
 the genie of the lamp/in the ~  
 hit the ~  
 (look for) a needle in a ~ of  
 hay: (look for) a needle in a  
 haystack etc  
**bottom** (as) smooth as a baby's  
 ~  
 at ~  
 bet one's ~ dollar (on sth/that)  
 from the ~ of one's heart  
 from top to ~  
 have etc a mouth like the ~ of a  
 parrot's cage  
 reach etc rock ~  
 scrape (the ~ of) the barrel  
 there are etc fairies at the ~ of  
 the/one's garden  
**bound** (in) duty ~ to do sth  
 I'll be ~  
**bounds** by/in leaps and ~  
 know no ~  
**Bountiful** (my) Lady ~  
**bow** have etc a second string (to  
 one's ~)  
 make one's ~ /début  
 take a ~ /curtain  
**bowing** have etc nodding/~  
 acquaintance (with sb/sth)  
**box** chocolate ~  
 open Pandora's ~  
**boy** all work and no play (makes  
 Jack a dull ~)  
 be a good ~ (and do sth): be a

good chap etc (and do sth)  
 sb's/the blue-eyed ~  
 man and ~  
 a mother's ~  
 a new ~/girl  
 an old ~  
 old ~ etc  
 send a ~ on a man's errand/to  
 do a man's work  
 a slip of a ~ etc  
 that's my ~/girl  
 to a ~: to a man etc  
 where is our wandering ~/girl  
 tonight?  
 a whipping ~  
 a wide ~  
**boyhood** a/one's second ~: a/  
 one's second childhood etc  
**boys** (the) backroom ~  
 jobs for the ~  
 one of the ~  
**brain** cloud one's ~ etc  
 have etc a ~ (-) wave  
 pick sb's ~ (s)  
 sharpen one's/sb's ~/wits  
**brains** beat etc one's ~  
 have etc the ~ etc (to do sth)  
 rack one's ~/memory  
**branch** an olive ~  
 root and ~  
**brass** (as) bold as ~  
 (the) top ~  
**brave** (as) bold/~ as a lion  
 a bold/~ front  
 fortune favours the ~  
**brawn** brain(s) versus ~  
**bread** one's daily ~  
 the greatest thing since sliced  
 ~  
 half a loaf is better than no ~/  
 none  
 know which/what side one's ~  
 is buttered (on)  
**breadth** the length and ~ of sth  
**break** give sb etc a ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 keep/~ one's word  
 make or ~ etc  
 sticks and stones will ~ my  
 bones but names will never  
 hurt me  
**breakfast** a dog's ~/dinner  
 eat sb alive/for ~  
**breaking** (one can't) make an  
 omelette without ~ eggs  
**breaks** (all) hell ~/is let loose  
 down/day ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 one's voice ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 the weather ~/holds  
**breast** beat one's ~  
 hope springs eternal (in the  
 human ~)  
 soothe the savage ~  
**breath** below/under one's/sb's  
 ~  
 catch one's ~  
 draw ~  
 draw/take (a/one's) ~  
 hold one's ~  
 save one's ~ (to cool one's  
 porridge)

with bated ~  
**breathe** can ~ (easily/freely)  
 again  
**bred** born and ~ (in/to sth)  
**breeches** wear the trousers/~  
**breeds** familiarity ~ contempt  
**brick** drop a ~/clanger  
**bricks** go (and) chew ~ etc  
 like a cat on hot ~  
 like a ton of ~  
 make ~ without straw  
**bride** happy the ~ the sun  
 shines on  
**bridge** a lot of/much water has  
 run etc under the ~  
**bridges** burn one's boats/~  
 (behind one)  
 cross one's ~ when one comes  
 to them  
**brief** in ~/short  
 a watching ~  
**brigade** the old ~/guard  
**bright** (as) ~ as a button  
**brightness** wear one's ~  
 lightly: wear one's learning etc  
 lightly  
**brimstone** breath fire and ~:  
 breathe fire and slaughter etc  
**bring** ~ a shot in the arm (to  
 sth): get etc a shot in the arm  
**brings** the mountain labours  
 and ~ forth a (ridiculous)  
 mouse  
**Bristol** (all) shipshape and ~ -  
 fashion  
**British** the best of ~ (luck) (to  
 sb)  
**broad** (as) ~ as it's long  
 give (sb)/get a ~ grin/smile  
**broke** go/be ~  
**broom** a new ~ (sweeps clean)  
**broth** too many cooks spoil the  
 ~  
**Brother** Big ~  
**brow** a cool hand on a fevered  
 ~  
**brown** (as) ~ as a berry  
**brutish** nasty, ~ and short  
**bubble** prick the ~ (of sth)  
**buck** a fast etc ~  
 pass the ~  
**bucket** a drop in the ~/ocean  
 kick the ~  
**buffer** an old ~ etc  
**bug** (as) snug as a ~ in a rug  
 a big ~  
**bugger** not matter a ~: not  
 matter a damn etc  
**buggered** be ~: be damned etc  
**built** be ~/made that way  
 Rome was not ~ in a day  
**bulge** the battle of the ~  
**bull** a cock and ~ story  
 John B ~  
 (like) a ~ in a china shop  
 (like) a red rag to a ~  
**bull's** hit the/score a ~ eye  
**bullet** like a ~ out of/from a  
 gun  
 stop a ~/one

**bum's** give sb/get the ~ rush  
**bump** things that go ~ in the  
 night  
**bun** have etc a ~ in the oven  
**bunch** the pick/best of the ~  
**bundle** a bag/~ of nerves  
 (look for) a needle in a ~ of  
 hay: (look for) a needle in a  
 haystack etc  
**bunk** do a ~  
**burden** bear the ~ and heat of  
 the day  
 shoulder a ~ (of sth)  
 the white man's ~  
**buried** dead and ~/gone  
**burn** one's/sb's ears ~  
**burning** a brand plucked etc  
 from the ~  
 keep the home fires ~  
**burns** fiddle while Rome ~  
**bury** let the dead ~ their dead  
**bus** miss the boat/~  
**bus** a bird in the hand is worth  
 two in the ~  
 (a) good wine needs no ~  
**business** a bad etc ~  
 be nobody's ~  
 the ~ in hand: the job etc in  
 hand  
 funny ~  
 have (a) no ~ (to do sth/  
 doing sth)  
 (a) hole and corner ~ etc  
 like nobody's ~  
 make it one's ~ to do sth  
 mean ~  
 mind one's own ~  
 monkey ~/tricks  
 on ~  
 there's no ~ like show business  
**bustle** hustle and ~  
**busy** (as) ~ as a bee  
 get ~  
**butler** what the ~ saw  
**butts** ifs and ~  
**butter** (as) fat as ~/a young  
 thrust  
 bread and ~<sup>1,2,3</sup>  
 fine words ~ no parsnips  
 guns or ~  
 like a (hot) knife through ~/  
 margarine  
 look as if/though ~ would not  
 melt in one's mouth  
**battered** know which/what  
 side one's bread is ~ (on)  
**button** (as) bright as a ~  
**buy** the best (education etc)  
 that money can ~  
 ~ a place in the sun: have etc a  
 place in the sun  
 money can't ~ everything etc  
**by** conspicuous/distinguished  
 ~ one's/its absence  
 hard ~  
**bygones** let ~ be ~  
**byways** the highways and ~  
 (of sth)

## nouns etc used in headphrases

**C**  
**cabbage** (as) large/big as a ~  
**cabin** from log ~ to White House  
**cables** cut one's ~  
**caboodle** the whole ~  
**cackle** cut the ~ (and come to the hosses)  
**Caesar's** (like) ~ wife  
**cage** (a bird in) a gilded ~ have etc a mouth like the bottom of a parrot's ~  
**Cain** the curse of ~  
 raise ~/(merry) hell<sup>1,2</sup>  
**cake** get etc a/one's slice/share of the ~  
 have one's ~ and eat it (too)  
 let them eat ~  
 a piece of ~  
 a slice off a cut ~ is never missed  
 take the biscuit/~  
**cakes** sell like hot ~  
**Calcutta** the black hole of ~  
**calf** kill the fatted ~  
**call** answer/obey the ~ (of duty)  
 can(not) ~ one's soul etc one's own  
 a clarion ~  
 a close ~  
 desperate diseases etc ~ for/require desperate measures/remedies  
 don't ~ us, we'll ~ you  
 a duty ~  
 have (got)/there be no ~ to do sth  
 a port of ~  
 what you ~ him  
**called** many are ~ but few are chosen  
**calls** duty ~  
 like attracts/~ to like  
 the pot ~ the kettle black  
**calm** cool(/) ~ and collected  
**came** this is where we ~ in  
**camel** strain at a gnat (and swallow a ~)  
**camera** the candid ~  
**can** carry the ~  
 (play) catch-as-catch-~  
 those who ~, do; those who cannot, teach  
**candle** burn the ~ at both ends  
 the game is (not) worth the ~  
**cannot** those who can, do; those who ~, teach  
**canoe** paddle one's own ~  
**cap** a feather in one's ~  
 if the ~ fits, (wear it)  
**capacity** genius is an infinite ~ for taking pains  
 in an advisory etc ~  
**caper** cut a ~  
**capital** (spelt) with a ~ S etc  
**capture** ~ sb's imagination  
 catch etc sb's imagination

**card** play one's last ~  
 play a/one's trump/winning ~  
**cards** a house of ~  
 lucky at ~, unlucky in love  
 play all one's ~  
 play one's ~ well etc  
**care** couldn't ~ less  
 exercise due/proper ~ (and attention)  
 not have/without a ~ in the world  
 take ~ (not) to do sth  
 tender loving ~  
 tomorrow will/can take ~ of/look after itself  
**career** a chequered ~/history  
**careless** the first fine (~)  
 rapture  
**cares** for all one ~  
 who ~?  
**carpet** the red ~  
**carry** as fast as one's legs can ~  
 one  
 bear/~ one's cross  
 cash and ~  
 dot and ~ (one)  
 ~ the seeds of sth: sow etc the seeds of sth  
**carte** give sb etc ~ blanche  
**case** as the ~ may be  
 be a ~ in point  
 be a ~ of sth  
 be the ~ (that)  
 break a ~  
 a clear ~ of sth  
 a hard ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 in any ~/event  
 in sb's ~  
 in that ~  
 an open and shut ~  
 prove one's/the ~/point  
**cases** circumstances alter ~  
 hard ~ make bad law(s)  
**cash** hard ~  
 take the ~ (in hand) and let the credit go  
**cast** coming events ~ their shadow(s) before  
 the die is ~  
**castle** an Englishman's home is his ~  
 the king of the ~  
**cat** (as) lean as an alley ~  
 (as) nervous as a ~/kitten  
 bell the ~  
 curiosity killed the ~  
 enough to make a ~ laugh:  
 enough to make one weep etc  
 grin like a Cheshire ~  
 (not) have etc a ~ in hell's chance (of doing sth)  
 like a ~ on hot bricks  
 like the ~ that stole the cream  
 like a ~ with nine lives  
 like a scalded ~  
 make a ~ laugh  
 no room to swing a ~  
 see etc which way the ~ jumps  
 there are more/easier ways of killing a ~ than by choking it

with cream  
**cat's** be the ~ pyjamas/whiskers  
 when/while the ~ away, the mice will play  
**catch** (play) ~-as-~-can  
 set a thief to ~ a thief  
 a sprat to ~ a mackerel/whale  
**catchee** softly, softly (~ monkey)  
**catches** the early bird ~ the worm  
**cats** all ~ are grey in the dark  
 fight like Kilkenny ~  
 rain/pour ~ and dogs  
**caught** be ~/taken short  
**cause** ~ mischief: make etc mischief  
 in the ~ of sth  
 in a good ~  
 a lost ~  
 make/~ trouble  
**cave** an Aladdin's ~  
**caviar** be ~ (e) to the general  
**cease** never ~ to wonder etc (at sth/sb)  
 wonders will never ~  
**ceiling** hit the ~/roof  
**cent** earn/turn an honest ~:  
 earn/turn an honest penny etc  
**centre** have (got)/with a soft ~  
 left, right and ~  
 things fall apart, the ~ cannot hold  
**cert** a dead ~/certainty  
**certain** beyond a ~ point  
 dead ~/sure (of/about sth)  
 know etc for ~/sure  
 make ~/sure<sup>1,2</sup>  
 that's for ~/sure!  
**certainty** a dead cert/~  
**chalk** (as) different as ~ from/and cheese  
 (as) white as ~/a sheet  
 not by a long ~/shot  
**chance** as ~ will/would have it by any ~  
 by ~  
 give sb/sth etc half a ~  
 (not) have etc a cat in hell's ~ (of doing sth)  
 (not) have etc a ~ in hell (of doing sth)  
 (not) have etc a dog's ~ (of doing sth)  
 have etc an even/a fifty-fifty ~ (of doing sth)  
 have (got)/with an eye for etc the main ~  
 (not) have etc a ghost of a ~ (of doing sth)  
 have etc a sporting ~ (of doing sth)  
 haven't etc an earthly (~) (of achieving sth)  
 no ~  
 on the (off) ~ (of sth/that)  
 stand a ~ (of sth/doing sth)  
**chances** take a chance/~ (on sth)

- change** chop and ~  
 (~) the course of history  
 for a ~  
 it is a woman's/lady's privilege  
 to ~ her mind  
 make a ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 the small ~ (of sth)  
 (the) times ~  
 the wind of ~
- changeable** (as) ~ as a  
 weathercock
- changes** ring the ~
- chap** be a good ~ etc (and do  
 sth)  
 old ~: old boy etc
- character** blacken sb's ~/  
 name  
 clear one's/sb's ~
- charge** be drunk in ~  
 a capital ~: a capital offence  
 etc  
 a first ~ on/upon sth/sb
- charity** (as) cold as ~
- Charles's** a King ~ head
- Charley** a proper/right ~/  
 Charlie
- Charlie** a proper/right Charley/  
 ~  
 a tail-end ~
- charm** work like a ~
- charmed** bear etc a ~ life
- Charymbdis** between Scylla and  
 ~
- chase** a wild goose ~
- chattels** goods and ~
- chauvinist** a male ~ (pig/  
 swine)
- cheap** (as) ~ as dirt  
 hold (one's) life etc ~  
 on the ~
- cheaply** two can live as ~ as  
 one
- check** a spot ~
- cheek** have (got)/with the ~ to  
 do sth: have (got)/with the  
 nerve etc to do sth  
 of all the ~ (!): of all the nerve  
 etc (!)
- turn the other ~  
 what a ~ (!): what a nerve  
 etc (!)
- cheer** a Bronx ~
- cheers** the cup that ~ (but not  
 inebriates)  
 three ~ (for sb/sth)
- cheese** (as) different as chalk  
 from/and ~  
 a big ~  
 hard ~ (!)  
 say ~
- cheque** give sb etc a blank ~
- cherry** have/get two bites at the  
 ~
- Cheshire** grin like a ~ cat
- chew** go (and) ~ bricks etc
- chicken** get it (in the neck/  
 where the ~ gets the  
 chopper)
- chickens** count one's ~ (before  
 they are hatched)
- child** sb's brain ~  
 the burnt ~ dreads/fears the  
 fire  
 from a ~  
 (every) man, woman and ~  
 an only ~  
 spare the rod and spoil the ~
- childhood** (in one's) second ~  
 a/one's second ~ etc
- children** flower ~/people  
 the sins of the fathers (are  
 visited upon the ~)  
 women and ~ first
- chill** get etc a ~ on the liver etc
- chimney** smoke like a ~
- chin** a double ~
- china** from C ~ to Peru  
 (like) a bull in a ~ shop  
 (all) Lombard Street to a C ~  
 orange  
 not for all the tea in C ~
- chip** have etc a ~ on one's  
 shoulder
- chips** have had one's ~
- chivalry** the age of ~ is (not)  
 dead
- choice** a happy ~  
 have etc Hobson's ~  
 of one's ~  
 you pays your money and (you)  
 takes your ~
- choking** there are more/easier  
 ways of killing a cat than by ~  
 it with cream
- choose** call it etc what/which  
 you ~: call it etc what/which  
 you will etc  
 (there is) nothing etc to ~  
 between A and B  
 pick and ~
- choosers** beggars can't be ~
- chop** get/give sb the ~/  
 chopper
- chopper** get/give sb the chop/  
 ~  
 get it (in the neck/where the  
 chicken gets the ~)
- chops** lick/smack one's lips/~
- chord** strike a ~
- chorus** the dawn ~
- chosen** many are called but few  
 are ~
- Christ** for the love of ~: for the  
 love of God etc
- Christ's** for ~ sake (!): for  
 goodness etc sake (!)
- Christendom** in ~
- Christmas** a white ~
- church** (as) poor as a ~ mouse
- circle** square the ~  
 a vicious ~/spiral
- circumstance** force of ~  
 pomp and ~
- circumstances** in/under the ~  
 (in) straitened/reduced ~
- circus** a one-man ~: a one-man  
 band etc
- circuses** bread and ~
- city** give sb etc the freedom of  
 the ~
- civil** give (sb) etc a ~ answer to  
 a ~ question
- claim** the most (that) one can  
 say/~ (for/of sb/sth)
- clanger** drop a brick/~
- clappers** like the ~
- class** have etc a touch of ~
- claw** nature, red in tooth and ~
- clay** have etc feet of ~
- clean** (as) ~ as a new pin  
 (as) ~ as a whistle  
 come ~  
 get away (as) ~ as a whistle  
 good ~ fun  
 have etc ~ hands  
 keep one's nose ~  
 a new broom (sweeps ~)  
 show (sb) a ~ pair of heels  
 spring ~  
 sweep the board (~)
- clear** all ~  
 (as) ~ as a bell  
 (as) ~ as crystal  
 (as) ~ as day/daylight  
 (as) ~ as mud  
 the coast is ~  
 crystal ~  
 have etc a ~ conscience  
 have (got)/with a ~ head<sup>1,2</sup>  
 have etc a ~ idea (of sth)  
 loud(ly) and ~ (ly)  
 make sth ~/plain (to sb)  
 see one's way (~) to do sth  
 steer etc ~ (of sb/sth)
- clerks** the treason of the ~
- clever** (as) ~/smart as paint  
 (as) ~ as sin  
 be too ~ by half
- climb** the higher you ~ etc the  
 harder you fall
- clock** around/round the ~  
 watch the ~
- clockwork** (as) regular as ~  
 go/run like ~
- close** as ~ as an oyster  
 at ~ quarters  
 at ~ range  
 (not) bear/stand ~  
 examination/inspection  
 ~ the stable door after the  
 horse has bolted etc: lock etc  
 the stable door after the horse  
 has bolted etc  
 hard/~ on/upon sb's/sth's  
 heels  
 near/~ to the bone/knuckle  
 run sb/sth ~
- closed** behind ~ doors  
 have etc a ~ mind
- cloth** cut one's coat according  
 to one's ~
- clothes** the emperor has no ~  
 plain ~
- clothing** a wolf in sheep's ~
- cloud** every ~ has a silver lining
- clover** a four-leaved ~
- clue** haven't (got)/without a ~
- coal** (as) black as ~ etc
- coat** change/turn one's ~  
 cut one's ~ according to one's

## nouns etc used in headphrases

- cloth  
trail one's ~
- Cobbleigh** old Uncle Tom ~  
and all
- cobblers** (all) a load/lot of  
(old) ~: (all) a load/lot of  
(old) rubbish etc
- cock talk** (a load/lot of) ~ etc
- cockles** warm the ~ (of sb's  
heart)
- codger** an old ~: an old buffer  
etc
- codswollop** talk (a load/lot of)  
~: talk (a load/lot of) cock etc
- coffin** a nail in sb's/sth's ~
- coin** earn/turn an honest ~: ~  
earn/turn an honest penny etc  
the other etc side of the ~
- coincidence** (by) a happy/an  
unhappy ~  
stretch the (long) arm of ~
- cold** (as) ~ as charity  
(as) ~ as ice etc  
one's blood runs ~  
blow hot and ~  
catch (a) ~  
catch one's death (of ~)  
feed a ~ and starve a fever  
get etc ~ feet  
give sb etc a ~ etc reception  
give sb/get the ~ shoulder  
go ~ on the deal  
in ~ blood  
knock sb ~  
leave sb ~
- collar** hot under the ~
- collected** cool(/)calm and ~
- colour** change ~  
a horse of another ~  
(the) local ~  
see the ~ of sb's money
- coloured** penny plain or  
twopence/tuppence ~
- colours** with flying ~
- combat** hand-to-hand ~:  
hand-to-hand fighting etc
- come** as big etc as they ~  
~ back with one's tail between  
one's legs: have etc one's tail  
between one's legs  
~ to hand: have etc sth to hand  
cut the cackle (and ~ to the  
hosses)  
cut and ~ again  
a Daniel ~ to judg(e)ment  
easy ~, easy go  
first ~, first served  
for years etc to ~  
go/~ a long way  
how ~ (that)?  
Kingdom ~  
let 'em all ~  
men etc may ~ and men etc  
may go (but I etc go on for  
ever)  
(if) the mountain will not ~ to  
Mohammed/Mahomet,  
Mohammed/Mahomet must  
go to the mountain  
see them ~ and see them go
- the shape/taste of things to ~  
the time has ~ (for sb) to do sth  
wait etc till/until the cows ~  
home  
(flee from) the wrath to ~  
**comedy** (a) black ~  
**comes** cross one's bridges  
when one ~ to them  
the darkest hour is that/~  
before the dawn  
death/old age ~ to us all  
eat/drink (sth) till/until it ~ out  
of one's ears  
the first thing etc that ~ into/  
enters one's head/mind  
if the worst/it ~ to the worst  
take sb/sth as he/it is/~  
when Greek meets Greek (then  
is/~ the tug of war)
- comfort** cold ~  
a crumb of ~  
**comfortably** (are you) sitting  
~(?)
- comforter** a Job's ~
- comforts** creature ~
- coming** backward in ~ forward  
everything is going/~ one's  
way  
get/take what's ~ to one  
have (got) another think/guess  
~  
I don't know what the world's  
~ to  
not know if/whether one is ~  
or going  
not know/be sure where one's  
next meal/penny is ~ from  
up and ~
- command** born to ~/rule  
yours to ~
- commitment** a day-to-day ~:  
a day-to-day arrangement etc
- common** (as) ~ as dirt/muck  
by ~ consent  
in ~ with sb/sth  
the trivial round, the ~ task
- commons** (on) short ~
- communist** a card-carrying ~:  
a card-carrying member etc
- companion** a boon ~  
a chance acquaintance/~
- company** (you can) judge/tell a  
man by the ~ he keeps  
keep bad etc ~  
keep/bear sb ~  
keep one's own ~  
mixed ~  
present ~ excepted/excepting  
present ~  
two's ~, (three's a crowd)
- comparison** by/in ~ (with sb/  
sth)
- comparisons** draw/make ~
- competition** cut-throat ~ /  
rivalry
- compliment** a left-handed/  
back-handed ~  
pay (sb) a ~
- comprehension** pass (sb's) ~  
etc
- concern** a going ~  
a matter of ~ etc  
(a matter etc) of academic  
interest/~
- concerned** as far as sb/sth is ~
- conclusion** a foregone ~
- condition** on (the) ~ that
- confidence** have (got)/with  
the ~ (to do sth): have (got)/  
with the nerve etc (to do sth)  
in ~
- conflict** see both sides (of the  
~): see both sides (of the  
question etc)
- confounded** (make) confusion  
worse ~
- confrontation** a ding-dong  
(~): a ding-dong (battle etc)
- confusion** in ~<sup>1,2</sup>
- congratulation** a mutual  
admiration/~(s) society
- conjunction** in ~ (with sb/sth)
- conjure** a name to ~ with
- connect** only ~
- connection** in ~ with sth
- cons** (the) pros and ~
- conscience** clear etc one's ~  
ease sb's ~/mind  
have etc a clear ~  
in all ~  
the still small voice (of ~)  
the voice of ~
- conscious** only too aware/~ of  
sth/that
- consciousness** the stream of ~
- consent** by common ~  
with/without the knowledge  
and ~ of sb
- consequences** take etc the ~  
(of sth)  
weigh the ~ (of sth)
- consider** ~ oneself fortunate/  
lucky: count etc oneself  
fortunate/lucky  
(think/~) the world owes one  
a living  
(~) the world well lost: (think  
etc) the world well lost
- consideration** for a ~
- considered** all things ~
- conspiracy** hatch a ~: hatch a  
plot etc
- constitution** have etc a/the ~  
like/of a horse/an ox
- consumption** fit for human ~
- contempt** familiarity breeds ~
- content** to one's heart's ~
- contention** a bone of ~
- contest** a ding-dong (~): a  
ding-dong (battle etc)  
a hand-to-hand ~: hand-to-  
hand fighting etc
- contrary** on the ~  
to the ~
- contrast** in ~ (to/with sb/sth)
- contribute** ~ a/one's fair  
share: get etc a/one's fair share  
generate/~ more heat than  
light
- control** circumstances beyond

one's ~ will bring sth to a head  
**convenience** a marriage of ~  
**conviction** carry ~  
**coo** bill and ~  
**cookie** a tough guy/~  
**cooking** what's ~ (?)  
**cooks** too many ~ spoil the  
 broth  
**cool** (as) ~ as a cucumber  
 keep etc a ~ head  
 keep/lose one's ~  
 lose/keep one's temper/~  
 play it etc ~  
 save one's breath (to ~ one's  
 porridge)  
**coop** fly the ~  
**coot** as bald as a ~  
**cop** a fair ~  
 not much ~  
**copper** earn/turn an honest ~ :  
 earn/turn an honest penny etc  
**copybook** blot one's ~  
**core** the hard ~ (of sth)  
**corner** (a) hole and ~ business  
 etc  
 Pseudo's C ~  
 (just) round/around the (next)/  
 (every) ~  
 out of the ~ of one's eye  
 turn the ~  
**corners** cut ~  
 the four etc ~ of the earth/  
 world  
**cost** at what (a) ~/price  
 count the ~  
 to one's ~  
**costs** at all ~  
**counsel** keep one's own ~  
**count** take the ~  
 (~) the world well lost: (think  
 etc) the world well lost  
**counter** a bargain basement/~  
 a bargaining ~  
**country** one's (own) line of ~  
 my/one's ~ right or wrong  
 a prophet (is) without honour  
 in his own ~  
 up and down the ~/land  
**counts** it's the thought that ~  
 on both etc ~  
**couple** the happy ~/pair  
**courage** Dutch ~  
 have (got)/with the ~ (to do  
 sth): have (got)/with the  
 nerve etc (to do sth)  
**course** (as) a matter of ~  
 be par for the ~  
 change ~  
 the ~ of least resistance: the  
 line etc of least resistance  
 a crash ~/programme  
 in the ~ of sth  
 in the (normal/ordinary) ~ of  
 nature etc  
 in due ~  
 of ~ (not)  
 (about) par for the ~  
 run its ~  
 stay etc the ~  
 steer etc a middle etc ~

take etc another ~  
 (let sth) take its ~  
**court** have etc a friend at ~  
 hold ~  
**courtesy** by ~ of sb  
 the soul of ~ etc  
**cousin** a country ~  
 first ~ to sth  
**cousins** kissing ~  
**cover** break ~  
 under ~ of sth  
**covered** have etc sb/sth ~  
**cow** a sacred ~  
**cows** wait etc till/until the ~  
 come home  
**Cox** (play) Box and ~  
**crab** (as) sour as vinegar/a ~  
**crack** a chink/~ in one's armour  
 a hard/tough nut to ~  
 have etc a fair ~ of the whip  
**crackers** drive sb ~: drive sb  
 mad etc  
 go etc ~ etc  
 go etc ~ etc (about/over sb/  
 sth)  
**cracking** get ~ etc  
**cradle** from the ~ to the grave  
 the hand that rocks the ~ (rules  
 the world)  
**crafts** arts and ~  
**crannies** nooks and ~  
**crap** (all) a load/lot of (old) ~:  
 (all) a load/lot of (old)  
 rubbish etc  
**crave** what the eye doesn't see  
 (the heart doesn't ~ for/  
 grieve over)  
**crawl** creep and ~  
 make one's flesh creep/~  
 a pub ~  
**crazy** drive sb ~: drive sb mad  
 etc  
 like mad/~  
 a (~) mixed-up kid  
 send sb ~  
**cream** like the cat that stole the  
 ~  
 there are more/easier ways of  
 killing a cat than by choking it  
 with ~  
**create** ~ a stir: cause etc a stir  
**created** all men are ~ equal  
**creation** the lord(s) of ~  
**creature** a slip of a ~: a slip of a  
 boy etc  
**credit** (not) believe/~ (the  
 evidence of) one's ears/eyes  
 do sb ~  
 give ~ where ~ is due  
 on ~/tick  
 take the cash (in hand) and let  
 the ~ go  
 to sb's ~  
**creep** make one's flesh ~/crawl  
**creeps** give sb etc the ~ etc  
**crest** ride (the ~ of) the wave  
**cricket** (as) lively as a ~  
**cries** laugh till/until one ~ etc  
**crime** make the punishment fit  
 the ~

**criminal** a hardened ~ etc  
**critics** confound the prophets/  
 ~  
**Croesus** (as) rich as ~  
**crook** by hook or by ~  
**crop** neck and ~  
**cropper** come a ~  
**cross** (as) ~ etc as a bear with  
 a sore head  
 (as) ~ as two sticks  
 at ~ purposes  
 bear/carry one's ~  
 dot the i's (and ~ the t's)  
 a double ~  
**crossed** get etc one's lines ~  
**crossroads** dirty work at the ~  
**crow** as the ~ flies  
 (as) hoarse as an (old) ~  
**crowd** two's company, (three's  
 a ~)  
**crown** from ~ to toe: from head  
 etc to foot etc  
**cruel** be ~ to be kind  
**cruse** the widow's ~  
**crust** the upper ~  
**cry** enough to make one ~:  
 enough to make one weep etc  
 a far ~ from sth  
 a hue and ~  
**crying** for ~ out loud!  
**crystal** (as) clear as ~  
**cucumber** (as) cool as a ~  
**cud** chew the ~ (of sth)  
**cudgel** ~ one's brains: beat etc  
 one's brains  
**cuff** off the ~  
**culture** wear one's ~ lightly:  
 wear one's learning etc lightly  
**cunning** (as) ~ as a fox  
**cup** another ~ of tea  
 drink/drain the ~ of sorrow etc  
 there's many a slip 'twixt (the)  
 ~ and (the) lip  
**cupboard** a skeleton in the ~  
**cups** in one's ~  
**curate's** (like) the ~ egg  
**cure** kill or ~  
 prevention is better than ~  
**current** on ~ form: on present  
 etc form  
**Curtain** the Iron ~  
 take a bow/~  
**curtains** be/mean ~ (for sb)  
**customer** an awkward ~  
 a cool ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 an ugly(-looking) ~  
**cut** clear ~  
 diamond ~ diamond  
 half ~  
 (~) the red tape  
 a short ~ (to sth)  
 a slice off a ~ cake is never  
 missed  
 so sharp one'll ~ oneself  
 the (most) unkindest ~ of all  
**Cyril** nice one, ~

## nouns etc used in headphrases

**D** dab be a ~ etc hand at sth  
**daddy** a sugar ~  
**daft** (don't) talk ~  
 drive sb ~: drive sb mad etc  
**dagger** cloak and ~  
**daisy** (as) fresh as a ~  
**dale** up hill and down ~  
**dammit** as near as ~ / kiss your hand  
**damn** (not) care/give a ~ etc  
 God ~ (it)  
 God ~ sb's eyes  
 life/it is one (~ (ed)) thing after another  
 not matter a ~ etc  
**damned** be ~ etc  
 a ~ lot of good etc: a fat etc lot of good etc  
 (well,) I'll be/I'm ~ etc!  
 I'll be/I'm ~ etc if  
 publish and be ~  
**damnedest** do/try one's ~ (to do sth/for sb)  
**dance** ~ the light fantastic: trip etc the light fantastic  
 lead sb a ~  
 a song-and-~ act etc  
**dandy** fine and ~  
**danger** court ~: court death etc the nettle, ~ (...the flower, safety)  
**dangerous** a little learning/knowledge is a ~ thing  
**dare** how ~ you (do sth)  
 I ~ say  
**dark** all cats are grey in the ~  
 keep sth/it ~ (from sb)  
 a leap/shot in the ~  
 tall, ~ and handsome  
**darling** be a ~ (and do sth): be a good chap etc (and do sth)  
**darned** be ~: be damned etc  
 (well,) I'll be/I'm ~: (well,) I'll be/I'm damned etc!  
 I'll be/I'm ~ if: I'll be/I'm damned etc if  
**dash** cut a ~  
 ~ it (all): damn etc it (all)  
**date** to ~  
**dawn** the darkest hour is that/comes before the ~  
 a false ~  
 from ~ / morning to/till dusk/night  
**day** all ~ and every ~  
 all right on the night/ ~  
 any ~  
 any ~ (of the week)  
 (as) clear as ~ / daylight  
 (as) happy etc as the ~ is long  
 (as) honest as the ~ is long  
 at all hours (of the ~ / night)  
 (not) be/take all ~ etc  
 bear the burden and heat of the ~  
 the better the ~ the better the deed

a black ~ (for sb)  
 call it a ~  
 carry/win the ~  
 dawn/~ breaks  
 every ~ (and) in every way  
 (one is getting better and better)  
 every dog has his/its ~  
 a field ~  
 from that ~ to this  
 one's good deed for the ~  
 a hard ~ at the office  
 have one's ~ 1,2  
 have etc all ~  
 have had one's ~ / time in sb's ~ / time 1,2  
 in this ~ and age  
 late in the ~  
 the light of ~  
 live to fight another ~  
 live to see the ~  
 make sb's ~  
 many happy returns (of the ~)  
 (for) many a long ~  
 a nine ~ (s') wonder  
 a nine to five ~: a nine to five job etc  
 not give etc sb/sth the time of ~  
 one ~  
 the order of the ~  
 (only) the other ~ etc  
 pass the time of ~ (with sb)  
 postpone/put off the evil hour/~  
 a red letter ~  
 Rome was not built in a ~  
 rue the ~ (that)  
 save the ~  
 sufficient unto the ~ (is the evil thereof)  
 that will be the ~  
 to a/the ~ etc  
 to this ~  
 tomorrow is another ~  
**daylight** (as) clear as day/~  
 (in) broad ~  
 see ~: see (day)light  
**day's** a hard ~ night  
 a hard ~ work etc  
 it is all in the ~ work  
**days** all the ~ of one's life  
 (in) bygone ~ / ~ gone by  
 count the ~ / hours  
 the dog ~  
 the early ~  
 early ~ yet  
 end one's/its ~  
 for ~ etc at a time etc  
 the good/bad old ~  
 the happiest ~ of one's life  
 happy ~ (!)  
 have/be one of one's good etc ~  
 high ~ and holidays  
 (never) in (all) one's born ~  
 in ~ of old/yore  
 one of these ~  
 one of those/these ~  
 one's salad ~

scorn delights and live laborious ~  
 these ~  
 those were the ~  
**dead** the age of chivalry is (not) ~  
 (as) ~ as the dodo  
 (as) ~ as a doornail  
 (as) ~ as mutton  
 be ~ against sth  
 be etc ~ right/wrong  
 be a (~ / real) ringer for sb/sth  
 better (off) ~  
 cut sb ~  
 drop ~ 1,2  
 flog a ~ horse  
 go ~ on sb  
 in (the) ~ of winter  
 sb/sth is ~, but he/it won't lie down  
 kill sth stone ~  
 let the ~ bury their ~  
 more ~ than alive  
 not speak ill of the ~  
 the only good Indian etc is a ~ Indian  
 over my ~ body  
 Queen Anne is ~  
 the quick and the ~  
 the (~ / very) spit of sb/sth  
 stop (sb/sth) (stone) ~  
 (would) wake etc the ~  
 wouldn't be seen ~ (in a ditch) with sb/in sth  
 you're a long time ~  
**deadly** the female of the species is more ~ than the male  
 the seven ~ sins  
**deaf** (as) ~ as a post  
**deal** big ~ (!)  
 clinch a ~  
 get etc a fair/square ~  
 get etc a raw ~  
 go cold on the ~  
 a good/great ~  
 a good/great ~ (of sth)  
 a good/great ~ healthier etc  
 a new ~  
**dealing** wheeling and ~  
**dear** be a ~ (and do sth): be a good chap etc (and do sth)  
 cost sb ~  
 for ~ life  
 (~) God in heaven (!)  
 hold sth ~ (to sb)  
 near and ~ (to sb)  
 an old ~: an old buffer etc  
**dearest** one's nearest and ~  
**dearly** the English etc ~ love a lord  
**death** the angel of ~  
 (as) pale as ~  
 (as) still as ~  
 (as) sure as ~ etc  
 be the ~ of sb  
 catch one's ~ (of cold)  
 court ~ etc  
 die the ~  
 die a natural etc ~  
 a fate worse than ~

the kiss of ~ (noun vey) you  
 (a matter etc of) life and/or ~  
 make a good ~/end  
 sick to ~ of sb/sth  
 sound the (~) knell of sb/sth  
 a sudden ~ finish/play-off  
 till/until ~ us do part  
 the valley of the shadow of ~  
 the wages of sin (is ~)  
**debt** owe sb a ~ of gratitude  
**début** make one's bow/~  
**decay** change and ~  
**deceive** one's ears/eyes ~/do  
 not ~ one  
**deceives** the quickness of the  
 hand ~ the eye  
**decency** common ~  
**decent** do the ~ thing: do the  
 right etc thing<sup>1</sup>  
**decision** make etc a ~  
 a snap ~: a snap vote etc  
 take a ~  
**decks** clear the ~ (for action)  
**declare** (well) I (do) ~ (!)  
**deed** the better the day the  
 better the ~  
 one's good ~ for the day  
 in word and (in) ~  
 shine like a good ~ in a  
 naughty world  
 (in) thought, word and/or ~  
**deep** (as) ~ as a well  
 beauty is but/only skin ~  
 between the devil and the ~  
 blue sea  
 still waters run ~  
**defects** have etc the vices/~ of  
 one's/its virtues/qualities  
**defence** attack is the best form  
 of ~  
**deferred** hope ~ (maketh the  
 heart sick)  
**defiled** touch pitch and be ~  
**definition** by ~  
**degree** the third ~  
 to a ~  
**delay** brook no ~ etc  
**delight** (sweet airs/noises that)  
 give ~ and hurt not  
 much to one's ~: much to one's  
 relief etc  
**delights** scorn ~ and live  
 laborious days  
**deliver** ~ a speech: make etc a  
 speech  
 stand and ~  
**delivered** signed (and) sealed  
 (and ~)  
**delusion** a snare and a ~  
**demand** ~ one's money's  
 worth: get etc one's money's  
 worth  
 ~ one's pound of flesh: have  
 etc one's pound of flesh  
 ~ a/one's slice/share of the  
 cake: get etc a/one's slice/  
 share of the cake  
**demon** lay a/one's ~: lay a/  
 one's ghost etc  
**demonstration** stage a ~:

stage a strike etc  
**den** beard the lion/sb in his ~  
**deny** it is idle to ~ etc (that)  
**denying** there is no ~ etc it etc  
**depended** as if/though one's  
 life ~ on/upon it  
**depends** it/that (all/rather) ~  
**depth** in ~  
**described** can/could hardly be  
 ~ as  
**description** beggar (all) ~  
**desert** a cultural ~  
 rats ~ etc a (sinking) ship  
**deserve** ~ a good hiding etc:  
 give sb etc a good hiding etc  
 ~ a rude awakening: have etc a  
 rude awakening  
 ~ a warm welcome/reception:  
 give sb etc a warm welcome/  
 reception  
**deserves** one good turn ~  
 another  
**design** by ~  
**desire** everything/all (that) the  
 heart (of a man) could ~  
 what more can one ~: what  
 more can one ask etc?  
**desired** leave much to be ~  
**desperation** (a/an life/air of)  
 quiet ~  
**despond** the slough of ~  
**despondency** alarm and ~  
**destroy** make or ~: make or  
 break etc  
**detail** in ~  
**detests** if there is one thing sb  
 ~, it is: if there is one thing sb  
 hates etc, it is  
**develop** ~ a/the constitution  
 like/of a horse/an ox: have etc  
 a/the constitution like/of a  
 horse/an ox  
 ~ a head of steam: have etc a  
 head of steam  
 ~ outside interests: have etc  
 outside interests  
 ~ a sixth sense: have etc a sixth  
 sense  
**devil** between the ~ and the  
 deep blue sea  
 each/every man for himself  
 (and the ~ take the hindmost)  
 give the ~ his due  
 how the ~?: how the hell etc?  
 need etc a long spoon (to sup/  
 eat with the ~)  
 needs must (when the ~  
 drives)  
 talk of the ~ (and he appears)  
 tell the truth and shame the ~  
 there is etc the ~ (and all  
 (hell)) to pay  
 what the ~?: what the hell etc?  
 where the ~?: where the hell  
 etc?  
 who the ~?: who the hell etc?  
 why the ~?: why the hell etc?  
 the world, the flesh, and the ~  
**devil's** have (got)/with the ~  
 own luck

**diamond** a rough ~  
**dick** a clever ~  
 (every/any) Tom, D ~ and/or  
 Harry  
**dickens** how the ~?: how the  
 hell etc?  
 what the ~?: what the hell etc?  
 where the ~?: where the hell  
 etc?  
 who the ~?: who the hell etc?  
 why the ~?: why the hell etc?  
**dictionary** swallow the ~  
**did** well I never (~) (!)  
**die** (as) straight as a ~  
 cross my heart (and hope to ~)  
 do or ~  
 (let us) eat, drink and be merry  
 (for tomorrow we ~)  
 never say ~  
 old soldiers never ~ (they only  
 fade away)  
 they that live by the sword shall  
 perish/~ by the sword  
 (those) whom the gods love, ~  
 young  
**died** the dog it was that ~  
**dies** eat a peck of dirt/dust  
 before one ~  
 if one ~ in the attempt  
 the tumult and the shouting  
 (~)  
**differ** agree to ~  
 I beg to ~  
**difference** as near ((to) sth/  
 (to) doing sth) as makes no ~  
 etc  
 for all the ~ it makes etc  
 (not) make a blind bit of ~:  
 (not) be etc a blind bit of use  
 etc  
 with a ~  
 a/the world of ~  
**differences** sink one's ~  
**different** (as) ~ as chalk from/  
 and cheese  
 be a ~ etc ball-game  
 go their ~ etc ways  
 know ~  
 sing a ~ song/tune  
 tell sb ~  
**difficult** a ~ patch: a bad etc  
 patch  
**dine** wine and ~  
**dinner** a dog's breakfast/~  
 a slap-up ~: a slap-up meal etc  
**dinners** more sth/more often  
 than sb has had hot ~  
**dint** by ~ of sth  
**dip** a lucky ~  
**dirt** (as) cheap as ~  
 (as) common as ~/muck  
 dish etc the ~  
 eat a peck of ~/dust before one  
 dies  
 treat sb like ~  
**dirty** danger/~ money  
**disadvantage** to sb's  
 ~ advantage/~  
**disappointing** give a ~  
 account of oneself: give a



## nouns etc used in headphrases

- good etc account of oneself  
**disaster** court ~: court death etc  
**disbelief** the suspension of ~  
**disclose** ~ one's hand: show etc one's hand  
**discontent** a winter of ~  
**discord** an/the apple of ~  
**discover** ~ what love etc is: know etc what love etc is only to ~: only to find etc  
**discreet** keep a ~ distance: keep a safe etc/one's distance  
**discretion** at one's (own) ~ the soul of ~: the soul of courtesy etc  
**disease** the cure/remedy is worse than the ~  
**disguise** a blessing in ~  
**dish** food/a ~ for the gods  
**dislikes** (one's) likes and ~ (of sb)  
**dismay** much to one's ~: much ~ to one's relief etc  
**disobedience** civil ~  
**disposes** man proposes but God ~  
**disservice** do sb/oneself a service/~  
**distance** keep a safe etc/one's ~ no/not any ~  
**distant** the day/time is not (so) far off/~ when  
**dim** and ~ the ~ corners of the earth/world: the four etc corners of the earth/world  
**a ~ relation/relative**: a close etc relation/relative  
**distinction** class ~ (s)  
**distinguished** conspicuous/~ by one's/its absence  
**distress** a damsel in ~  
**district** a no-go area/~ the red light ~  
**ditch** die in a ~ the last ~ wouldn't be seen dead (in a ~) with sb/in sth  
**ditch-water** (as) dull as ~  
**dither** all of a ~ etc  
**Divide** cross the Great ~  
**divided** a house etc ~ against itself (cannot stand) united we stand (~ we fall)  
**dividend** pay a ~  
**divine** to err is human (to forgive ~)  
**do as well sb may/might** (~) (no) can ~ can/could ~ no wrong can't/couldn't ~ better than (~) a/one's disappearing act ~ mischief: make etc mischief ~ etc a trial run: give sth/sb etc a trial run  
**don't** ~ anything I wouldn't ~ don't just stand there (~ something) (~) a double shuffle  
the evil that men ~ lives after them  
**have (got)/be (sth) to ~ with sb/sth** <sup>1,2</sup>  
**have etc nothing better to ~ (than)**  
**how ~ you ~?**  
**I don't mind if I ~**  
**it/that will never/won't ~**  
**the (very) least one can ~**  
**make ~ (with sth)**  
**make ~ and mend**  
**never put off/leave till tomorrow what you can ~ today**  
**no more ~ etc I**  
**not ~ a hand's turn**  
**not know what to ~ with oneself**  
**send a boy on a man's errand/to ~ a man's work**  
**that will ~**  
**those who can, ~; those who cannot, teach**  
**what does one/sb (go and/ have to) ~ but ~ sth whatever you ~, (don't ~ sth) when in Rome, ~ as the Romans ~**  
**you know what you can ~ (with it/sth)**  
**do's fair ~**  
**doctor** just what the ~ ordered  
**dodges** know (all) the ~/tricks  
**dodo** (as) dead as the ~  
**does easy/gently ~ it**  
**handsome is as handsome ~ that ~ it** <sup>1,2</sup>  
**dog** (as) sick as a ~ be ~ tired a dirty ~ every ~ has his/its day a gay ~ give a ~ a bad/ill name (and hang him)  
**a/the hair of the ~ (that bit ~ one)**  
**have to (go and) see a man about a horse/~**  
**help a lame ~ over a stile**  
**it shouldn't happen to a ~**  
**keep a ~ and bark oneself**  
**let the ~ see the rabbit**  
**like a ~ with two tails**  
**love me, love my ~**  
**a mad ~**  
**man bites ~**  
**the tail wags the ~**  
**(you can't) teach an old ~ new tricks**  
**top ~**  
**dog's** (not) have etc a ~ chance (of doing sth)  
**doggo** lie ~  
**dogs** cry havoc (and let slip the ~ of war)  
**let sleeping ~ lie**  
**rain/pour cats and ~**  
**doing** be ~ very nicely, thank you (very much)  
(not) be sb's ~  
**can't help ~ sth**  
**don't shoot the pianist etc (he's ~ his best)**  
**know what one is ~ (there is) nothing ~ something/nothing ~**  
**take some ~**  
**what do you think you're ~? what is one ~, ~ sth?**  
**dollar** bet one's bottom ~ (on sth/that)  
**earn/turn an honest ~: earn/turn an honest penny etc**  
**the sixty-four thousand ~ question**  
**wish one had a ~ for every book etc: wish one had a pound etc for every book etc**  
**dollars** feel/look like a million ~  
**don'ts** do's and ~  
**done** be the ~ thing been and gone and ~ it/sth the damage is ~ one's dancing etc days are ~ etc  
**do as you would be ~ by easier said than ~**  
**a good job well ~**  
**have ~ it this time etc**  
**if one has ~ sth once one has done it a hundred etc times justice must not only be ~, it must be seen to be ~**  
**leave undone those things which/that one ought to have ~**  
**that's ~/torn it well ~ (!)**  
**what is ~ cannot be undone when all is said and ~**  
**donkey** do the ~ work  
**doom** a prophet of ~  
**door** (not) darken sb's ~ (s) (again)  
**lock etc the stable ~ after the horse has bolted etc**  
**next ~/thing to sth**  
**doornail** (as) dead as a ~  
**doors** behind closed ~  
**dose** get etc a ~/taste of one's own/the same medicine  
**dot** on the ~ (of noon etc) (from) the year ~  
**double** at the ~  
**lead/live a ~ life/two lives**  
**doubt** give sb etc the benefit of the ~ if/when in ~, do sth  
**take leave to ~ etc it etc**  
**dovecotes** flutter the ~  
**doves** hawks and ~  
**down** cash ~ face ~/up from the President etc ~/downward(s)  
**give sb/sth etc the thumbs ~ up and ~ the country/land up and ~ (the) stairs**

up hill and ~ dale ~  
 win hands ~  
**down-hearted** are we ~?  
 (No!)  
**downhill** be ~ all the way<sup>1,2</sup>  
**downs** the ups and ~ (of sb/  
 sth)  
**downward(s)** from the  
 President etc down/~  
**dozen** a baker's ~  
 be six of one and/to half a ~ of  
 the other  
 the/one's daily ~  
 if one has done sth once one  
 has done it a ~ times: if one  
 has done sth once one has  
 done it a hundred etc times  
**drabs** in dribs and ~  
**dragged** look as if/though one  
 has been ~ through a hedge  
 backwards  
**dragon's** sow the ~/dragons'  
 teeth  
**drain** drink/~ the cup of sorrow  
 etc  
 laugh like a ~  
**drama** (a) kitchen-sink ~/play  
**draught** feel the ~  
**draw** ~ the raspberry: give sb  
 etc the raspberry  
 the luck of the ~  
**drawer** one's bottom ~  
**drawers** hewers of wood and ~  
 of water  
**drawn** hanged/hung, ~ and  
 quartered  
**dreadful** penny ~  
**dreads** the burnt child ~/fears  
 the fire  
**dream** a day ~  
 love's young ~  
 a pipe ~  
**dreams** beyond one's wildest  
 ~/hopes  
**dreamt** there are more things in  
 heaven and earth than are ~  
 of in your philosophy  
**dress** one's Sunday ~: one's  
 Sunday best etc  
**dressed** all ~ up and/with  
 nowhere to go  
 mutton ~ as lamb  
**dribs** in ~ and drabs  
**dried** cut and ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
**drift** take/get sb's ~/meaning  
**drink** be (just) the ~ talking  
 the demon ~  
 (let us) eat, ~ and be merry (for  
 tomorrow we die)  
 eat/~ (sth) till/until it comes  
 out of one's ears  
 enough to ~ one to drink:  
 enough to make one weep etc  
 food/meat and ~ to sb  
 in ~ (in the normal/ordinary)  
 a stiff ~ etc  
 (you can) take etc a horse to the  
 water, but you can't make  
 him ~  
**drinks** mix one's ~

**drive** do/~ a roaring trade/line  
 (in sth) ~  
 ~ sb berserk: go etc berserk  
 ~ sb crackers etc: go etc  
 crackers etc  
 ~ sb crackers etc (about/over  
 sb/sth): go etc crackers etc  
 (about/over sb/sth)  
 enough to ~ one to drink:  
 enough to make one weep etc  
**driven** (as) pure as the ~ snow  
**driver** a back-seat ~  
**drives** needs must (when the  
 devil ~)  
**drop** at the ~ of a hat  
**drops** one's jaw ~  
 the penny ~  
 work etc till/until one ~  
**droves** in ~  
**drowning** not waving but ~  
**drunk** (as) ~ as a lord/newt  
 be ~ in charge  
 blind ~  
 dead ~  
 stinking ~/rich  
**dry** (as) ~ as a bone  
 (as) ~ as dust  
 (as) ~ as paper  
 high and ~  
 home and ~  
 keep one's powder ~  
 milk/suck sb/sth ~  
 not a ~ eye in the house  
 wet/not ~ behind the ears  
**duck** break one's ~  
 can a ~ swim?  
 a dead ~  
 dodge/~ the issue  
 a lame ~  
 a sitting ~/target  
**duck's** like water off a ~ back  
**duckling** an ugly ~ (becomes  
 etc a swan)  
**ducks** nice/lovely weather for ~  
**due** be ~ for a rude awakening:  
 have etc a rude awakening  
 exercise ~/proper care (and  
 attention)  
 give credit where credit is ~  
 give the devil his ~  
 give sb his ~  
 in ~ course  
**dull** all work and no play (makes  
 Jack a ~ boy  
 (as) ~ as ditch-water  
 never have etc a ~ moment  
**dumb** (the) deaf and ~  
 strike sb ~/speechless  
**dummy** a dry/~ run  
**dusk** from dawn/morning till ~/  
 night  
**dust** (as) dry as ~  
 bite the ~  
 eat a peck of dirt/~ before one  
 dies  
 gather ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 grind the faces of the poor etc  
 (in the ~)  
 raise a ~  
**dusty** get etc a ~ answer

**Dutch** double ~  
 talk like a ~ uncle  
**Dutchman** or I'm a ~  
**duty** answer/obey the call (of  
 ~)  
 one's bounden ~  
 dereliction of ~  
 devotion to ~  
 do one's ~  
**dying** be ~ for sth/to do sth  
 the dead and the ~  
**E**  
**each** to ~ according to his  
 need(s), (from ~ according to  
 his abilities)  
**ear** box sb's ~ (s)  
 cock an/one's ~ (s)  
 give sb etc a thick ~  
 have etc sb's ~  
 have etc a flea in one's ~  
 in a pig's ~  
 lend one's/an ~  
**eared** dog ears/-~  
**earful** get an ~/eyeful of this  
**early** bright and ~  
**earn** ~ the raspberry: give sb etc  
 the raspberry  
**earnest** in the  
**ears** all ~/eyes  
 (not) believe/credit (the  
 evidence of) one's ~/eyes  
 dog ~/eared  
 eat/drink (sth) till/until it  
 comes out of one's ~  
 have etc nothing/something  
 between one's ~  
 head over heels/~  
 keep one's ~/eyes open  
 little pitchers/pigs have long ~  
 pick one's ~: pick one's nose  
 etc  
 walls have ~  
 wet/not dry behind the ~  
**earth** the face of the ~  
 feel/look like nothing on ~  
 the four etc corners of the ~/  
 world  
 (a) heaven etc on ~  
 how on ~/in the world?  
 move heaven and ~ (to do sth)  
 promise (sb) the ~/moon  
 the salt of the ~  
 a scorched ~ policy  
 the scum of the ~  
 there are more things in heaven  
 and ~ than are dreamt of in  
 your philosophy  
 what on ~/in the world?  
 where on ~/in the world?  
 who on ~/in the world?  
 why on ~/in the world?  
**earthly** haven't etc an ~  
 (chance) (of achieving sth)  
**ease** at one's ~  
 ~ one's conscience: clear etc

**nouns etc used in headphrases**

one's conscience  
 ill at ~  
 take one's ~  
 with (the wisdom/~ of)  
 hindsight  
**easier** there are more/~ ways of  
 killing a cat than by choking it  
 with cream  
**easily** can breathe (~ /freely)  
 again  
**easy** (as) ~ /simple as ABC etc  
 dead ~ /simple  
 an ~ buck: a fast etc buck  
 free and ~  
 go ~ on sth  
 it's as ~ as that: it's as simple  
 etc as that  
 a soft/~ touch  
 stand ~  
 take it ~  
 take it etc ~  
**eat** a bite to ~  
 dog ~ dog  
 have one's cake and ~ it (too)  
 I'll ~ my hat  
 let them ~ cake  
 need etc a long spoon (to sup/  
 ~ with the devil)  
 not ~ you  
**eating** the proof of the pudding  
 (is in the ~)  
 what is ~ sb?  
**edge** blunt the ~ of sth  
 give sb/get the (rough) ~ of  
 one's/sb's tongue  
 have etc an ~ to one's voice  
**effect** cause and ~  
 in ~  
 take ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 to good etc ~  
 to that ~  
**effort** make an ~ (to do sth)  
 spare no ~: spare no expense  
 etc  
**egg** a bad ~ /lot  
 good ~!  
 (like) the curate's ~  
**eggs** (as) sure as ~ is ~  
 kill the goose that lays the  
 golden ~  
 (one can't) make an omelette  
 without breaking ~  
 teach one's grandmother to  
 suck ~  
**eight** have etc one over the ~  
**either** on ~ /every hand  
**elbow** at one's ~  
 have etc ~ room  
 jog/nudge sb's arm/~ (to do  
 sth)  
 more power to his ~  
**election** a snap ~: a snap vote  
 etc  
**element** be in/out of one's ~  
**elephant** a white ~  
**elephants** (see) pink ~  
**eleventh** at the ~ hour  
**ell** give sb an inch (and he'll take  
 a ~): give sb an inch (and he'll  
 take a mile etc)

**else** above all (~)  
 more than anything (~) (in the  
 world)  
 nothing/(not) anything (~) for  
 it (but to do sth)  
 or ~  
 something ~ again  
 you and who ~?  
 'em let ~ all come  
**eminence** a grey ~  
**empty** on an ~ /a full stomach  
**enchanted** as one ~ etc  
**enchantment** distance lends ~  
 to the view  
**encounter** a chance ~ /  
 meeting  
 a hand-to-hand ~: hand-to-  
 hand fighting etc  
**end** be the ~  
 be the thin ~ of the wedge  
 a/the bed etc to ~ all beds etc/  
 to ~ them all  
 the business ~ (of sth)  
 a dead ~  
 defeat one's/its (own) ~:  
 defeat one's/its (own)  
 purpose etc  
 the dirty/thick ~ of the stick  
 for days etc on ~: for days etc  
 at a time  
 from beginning to ~  
 from one week's etc ~ to  
 another  
 get there (in the ~ etc)  
 in the ~  
 (a) journey's ~  
 make a good death/~  
 make one's hair stand on ~  
 a/the means to an ~  
 meet one's ~  
 no ~ of a fuss etc  
 not the ~ of the story: not the  
 whole etc story  
 to the bitter ~  
 to that ~  
 the war to ~ war(s)  
 world without ~  
**end-all** the be-all and ~ (of sth)  
**ending** a happy ~  
**ends** all's well that ~ well  
 burn the candle at both ~  
 (the) loose ~ /threads  
 make (both) ~ meet  
 odds and ~  
**enemy** draw sb's/the ~ ('s) fire  
 one's own worst ~  
**English** broken/fractured ~  
 in plain ~  
 the King's/Queen's ~  
**enjoy** ~ a good/bad press: get  
 etc a good/bad press  
 ~ (more than) a/one's fair  
 share of sth: have etc (more  
 than) a/one's fair share of sth  
**enlarge** ~ one's horizons:  
 broaden etc one's horizons  
**enough** as if/though sth were/  
 was not ~  
 be good/kind ~ to do sth  
 can't/couldn't do sth often etc

~  
 fair ~  
 give a man etc ~ rope (and he'll  
 hang himself)  
 have etc ~ luggage etc to sink a  
 battleship  
 have etc ~ and to spare  
 have had ~  
 more than ~  
 old ~ to be sb's father/mother  
 patriotism is not ~  
 right/true ~  
 sure ~  
**enter** break and ~  
**enters** the first thing etc that  
 comes into/~ one's head/  
 mind  
 the iron ~ (into) one's/sb's  
 soul  
**envy** green with ~  
**equal** all men are created ~  
 other things being ~  
 some men etc are more ~ than  
 others  
**equals** first among ~  
**errand** a fool's ~  
 send a boy on a man's ~ /to do  
 a man's work  
**error** by trial and ~  
 a cardinal ~ etc  
 and no mistake/~  
**escape** ~ scot-free: go etc scot-  
 free  
 make good one's ~ /flight  
 a narrow ~  
**escaping** there is no ~ it etc:  
 there is no denying etc it etc  
**escutcheon** a blot on sb's/the  
 ~  
**essence** in ~  
**estate** the fourth ~  
**esteem** parity of ~  
**eternal** hope springs ~ (in the  
 human breast)  
**eternity** from here to ~  
**Europe** the lights are going out  
 all over ~  
**even** break ~  
 get ~ (with sb)  
 have etc an ~ /a fifty-fifty  
 chance (of doing sth)  
 on an ~ keel  
**evening** (not) be/take all ~:  
 (not) be/take all day etc  
 of a ~: of a morning etc  
 (only) the other ~: (only) the  
 other day etc  
**event** in any case/~  
 in the ~  
 in the ~ of sth  
 wise after the ~  
**events** at all ~  
 coming ~ cast their shadow(s)  
 before  
 in the (normal/ordinary) course  
 of ~: in the (normal/ordinary)  
 course of nature etc  
 the/a turn of ~  
**eventually** get there (~): get  
 there (in the end etc)

**ever** as bad etc as ~ (sth) (make as badly etc as ~ as ~: as usual etc for ~<sup>1,2</sup> forget more about sth than sb ~ knew if ~<sup>1,2</sup> if ~ there was one live happily ~ after more beautiful(ly) etc than ~ more than ~ (before)

**every** all day and ~ day any and ~ ~ at ~ turn each and ~ each/~ man for himself (and the devil take the hindmost) explore ~ avenue inside ~ fat man there's a thin man trying to get out (~) man, woman and child on all sides/~ side on either/~ hand (just) round/around the (next)/ (~) corner there is a sucker/one born ~ minute (~/any) Tom, Dick and/or Harry watch ~ penny etc

**everyone** each (one)/~ (according) to his taste(s)

**everything** chips with ~ have etc ~ but (sth) in all/~ but name money isn't ~ now I've seen ~ spill ~: spill the beans etc there is a time (and a place) for ~ there's (got to be) a first time for ~

**everywhere** here, there and ~

**evidence** (not) believe/credit (the ~ of) one's ears/eyes circumstantial ~ turn King's/Queen's ~ weigh the ~

**evil** a crying ~ etc good and ~ the love of money is the root of all ~ a necessary ~ postpone/put off the ~ hour/day sufficient unto the day (is the ~ thereof)

**evils** the lesser of two ~

**exact** to be ~ etc

**examination** (not) bear/stand close ~/inspection

**examined** need etc one's head ~ etc

**example** the/a classic ~ (of sth) follow sb's ~ for ~ set (sb) a (good etc) ~ a shining ~ (of sb/sth)

**exceeding** the mills of God

grind slowly (but they grind ~ small)

**excellence** par ~

**excellent** give an ~ account of oneself: give a good etc account of oneself

**excepted** present company ~/excepting present company

**exception** no/(not) any ~

**excess** in ~ (of sth) to ~

**excursions** alarms and ~

**excuse** if you'll pardon/~ the liberty a sorry ~: a sorry state etc a thin ~

**execution** (a) stay of ~

**exercise** the aim etc of the ~

**exist** if God did not ~, it would be necessary to invent him

**existence** the bane of sb's ~/life

**exits** (one's/sb's) entrances and ~

**expect** ~ a civil answer to a civil question: give (sb) etc a civil answer to a civil question ~

**expectation** (in) the fond ~: (in) the fond hope etc

**expense** at the ~ of sb/sth at one's (own)/sb's ~ spare no ~ etc

**experience** ~ a sense of guilt etc: have etc a sense of guilt etc ~ teething troubles: have etc teething troubles the/a triumph of hope over ~

**explain** ~ the score: know etc the score

**exposure** stand the test of ~: stand the test of time etc

**extend** ~ one's horizons: broaden etc one's horizons

**extreme** in the ~

**eye** the apple of sb's ~ the beam in one's own ~ beauty etc is/lies in the ~ of the beholder black(en) sb's ~ (for him) catch sb's ~<sup>1,2</sup> easy on the ~ the evil ~ give sb/get the glad ~ a gleam in sb's ~ have etc a black ~ have (got)/with an ~ for etc the main chance have (got)/with an ~ to (doing) sth have (got)/with a roving ~ hit the/score a bull's ~ in one's mind's ~ in the twinkling of an ~ a jaundiced ~ etc more (work etc) in it etc than meets the ~ my ~!: my foot etc(!) (all) my ~ (and Betty Martin) not a dry ~ in the house

one in the ~ for sb out of the corner of one's ~ a private ~ the quickness of the hand deceives the ~ to sb's trained etc ~ (s) what the ~ doesn't see (the heart doesn't crave for/grieve over)

**eyebrows** raise one's/sb's ~

**eyeful** get an earful/~ of this

**eyelid** not/never bat an ~

**eyes** all ears/~ be a sight for sore ~ (not) believe/credit (the evidence of) one's ears/~ one's ears/~ deceive/no not deceive one a feast for the ~ etc God damn sb's ~ have etc bags under one's ~ have etc ~ in/at the back of one's head/neck have etc ~ in one's head keep one's ears/~ open keep one's ~ peeled/skinned (for sth) not know where/which way to look/turn one's ~

**eye-teeth** cut one's ~

**F**

**f.a.** sweet Fanny Adams/~

**face** (as) plain as the nose on your ~ at (its/one's) ~ value change the ~ of sth a change of ~/front ~ the consequences (of sth): take etc the consequences (of sth) full ~ full in sb's/the ~ get a slap in the ~ go etc blue (in the ~) go green (about the gills/in the ~) go etc purple (in the ~) go etc red (in the ~) have (got)/with the ~ to do sth: have (got)/with the nerve etc to do sth have etc a long ~ have etc a red ~ in (the) ~ of sth keep a straight ~ (not) just etc a pretty ~ let's ~ it lose/save ~ make/pull a ~ on the ~ of it a poker ~ shut one's ~: shut one's mouth etc talk etc till/until one is black/blue in the ~

**nouns etc used in headphrases**

to sb's ~  
 the unacceptable ~ of capitalism etc  
**face-lift** have etc a ~  
**faces** grind the ~ of the poor etc (in the dust)  
**fact** as a matter of ~  
 blink the ~ (that)  
 (a) brute ~ /necessity  
 hard ~ (s)  
 in ~  
 in point of ~  
 a matter of ~  
 sober ~ etc  
 and that's a ~  
 and that's ~!  
**facts** face (the) ~  
**fade** old soldiers never die (they only ~ away)  
**fail** without ~  
 words ~ one/sb  
**failure** a dismal etc ~  
**faint** damn with ~ praise  
**fair** all is ~ in love and war  
 bid ~ to do sth  
 by ~ means or foul  
**faint** heart ne'er/never won ~ lady  
 (all) the fun of the ~  
 get etc a ~/square deal  
 get etc a/one's ~ share  
 have etc a ~ crack of the whip  
 have etc (more than) a/one's ~ share of sth  
 play ~ (with sb)  
**fairies** there are etc ~ at the bottom of the/one's garden  
**fairy** san ~ ann  
**faith** in good/bad ~  
**fall** break one's/sb's ~  
 crumbs (that ~) from the (rich man's) table  
 decline and ~  
 did he ~ or was he pushed?  
 ~ to rock bottom: reach etc rock bottom  
 the higher you climb etc the harder you ~  
 rise and ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 things ~ apart, the centre cannot hold  
 united we stand (divided we ~)  
**falls** the blow ~  
 one's face ~  
 the rain ~ on the just and the unjust  
**false** play sb/sth ~  
**fame** do good by stealth (and blush to find it ~/known)  
 the hall of ~  
**familiar** have etc a ~ etc ring (about/to it)  
**familiarity** stand the test of ~: stand the test of time etc  
**family** the black sheep (of the ~)  
 like/as one of the ~  
 one big happy ~  
**famous** (~) last words

**fancy** catch etc sb's  
 a flight of ~  
 footloose and ~-free  
 in one's imagination/~  
 a little of what you ~ does you good  
**fangs** draw sb's/sth's teeth/~  
**Fanny** my aunt ~ (!): my foot etc(!)  
 sweet ~ Adams/f.a.  
**fantastic** trip etc the light ~  
**fantasy** fact/truth and/or fiction/~  
**far** as ~ one can see  
 as ~ as sb/sth goes  
 as ~ as sb/sth is concerned  
 by ~ the best etc/(the) best etc  
 by ~  
 carry sth too ~  
 the day/time is not (so) ~ off/distant when  
 the ~ corners of the earth/  
 world: the four etc corners of the earth/world  
 few and ~ between  
 go as/so ~ as to do sth/that  
 go ~  
 go/get ~  
 go ~ to do sth/towards (doing) sth  
 go too etc ~  
 in so ~ as  
 not ~ to seek  
 not trust sb an inch/as ~ as one could throw him  
 so ~  
 so ~, so good  
 so near and yet so ~  
 thus/this ~ and no further  
**fare** go farther/further and ~ worse  
**farewell** (bid sb) a fond ~  
 hail and ~  
**farewells** make one's ~  
**far-off** old, unhappy, ~ things  
**farther** cast one's net ~: cast one's net wide etc  
 (not) go any/go no ~ /further  
 go ~ /further and fare worse  
 nothing is/can be ~ from one's mind/thoughts (than sth)  
**farthing** a brass ~  
**fashion** after a ~  
 after one's/its ~  
 in no uncertain ~: in no uncertain terms etc  
 in true naval etc ~ /style  
 (all) shipshape and Bristol- ~  
 spend money as if it's going out of ~  
**fast** as ~ as one's legs can carry one  
 bad news travels ~  
 break one's ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 can't/couldn't do sth ~  
 enough: can't/couldn't do sth ~  
 often etc enough  
 come etc thick and ~  
 hard and ~<sup>1,2,3</sup>  
 hold ~ to sth

make (sth) ~  
 a rattling ~ pace: a rattling good etc yarn etc  
**fat** (as) ~ as butter/a young thrush  
 (as) ~ as a pig  
 chew the ~ /rag  
 fair, ~ and forty  
**fate** (as) sure as ~: (as) sure as death etc  
 seal sb's ~  
 a stroke of ~: a stroke of (good/bad) luck etc  
 tempt ~ /Providence  
**father** the child is (the) ~ of the man  
 a founding ~  
 the heavy ~  
 like ~ etc, like son etc  
 old enough to be sb's ~ /mother  
 the wish is ~ to/of the thought  
**fathers** the sins of the ~ (are visited upon the children)  
**fatted** kill the ~ calf  
**fault** through no (particular etc) ~ etc of one's own  
 to a ~  
**fauna** flora and ~  
**favour** do sb a ~  
 grace and ~  
 have etc sth in one's ~  
 in sb's/sth's ~  
 in ~ of sb/sth  
 without fear or ~  
**favourable** create/make a ~ impression: create/make a bad etc impression  
**favourite** a family ~  
 a ~ hunting ground (for/of sb): a happy etc hunting ground (for/of sb)  
**favours** fortune ~ the brave  
**fear** for ~ of sth/that  
 in ~ of one's life  
 in ~ and trembling  
 no ~  
 without ~ or favour  
**feared** (it is) just as one ~ etc  
**fears** the burnt child dreads/~ the fire  
 confirm one's worst ~  
**feast** enough is as good as a ~  
**feather** (as) light as a ~  
 birds of a ~ (flock together)  
 tar and ~ sb  
 the white ~  
**feathered** (our) furred, four-footed and ~ friends  
**feathers** fine ~ make fine birds  
 ruffle one's/sb's ~  
**feature** a redeeming ~  
**feed** have etc a mouth to ~  
**feel** be/~ that way etc inclined  
 ~ a healthy respect for sb/sth:  
 have etc a healthy respect for sb/sth  
 ~ a sneaking suspicion etc:  
 have etc a sneaking suspicion etc

look/~ the part  
**feeling** (a) fellow ~  
 have etc a/the ~ (that)  
 have etc a/that sinking ~  
**feelings** one's finer ~  
 have etc (no) hard ~  
 have etc mixed ~  
 hurt sb's ~ /sb's ~  
 relieve one's/sb's ~  
**feels** be (only) as old as one ~  
**feet** drag one's ~  
 find one's ~  
 get etc cold ~  
 have etc ~ of clay  
 have etc one's/both ~ on the  
 ground  
 (not) let/allow the grass (to)  
 grow under one's ~  
 not fit to wash sb's ~  
 the patter of little/tiny ~  
 ten ~ tall  
**fell** at one (~) swoop  
**feller** a stout fellow/~  
**fellow** blame the other ~  
 hail ~ well met (with sb)  
 a stout ~ /feller  
**felony** compound a ~  
**felt** make itself ~  
 make one's presence ~  
**fence** the grass is (always)  
 greener on the other side (of  
 the ~)/in the other man's field  
**fences** rush one's ~  
**feud** a family ~  
**fever** feed a cold and starve a ~  
**fevered** a cool hand on a ~  
 brow  
**few** the chosen ~  
 a good ~ (of) sb/sth  
 a man etc of ~ words  
 many are called but ~ are  
 chosen  
 to name (but/only) a ~  
 precious ~ /little  
**fewer** no ~ /less than sth  
**fib** tell (sb) a ~ (about sth): tell  
 (sb) a lie etc (about sth)  
**fiction** fact/truth and/or ~ /  
 fantasy  
**fiddle** (as) fit as a ~ /flea  
 play second ~ (to sb)  
**field** the grass is (always)  
 greener on the other side (of  
 the fence)/in the other man's  
 ~  
 hold the ~  
**fifty** if one has done sth once  
 one has done it ~ times: if one  
 has done sth once one has  
 done it a hundred etc times  
**fifty-fifty** have etc an even/a ~  
 chance (of doing sth)  
**fight** a ding-dong (~): a ding-  
 dong (battle etc)  
 ~ for a place in the sun: have  
 etc a place in the sun  
 a free ~  
 live to ~ another day  
 a race/~ against time  
 a running battle/~

**fighting** hand-to-hand ~ etc  
**figure** cut a fine etc ~  
 a father ~  
 a fine ~ of a man etc  
 a lay ~  
**figures** facts and ~  
 have (got)/with a (good) head  
 for ~  
 it/that ~  
 you can prove anything with/by  
 statistics/~  
**file** (the) rank and ~  
**film** a blue ~ etc  
**filthy** a ~ trick: a dirty etc trick  
**final** in the ~ /last analysis  
 the last/~ straw  
**find** do good by stealth (and  
 blush to ~ it fame/known)  
**fast** bind, fast ~ /safe bind, safe  
 ~  
 ~ everything but (sth): have  
 etc everything but (sth)  
 ~ a lot to be grateful/thankful  
 for: have etc a lot to be  
 grateful/thankful for  
 ~ occasion to do sth: have etc  
 occasion to do sth  
 ~ out what's what: know etc  
 what's what  
 (not) ~ time to turn round:  
 (not) have etc time to turn  
 round  
 ~ one's way about/around:  
 know etc one's way about/  
 around  
 ~ (out) what love etc is: know  
 etc what love etc is  
 lose/~ one's tongue  
 only to ~ etc  
 scratch A and (you) ~ B  
**finds** the devil/Satan ~ /makes  
 work for idle hands  
 take sb/sth as one ~ him/it  
**fine** all very ~ /well (for sb)  
 chance would be a ~ thing  
 cut a ~ etc figure  
 cut it/things ~  
 the first ~ (careless) rapture  
 a rattling ~ yarn etc: a rattling  
 good etc yarn etc  
 set (sb) a (~) example: set (sb)  
 a (good etc) example  
 wet or ~  
**finger** crook one's ~ <sup>1,2,3</sup>  
 have etc more goodness etc in  
 one's little ~ than sb  
 (not) lift/raise a ~  
**fingers** burn one's ~  
 have etc green ~  
 **fingertips** to one's/the ~  
**finish** from start to ~: from  
 beginning etc to end etc  
 a sudden death ~ /play-off  
**finished** the day of sb/sth is  
 over/~  
**fire** breathe ~ and slaughter etc  
 the burnt child dreads/fears the  
 ~  
 by the ~ (side)/round the ~  
 catch ~

draw sb's/the enemy('s) ~  
 ~ sb's imagination: catch etc  
 sb's imagination  
 hang ~  
 hire and ~  
 hold one's ~  
 (there is) no smoke without ~  
 ordeal by ~ /water  
 (see) pictures in the ~  
**fires** keep the home ~ burning  
**firm** stand ~  
**first** at ~  
 at ~ blush  
 at ~ glance  
 at ~ light  
 at ~ sight  
 a diamond etc of the ~ water  
 fire the ~ /opening shot  
 (put) first things ~  
 from ~ to last: from beginning  
 etc to end etc  
 (right) from the ~: (right) from  
 the start etc  
 get there ~  
 have etc (the) ~ refusal  
 I'll see you in hell ~  
 if at ~ you don't succeed, (try,  
 try again)  
 in the ~ instance  
 in the ~ etc person  
 in the ~ place <sup>1,2</sup>  
 ladies ~  
 the last shall be ~ (and the ~,  
 last)  
 one's/its last etc state is worse  
 than the ~  
 love at ~ sight  
 not for the ~ time  
 of the ~ magnitude  
 put sb/sth ~  
 safety ~  
 see sb hung/in hell ~ /before  
 doing sth  
 shoot ~ and ask questions  
 afterwards/later  
 take ~ /second place  
 there's (got to be) a ~ time for  
 everything  
 women and children ~  
**first-class** (a) ~ show(!): (a)  
 good etc show(!)  
**fish** a big ~ in a little pond  
 a cold ~  
 a (very) different kettle of ~  
 drink like a ~  
 a fine etc kettle of ~ (there are  
 have (got)/with other/bigger  
 ~ to fry  
 neither ~, flesh nor good red  
 herring/fresh meat  
 an odd ~ /bird  
 a queer ~  
 there are (plenty) more (good)  
 ~ in the sea  
**fishin'** huntin', shootin', ~  
**fishwife** like a ~  
**fist** hand over ~  
 an iron ~ /hand in a velvet  
 glove  
**fists** clench one's ~: clench

## nouns etc used in headphrases

- one's hands etc  
**fit** (as) ~ as a fiddle/flea  
 a blue ~  
 fighting ~  
 fill/~ the bill  
 have etc a ~  
 have etc a ~ of (the) giggles  
 keep oneself/sb ~  
 a land ~ for heroes to live in  
 make the punishment ~ the crime  
 not ~ to wash sb's feet  
 see/think ~ (to do sth)  
 suit/~ one's/sb's book  
**fits** by/in ~ and starts  
 if the cap ~, (wear it)  
**fittest** the survival of the ~  
**five** know how many beans  
 make ~  
 a nine to ~ job etc  
**fixed** (of) no ~ abode/address  
**flag** keep the ~ flying  
 show/fly the ~  
 wave the ~  
**flame** an old ~  
**flames** fan the ~ (of sth)  
**flash** (as) quick as a ~: (as)  
 quick as lightning etc  
 in a ~  
**flat** (as) ~ as a board  
 (as) ~ as a fluke/flounder  
 (as) ~ as a pancake  
 fall ~  
 in ten etc seconds etc ~  
**flea** (as) fit as a fiddle/~  
 have etc a ~ in one's ear  
**flee** turn tail (and ~)  
 (~ from) the wrath to come  
**flesh** go the way of all ~  
 have etc one's pound of ~  
 the ill's etc that ~ is heir to  
 in the ~  
 make one's ~ creep/crawl  
 neither fish, ~ nor good red  
 herring/fresh meat  
 one's own ~ and blood  
 the spirit is willing (but the ~ is weak)  
 a thorn in the ~/side (of sb/sth)  
 the world, the ~, and the devil  
**flicker** a/one ~ of hope: a/one ray etc of hope  
**flies** as the crow ~  
 die like ~  
 (there are) no ~ on sb  
 time ~  
**flight** make good one's escape/  
 ~  
**fling** have a/one's ~  
**flint** (as) hard as ~  
**flit** a moonlight ~/flitting  
**flitting** a moonlight flit/~  
**flock** birds of a feather (~ together)  
**floogates** open the ~ (of sth)  
**floor** hold the ~  
 take the ~  
**flounder** (as) flat as a fluke/~  
**flow** believe (that) water can/~
- will ~ uphill  
 ebb and ~  
 the ebb and ~ (of sth)  
 stem the ~ (of sth)  
**flowed** a lot of/much water has  
 ~ under the bridge: a lot of/  
 much water has run etc under  
 the bridge  
**flower** the nettle, danger (... the ~, safety)  
**flowers** (as) welcome as (the)  
 ~ in May/spring  
**flowing** a land ~ with milk and honey  
**flown** the bird has ~  
**fluke** (as) flat as a ~/flounder  
**flush** (in) the first/full ~ of youth etc  
**fly** flags ~/~ flags at half-mast  
 the fur (begins to) ~  
 I must/have to ~  
 let ~ (at sb) (with sth)  
 like a ~ in amber  
 not harm/hurt a ~  
 pigs may/might ~  
 show/~ the flag  
 (the) sparks ~  
**flying** keep the flag ~  
 with ~ colours  
**foe** friend and/or ~  
**fogey** an old ~  
**foggiest** not/never have etc the ~ etc idea etc  
**folk** there's nowt so queer/~ funny as ~  
**follow** ~ another course: take etc another course  
**folly** have (got)/with the ring of ~: have (got)/with the ring of truth etc  
**fond** (bid sb) a ~ farewell  
**food** be/go off one's ~/oats  
**fool** act the ~/the giddy goat  
 be nobody's/no man's ~  
 a bloody ~  
 enough of a ~ etc (to do sth)  
 make oneself/sb look etc a ~ etc  
 the more ~ you  
 (there is) no ~ like an old ~  
**fooled** have (got) sb ~  
 you could have ~ me  
**foolish** penny wise (and) pound ~  
 a wise/~ virgin  
**fools** not/never suffer ~ gladly  
**foot** at the ~ of one's/the bed  
 bind/tie sb hand and ~  
 fleet of ~  
 from head etc to ~ etc  
 have got/with one ~ in the grave  
 my ~ etc(l)  
 on ~  
 stamp one's ~  
 under ~  
**footing** a day-to-day ~: a day-to-day arrangement etc  
 on a firm etc ~  
**footsteps** dog one's/sb's ~:
- dog one's/sb's (foot)steps  
**forbid** God etc ~  
**force** brute ~/strength  
 spend one's/its ~  
**forearmed** forewarned is ~  
**forelock** touch etc one's ~  
**foremost** first and ~  
**forever** speak now, or ~ hold one's peace  
 a thing of beauty is a joy ~  
**forget** clean ~  
 forgive and ~  
**forgive** to err is human (to ~ divine)  
 (may) God etc ~ me  
 to understand all is to ~ all  
**forgotten** least said, soonest mended/~  
 never to be ~  
 once seen etc never/not ~  
**form** as a matter of ~  
 attack is the best ~ of defence  
 bad/good ~  
 ~ the impression (that/of being): give (sb) etc the impression (that/of being)  
 have (got)/with ~  
 in any shape or ~  
 in the shape/~ of sth/sb  
 on present etc ~  
 (run) true to ~  
**forsake** rats ~ a (sinking) ship:  
 rats desert etc a (sinking) ship  
**fort** hold the ~  
**forth** back and ~  
 and so on/~  
**Forties** the Hungry ~  
**fortunate** count etc oneself ~/  
 lucky  
**fortune** cost (sb) a ~ etc  
 fame and ~  
 the family ~ (s)  
 have etc the ~/misfortune to do sth  
 make a/one's ~  
 the slings and arrows (of outrageous ~)  
 a stroke of (good/bad) ~: a stroke of (good/bad) luck etc  
**forty** fair, fat and ~  
 pushing ~ etc  
**forward** backward in coming ~  
 backward(s) and ~ (s)  
 a step ~ etc  
**foul** by fair means or ~  
 (in) fair (weather) and/or ~  
 fall ~ of sb/sth  
 ~ luck (on sb): hard etc luck (on sb)  
**found** nowhere/not anywhere to be ~: nowhere/not anywhere to be seen etc  
**four** two and two make etc ~  
**four-footed** (our) furred, ~ and feathered friends  
**fourpence** get in etc one's twopence/~ worth  
**fours** on all ~  
**four-square** stand ~  
**fox** (as) cunning as a ~

**fractured** broken/~ English  
**frank** to be ~: to be honest etc  
**fray** enter/join the ~  
**frays** (one's) temper rises/~  
**free** (as) ~ as (the) air/a bird  
 the best things in life are ~  
**footloose** and fancy-~  
 for ~  
 get etc a ~ hand  
 give etc ~ play to sth  
 make sb ~ of sth  
 make ~ with sb/sth  
 of one's own ~ will  
**freedom** give sb etc his ~  
 give sb etc the ~ of the city  
**freely** can breathe (easily/~)  
 again  
**fresh** (as) ~ as a daisy  
 (as) ~ as a rose  
 break ~/new ground  
 a breath of ~ air  
 neither fish, flesh nor good red  
 herring/~ meat  
 new/~ blood  
**friend** one's best ~  
 a bosom ~/pal  
 a close ~ etc  
 diamonds are a girl's best ~  
 have etc a ~ at court  
 your best ~ won't tell you  
**friends** (our) furred, four-  
 footed and feathered ~  
 make/win ~ and influence  
 people  
 some of one's best ~ are  
 English etc  
**friendship** a close ~: a close  
 friend etc  
**fright** give sb/get the ~ etc of  
 his/one's life  
 take ~/alarm  
**frighten** ~ (sb) stiff: scare etc  
 (sb) stiff  
**frightened** be ~ of sb/sth: be  
 afraid etc of sb/sth  
 be ~ of doing sth: be afraid etc  
 of doing sth  
**fro** to and ~  
**frog** have etc a ~ in one's throat  
**frogs** ~ and snails and puppy-  
 dogs' tails: rats etc and snails  
 and puppy-dogs' tails  
**front** back to ~  
 a bold/brave ~  
 a change of face/~  
 on the home etc ~  
**frontal** full ~ (nudity etc)  
**fruit** bear ~  
 forbidden ~ is sweetest  
**fruit-cake** (as) nutty as a ~  
**fruits** stolen ~ are sweeter/the  
 sweetest: stolen sweets etc are  
 sweeter/the sweetest  
**fry** have (got)/with other/  
 bigger fish to ~  
 (the) small ~  
**fuck** not matter a ~: not matter a  
 damn etc  
**full** at ~ speed  
 chock-a-block (~) (with sb/

sth)  
 one's cup is ~ etc  
 (in) the first/~ flush of youth  
 etc  
 for ~/good measure  
 (at) ~ pelt  
 (at) ~ throttle  
 (at) ~ tilt  
 give sb etc ~ marks (for sth)  
 give sb/sth etc ~ play  
 give sb/sth etc the (~) works  
 have (got)/with one's hands ~  
 in ~  
 in ~ etc measure  
 in ~ view of sb/sth  
 in (~) strength  
 know sth ~ well: know sth very  
 etc well  
 (~ of) the milk of human  
 kindness  
 on an empty/a ~ stomach  
 to the ~  
 the unspeakable in (~) pursuit  
 of the uneatable  
 the whole/~ bag of tricks  
 the world is so ~ of a number of  
 things  
**fullness** in the ~ of time  
**fume** fret and ~  
**fun** a figure of ~  
 (just) for ~  
 good clean ~  
 half the ~ etc (of (doing) sth)  
 have (one's) ~  
 in ~  
**funds** raise (the) ~: raise (the)  
 money etc  
**funeral** be sb's (own) ~  
 (go to the ~) just for the ride  
**funny** see the ~ side (of sth)  
 there's nowt so queer/~ as folk  
**furbelows** frills and ~  
**furious** fast and ~  
**furiously** give sb ~ to think  
**furnishings** part of the  
 furniture/~  
**furniture** part of the ~/  
 furnishings  
**furrow** plough a lone/lonely ~  
**further** (not) go any/go no  
 farther/~  
 go farther/~ and fare worse  
 thus/this far and no ~  
 without more/~ ado  
**fury** (a) blind ~/rage  
 (a) cold ~  
 hell has/knows no ~ like a  
 woman scorned  
 (the) sound and ~  
**future** have etc a (great) ~  
 in ~  
 in the ~  
 there is no ~ (for sb) (in sth)

**G**

**gab** have etc the gift of the ~

**gaff** blow the ~  
**gain** ~ elbow room: have etc  
 elbow room  
 ~ the hand (and heart) of sb:  
 win etc the hand (and heart)  
 of sb  
 ~ momentum: gather etc  
 momentum  
 ~ the upper hand (of sb): get  
 etc the upper hand (of sb)  
 nothing venture/risk, nothing  
 ~ etc  
 one man's loss is another's ~  
 stand to ~ etc  
**gainsaying** there is no ~ it etc:  
 there is no denying etc it etc  
**gaiters** all is gas and ~  
**gall** have (got)/with the ~ to do  
 sth: have (got)/with the nerve  
 etc to do sth  
**gallery** a rogues' ~  
**game** be new to the ~  
 (play) a cat-and-mouse ~  
 easy ~ etc  
 fair ~  
 (just/all) the luck of the ~  
 a mug's ~  
 the name of the ~  
 play sb's ~  
 play sb's/the same ~  
 play the ~  
 the spectator etc sees more/  
 most of the ~  
 what/that is sb's (little) ~ (?)  
**games** fun and ~  
**gamut** run the ~ of sth/from sth  
**gander** (what is) sauce for the  
 goose is sauce for the ~  
**gang** the best-laid schemes of  
 mice and men (~ aft agley)  
**gap** a credibility ~  
 the generation ~  
**garbage** (all) a load/lot of (old)  
 ~: (all) a load/lot of (old)  
 rubbish etc  
 talk (a load/lot of) ~: talk (a  
 load/lot of) cock etc  
**garden** a bear ~  
 common or ~  
 everything in the ~ is lovely/  
 rosy  
 there are etc fairies at the  
 bottom of the/one's ~  
**gas** all is ~ and gaiters  
**gasp** the/one's last ~  
**gate** the enemy at the ~ (s)  
 the enemy/traitor within (the  
 ~ (s))  
 the pearly ~ (s)  
**gather** collect/~ one's wits  
 do I/am I to ~?: do I/am I to  
 understand etc?  
 ~ the impression (that/of  
 being): give (sb) etc the  
 impression (that/of being)  
**gathered** (where) two or three  
 are ~ together  
**gathers** a rolling stone (~ no  
 moss)  
**gauntlet** run the ~ (of sb/sth)



## nouns etc used in headphrases

- gay** (as) ~ as a lark  
**gaze** contemplate/~ at one's (own) navel  
**gear** change ~  
**geezer** an old ~: an old buffer etc  
**general** be caviar(e) to the ~ the common/~ reader in ~...in particular the ~ run (of sb/sth): the common etc run (of sb/sth)  
**gentle** (as) ~ as a lamb  
**gentleman** every inch a ~ etc an officer and (a) ~  
**gentlemen** ladies and ~ one of nature's ~/ladies  
**gently** easy/~ does it  
**get** be/~ high on sth be/~ that way catch/~ a whiff of sth do/~ a double take ~ one's bearings: find etc one's bearings ~ a better hole: find etc a better hole ~ sth dead right/wrong: be etc dead right/wrong ~ sb's point: take etc sb's point go/~ far how crazy etc can you ~? if you can't stand the heat, ~ out of the kitchen if you ~ what I mean: if you know etc what I mean nice work if you can ~ it not grow/~ any younger/thinner play hard to ~ take/~ sb's drift/meaning  
**gets** give (sb) (back) as good as one ~ the pace ~ too hot (for sb): the pace is etc too hot (for sb)  
**getting** enough/plenty to be ~/going on with there is no ~ away from it etc: there is no denying etc it etc  
**ghost** (not) have etc a ~ of a chance (of doing sth) lay a/one's ~ etc look as if/though one has seen a ~  
**giddy** act the fool/the ~ goat be the (~) limit: be the (absolute etc) limit  
**gift** God's ~ to sb/sth have etc the ~ of the gab have etc the ~ of tongues have etc the ~/power(s) of total recall (not/never) look a ~ horse in the mouth  
**gifts** fear the Greeks, bearing ~  
**giggle** (just) for a ~ etc  
**giggles** have etc a fit of (the) ~  
**gills** go green (about the ~/in the face)  
**gin** a stiff ~: a stiff drink etc  
**girl** be a good ~ (and do sth): be a good chap etc (and do sth) ~  
**girl's diamonds** are a ~ best friend  
**girlhood** a/one's second ~: a/one's second childhood etc  
**give** (not) care/~ a damn etc don't ~ me that ~ sb his bearings: find etc one's bearings ~ sb the score: know etc the score ~ a sigh of relief: breathe etc a sigh of relief ~ a speech: make etc a speech something has (got) to ~ that's the stuff to ~ the troops throw/~ a party (for sb/sth) (~) tit for tat  
**given** to him that hath shall be ~  
**glad** be ~ etc to see the back of sb/sth give sb/get the ~ eye only too ~ etc  
**gladly** not/never suffer fools ~  
**glance** at a ~ at first ~  
**glass** (as) smooth as a billiard-table/~ people who live in ~ houses shouldn't throw stones  
**glasses** rose-coloured/rose-tinted ~: rose-coloured/rose-tinted spectacles etc  
**glimmer** a/one ~ of hope: a/one ray etc of hope  
**glitters** all is not gold that ~  
**glory** one's crowning ~ death or ~ in all one's/its ~/majesty sb's/the reflected ~  
**glove** fit sb like a ~ hand in ~ (with sb) an iron fist/hand in a velvet ~  
**gnat** strain at a ~ (and swallow a camel)  
**gnome** a garden/plaster ~  
**go** all dressed up and/~with nowhere to ~ as birds etc ~ be/~ off one's food/oats ~ be touch and ~ can't/couldn't ~ wrong come and ~<sup>1,2</sup> could ~ sth easy come, easy ~ from the word ~ ~ off with one's tail between one's legs: have etc one's tail between one's legs  
 have etc a home (of one's own) to ~ to have etc a long way etc to ~ have etc sth on the ~ have to (~ and) see a man about a horse/dog have etc a year etc to ~ here/there we ~ (again) it's love that makes the world ~ round (~ to the funeral) just for the ride let (oneself) ~ let oneself/sth ~ let sb ~ let/leave ~ (of sb/sth) let sb/sth ~ hang let it ~ (at that) (if) the mountain will not come to Mohammed/Mahomet, Mohammed/Mahomet must ~ to the mountain no ~ not let the sun ~ down (up) on one's anger/wrath ready, steady, ~ a rum ~ see them come and see them ~ take the cash (in hand) and let the credit ~ there, but for the grace of God, ~ I things that ~ bump in the night watch (the rest of) the world ~ by what does one/sb (~ and/have to) do but do sth where does one ~ from here?  
**goat** act the fool/the giddy ~ get sb's ~  
**gob** shut one's ~: shut one's mouth etc  
**God** (an) act of ~ as ~ is my witness (as) sure as (~ made) little apples before ~ by guess and by ~ for the love of ~ etc (may) ~ etc forgive me good ~ (!): good heavens etc (!) honest to ~ (!)/goodness (!) if ~ did not exist, it would be necessary to invent him in the name of ~ etc a man of ~ man proposes but ~ disposes the mills of ~ grind slowly (but they grind exceeding small) please ~ praise be (to ~) (~) save the mark so help me (~) thank ~ (that/for sth): thank goodness etc (that/for sth) there, but for the grace of ~, go I a (little) tin ~ wish/hope to ~ (that)

**God's** the/~ chosen people  
 for ~ sake(!) for goodness etc  
 sake(!)

**godliness** cleanliness is next to  
 ~

**godmother** a fairy ~

**gods** food/a dish for the ~  
 a gift from the ~  
 (those) whom the ~ love, die  
 young

**goes** anything ~  
 as far as sb/sth ~  
 here ~  
 a little (sth) ~ a long way  
 one's/the mind ~ blank  
 (so) the story ~  
 (and) what sb says ~

**going** coming(s) and ~ (s)  
 enough/plenty to be getting/~  
 on with  
 everything is ~/coming one's  
 way  
 get ~  
 get sth ~ to do etc  
 go etc while the ~ is good  
 good ~  
 heavy etc ~  
 keep (oneself etc) ~  
 know where one is ~  
 the lights are ~ out all over  
 Europe  
 not know if/whether one is  
 coming or ~  
 spend money as if it's ~ out of  
 fashion

**gold** all is not ~ that glitters,  
 (as) good as ~  
 have (got)/with a heart of ~  
 the streets (are) paved with ~  
 strike ~  
 there's ~ in them thar hills  
 worth one's/its weight in ~ (to  
 sb)

**golden** kill the goose that lays  
 the ~ eggs  
 (speech is silver but) silence is  
 ~

**gone** been and ~ and done it/  
 sth  
 (in) bygone days/days ~ by  
 dead and buried/~  
 far ~ (in sth)  
 going, going, ~  
 here today and ~ tomorrow  
 it is/has (just) ~ midnight etc  
 a lot of/much water has ~  
 under the bridge: a lot of/  
 much water has run etc under  
 the bridge

**good** all to the ~  
 (as) ~ as gold  
 (as) ~ as new  
 (as) ~ as a play  
 as ~ as one's word  
 as (~/ill) luck would have it  
 bad/~ form  
 be a ~ boy (and do sth): be a ~  
 chap etc (and do sth)  
 be a ~ chap etc (and do sth)  
 be ~/kind enough to do sth

be ~ for sb/sth  
 be a ~ girl (and do sth): be a ~  
 chap etc (and do sth)  
 be ~ with one's hands  
 be so ~/kind (as to do sth)  
 be to the bad/~  
 be etc too ~ etc to be true  
 be too ~ to last  
 be too ~ to miss/turn down  
 be/have too much of a ~ thing  
 bring sb (bad/~) luck  
 but ~  
 a change is as ~ as a rest  
 the common ~  
 create/make a ~ impression:  
 create/make a bad etc  
 impression  
 a decent/~ sort  
 (why should) the devil have all  
 the best/~ tunes  
 do oneself a bit/piece of no ~  
 do ~  
 do sb/sth ~  
 do ~ by stealth (and blush to  
 find it fame/known)  
 do (sb) a ~/bad turn  
 do more harm than ~  
 do no ~  
 do sb a power/world of ~  
 enough is as ~ as a feast  
 a fat etc lot of ~ etc  
 feel ~  
 fight the ~ fight  
 for full/~ measure  
 for ~ (and all)  
 for sb's/sth's (own) ~  
 (not) (just) for (the ~ of) one's  
 health  
 get etc a ~/bad press  
 give (sb) (back) as ~ as one  
 gets  
 give a ~ etc account of oneself  
 give sb etc a ~ hiding etc  
 give sb/sth etc a (~) run for  
 his/its money  
 go etc while the going is ~  
 one's ~ days: one's off etc days  
 a ~ hunting ground (for/of sb):  
 a happy etc hunting ground  
 (for/of sb)  
 hanging is too ~ for sb  
 have etc a ~ etc/one's innings  
 have etc (no) ~ reason (for  
 (doing) sth)  
 have etc a ~ time  
 have (got)/with a (~) head for  
 figures  
 have (got)/with a (~) head for  
 heights  
 have (got) it ~  
 have/be one of one's ~ etc  
 days  
 have etc too much money etc  
 for one's own ~  
 have/give sb a/the whale of a  
 (~) time  
 hold ~  
 if one knows what is ~ for one  
 in a ~ cause  
 in ~/bad faith

in ~ measure: in full etc  
 measure  
 (all) in ~ part  
 in ~ time  
 (all) in ~ time  
 it's an ill wind (that blows  
 nobody (any) ~)  
 Jack is as ~ as his master  
 jolly ~ (!)  
 a jolly ~ dinner etc  
 a little of what you fancy does  
 you ~  
 look bad/not look ~  
 look ~ (for sb): look bad etc  
 (for sb)  
 make ~  
 make ~ sth<sup>1,2</sup>  
 make a ~ death/end  
 make ~ one's escape/flight  
 a miss is as ~ as a mile  
 more by ~ luck than (by) ~  
 management/judgement  
 much ~ may it do sb  
 neither fish, flesh nor ~ red  
 herring/fresh meat  
 no ~  
 no news is ~ news  
 a nod is as ~ as a wink (to a  
 blind horse)  
 one ~ turn deserves another  
 the only ~ Indian etc is a dead  
 Indian  
 peace and ~ will  
 a rattling ~ etc yarn etc  
 the road to hell is paved with ~  
 intentions  
 set (sb) a (~ etc) example  
 shine like a ~ deed in a naughty  
 world  
 so far, so ~  
 a (~) square meal  
 a stroke of (~/bad) luck etc  
 that's a ~ one  
 there are (plenty) more (~) fish  
 in the sea  
 to the bad/~  
 very ~, (sir/madam)  
 well and ~  
 what is/was ~ enough for my  
 father etc is good enough for  
 me/us  
 when etc she is ~ she is very,  
 very ~ (but when she is bad  
 she is horrid)  
 with (a) ~ grace  
 sb's word is (as ~ as) his/her  
 bond  
 your guess is as ~ as mine

**goodbye** bid sb ~

**goodness** for ~ etc sake(!)  
 ~ knows: God etc knows  
 ~ knows (that): God etc  
 knows (that)  
 honest to God/~ (!)  
 thank ~ etc (that/for sth)

**goods** deliver the ~

**goodwill** (all) men/women of  
 ~

**goose** cook one's/sb's ~  
 kill the ~ that lays the golden

## nouns etc used in headphrases

- eggs  
not say boo to a ~  
(what is) sauce for the ~ is  
sauce for the gander  
a wild ~ chase
- Gordian** cut the (~) knot
- gospel** take etc sth as/for ~ etc  
got give sth all one's ~  
the one(s) that ~ away  
what has sb ~ that I/we  
haven't (~)?
- government** a caretaker ~ etc  
**governs** one's head rules/~  
one's heart
- gown** town and ~
- grab** ~ a/one's slice/share of  
the cake: get etc a/one's slice/  
share of the cake  
(a) smash and ~ (raid)  
take/~ a pew
- grace** a cardinal ~: a cardinal  
error etc  
have etc the ~ etc to do sth  
a saving ~  
a state of ~  
there, but for the ~ of God, go I  
with (a) good ~
- gracefully** grow old ~
- graces** airs and ~
- grade** make the ~
- grain** against the/one's ~
- grand** in (great/the ~) style
- grandeur** delusions of ~/  
power
- grandmother** teach one's ~ to  
suck eggs
- grandstand** get etc a ~ view  
(of sth)
- grant** ~ sb/sth full play: give  
sb/sth etc full play
- grapes** sour ~
- grass** (as) green as ~  
(not) let/allow the ~ (to) grow  
under one's feet
- grasshopper** knee-high to a ~
- grateful** be thankful/~ for  
small mercies  
have etc a lot to be ~/thankful  
for
- gratitude** owe sb a debt of ~
- grave** (as) quiet/silent as the  
~/tomb  
(as) still as the ~  
from the cradle to the ~  
have got/with one foot in the ~  
this side (of) the ~/heaven  
the white man's ~
- greased** like ~ lightning
- great** be no ~ shakes  
cross the G ~ Divide  
a dirty ~ bill etc  
go ~ guns  
a good/~ deal  
a good/~ deal healthier etc  
a good/~ deal (of sth)  
a ~ lot of good etc: a fat etc lot  
of good etc  
~ oaks from little acorns grow:  
tall etc oaks from little acorns  
grow
- have etc a (~) future  
in (~ /the grand) style  
make ~ etc strides  
a pearl of ~ price  
time is a ~ healer  
a (~) white hope
- greater** your need is ~ than  
mine
- Greek** be (all) ~ to sb  
when ~ meets ~ (then is/  
comes the tug of war)
- Greeks** fear the ~, bearing gifts
- green** (as) ~ as grass  
flourish like the ~ bay tree  
give sb etc the ~ /red light  
go ~ (about the gills/in the  
face)  
have etc ~ fingers  
little ~ men  
sb's memory is ~
- greener** the grass is (always) ~  
on the other side (of the  
fence)/in the other man's field
- grey** all cats are ~ in the dark  
grow ~ in the service of sth
- grief** good ~ (!)
- grievance** nurse a ~ etc  
**grieve** what the eye doesn't see  
(the heart doesn't crave for/~  
over)
- grin** give (sb)/get a broad ~/  
smile
- grind** the mills of God ~ slowly  
(but they ~ exceeding small)
- grip** ~ sb's imagination: catch  
etc sb's imagination  
lose one's ~
- gritty** the nitty ~ (of sth)
- groan** moan and ~
- ground** be thick/thin on the ~  
break fresh/new ~  
common ~  
cover the ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
forbidden ~/territory  
gain ~  
give/lose ~ (to sb/sth)  
give sb etc ~ (s) for complaint  
etc  
a happy etc hunting ~ (for/of  
sb)  
have etc one's/both feet on the  
~  
hold/stand one's ~  
on the ~/(the) grounds of sth  
on the ~ (s) that  
one's/sb's stamping(-) ~  
Tom Tiddler's ~  
wish etc (that) the ~ would  
(open and) swallow one  
worship the ~ sb walks/treads  
on
- grounds** on moral etc ~
- group** a ginger ~
- grow** (not) let/allow the grass  
(to) ~ under one's feet  
not ~ /get any younger/thinner  
tall etc oaks from little acorns ~
- grudge** nurse a ~: nurse a  
grievance etc
- Grundy** Mrs ~
- guard** the old brigade/~  
**guardian** a/one's ~ angel
- guess** anybody's ~  
at a (rough/wild) ~  
by ~ and by God  
have (got) another think/~  
coming  
your ~ is as good as mine
- guesses** give sb etc three ~
- guessing** keep sb ~
- guest** speed the parting ~
- guilt** have etc a sense of ~ etc
- guilty** plead ~ (to sth)
- guinea** (as) yellow as a ~
- guise** under the ~ of sth
- gun** jump the ~  
like a bullet out of/from a ~  
a son of a ~
- guns** go great ~  
spike sb's ~
- gusto** with ~
- guts** hate sb's ~  
have etc ~  
have etc the ~ to do sth
- gutter** born in the ~
- guy** a fall ~  
a tough ~/cookie  
a wise ~

## H

- ha** hum and ~ (w)
- ha-ha** funny peculiar or funny ~
- ha'pence** get etc more kicks  
than ~/halfpence
- ha'penny** spoil the ship for a  
ha'porth/~ worth of tar  
a twopenny halfpenny/  
tuppenny ~ affair etc
- ha'porth** spoil the ship for a ~/  
ha'penny worth of tar
- habit** (from) force of ~
- habitation** give sth/have a local  
~ and a name
- hackles** raise sb's ~
- had** the Greeks ~ a name/word  
for it  
have ~ one's chips  
have ~ one's day/time  
have ~ enough  
have ~ it  
wish one ~ a pound etc for  
every book etc
- hair** (not) harm etc a ~ of sb's  
head  
have (got)/with a good etc  
head of ~  
make one's ~ stand on end  
neither hide nor ~ of sb/sth  
not turn a ~  
tear one's ~  
**hairs** split ~
- half** be ~ the battle  
be six of one and/to ~ a dozen  
of the other  
be too clever by ~  
one's/the better ~

give sb/sth etc ~ a chance  
and a ~  
no ~ measures  
not ~ (!)  
not ~ bad/badly  
not ~ be sth  
not ~ do sth  
not ~ the story: not the whole  
etc story  
see etc how the other ~ lives  
**half-hour** on the hour/~  
**half-mast** flags fly/fly flags at  
~  
**half-way** meet sb ~  
**halfpence** get etc more kicks  
than ha'pence/~  
**halfpenny** a twopenny ~/  
tuppenny ha'penny affair etc  
**Hall** Liberty ~  
**halves** do nothing/not do  
anything by ~  
**hand** as near as dammit/kiss  
your ~  
at second ~  
be a dab etc ~ at sth  
bind/tie sb ~ and foot  
a bird in the ~ is worth two in  
the bush  
bite the ~ that feeds one  
the business in ~  
by ~  
cap in ~  
a cloud no bigger than/the size  
of a man's ~  
a cool ~ on a fevered brow  
the dead ~ of the past etc  
(with) one's/sb's (own) fair  
~ (s)  
(need) a firm ~  
force sb's ~  
get etc a free ~  
get etc the upper ~ (of sb)  
give sb/get a big ~  
give (sb) etc a (helping) ~  
have etc sth to ~  
hold sb's ~  
hold/stay one's ~  
hold etc the whip ~ (over/of  
sb)  
an iron fist/~ in a velvet glove  
the job etc in ~  
know sth like the back/palm of  
one's ~  
one's left ~ does not know  
what one's right ~ is doing  
on either/every ~  
on the one ~...on the other  
(~)  
out of ~  
play a lone ~  
the quickness of the ~ deceives  
the eye  
sb's/one's right(-) ~ (man)/  
right arm  
show etc one's ~  
sleight of ~  
strengthen sb's ~  
take the cash (in ~) and let the  
credit go  
win etc the ~ (and heart) of sb

with one ~/both hands tied  
behind one's back  
**hand's** not do a ~ turn  
**handful** (for) thirty pieces/(for)  
a ~ of silver  
**handle** be/prove too hot to ~  
**hands** at sb's ~  
be good with one's ~  
change ~  
clench one's ~ etc  
cold ~ and a warm heart  
the devil/Satan finds/makes  
work for idle ~  
free with one's ~  
have etc clean ~  
have (got)/with one's ~ full  
hold ~  
look, no ~  
many ~ make light work  
on (one's) ~ and knees  
tie sb's ~  
time hangs/lies heavy on one's  
~  
win ~ down  
with one hand/both ~ tied  
behind one's back  
wring one's ~  
**handsaw** know/tell a hawk  
from a ~  
**handshake** a golden ~  
**handsome** cut a ~ figure: cut a  
fine etc figure  
high, wide and ~  
tall, dark and ~  
**hang** give a dog a bad/ill name  
(and ~ him)  
give a man etc enough rope  
(and he'll ~ himself)  
~ it (all): damn etc it (all)  
let sb/sth go ~  
a peg to ~ sth (on/upon)  
**hanged** be ~: be damned etc  
(well,) I'll be/I'm ~!: (well,) I'll  
be/I'm damned etc!  
I'll be/I'm ~ if: I'll be/I'm  
damned etc if  
one may/might as well be ~/  
hung for a sheep as a lamb  
**hanging** (~) concentrates the  
mind wonderfully  
**hangs** (and) thereby ~ a tale  
time ~/lies heavy on one's  
hands  
**happen** accidents can ~  
accidents will ~  
accidents etc will ~ in the best-  
regulated families etc  
it can't ~ here etc  
it shouldn't ~ to a dog  
worse things ~ at sea  
**happened** as it happens/~  
whatever ~ to sb/sth?  
**happening** not see it/that ~  
**happens** as it ~/happened  
if anything ~ to sb  
it so ~ (that)  
**happily** live ~ ever after  
**happy** (as) ~ as a king etc  
(as) ~ etc as the day is long  
(not) be ~ about sth

many ~ returns (of the day)  
one big ~ family  
a/the policeman's lot is not a ~  
one  
**hard** (as) ~ as flint  
(as) ~ as iron/rock  
(as) ~ as nails  
(as) ~ as steel  
(as) ~ as (a) stone  
be too much like ~ work  
can't/couldn't do sth ~  
enough: can't/couldn't do sth  
often etc enough  
die ~  
drive a ~ bargain  
easy/~ on the eyes etc  
easy/~ on sb's/the pocket  
a ~ patch: a bad etc patch  
have etc (no) ~ feelings  
have etc a ~ row to hoe  
have/give sb a ~ time  
have/give sb a ~ time (of it):  
have/give sb a bad etc time (of  
it)  
have (got) a (~/tough) job to  
do sth/doing sth  
hit sb/sth ~  
play ~ to get  
take sth ~/lightly  
**harder** the higher you climb etc  
the ~ you fall  
**hardly** can/could ~ afford to do  
sth: can/could ill etc afford to  
do sth  
can/could ~ be described as  
**hare** (as) mad as a hatter/a  
March ~  
run with the ~ and hunt with  
the hounds  
start etc a ~  
**harm** do more ~ than good  
do no/not do any ~  
grievous bodily ~  
(not) ~ etc a hair of sb's head  
not ~/hurt a fly  
**harmed** hard work never ~  
anybody (yet): hard work  
never hurt etc anybody (yet)  
**harness** die in ~/one's boots  
**Harry** flash ~  
every/any Tom, Dick and/or ~  
**harsh** a hard/~ world  
**has** the emperor ~ no clothes  
every cloud ~ a silver lining  
every dog ~ his/its day  
every man ~ his price  
it's a long road/lane that ~/  
knows no turning  
something ~ (got) to give  
what little money etc one ~ etc  
**hash** (soon) settle sb's ~  
**haste** make ~  
marry in ~, repent at leisure  
**hat** at the drop of a ~  
I'll eat my ~  
old ~  
wear one's/a legal etc ~  
**hatched** count one's chickens  
(before they are ~)  
**hatchet** bury the ~

## nouns etc used in headphrases

**hate** the man etc one most loves to ~  
 one's pet aversion/ ~  
**hates** if there is one thing sb ~ etc, it is  
**hath** to him that ~ shall be given  
**hatter** (as) mad as a ~ / a March hare  
**haul** a long ~  
**have** as chance will/would ~ it as (good/ill) luck would ~ it the ayes/noes ~ it can ~ sth for the asking can ~ sth for the catching etc (~ / lead) a cat-and-dog life (why should) the devil ~ all the best/good tunes (~ / take) forty winks ~ a better hole: find etc a better hole ~ a charmed life: bear etc a charmed life ~ got sth dead right/wrong: be etc dead right/wrong ~ the seeds of sth (in it): sow etc the seeds of sth ~ the whip hand (over/of sb): hold etc the whip hand (over/of sb) little pitchers/pigs ~ long ears nothing venture/risk, nothing ~: nothing venture/risk, nothing gain etc take/ ~ one's pick walls ~ ears (and/or) what ~ you  
**have-nots** the haves and the ~  
**havoc** cry ~ (and let slip the dogs of war) wreak ~  
**hawk** know/tell a ~ from a handsaw watch (sb/sth) like a ~  
**hay** hit the ~ make ~ while the sun shines (look for) a needle in a bottle of ~: (look for) a needle in a haystack etc (look for) a needle in a bundle of ~: (look for) a needle in a haystack etc  
**haystack** (look for) a needle in a ~ etc  
**haywire** go/be ~  
**head** (as) cross etc as a bear with a sore ~ clear one's/sb's ~ enter sb's/one's ~ / mind the first thing etc that comes into/enters one's ~ / mind from ~ etc to foot etc give sb/let sb have his ~ (not) harm etc a hair of sb's ~ have (got)/with a clear ~<sup>1,2</sup> have etc eyes in/at the back of one's ~ / neck have etc eyes in one's ~ have (got)/with a good etc ~ of hair

have (got)/with a (good) ~ for figures  
 have (got)/with a (good) ~ for heights  
 have etc a ~ of steam  
 have etc a ~ start  
 have etc an old ~ on young shoulders  
 have etc a roof over one's ~  
 have etc a thick ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 hold one's ~ high  
 keep etc a cool ~  
 keep/lose one's ~  
 a King Charles's ~  
 like a bear with a sore ~  
 meet etc sth ~ on  
 need etc one's ~ examined etc need sth like (one needs) a hole in the ~  
 not know if/whether one is on one's ~ or one's heels  
 on sb's/one's (own) ~ be it over sb's ~  
 raise/rear its (ugly) ~ (not) right in the ~  
 scratch one's ~  
 shake one's ~<sup>1,2,3</sup>  
 soft/wrong in the ~  
 a talking ~  
 turn sb's ~  
 use one's ~ / loaf  
 wet the baby's ~  
**headlines** hit etc the ~  
**heads** count ~ shrink ~ two ~ are better than one  
**headway** make ~  
**heal** physician, ~ thyself  
**healer** time is a great ~  
**health** (not) (just) for (the good of) one's ~ rude ~  
**healthy** early to bed and early to rise, (makes a man ~, wealthy and wise)  
 have etc a ~ respect for sb/sth  
**hear** can't ~ oneself think ~ word: send etc word  
**heard** children should be seen and/but not ~ the first one has ~ of it/sth make one's voice ~ not have ~ the like (of sth) / sth's like: not have seen etc the like (of sth) / sth's like nowhere/not anywhere to be ~: nowhere/not anywhere to be seen etc once ~ never/not forgotten: once seen etc never/not forgotten  
**hearing** hard of ~  
**hears** know a good thing etc when one ~ it: know a good thing etc when one sees etc it  
**heart** at ~ bless sb's ~ break one's/sb's ~ a change of ~ close/near to sb's ~

cold hands and a warm ~  
 cross my ~ (and hope to die)  
 dear to sb's ~  
 everything/all (that) the ~ (of a man) could desire  
 faint ~ ne'er/never won fair lady  
 the bottom of one's ~  
 gladden sb's ~  
 hand over ~  
 harden one's ~  
 have a ~ (!)  
 (not) have (got) the ~ to do sth  
 have (got)/with a ~ of gold  
 have etc a heavy/light ~  
 one's head rules/governs one's ~  
 hope deferred (maketh the ~ sick)  
 in one's ~ (of hearts)  
 lose/take ~  
 make sb's ~ bleed  
 a man etc after one's own ~  
 search one's ~ / soul  
 sick at ~  
 warm the cockles (of sb's ~)  
 the way to a man's ~ is through his stomach/belly  
 what the eye doesn't see (the ~ doesn't crave for/grieve over)  
 win etc the hand (and ~) of sb win the ~ of sb  
**heart's** to one's ~ content  
**hearts** in one's heart (of ~) (Mr/Miss) Lonely H ~  
**hearty** hale and ~  
**heat** bear the burden and ~ of the day a dead ~ generate/contribute more ~ than light if you can't stand the ~, get out of the kitchen in the ~ of the moment  
**heath** one's native ~  
**heave** ~ a sigh of relief: breathe etc a sigh of relief  
**heave-ho** give sb/get the ~: give sb/get the push etc  
**heaven** all this and ~ too for the love of ~: for the love of God etc ~ forbid: God etc forbid ~ help sb: God etc help sb (dear) God in ~ (!)  
 ~ knows: God etc knows ~ knows (that): God etc knows (that)  
 in the name of ~: in the name of God etc  
 move ~ and earth (to do sth)  
 pennies from ~  
 the seventh ~  
 stink like a polecat/to high ~  
 thank ~ (that/for sth): thank goodness etc (that/for sth)  
 there are more things in ~ and earth than are dreamt of in your philosophy

this side (of) the grave/ ~  
**heaven's** for ~ sake(!): for  
 goodness etc sake(!)  
**heavens** good ~ etc(!)  
**heavy** (as) ~ as lead  
 have etc a ~ /light heart  
 time hangs/lies ~ on one's  
 hands  
**heck** how the ~?: how the hell  
 etc?  
 what the ~?: what the hell etc?  
 where the ~?: where the hell  
 etc?  
 who the ~?: who the hell etc?  
 why the ~?: why the hell etc?  
**hedge** look as if/though one has  
 been dragged through a ~  
 backwards  
**heel** an/one's Achilles' ~  
 sole and ~  
**heeled** well ~  
**heels** at sb's ~  
 click one's ~  
 cool one's ~  
 hard/close on/upon sb's/sth's  
 ~  
 head over ~ /ears  
 kick one's ~  
 not know if/whether one is on  
 one's head or one's ~  
 show (sb) a clean pair of ~  
**heights** the dizzy ~ (of sth)  
 have (got)/with a (good) head  
 for ~  
**heir** the ill etc that flesh is ~ to  
 the/one's son and ~  
**hell** (as) sure as ~: (as) sure as  
 death etc  
 (as) touchy etc as ~  
 come ~ or high water  
 create (bloody) ~ /murder  
 (just) for the ~ of it  
 give sb/get ~  
 (not) have etc a chance in ~  
 (of doing sth)  
 (a) ~ on earth: a heaven etc on  
 earth  
 how the ~ etc?  
 I'll see you in ~ first  
 life is ~  
 like a bat out of ~  
 like/the ~ it is etc  
 one ~ of a row etc  
 raise Cain/(merry) ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 the road to ~ is paved with  
 good intentions  
 see sb hung/in ~ first/before  
 doing sth  
 there is etc the devil (and all  
 (~)) to pay  
 what the ~ etc?  
 what the ~ etc?  
 where the ~ etc?  
 who the ~ etc?  
 why the ~ etc?  
**hell's** (not) have etc a cat in ~  
 chance (of doing sth)  
**help** can't ~ doing sth  
 can't ~ oneself  
 can't/couldn't ~ it/that<sup>1,2</sup>

a fat etc lot of ~: a fat etc lot of  
 good etc  
 God etc ~ sb  
 God helps those who ~  
 themselves  
 so ~ me (God)  
**helped** it can't be ~  
**helping** give (sb) etc a (~)  
 hand  
**helpless** (as) ~ as a (new-  
 born) babe etc  
**helps** every little ~  
 God ~ those who help  
 themselves  
**her** sb's word is (as good as)  
 his/~ bond  
**herd** the common ~  
**here** (as) sure/true as I'm  
 sitting/standing ~  
 be ~ to stay  
 be neither ~ nor there  
 the buck stops ~  
 from ~ to eternity  
 it can't happen ~ etc  
 look ~  
 over ~ /there  
 same ~  
 we're only ~ for the beer  
 where does one go from ~?  
 wish you were ~  
**Herod** out-herod ~  
**heroes** a land fit for ~ to live in  
**herring** neither fish, flesh nor  
 good red ~ /fresh meat  
 a red ~ (across sb's path/track)  
**hesitates** he who ~ is lost  
**hesitation** brook no ~: brook  
 no delay etc  
**heyday** in the ~ of sth  
**hide** have etc a ~ /skin like a  
 rhinoceros  
 have (got)/with nothing/  
 something to ~  
 ~ a sting in the tail: have etc a  
 sting in the tail  
 neither ~ nor hair of sb/sth  
**hiding** give sb etc a good ~ etc  
**high** an all-time ~ /low  
 be/get ~ on sth  
 carry sb shoulder ~  
 come hell or ~ water  
 feelings etc run ~  
 fly ~  
 have (got)/with ~ hopes  
 have/give sb a ~ old time  
 hold one's head ~  
 in ~ places  
 plain living and ~ thinking  
 ride etc a/one's ~ horse  
 ride ~  
 set one's/sb's sights ~  
 stink like a polecat/to ~ heaven  
 one's/sb's stock is ~ /low  
**higher** to put it no ~  
**hill** up ~ and down dale  
**hills** (as) old as the ~  
 the call of the ~: the call of the  
 wild etc  
 there's gold in them thar ~  
**him** give a dog a bad/ill name

(and hang ~)  
 to ~ that hath shall be given  
**himself** each/every man for ~  
 (and the devil take the  
 hindmost)  
**hindmost** each/every man for  
 himself (and the devil take the  
 ~)  
**hindsight** with (the wisdom/  
 ease of) ~  
**hint** drop a ~  
 take a ~  
**hire** the labourer is worthy of his  
 ~  
**his** God moves in a mysterious  
 way, ~ wonders to perform  
 the way to a man's heart is  
 through ~ stomach/belly  
 sb's word is (as good as) ~ /her  
 bond  
 (all) the world and ~ wife  
**history** ancient/past ~  
 a chequered career/~  
 (change) the course of ~  
 make ~  
**hit** a big ~  
 ~ a bad patch: strike etc a bad  
 patch  
 ~ a false etc note: strike etc a  
 false etc note  
 ~ rock bottom: reach etc rock  
 bottom  
**hitch** without a ~  
**hoarse** (as) ~ as an (old) crow  
**hobby-horse** ride etc a/one's  
 ~  
**Hobson's** have etc ~ choice  
**hockey** jolly ~ sticks  
**hoe** have etc a hard row to ~  
**hog** go the whole ~  
**hold** carry/~ one's liquor  
 ~ a middle etc course: steer etc  
 a middle etc course  
 leave sb holding/to ~ the baby  
 etc  
 speak now, or forever ~ one's  
 peace  
 things fall apart, the centre  
 cannot ~  
**holding** leave sb ~ /to hold the  
 baby etc  
 there is no ~ /stopping sb  
**holds** one's luck ~  
 (with) no ~ barred  
 the weather breaks/~  
**hole** the black ~ of Calcutta  
 find etc a better ~  
 need sth like (one needs) a ~ in  
 the head  
 a square peg (in a round ~)  
**holiday** a busman's ~  
 a Roman ~  
**holidays** high days and ~  
**hollow** beat sb/sth ~  
 have (got)/with ~ legs  
**home** at ~  
 a broken ~  
 charity begins at ~  
 an Englishman's ~ is his castle  
 a few ~ truths

## nouns etc used in headphrases

- have etc a ~ (of one's own) to go to  
 have etc nothing (much) to shout/write ~ about  
 hearth and ~  
 keep the ~ fires burning  
 one's spiritual ~  
 a stately ~  
 there's no place like ~  
 wait etc till/until the cows come ~  
 who/what is he/that when he's/it's at ~?  
 a woman's/wife's place is in the ~
- home's** East, (or) West, ~ best  
**homework** do one's ~  
**honest** (as) ~ as the day is long to be ~ etc  
 earn/turn an ~ penny etc  
**honesty** in all ~/sincerity  
**honey** (as) sweet as ~  
 a land flowing with milk and ~  
**honour** do sb an/the ~  
 give (sb) one's word (of ~) (that)  
 hold (one's) ~ cheap: hold (one's) life etc cheap  
 in sb's ~  
 peace with ~  
 a prophet (is) without ~ in his own country  
 the soul of ~: the soul of courtesy etc  
**honourable** ancient and ~  
 do the ~ thing<sup>1,2</sup>: do the right etc thing<sup>1,2</sup>  
**honours** do the ~  
**Hood** (Robin ~ and his) merry men  
**hook** by ~ or by crook  
 sling one's ~  
**hook(e)y** play truant/~  
**hope** cross my heart (and ~ to die)  
 (in) the fond ~ etc  
 a forlorn ~  
 ~ for etc a break<sup>2</sup>: give sb etc a break<sup>2</sup>  
 in the ~ of sth/that  
 a/one ray etc of ~  
 the/a triumph of ~ over experience  
 what a ~ (!)  
 where/while there's life there's ~  
 a (great) white ~  
 wish/~ to God (that)
- hopeful** a young ~  
**hopefully** to travel ~ is a better thing/is better than to arrive  
**hopes** beyond one's wildest dreams/~  
 dash/shatter sb's ~  
 have (got)/with high ~  
 raise ~  
**horizon** a cloud on the ~/in the sky  
**horizons** broaden etc one's ~  
**horror** much to one's ~: much
- to one's relief etc  
**horrors** give sb etc the ~: give sb etc the creeps etc  
**horse** (as) strong as a ~/an ox  
 back the right/wrong ~  
 a dark ~  
 eat like a ~  
 flog a dead ~  
 have etc a/the constitution like/of a ~/an ox  
 have to (go and) see a man about a ~/dog  
 lock etc the stable door after the ~ has bolted etc  
 (not/never) look a gift ~ in the mouth  
 a nod is as good as a wink (to a blind ~)  
 ride etc a/one's high ~  
 (you can) take etc a ~ to the water, but you can't make him drink  
 a Trojan ~  
 a willing ~  
 work like a ~: work like a Trojan etc
- horses** all the King's ~ and all the King's men can't/couldn't do sth  
 change/swap ~ (in mid-stream)  
 hold one's ~  
 if wishes were ~, (then) beggars would ride  
 wild ~ couldn't/wouldn't drag him there etc  
**hosses** cut the cackle (and come to the ~)  
**hot** be/prove too ~ to handle  
 blow ~ and cold  
 like a cat on ~ bricks  
 like a (~) knife through butter/margarine  
 more sth/more often than sb has had ~ dinners  
 not so/too ~  
 the pace is etc too ~ (for sb)  
 piping ~  
 sell like ~ cakes  
 strike while the iron is ~  
**hound** one's faithful ~  
**hounds** run with the hare and hunt with the ~  
**hour** at the eleventh ~  
 (for) the best/better part of an ~ etc  
 by the ~  
 the darkest ~ is that/comes before the dawn  
 one's finest ~  
 on the ~/half-~  
 postpone/put off the evil ~/day  
 the question of the ~  
 the witching ~/time (of night)
- hours** after ~  
 at all ~ (of the day/night)  
 count the days/~  
 for ~ at a time etc: for days etc at a time etc
- in a matter of ~: in a matter of minutes etc  
 in/into the (wee) small ~  
 keep early etc ~  
 out of ~  
**house** can(not) call one's ~ one's own: can(not) call one's soul etc one's own  
 a disorderly ~  
 from log cabin to White H ~  
 give sb etc the run of the ~  
 a halfway ~  
 keep open ~  
 the man/lady of the ~  
 master/mistress in one's own ~  
 move ~  
 not a dry eye in the ~  
 pack the ~  
 a rough ~  
**houseroom** not give sb/sth ~  
**houses** (as) safe as ~  
 people who live in glass ~ shouldn't throw stones  
 a plague on both your ~  
**how** any old ~  
 and ~!  
 know ~ many beans make five  
 see etc ~ the land lies  
 see etc ~ the other half lives (~) unlike/different from the home/private life of our own dear Queen  
**human** to err is ~ (to forgive divine)  
 fit for ~ consumption  
 hope springs eternal (in the ~ breast)  
 (full of) the milk of ~ kindness  
**humble** eat ~ pie  
 your ~ servant  
**humiliation** drink/drain the cup of ~: drink/drain the cup of sorrow etc  
**hunch** have (got)/get a ~ (that)  
**hundred** if one has done sth once one has done it a ~ etc times  
 not if/though one lives to be a ~  
 not/never in a ~ etc years  
**hundreds** in their ~ etc  
**hung** hanged/~, drawn and quartered  
 one may/might as well be hanged/~ for a sheep as a lamb  
 see sb ~/in hell first/before doing sth  
**hungry** (as) ~ as a hunter  
**hunt** run with the hare and ~ with the hounds  
**hunter** (as) hungry as a ~  
**hunting** a happy etc ~ ground (for/of sb)  
**hurricane** the eye of the ~: the eye of the storm etc  
**hurry** in a ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 what is the ~/rush?  
**hurt** (sweet airs/noises that)

give delight and ~ not  
 hard work never ~ etc anybody  
 (yet)  
 (not) ~ a hair of sb's head:  
 (not) harm etc a hair of sb's  
 head  
 not harm/~ a fly  
 sticks and stones will break my  
 bones but names will never ~  
 me  
 this will ~ me more than it hurts  
 you

**I** don't do anything ~ wouldn't  
 do  
 for all the difference ~ can see:  
 for all the difference it makes  
 etc  
 heads ~ win, tails you lose  
 know (sth) as well as ~ do  
 (~) promise (you)  
 say ~/~ say  
 that's all ~ can say  
 that's what ~ (always) say  
 that's what ~ want/I'd like to  
 know  
 (even) though ~ say it/so  
 myself  
 well ~ never (did) (!)  
 what has sb got that ~/we  
 haven't (got)?  
 I'd that's what I want/~ like to  
 know

I'll you scratch my back and ~  
 scratch yours  
 I'm (~) glad to meet you  
 or ~ a Dutchman  
 I've now ~ seen everything  
 ice (as) cold as ~ etc  
 break the ~  
 iceberg (only) the tip of the ~  
 idea (not) be one's/sb's ~ of  
 sb/sth  
 canvass the ~ etc (that)  
 (not) entertain the ~ etc  
 explode a ~: explode a myth  
 etc  
 a fixed ~  
 get/have (got) the ~  
 have etc a clear ~ (of sth)  
 have etc an ~ (that)  
 have etc an ~ of sth  
 the (very) ~!  
 not/never have etc the foggiest  
 etc ~ etc  
 what's the big ~?  
 the young ~

**ideas** air one's ~: air one's  
 views etc  
 received ~: received  
 opinion(s) etc  
**idiot** the village ~  
**idle** bone ~  
 the devil/Satan finds/makes  
 work for ~ hands

it is ~ to deny etc (that)  
 no ~ jest  
**ill** of that ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
**ill** as (good/~) luck would have  
 it  
 be ~ advised to do sth: be well  
 etc advised to do sth  
 can/could ~ etc afford to do  
 sth  
 fall/be taken ~/sick  
 give a dog a bad/~ name (and  
 hang him)  
 it ~ becomes sb to do sth  
 it's an ~ wind (that blows  
 nobody (any) good)  
 not speak ~ of the dead  
 wish sb well/~

**ill-will** bear sb no ~  
**ills** the ~ etc that flesh is heir to  
**image** the spit and ~/spitting  
 ~ of sb/sth  
**imagination** catch etc sb's ~  
 a figment of the/one's ~  
 in one's ~/fancy  
 one's/the mind/~ boggles  
**imagine** can you ~!  
**immemorial** from/since time ~  
**impertinence** have (got)/with  
 the ~ to do sth: have (got)/  
 with the nerve etc to do sth  
**importance** full of one's own  
 ~

**important** all ~  
**impossible** attempt the ~  
**impression** create/make a bad  
 etc ~  
 one's first ~  
 give (sb) etc the ~ (that/of  
 being)  
**improvement** there is room for  
 ~  
**impudence** have (got)/with  
 the ~ to do sth: have (got)/  
 with the nerve etc to do sth  
 of all the ~: of all the nerve  
 etc(!)

**impulse** on (an) ~  
**inch** every ~ a gentleman etc  
 give sb an ~ (and he'll take a  
 mile etc)  
 not trust sb an ~/as far as one  
 could throw him  
**inclination** against one's/sb's  
 will/~  
**inclined** be/feel that way etc ~  
**incompatible** ~ bedfellows:  
 strange etc bedfellows  
**indeed** a friend in need (is a  
 friend ~)

**indignation** righteous anger/~  
**industry** a captain of ~  
**inebrates** the cup that cheers  
 (but not ~)  
**inefficiency** brook no ~: brook  
 no delay etc  
**infinite** genius is an ~ capacity  
 for taking pains  
**influence** make/win friends  
 and ~ people  
**information** a mine of ~

**informed** only to be ~: only to  
 find etc  
**inhumanity** man's ~ to man  
**iniquity** a den of ~  
**initiative** take the ~  
**injure** hurt/~ sb's pride  
**injury** do sb/oneself an ~  
**ink** as black as ~ etc  
**inkling** have etc no/an ~ (of  
 sth)  
**inn** be no room at/in the ~  
**innings** have etc a good etc/  
 one's ~

**innocence** injured ~  
**innocent** (as) ~ as a (new-  
 born) babe etc  
**ins** the ~ and outs (of sth)  
**inside** know sth ~ out  
**inspection** (not) bear/stand  
 close examination/~  
**instance** for ~  
 in the first ~  
**instant** this (very) ~: this  
 (very) minute etc  
**instinct** the herd ~  
**instrument** a chosen ~/vessel  
**intent** by ~  
**intentions** the road to hell is  
 paved with good ~  
**intents** to all ~ (and purposes)  
**interest** declare an/one's ~  
 have etc a vested ~ (in sth)  
 (a matter etc) of academic ~/  
 concern

**interested** an ~ party  
**interests** a clash of ~: a clash  
 of wills etc  
 have etc outside ~  
**interference** brook no ~:  
 brook no delay etc  
**introduction** need/require no  
 ~

**invent** if God did not exist, it  
 would be necessary to ~ him  
**invention** necessity is the  
 mother of ~  
**iota** not one ~: not one whit etc  
**iron** (as) hard as ~/rock  
 have etc a will of ~  
 strike while the ~ is hot  
**ironies** (one/another of) life's  
 little ~

**is** as it ~/was  
 the pace ~ etc too hot (for sb)  
 a rose ~ a rose ~ a rose  
 whatever ~, ~ right  
 (the) word ~ that  
**island** no man is an ~  
**issue** dodge/duck the ~  
 (a ~ of) life and/or death: (a  
 matter etc of) life and/or death  
 raise the ~ (of sth): raise the  
 question etc (of sth)  
**it** as chance will/would have ~  
 as if/though one's life  
 depended on/upon ~  
 as ~ happens/happened  
 as ~ is/was  
 as ~ were  
 as (good/ill) luck would have ~



## nouns etc used in headphrases

the ayes/noes have ~  
 be nothing to ~  
 be that as ~ may  
 beat ~  
 the beauty of ~/sth  
 been and gone and done ~/sth  
 believe ~ or not  
 the best of ~  
 the best/worst of ~/sth is  
 (that)  
 buy ~/that  
 can/could well believe ~  
 can you beat ~!  
 can't/couldn't help ~/that<sup>1,2</sup>  
 come ~ strong ~  
 cop ~  
 to crown ~ all<sup>1,2</sup>  
 cut ~/things fine  
 damn etc ~ (all)  
 do ~: do the trick etc  
 do ~ yourself  
 doesn't one know ~!  
 don't mention ~  
 draw ~ mild  
 easy/gently does ~  
 far be ~ from me to interfere etc  
 (but/yet)  
 far from ~  
 the first one has heard of ~ sth  
 for all the difference ~ makes  
 etc  
 get ~ (in the neck/where the  
 chicken gets the chopper)  
 give ~ a try  
 give ~/sb a try  
 go ~ alone  
 God damn (~)  
 the Greeks had a name/word  
 for ~  
 grin and bear ~  
 hard put (to ~)/pressed to do  
 sth  
 have one's cake and eat ~  
 (too)  
 have done ~ this time etc  
 have etc a familiar etc ring  
 (about/to ~)  
 have got ~ badly  
 have had ~  
 have ~ (that)  
 have etc ~/things both ways  
 have (got) ~ good  
 have (got) ~ made ~  
 have etc ~/things one's (own)  
 way  
 have etc the knack (of ~)  
 have seen etc ~ all  
 have etc something etc to show  
 for ~  
 have (got) what ~ takes (to do  
 sth)  
 (~ is) high/about time (that)  
 hold ~  
 hop ~  
 how about ~/that(?)  
 I'll believe ~/that when I see ~  
 I'll say ~ is  
 if the cap fits, (wear ~)  
 if the worst/~ comes to the  
 worst

keep sth/~ dark (from sb)  
 kiss ~ better  
 know a good thing etc when  
 one sees etc ~  
 and one knows ~  
 let ~ be said  
 let ~ go (at that)  
 let ~ etc ride  
 let's face ~  
 like ~ or lump ~  
 like ~ or not/no  
 make ~  
 make ~ one's business to do  
 sth  
 make ~ snappy  
 mean ~ etc  
 much good may ~ do sb  
 never let ~ be said (that)  
 nice work if you can get ~  
 (there are) no two ways about  
 ~  
 not a bit of ~  
 not see ~/that happening  
 nothing/(not) anything (else)  
 for ~ (but to do sth)  
 now ~ can be told  
 (~ is) now or never  
 now you see ~, now you don't  
 on the face of ~  
 play ~/do sth by the book  
 play ~ etc cool  
 play ~/things right  
 play ~/things safe  
 play ~ straight  
 put ~ etc differently etc  
 (to) put ~ mildly  
 to put ~ no higher  
 the root of ~/the trouble  
 rough ~  
 to say the least (of ~)  
 scrub ~/that  
 see life (steadily and see ~)  
 whole  
 so ignorant etc ~ isn't true  
 (or) so ~ seems  
 strike ~ rich  
 such as ~ is/they are  
 suffice (~) to say etc (that)  
 take ~  
 take ~ (that)  
 take ~ etc easy  
 take ~ or leave ~  
 take (~ in) turns (to do sth)  
 that does ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 that is as (~) may be  
 that etc is more like ~  
 that is his story and he's  
 sticking to ~  
 that's all you know about ~  
 that's done/torn ~  
 that's (about) ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 that's just ~/(just) the trouble  
 (and) that's that/~  
 there is more to ~ etc than that  
 etc  
 (but) there ~ is/you are  
 this is ~  
 this will hurt me more than ~  
 hurts you  
 (even) though I say ~/so

myself  
 watch ~  
 what is ~ to sb?  
 what of ~?  
 work ~/things (so) that etc  
 would you believe (~)(?)  
 you name ~ (they have ~ etc)  
 you said ~  
 you've said ~ all  
**it's** (~) the same the whole/all  
 the world over  
**itch** the seven-year ~  
**itself** by ~/oneself<sup>1,2</sup>  
 an end in ~  
 history repeats ~  
 a house etc divided against ~  
 (cannot stand)  
 tomorrow will/can take care of/  
 look after ~  
**ivory** an ~ tower  
**J**  
**jack** all work and no play (makes  
 J ~ a dull boy  
 before you can say J ~  
 Robinson/knife  
 every man ~ (of sb)  
 I'm all right, J ~  
**jackpot** hit the ~  
**jam** money for ~/old rope  
**Jane** a calamity ~  
 a plain ~  
**jaws** clench one's ~: clench  
 one's hands etc  
**jelly** shake etc like a ~/leaf  
**jest** no idle ~  
**Jesus** a creeping ~  
**jetsam** flotsam and ~  
**Jew** a wandering ~  
**jiffy** be a ~: be a moment etc  
 in a ~ etc  
**jinks** high ~  
**jitters** have etc the ~ etc  
**Joan** (a) Darby and ~  
**Job** (as) patient as ~  
 have etc the patience of ~/a  
 saint  
**job** a cushy ~: a cushy number  
 etc  
 do the ~: do the trick etc  
 (it's a) good ~/thing (that)  
 a good ~ well done  
 a hatchet man/~  
 have (got) a (hard/tough) ~ to  
 do sth/doing sth  
 it is more than one's ~ is worth  
 (to do sth)  
 just the ~/ticket  
 the man for the ~  
 a nine to five ~ etc  
 a safe ~  
 a soft ~  
**jobs** odd ~  
**join** enter/~ the fray  
 if you can't beat them, ~ them  
**joint** case the ~

**joke** can etc take a ~  
 crack a ~  
 a family ~  
 (just) for a ~: (just) for a giggle etc  
 (just) sb's little ~  
 no ~  
 a practical ~  
 (not) see the ~  
 take a ~  
**joking** you have (got) to be/  
 must be ~/kidding  
**jolly** know sth ~ well: know sth  
 very etc well  
**Jones' Davy** ~ (s) locker  
**Josephine** not tonight, ~  
**jot** not one ~: not one whit etc  
**journey** break one's ~  
**jowl** cheek by ~ (with sb/sth)  
**joy** sb's pride and ~  
 a thing of beauty is a ~ forever  
**joys** full of the ~ of spring  
**judge** (as) sober as a ~  
 a hanging ~ (of sb/sth)  
 if I'm any ~ (of sb/sth)  
**judg(e)ment** against one's/  
 sb's better ~  
 cloud one's ~: cloud one's  
 brain etc  
 a Daniel come to ~  
 an error of ~  
 more by good luck than (by)  
 good management/~  
 a snap ~: a snap vote etc  
 a value ~  
**judicious** keep a ~ distance:  
 keep a safe etc/one's distance  
**jumps** see etc which way the cat  
 ~  
**jungle** the law of the ~  
**just** all/~ the same  
 (~) as well (that)  
 (~) for argument's sake  
 (~) for fun  
 (~) for a giggle etc  
 (not) (~) for (the good of)  
 one's health  
 (~) for the hell of it  
 (~) for kicks  
 (~) for love/the love of sth/sb  
 (~) for luck  
 (~) for the nonce  
 (~) for the record  
 it is/has (~) gone midnight etc  
 it/that is ~ as well  
 it is (~/quite) like sb to be/do  
 sth  
 (~) sb's little joke  
 look as if/though one has (~)  
 stepped out of a bandbox  
 (~/all) the luck of the game  
 may/might (~) as well do sth  
 (but) only ~  
 the rain falls on the ~ and the  
 unjust  
 (~) round/around the (next)/  
 (every) corner  
 (~) say the word  
 that's ~ it/(~) the trouble  
**justice** the course of ~

do sb/sth ~  
 rough ~  
**justifies** the end ~ the means  
**K**  
**keel** on an even ~  
**keen** (as) ~ as mustard  
**keep** earn one's/its ~  
 hold/~ the ring  
 ~ clear (of sb/sth): steer etc  
 clear (of sb/sth)  
 ~ a clear conscience: have etc a  
 clear conscience  
 ~ a clear idea (of sth): have etc  
 a clear idea (of sth)  
 ~ sb/sth covered: have etc sb/  
 sth covered  
 ~ one's/both feet on the  
 ground: have etc one's/both  
 feet on the ground  
 ~ a middle etc course: steer etc  
 a middle etc course  
 ~ an open mind: have etc an  
 open mind  
 ~ the whip hand (over/of sb):  
 hold etc the whip hand (over/  
 of sb)  
 know/~ one's place  
 lose/~ one's/its looks  
 lose/~ one's temper/cool  
 you can ~ sth/sb  
**keeper** one's brother's/sb's ~  
**keeping** finding is ~  
**keeps** the company one ~  
 for ~  
 (you can) judge/tell a man by  
 the company he ~  
**kettle** a (very) different ~ of  
 fish  
 a fine etc ~ of fish  
 the pot calls the ~ black  
 a watched ~/pot never boils  
**kick** give sb a ~/get a ~ doing  
 sth  
 have (got)/with a ~ like a mule  
**kicking** alive and ~/well  
**kicks** (just) for ~  
 get etc more ~ than ha'pence/  
 halfpence  
**kid** a (crazy) mixed-up ~  
**kidding** you have (got) to be/  
 must be joking/~  
**Kilkenny** fight like ~ cats  
**kill** could/would (cheerfully) ~  
 sb: could/would (cheerfully)  
 murder etc sb  
 dressed to ~  
**killed** curiosity ~ the cat  
 hard work never ~ anybody  
 (yet): hard work never hurt etc  
 anybody (yet)  
**killing** one's feet etc are ~ one  
 there are more/easier ways of ~  
 a cat than by choking it with  
 cream  
**kin** (one's) kith and ~

**kind** be cruel to be ~  
 be good/~ enough to do sth  
 be no (~ of) place etc for sb  
 be so good/~ (as to do sth)  
 a difference/different in ~  
 if one likes that ~/sort of thing  
 in ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 know sb and his ~  
 (not) the marrying ~ etc  
 nothing/(not) anything of the  
 ~/sort  
 of a ~/sort  
**kindness** (full of) the milk of  
 human ~  
 the soul of ~: the soul of  
 courtesy etc  
**kinds** all ~/sorts of sb/sth  
 it takes all ~ (to make a world):  
 it takes all sorts etc (to make a  
 world)  
**king** (as) happy as a ~ etc  
 a cat may look at a ~  
 in the land of the blind the one-  
 eyed man is ~  
 (one must not be) more royalist  
 than the ~  
**King's** all the ~ horses and all  
 the ~ men can't/couldn't do  
 sth  
 take the ~/Queen's shilling  
 turn ~/Queen's Evidence  
**kings** the sport of ~  
**kiss** as near as dammit/~ your  
 hand  
 blow sb a ~  
**kissed** sweet sixteen (and never  
 been ~)  
**kisses** stolen ~ are sweeter/the  
 sweetest: stolen sweets etc are  
 sweeter/the sweetest  
**kitchen** everything but the ~  
 sink  
 if you can't stand the heat, get  
 out of the ~  
 a thieves' ~  
**kitten** (as) nervous as a cat/~  
**kittens** have/give sb ~  
**knack** have etc the ~ (of it)  
 have (got)/with a/the ~ of  
 doing sth  
**knees** be the bee's ~  
 on (one's) hands and ~  
 weak at the ~  
**knell** sound the (death) ~ of  
 sb/sth  
**knew** forget more about sth  
 than sb ever ~  
**knife** before you can say Jack  
 Robinson/~  
 like a (hot) ~ through butter/  
 margarine  
 war to the ~  
**knobs** with ~ on  
**knock** take a ~  
**knot** cut the (Gordian) ~  
**knotted** get ~  
**know** doesn't one ~ it!  
 do you ~  
 I don't ~ (that)  
 and I don't ~ what (all)

## nouns etc used in headphrases

I don't ~ what the world's coming to  
 if you ~ etc what I mean  
 if you must ~ (as) ~ (no) good reason (for (doing) sth): have etc (no) good reason (for (doing) sth)  
 not ~ anything about sth but ~ what one likes  
 not ~ sb from Adam  
 not ~ if/whether one is coming or going  
 not ~ if/whether one is on one's head or one's heels  
 not ~ one is born  
 not ~ the meaning of the word  
 not ~ what to do with oneself  
 not ~ what one is missing  
 not ~ where/which way to look/turn one's eyes  
 not ~ /be sure where one's next meal/penny is coming from  
 not ~ where/which way to turn  
 not (~ sb) to speak to  
 not want to ~  
 (~ where) the shoe pinches  
 that's all you ~ about it  
 that's what I want/I'd like to ~  
 what do you ~ (I)  
 wouldn't ~ /recognize sth if one saw one  
 you ~ <sup>1,2,3,4</sup>  
 you ~ what etc  
 you ~ what you can do (with it/sth)  
 you ~ where you can put sth  
**knowing** there is no ~ etc what  
**knowledge** air/parade one's ~  
 common ~  
 a little learning/~ is a dangerous thing  
 to the best of one's ~ etc  
 to one's ~  
 with/without the ~ and consent of sb  
**known** do good by stealth (and blush to find it fame/~)  
 for reasons/some reason best/only ~ to oneself  
 not have ~ the like (of sth)/sth's like: not have seen the like (of sth)/sth's like  
**knows** before one ~ where one is  
 (the) dear (only) ~  
 the devil one ~ is better than the devil one doesn't  
 every schoolboy ~ (the) first/next thing one ~  
 God etc ~  
 God etc ~ (that)  
 hell has/~ no fury like a woman scorned  
 if one ~ what is good for one  
 it's a long road/lane that has/~ no turning  
 and one ~ it  
**knuckle** near/close to the bone/  
 ~

**L**  
**la-di-da** talk ~: talk posh etc  
**laborious** scorn delights and live ~ days  
**labour** a/the division of ~ the fruit(s) of one's ~ (s) sweated ~  
**labourers** (all) ~ etc in the vineyard  
**labours** the mountain ~ and brings forth a (ridiculous) mouse  
**lack** for ~ /want of sth  
 ~ an enquiring etc turn of mind: have etc an enquiring etc turn of mind  
 no ~ /want of sth  
**ladders** snakes and ~  
**ladies** one of nature's gentlemen/~  
**lady** faint heart ne'er/never won fair ~  
 one's/sb's good ~  
 Lord/L ~ Muck  
 the man/~ of the house  
 the/one's old ~: the/one's old man etc  
**lady's** it is a woman's/~ privilege to change her mind  
**lamb** (as) gentle as a ~  
 (as) meek as a ~  
 like a ~  
 (like/as) a ~ to the slaughter:  
 (like/as) sheep etc to the slaughter  
 the lion lies down with the ~  
 one may/might as well be hanged/hung for a sheep as a ~  
 mutton dressed as ~  
**lamb's** in two shakes (of a ~ tail)  
**lambs** (like/as) ~ to the slaughter: (like/as) sheep etc to the slaughter  
**lame** help a ~ dog over a stile  
**lamented** the/one's late ~ sb/sth  
**lamp** the genie of the ~ /in the bottle  
**land** in the ~ of the blind the one-eyed man is king  
 the law(s) of the ~  
 no man's ~  
 a power in the ~  
 a/the promised ~  
 see etc how the ~ lies  
 a stranger in a strange ~  
 up and down the country/~  
**landings** happy ~ (!)  
**landscape** a blot on the ~.<sup>1,2</sup>  
**lane** (a trip) down memory ~  
 it's a long road/~ that has/~ knows no turning  
**language** speak/talk the same etc ~  
 strong ~ /words  
 watch/mind one's ~ /tongue

**lap** the last ~  
**large** (as) ~ as life  
 (as) ~ /big as a cabbage  
 at ~  
 bulk ~  
 by and ~  
 ~ oaks from little acorns grow:  
 tall etc oaks from little acorns grow  
 writ ~ /small  
**lark** (as) gay as a ~  
**last** at ~  
 at the ~  
 at the ~ minute  
 at long ~  
 be too good to ~  
 the cobbler should stick to his ~  
 every ~ /single one etc  
 first and ~  
 from first to ~: from beginning etc to end etc  
 have (got)/get the ~ laugh  
 have etc the ~ word  
 hear/see the ~ of sb/sth  
 in the final/~ analysis  
 in the ~ resort<sup>1,2</sup>  
 ~ the course: stay etc the course  
 patriotism is the ~ refuge of a scoundrel  
 play one's ~ card  
 say/be one's ~ word  
 this time ~ /next year etc  
 to the ~  
**late** be too little (and) too ~  
 better ~ than never  
 it's never too ~ to mend of ~  
**later** better bad now than worse ~  
 it's ~ than you think  
 shoot first and ask questions afterwards/~  
 sooner or ~  
**lath** (as) thin as a rake/~  
**latter** one's/its ~ state is worse than the first: one's/its last etc  
 state is worse than the first -  
**laugh** cry/~ all the way to the bank  
 don't make me ~  
 enough to make one ~: enough to make one weep etc  
 (just) for a ~: (just) for a giggle etc  
 good for a ~  
 have (got)/get the last ~  
 a hollow ~  
 make a cat ~  
 raise a ~ /smile  
**laughing** die ~  
 make etc (sb/sth) a ~ stock  
 no ~ matter  
**laughs** (just) for (the) ~: (just) for a giggle etc  
**laugher** a fit of ~  
 gales of ~ /mirth  
**law** (the ~ of) diminishing returns

hard cases make bad ~ (s)  
 have etc one ~ for the rich, and another for the poor  
 possession is nine parts etc of the ~  
 there is no ~ against it etc  
 there should be a ~ against it etc  
 an unwritten ~  
 sb's word is ~  
**lays** kill the goose that ~ the golden eggs  
**lead** all roads ~ to Rome  
 (as) heavy as ~  
 (have/~) a cat-and-dog life  
 follow sb's ~  
 give (sb) a ~  
 ~ a charmed life: bear etc a charmed life  
 swing the ~  
**leading** the blind ~ the blind  
**leaf** shake etc like a jelly/~  
**League** the Ivy ~  
**leak** spring a ~  
**lean** (as) ~ as an alley cat  
 the fat years and the ~ years  
**leaps** by/in ~ and bounds  
 look before one ~  
**learn** have(got)/with a lot to ~  
 ~ the knack (of it): have etc the knack (of it)  
 ~ the ropes: know etc the ropes  
 ~ one's way about/around:  
 know etc one's way about/around  
 ~ what love etc is: know etc what love etc is  
 ~ what's what: know etc what's what  
**learning** a little ~/knowledge is a dangerous thing  
 wear one's ~ etc lightly  
**learns** one lives and ~  
**lease** give sb/sth etc a new etc ~ of life  
**least** at ~ <sup>1,2</sup>  
 (and) last, but not/by no means ~  
 the less/~ said (about sb/sth) the better  
 the line etc of ~ resistance  
 not in the ~  
 to say the ~ (of it)  
**leather** (as) tough as ~/an old boot  
 hell for ~  
**leave** ~ a/the feeling (that):  
 have etc a/the feeling (that)  
 let/~ go (of sb/sth)  
 love sb and ~ sb  
 never put off/~ till tomorrow  
 what you can do today  
 rats ~ a (sinking) ship: rats  
 desert etc a (sinking) ship  
 take it or ~ it  
 take ~ to doubt etc it etc  
 take sth/sb or ~ sth/sb  
**lecture** a curtain ~  
**left** have etc a shot (~) in the/  
 one's locker

not have a bean ~  
**leg** a gammy ~  
 give sb/get a ~ up  
 not have a ~ to stand on  
 pull sb's ~  
 shake a ~  
 show a ~  
**legs** as fast as one's ~ can carry one  
 have (got)/with hollow ~  
 have etc one's tail between one's ~  
**leisure** at one's ~  
 marry in haste, repent at ~  
**lemon** the answer is a ~  
**lend** ~ an/the air of sb/sth: have etc an/the air of sb/sth  
 ~ (sb) a (helping) hand: give (sb) etc a (helping) hand  
 ~ moral support: get etc moral support  
**lends** distance ~ enchantment to the view  
**length** at ~ <sup>1,2</sup>  
 measure one's ~  
**lenses** rose-coloured/rose-tinted ~: rose-coloured/rose-tinted spectacles etc  
**less** couldn't care ~  
 more or ~ <sup>1,2,3</sup>  
 much ~  
 no fewer/~ than sth  
 no ~ (a person/place) (than sb/sth)  
 none the ~  
 nothing/neither more (n) or ~ than  
**lesser** a leading/~ light/luminary  
**lesson** learn a/one's ~  
 an object ~  
**let** (all) hell breaks/is ~ loose  
 (~) the facts speak for themselves  
 leave/~ sb/sth alone  
 leave/~ sb/sth be  
 leave/~ well alone  
 ~ sb know the score: know etc the score  
 ~ sb off scot-free: go etc scot-free  
 live and ~ live  
 never ~ it be said (that)  
 not ~ the sun go down (up) on one's anger/wrath  
 take the cash (in hand) and ~ the credit go  
 (~ sth) take its course  
**letter** a dead ~ <sup>1,2</sup>  
 drop sb a ~: drop sb a line etc  
 a French ~  
 a poison-pen ~  
 a red ~ day  
 a stiff ~  
 to the ~  
**letters** a man of ~  
**level** do/try one's (~/very) best (to do sth)  
**liberty** if you'll pardon/excuse the ~

**lie** as one makes one's bed, so one must ~ on it  
 the camera cannot ~  
 sb/sth is dead, but he/it won't ~ down  
 let sleeping dogs ~  
 tell (sb) a ~ (about sth)  
 a white ~  
 without a word of a ~  
**lies** beauty etc is/~ in the eye of the beholder  
 the lion ~ down with the lamb  
 a pack of ~  
 see etc how the land ~  
 there etc is/~ the rub  
 time hangs/~ heavy on one's hands  
**lieu** in ~ (of sth)  
**life** all the days of one's ~  
 anything for a quiet ~  
 (as) large as ~  
 as much as one's ~ is worth the bane of sb's existence/~  
 bear etc a charmed ~  
 the best things in ~ are free  
 the breath of ~  
 can't/couldn't do sth for the ~ of one etc  
 (have/lead) a cat-and-dog ~  
 the change of ~  
 cost sb his ~  
 a cushy ~: a cushy number etc  
 a dog's ~  
 the expectation of ~  
 for dear ~  
 for ~  
 full of ~  
 give sb/get the fright etc of his/one's ~  
 give sb/sth etc a new etc lease of ~  
 the good ~  
 the good things in/of ~  
 the happiest days of one's ~  
 a hard ~  
 have/give sb the time of one's/his ~  
 hold (one's) ~ etc cheap  
 if one values one's ~  
 in fear of one's ~  
 the kiss of ~  
 larger than ~  
 lead a busy etc ~  
 lead/live a double ~/two lives  
 live etc the ~ of Riley  
 lose one's ~  
 make (sb's) ~ a misery  
 a man's ~  
 not on your (sweet etc) ~ (!)  
 not so much a programme, more a way of ~  
 one's private ~  
 (a/an ~/air of) quiet desperation  
 (in) real ~  
 save sb's/one's ~ etc  
 see ~  
 see ~ (steadily and ~ it) whole  
 a short ~ and a merry (one)  
 the simple ~

## nouns etc used in headphrases

- a slice of ~  
 the staff of ~  
 such is ~  
 take ~ 1,2  
 that's ~  
 there is ~ in the old boy etc yet to the ~  
 variety is the spice of ~  
 one's walk of ~  
 a way of ~  
 what a ~!  
 where/while there's ~ there's hope  
 you (can) bet your (sweet) ~ (that)
- lifetime** once in a ~  
**lift** give sb etc a ~  
**light** an angel of ~  
 (as) ~ as air  
 (as) ~ as a feather  
 (as) ~ as thistledown  
 at first ~  
 by the ~ of sth  
 generate/contribute more heat than ~  
 give sb etc the green/red ~  
 a guiding ~/star  
 have etc a heavy/~ heart  
 in the ~ of sth  
 a leading/lesser ~/luminary  
 many hands make ~ work  
 the red ~ district  
 see (day) ~  
 see the ~  
 a shining ~  
 strike a ~  
 sweetness and ~  
 travel ~  
 trip etc the ~ fantastic  
**lightly** take sth hard/~  
 take sb/sth seriously/~  
 wear one's learning etc ~
- lightning** (as) quick as ~ etc  
 a flying/~ visit  
 like greased ~
- lights** according to/by one's ~  
 the bright ~
- like** as coolly etc as you ~/as anything  
 (as) ~/likely as not  
 (as) ~ as two peas/peas in a pod  
 call it etc what/which you ~:  
 call it etc what/which you will etc  
 have etc a/the constitution ~/of a horse/an ox  
 I ~ that!  
 if you ~  
 it is (just/quite) ~ sb to be/do sth  
 just as you ~ etc  
 just ~ that  
 and one's ~  
 and the ~  
 not have seen etc the ~ (of sth)/sth's like  
 not see etc sb's/sth's ~ (s) again  
 that etc is more ~ it
- that's what I want/I'd ~ to know  
 there is nothing/not anything ~ sth (for doing sth/to do sth)  
**likelihood** in all probability/~  
**likely** (as) like/~ as not more than ~  
 not (bloody) ~  
**likeness** a family ~  
**likes** bet sb anything/what he ~ (that)  
 if one ~ that kind/sort of thing (one's) ~ and dislikes (of sb)  
 not know anything about sth but know what one ~
- liking** to sb's ~  
**lilies** consider the ~  
**lily** gild the ~  
**limb** life and/or ~  
 sound in wind and ~
- limit** be the (absolute etc) ~  
 the sky's the ~
- line** all along the ~ etc  
 do/drive a roaring trade/~ (in sth)  
 drop sb a ~ etc  
 hook, ~ and sinker  
 a hot ~  
 a long ~ of teachers etc  
 shoot a ~  
 somewhere etc along the ~  
 take a firm etc ~  
 the thin red ~  
 toe the ~
- lines** along/on familiar etc ~  
 along/on the ~ (of sth)  
 get etc one's ~ crossed  
 hard ~ (on sb)  
 on these ~
- lining** every cloud has a silver ~  
**link** a chain is (only) as strong as its weakest ~  
 the missing ~
- lion** (as) bold/brave as a ~  
 beard the ~/sb in his den
- lip** bite one's ~  
 curl one's/the ~ (s)  
 a stiff upper ~  
 there's many a slip 'twixt (the) cup and (the) ~
- lips** lick/smack one's ~/chops  
 purse one's ~
- liquor** carry/hold one's ~
- listener** a good/bad ~
- little** (all) to no/~ avail  
 (as) sure as (God made) ~ apples  
 be too ~ (and) too late  
 a big fish in a ~ pond  
 every ~ helps  
 have etc more goodness etc in one's ~ finger than sb  
 it is only a ~ one  
 (one/another of) life's ~ ironies  
 more than a bit/~  
 much/~ as/though one does sth  
 not a ~  
 not a/one (~) bit
- nothing/~ short of sth  
 of/to ~/no avail  
 the patter of ~/tiny feet  
 poor ~ rich girl  
 precious few/~  
 tall etc oaks from ~ acorns grow  
 a (~) tin god  
 what/that is sb's (~) game(?)  
 what ~ money etc one has etc  
**live** I'll ~/survive  
 a land fit for heroes to ~ in  
 lead/~ a double life/two lives  
 ~ a charmed life: bear etc a charmed life  
 long ~ the King etc  
 people who ~ in glass houses shouldn't throw stones  
 scorn delights and ~ laborious days  
 they that ~ by the sword shall perish/die by the sword  
 two can ~ as cheaply as one  
 you/we only ~ once
- lively** (as) ~ as a cricket  
 look ~: look sharp etc
- liver** get etc a chill on the ~ etc  
**lives** the evil that men do ~ after them  
 get sb where he ~  
 lead/live a double life/two ~  
 like a cat with nine ~  
 not if/though one ~ to be a hundred  
 see etc how the other half ~
- living** the cost of ~  
 earn a/one's ~  
 gracious ~  
 life is (not) worth ~  
 make a/one's ~  
 not a (~) soul  
 plain ~ and high thinking  
 scratch a ~  
 within/in ~ memory  
 (think/consider) the world owes one a ~
- load** get a ~ of this  
 talk (a ~/lot of) cock etc
- loader** a free ~
- loaf** half a ~ is better than no bread/none  
 use one's head/~
- loan** raise (a) ~: raise (the) money etc
- loath** nothing ~ (to do sth)
- loathe** hate/~ the sight of sb/sth
- local** give sth/have a ~ habitation and a name
- locker** Davy Jones' (s) ~  
 have etc a shot (left) in the/one's ~
- lodging** board and ~
- log** from ~ cabin to White House  
 King L ~... King Stork  
 sleep like a ~/top
- London** what Manchester says/ thinks today, ~/the world will say/think tomorrow

**lone** play a ~ hand  
 plough a ~ /lonely furrow  
**lonely** plough a lone/ ~ furrow  
**long** (as) broad as it's ~  
 (as) happy etc as the day is ~  
 (as) honest as the day is ~  
 as/so ~ as  
 as ~ as one's arm  
 at ~ last  
 at ~ /short range  
 to cut a ~ story short  
 for a ~ time to come: for years  
 etc to come  
 go/come a ~ way  
 go a ~ way to do sth/towards  
 (doing) sth  
 have etc a ~ face  
 have etc a ~ way etc to go  
 in the ~ /short run  
 in the ~ etc term  
 it's a ~ road/lane that has/  
 knows no turning  
 a little (sth) goes a ~ way  
 little pitchers/pigs have ~ ears  
 loud and ~  
 (for) many a ~ day  
 need etc a ~ spoon (to sup/eat  
 with the devil)  
 not by a ~ chalk/shot  
 not ~ for this world  
 stretch the (~) arm of  
 coincidence  
 take the ~ view  
 you're a ~ time dead  
**longer** no/not any ~  
**look** as soon as ~ at sb  
 a black ~  
 by/from the ~ of sb/sth  
 a cat may ~ at a king  
 don't ~ now, but  
 feel/ ~ like a million dollars  
 feel/ ~ like nothing on earth  
 give sb/get a blank ~  
 give sb/get an old-fashioned ~  
 like the ~ /sound of sb/sth  
 ~ for a better hole: find etc a  
 better hole  
 ~ small: feel etc small  
 make sth (~ /seem) like new  
 make oneself/sb ~ etc a fool  
 etc  
 (~ for) a needle in a haystack  
 etc  
 a new ~  
 not know where/which way to  
 ~ /turn one's eyes  
 not ~ upon sb's/sth's like(s)  
 again: not see etc sb's/sth's  
 like(s) again  
 take one ~ (at sb/sth)  
 tomorrow will/can take care of/  
 ~ after itself  
**looker-on** the ~ sees more/  
 most of the game: the  
 spectator etc sees more/most  
 of the game  
**looks** the devil ~ after his own  
 lose/keep one's/its ~  
**loose** cut ~ (from sb/sth)  
 have (got)/with a screw ~

(all) hell breaks/is let ~  
**lord** (as) drunk as a ~ /newt  
 the English etc dearly love a ~  
 good L ~: good heavens etc(!)  
 the L ~ forbid: God etc forbid  
 the L ~ help sb: God etc help sb  
 the L ~ knows: God etc knows  
 the L ~ knows (that): God etc  
 knows (that)  
 praise the L ~ and pass the  
 ammunition  
 thank the L ~ (that/for sth):  
 thank goodness etc (that/for  
 sth)  
**lose** ~ momentum: gather etc  
 momentum  
 give/ ~ ground (to sb/sth)  
 have etc no time to ~  
 have (got)/with something etc  
 to ~ (by sth)  
 heads I win, tails you ~  
 keep/ ~ one's cool  
 keep/ ~ one's head  
 ~ one's bearings: find etc one's  
 bearings  
 ~ one's sense of humour etc:  
 have etc a sense of humour etc  
 win/ ~ by a (short) neck  
 win or ~  
**loser** a good/bad ~  
**loses** one's heart ~ a beat: one's  
 heart misses etc a beat  
**losing** fight a ~ battle  
**loss** a dead ~  
 make a ~ /profit  
 one man's ~ is another's gain  
**losses** cut one's ~  
**lost** all is (not) ~  
 get ~  
 he who hesitates is ~  
 (think) the world well ~  
**lot** an awful ~  
 an awful ~ (of sb/sth)  
 a bad egg/ ~  
 a fat etc ~ of good etc  
 have etc a ~ to be grateful/  
 thankful for  
 have (got)/with a ~ to learn  
 have (got)/with a ~ to put up  
 with  
 a job ~  
 (all) a load/ ~ of (old) rubbish  
 etc  
 a/the policeman's ~ is not a  
 happy one  
 spill the ~: spill the beans etc  
 take etc a ~ of stick  
 talk (a load/ ~ of) cock etc  
**loud** be ~ in one's praise (of/for  
 sb/sth)  
 for crying out ~!  
 out ~  
**lousy** ~ luck (on sb): hard etc  
 luck (on sb)  
**lout** a litter ~  
**love** all is fair in ~ and war  
 can't do sth for ~ (n) or money  
 the course of true ~ never did  
 run smooth  
 cupboard ~

the English etc dearly ~ a lord  
 (just) for ~ /the ~ of sth/sb  
 for the ~ of God etc  
 free ~  
 it's ~ that makes the world go  
 round  
 a labour of ~  
 lucky at cards, unlucky in ~  
 (those) whom the gods ~, die  
 young  
**lovely** everything in the garden  
 is ~ /rosy  
 nice/ ~ weather for ducks  
**loves** the man etc one most ~ to  
 hate  
**loving** tender ~ care  
**low** an all-time high/ ~  
 high and ~ <sup>1,2</sup>  
 lay sb/sth ~  
 lie ~  
 one's/sb's stock is high/ ~  
 stoop (so ~ as) to do sth  
**loyalties** ~ run high: feelings  
 etc run high  
**Lucifer** (as) proud as ~  
**luck** as (good/ill) ~ would have  
 it  
 bad etc ~ (on sb)  
 beginner's ~  
 the best of British (~) (to sb)  
 better ~ next time  
 bring sb (bad/good) ~  
 chance one's arm/ ~  
 (just) for ~  
 good etc ~ to sb  
 hard etc ~ (on sb)  
 a hard ~ story  
 have (got)/with the devil's own  
 ~  
 (it/that is) just one's ~  
 more by good ~ than (by)  
 good management/judgement  
 push/press one's ~  
 a stroke of (good/bad) ~ etc  
 try one's ~  
 worse ~  
**lucky** born under a ~ star  
 count etc oneself fortunate/ ~  
 strike ~  
 thank one's ~ stars (that)  
 third time ~  
**lucre** filthy ~  
**luminary** a leading/lesser light/  
 ~  
**lump** have etc a ~ in one's  
 throat  
 leaven the (whole) ~  
 like it or ~ it  
**lunch** a slap-up ~: a slap-up  
 meal etc  
**lute** a rift in the ~

**M**  
**McCoy** the real Mackay/ ~  
**machine** a cog in the ~  
**Mackay** the real ~ /McCoy

## nouns etc used in headphrases

**mackerel** a sprat to catch a ~ / whale  
**mad** (as) ~ as a hatter/a March hare  
 drive sb ~ etc  
 hopping ~ (about/over sth)  
 like ~ / crazy  
 like a ~ thing  
 stark raving/staring ~ / bonkers  
**madam** very good, (sir/ ~)  
**made** (as) sure as (God ~) little apples  
 be built/ ~ that way  
 have (got) it ~  
 poets etc are born, not ~ the stuff that dreams etc are ~ of  
**madness** have etc (a) method in one's/sb's ~  
 have (got)/with the ring of ~: have (got)/with the ring of truth etc  
**magic** wave a (~) wand (and do sth)  
**magnitude** of the first ~  
**maggie** chatter like a ~  
**Mahomet** (if) the mountain will not come to Mohammed/ ~, Mohammed/ ~ must go to the mountain  
**maid** an old ~  
**maiden's** the answer to a ~ prayer  
**main** have (got)/with an eye for etc the ~ chance  
 in the ~  
 with might and ~  
**mainbrace** splice the ~  
**majesty** in all one's/its glory/ ~  
**majority** the silent ~  
**make** (as) clever etc as they ~ em/them  
 (~) confusion worse confounded  
 create/ ~ a bad etc impression  
 don't ~ me laugh  
 draw/ ~ comparisons  
 enough to ~ one weep etc  
 (~) a false move  
 fine feathers ~ fine birds  
 (~) a fresh start  
 hard cases ~ bad law(s)  
 it takes all sorts etc (to ~ a world)  
 know how many beans ~ five  
 (not) ~ a blind bit of difference etc: (not) be etc a blind bit of use etc  
 ~ sb feel small: feel etc small  
 ~ the headlines: hit etc the headlines  
 ~ a stir: cause etc a stir  
 ~ with the dirt: dish etc the dirt  
 (~ sb) see red  
 one swallow does not ~ a summer  
 (you can) take etc a horse to the water, but you can't ~ him drink  
 two blacks/wrongs do not ~ a

white/right  
 two and two ~ etc four  
**maker** meet one's ~  
**makes** all work and no play (~ Jack a dull boy)  
 as one ~ one's bed, so one ~ must lie on it  
 as near ((to) sth/(to) doing sth) as ~ no difference etc  
 the devil/Satan finds/ ~ work for idle hands  
 early to bed and early to rise, (~ a man healthy, wealthy and wise)  
 for all the difference it ~ etc  
 it's love that ~ the world go round  
 many a mickle ~ a muckle  
 might is/ ~ right  
 practice ~ perfect  
 what/that ~ sb/sth tick  
**maketh** hope deferred (~ the heart sick)  
**making** in the ~  
**male** the female of the species is more deadly than the ~  
 a ~ chauvinist (pig/swine)  
**malice** bear (sb) no/not bear (sb) (any) ~  
 with ~ aforethought  
**malicious** have (got)/with a ~ tongue: have (got)/with a wicked etc tongue  
**Mammon** (serve) God and ~  
**man** an angry young ~  
 as good etc as the next ~  
 as one ~  
 as well etc as the next ~ / person  
 be a ~  
 the best ~ wins  
 a bogey ~  
 the child is (the) father of the ~  
 the common ~  
 a dirty old ~  
 each/every ~ for himself (and the devil take the hindmost)  
 early to bed and early to rise, (makes a ~ healthy, wealthy and wise)  
 every ~ has his price  
 every ~ jack (of sb)  
 everything/all (that) the heart (of a ~) could desire  
 a family ~  
 a fancy ~ etc  
 feel like a new ~ / woman  
 go west, (young ~)  
 a Grand Old M ~ (of sth)  
 a grown ~ / woman  
 a hatchet ~ / job  
 have to (go and) see a ~ about a horse/dog  
 in the land of the blind the one-eyed ~ is king  
 (you can) judge/tell a ~ by the company he keeps  
 know one's ~ / opponent  
 (like) a new ~ / woman  
 the little ~

man's inhumanity to ~  
 a man's ~  
 a marked ~  
 a nine to five ~: a nine to five job etc  
 no ~ is an island  
 an/the odd ~ out  
 old ~: old boy etc  
 the old ~  
 the/one's old ~ etc  
 our ~ in Paris etc  
 one's own ~ / woman  
 a/the rag and bone ~ etc  
 sb's/one's right(-)hand (~) / right arm  
 a sadder and (a) wiser ~  
 (a) straight ~  
 a straw ~  
 a strong ~  
 (the) strong silent ~ / type  
 that's what the ~ said  
 time and tide wait for no ~  
 to a ~ etc  
 a wild ~  
**man's** any ~ money  
 be nobody's/no ~ fool  
 a cloud no bigger than/the size of a ~ hand  
 crumbs (that fall) from the (rich ~) table  
 the grass is (always) greener on the other side (of the fence)/in the other ~ field  
 no ~ land  
 one ~ meat etc is another ~ poison etc  
 the poor ~ sb/sth  
 send a boy on a ~ errand/to do a ~ work  
 the way to a ~ heart is through his stomach/belly  
 the white ~ burden  
 the white ~ grave  
**management** more by good luck than (by) good ~ / judgement  
**Manchester** what ~ says/ thinks today, London/the world will say/think tomorrow  
**manger** a dog in the ~  
**manner** all ~ of sb/sth  
 (as/as if) to the ~ born  
 (in) the grand ~  
 in a ~ of speaking  
 in the ~ to which one is accustomed  
 in no uncertain ~: in no uncertain terms etc  
**manners** mend one's ~  
 mind one's ~  
 other times etc, other ~ etc  
**many** a good ~ ((of) sb/sth)  
 how ~ times/how often do I have to do sth?  
 in so/as ~ words  
 know how ~ beans make five a man etc of (~) parts  
 one too ~  
 so ~ words etc  
 there's ~ a slip 'twixt (the) cup

and (the) lip  
 too ~ cooks spoil the broth  
**mar** make or ~: make or break  
 etc  
**marbles** have (got)/with all  
 one's ~  
 lose one's ~  
**March** (as) mad as a hatter/a ~  
 hare  
**marching** give sb etc his ~  
 orders  
**mare** Shanks's pony/~  
**margarine** like a (hot) knife  
 through butter/~  
**mark** have etc a black ~  
 (against one)  
 leave one's/its ~  
 make one's ~  
 overshoot the ~  
 overstep the ~  
 (God) save the ~  
 wide of the ~  
**market** a captive ~  
 corner the ~ (in sth)  
 a drug on the ~  
 flood the/~  
**marks** give sb etc full ~ (for  
 sth)  
 have (got)/with all the ~ of sb/  
 sth  
 x ~ the spot  
**marriage** a broken ~  
**marrow** chill sb's/the ~: chill  
 sb's/the spine etc  
**marrying** (not) the ~ kind etc  
**Martin** (all) my eye (and Betty  
 ~)  
**master** Jack is as good as his ~  
 a jack of all trades (and (a) ~ of  
 none)  
 the/one's lord and ~  
 one's own ~/mistress  
**match** a bawling/slanging ~  
 a ding-dong (~): a ding-dong  
 (battle etc)  
 make a ~  
 meet one's ~  
 the whole shooting ~  
**matter** (as) a ~ of course  
 as a ~ of fact  
 as a ~ of form  
 (as) a ~ of principle  
 as near ((to) sth/(to) doing  
 sth) as makes no ~: as near  
 ((to) sth/(to) doing sth) as  
 makes no difference etc  
 be/take a ~ of seconds etc  
 the crux of the ~ etc  
 a different ~ etc  
 the fact of the ~ is (that)  
 for that ~  
 grey ~  
 the heart/root of the ~  
 in a ~ of minutes etc  
 let the ~ ride: let it etc ride  
 (a ~ etc of) life and/or death  
 the ~ in hand: the job etc in  
 hand  
 mind over ~  
 no laughing ~

no/what ~ (that/if)  
 no ~ what<sup>1,2</sup>  
 not ~ a damn etc  
 (a ~ etc) of academic interest/  
 concern  
 raise the ~ (of sth): raise the  
 question etc (of sth)  
 what etc is the ~/wrong (with  
 sb/sth) (?)  
 what etc is the ~/wrong with  
 sb/sth?  
**matters** a child in such/these ~  
 make ~/things worse  
 not mince ~/(one's) words  
**May** (as) welcome as (the)  
 flowers in ~/spring  
**me** ask ~ another  
 believe you ~  
 but ~ no buts  
 dear ~/oh dear  
 don't give ~ that  
 don't make ~ laugh  
 don't 'Now Norah' ~  
 far be it from ~ to interfere etc  
 (but/yet)  
 (my) goodness (~) (!)  
 if (my) memory serves ~ right  
 if you ask ~  
 let ~ see  
 let ~ tell you  
 love ~, love my dog  
 search ~  
 shiver my/~ timbers  
 so help ~ (God)  
 sooner you etc than ~  
 this will hurt ~ more than it  
 hurts you  
 you could have fooled ~  
 you don't mean to tell ~/say  
 (that)?  
 you're telling ~!  
**meal** a (good) square ~  
 not know/be sure where one's  
 next ~/penny is coming from  
 a slap-up ~ etc  
**mean** be/~ curtains (for sb)  
 the golden ~  
 I ~ (to say) (!)  
 if you know etc what I ~  
 a ~ trick: a dirty etc trick  
 no ~/small feat etc  
 what do you ~, lazy etc?/!  
 you don't ~ to tell me/say  
 (that)?  
**meaning** not know the ~ of the  
 word  
 take/get sb's drift/~  
**means** by all ~  
 by fair ~ or foul  
 by ~ of sth  
 by no ~  
 the end justifies the ~  
 (and) last, but not/by no ~  
 least  
 more ~ worse  
 ways and ~  
**meantime** in the ~  
**measure** beyond (all) ~  
 for full/good ~  
 in full etc ~

in a ~  
 take etc sb's ~  
**measures** desperate diseases  
 etc call for/require desperate  
 ~/remedies  
 no half ~  
**meat** food/~ and drink to sb  
 neither fish, flesh nor good red  
 herring/fresh ~  
 one man's ~ etc is another  
 man's poison etc  
 the red ~ (of sth)  
 strong ~  
**meats** the funeral baked ~  
**Modes** the law of the ~ and  
 Persians  
**medicine** get etc a dose/taste of  
 one's own/the same ~  
 take one's ~  
**medium** a/the happy ~  
 in the ~ term: in the long etc  
 term  
**meek** (as) ~ as a lamb  
**meet** East is East and West is  
 West and never the twain shall  
 ~  
 (I'm) glad to ~ you  
 make (both) ends ~  
 ~ (with) a spot of bother/  
 trouble: have etc a spot of  
 bother/trouble  
 ~ with a cold etc reception:  
 give sb etc a cold etc reception  
 (~) one's Waterloo  
**meeting** a chance encounter/~  
**meets** know a good thing etc  
 when one ~ it: know a good  
 thing etc when one sees etc it  
 more (work etc) in it etc than ~  
 the eye  
 when Greek ~ Greek (then is/  
 comes the tug of war)  
**melt** look as if/though butter  
 would not ~ in one's mouth  
**member** a card-carrying ~ etc  
 a (fully) paid-up ~ etc  
**membership** card-carrying ~:  
 a card-carrying member etc  
**memory** (a trip) down ~ lane  
 have (got)/with a ~ like a  
 sponge/sieve  
 if (my) ~ serves me right  
 jog one's/sb's ~  
 rack one's brains/~  
 slip sb's/one's ~/mind  
 within/in living ~  
**men** all the King's horses and all  
 the King's ~ can't/couldn't do  
 sth  
 all ~ are created equal  
 all things to all ~  
 be not as other ~ are  
 the best-laid schemes of mice  
 and ~ (gang aft agley)  
 dead ~  
 dead ~ tell no tales  
 a devil with the ~/women  
 the evil that ~ do lives after  
 them  
 (all) good ~ and true



## nouns etc used in headphrases

- little green ~  
 (Robin Hood and his) merry ~  
 some (~) are born great etc,  
 some achieve greatness etc,  
 and some have greatness etc  
 thrust upon them
- mend** it's never too late to ~  
 make do and ~
- mended** least said, soonest ~/  
 forgotten
- mentality** a nine to five ~: a  
 nine to five job etc
- mention** don't ~ it  
 not to ~/speak of sth/sb
- merchant** a/the rag and bone  
 ~: a/the rag and bone man etc
- mercies** be thankful/grateful for  
 small ~
- mercy** an angel of ~
- merit** through no (particular  
 etc) ~ of one's own: through  
 no (particular etc) fault etc of  
 one's own
- merits** on sb's ~
- merrier** the more the ~
- merry** (let us) eat, drink and be  
 ~ (for tomorrow we die)  
 make ~  
 (Robin Hood and his) ~ men  
 raise Cain/(~) hell<sup>1,2</sup>  
 a short life and a ~ (one)
- message** get/have (got) the ~
- met** hail fellow well ~ (with sb)  
 nowhere/not anywhere to be  
 ~: nowhere/not anywhere to  
 be seen etc  
 well ~
- method** have etc (a) ~ in  
 one's/sb's madness  
 a sure-fire ~ etc
- Methuselah** (as) old as ~
- mettle** show/prove one's ~
- mice** the best-laid schemes of ~  
 and men (gang aft agley)  
 when/while the cat's away, the  
 ~ will play
- mickle** many a ~ makes a  
 muckle
- Midas** have (got)/with the ~  
 touch
- middle** bang etc in the ~ (of  
 sth)  
 in the ~/midst of sth  
 pig in the ~  
 steer etc a ~ etc course
- middling** fair to ~
- midnight** burn the ~ oil  
 it is/has (just) gone ~ etc
- midst** in the middle/~ of sth
- mid-stream** change/swap  
 horses (in ~)
- might** with all one's ~  
 with ~ and main
- mightier** the pen is ~ than the  
 sword
- mighty** high and ~
- Mike** for the love of ~: for the  
 love of God etc
- mild** draw it ~
- mildly** (to) put it ~
- mile** give sb an inch (and he'll  
 take a ~ etc)  
 a miss is as good as a ~  
 run a ~ (from sb/sth)  
 (can) tell/see sth a ~ off
- miles** far/~ away
- milk** a land flowing with ~ and  
 honey
- mill** grist to/for sb's ~  
 (the) run of the ~
- mill-pond** (as) smooth as a ~
- million** feel/look like a ~ dollars  
 not/never in a ~ years: not/  
 never in a hundred etc years  
 one etc in a thousand/~
- mince** not ~ matters/(one's)  
 words
- mind** blow one's/sb's ~  
 clothed and in one's right ~  
 (hanging) concentrates the ~  
 wonderfully  
 cross sb's ~  
 do you ~? <sup>1,2</sup>  
 don't ~ me <sup>1,2</sup>  
 ease sb's conscience/~  
 easy in one's ~  
 enter sb's/one's head/~  
 a feast for the ~: a feast for the  
 eyes etc  
 the first thing etc that comes  
 into/enters one's head/~  
 give sb etc a piece of one's ~  
 have etc a closed ~  
 have etc an enquiring etc turn  
 of ~  
 have etc a ~ to do sth  
 have etc a ~ of one's own  
 have (got)/with a one-track ~  
 have etc an open ~  
 have etc (the) presence of ~  
 (to do sth)  
 I don't ~ if I do  
 if you don't ~ <sup>1,2</sup>  
 in one's ~  
 it is a woman's/lady's privilege  
 to change her ~  
 it's all in the ~  
 know one's own ~  
 mark/~ you  
 never ~ <sup>1,2</sup>  
 never ~ (doing) sth  
 nobody/anybody in his/their  
 right ~ could/would do sth  
 nothing is/can be farther from  
 one's ~/thoughts (than sth)  
 out of sight, out of ~  
 one's (own) peace of ~  
 read sb's ~/thoughts  
 slip sb's/one's memory/~  
 speak one's ~  
 to my ~  
 watch/~ one's language/  
 tongue  
 watch/~ one's step  
 the way one's ~ works
- mind's** in one's ~ eye
- minds** the marriage of true ~  
 two ~ with but a single  
 thought
- mine** a gold ~
- a poor thing but my/~ own  
 your guess is as good as ~
- minute** at the last ~  
 be a ~: be a moment etc  
 in a ~: in a moment etc  
 just a ~  
 not/never for a/one (single) ~/  
 moment  
 there is a sucker/one born every  
 ~  
 this (very) ~ etc
- minutes** for ~ at a time etc: for  
 days etc at a time etc  
 in a matter of ~ etc
- miracle** work a ~/wonders
- miracles** the age of ~ is not  
 past  
 do etc wonders/~ (for/with  
 sb/sth)
- mirth** gales of laughter/~
- mischief** do sb/oneself a ~  
 make etc ~
- miserable** (as) ~ as sin
- misery** make (sb's) life a ~
- misfortune** have etc the  
 fortune/~ to do sth
- miss** be too good to ~/turn  
 down  
 give sb/sth a ~  
 hit and ~  
 (Mr/M ~) Lonely Hearts  
 Mr/M ~ Right  
 a near ~ <sup>1,2</sup>  
 never etc ~ a trick/move
- missed** a slice off a cut cake is  
 never ~
- misses** one's heart ~ etc a beat
- missing** not know what one is
- mistake** by ~  
 make no ~ (about sth)  
 and no ~/error
- mistaken** much ~
- mistaking** there is no ~ sb/sth
- mistress** master/~ in one's  
 own house  
 one's own master/~
- mite** the widow's ~
- Mitty** a Walter ~
- mix** oil and water (do not ~)
- mixed** have etc ~ feelings  
 have etc ~ motives
- mixer** a good ~
- mo** half a ~ etc  
 (in) half a ~ etc
- modern** ancient and ~  
 thoroughly ~ sb/sth
- modesty** false ~
- Mohammed** (if) the mountain  
 will not come to ~/Mahomet,  
 ~/Mahomet must go to the  
 mountain
- moil** toil and ~
- moment** (at) any ~  
 at any ~  
 at the ~  
 at the ~/time of speaking etc  
 be a ~ etc  
 dread the ~ (when)  
 for a ~

for the ~ etc  
 in the heat of the ~  
 in a ~ etc  
 a matter of ~ etc  
 never have etc a dull ~  
 not/never for a/one (single) minute/~  
 not a ~ too soon  
**moment's** at a ~ notice  
 have (got) one's/its ~  
**moments** in a matter of ~/: in a matter of minutes etc  
 in one's more sober etc ~  
**momentum** gather etc ~  
**money** any man's ~  
 the best (education etc) that ~ can buy  
 can't do sth for love (n) or ~ coin ~  
 cost ~  
 danger/dirty ~  
 easy ~  
 expense/~ (is) no object for my ~  
 give sb/sth etc a (good) run for his/its ~  
 good ~  
 have (got)/with more ~ than sense  
 the love of ~ is the root of all evil  
 make ~  
 marry ~  
 pin ~  
 raise (the) ~ etc  
 see the colour of sb's ~  
 spend ~ as if it's going out of fashion  
 spend ~ like water/spend (~) like a sailor  
 value for ~  
 where there's muck there's ~  
 you pays your ~ and (you) takes your choice  
**money's** get etc one's ~ worth  
**monkey** softly, softly (catchee ~)  
**monkeys** as artful etc as a wagon-load etc of ~  
**monotony** relieve the ~  
**month** ~ in (and) ~ out: day etc in (and) day etc out  
**month's** from one ~ end to another: from one week's etc end to another  
**months** for ~ at a time etc: for days etc at a time etc  
 for ~ to come: for years etc to come  
**mood** a black ~  
 the crusading ~: the crusading spirit etc  
**moon** bay the ~  
 once in a blue ~  
 promise (sb) the earth/~  
**moons** many ~ ago  
**Mop** a Mrs ~  
**moral** draw/point a ~  
 get etc ~ support  
**more** all the ~ reason

couldn't agree ~  
 do ~ harm than good  
 do no ~ than do sth  
 ever ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 forget ~ about sth than sb ever knew  
 generate/contribute ~ heat than light  
 get etc ~ kicks than ha'pence/halfpence  
 give a man etc ~ rope (and he'll hang himself): give a man etc enough rope (and he'll hang himself)  
 have etc (~ than) a/one's fair share of sth  
 have etc ~ goodness etc in one's little finger than sb  
 have (got)/with ~ money than sense  
 have etc no (~) nonsense  
 it is ~ than one's job is worth (to do sth)  
 the ~ so because/in that  
 no ~  
 no ~ do etc I  
 nothing/neither ~ (n) or less than  
 not so much a programme, ~ a way of life  
 once again/~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 some men etc are ~ equal than others  
 the spectator etc sees ~/most of the game  
 there are (plenty) ~ (good) fish in the sea  
 there are ~ things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in your philosophy  
 there are ~/easier ways of killing a cat than by choking it with cream  
 there is ~ to it etc than that etc  
 they don't make etc them like that any ~  
 this will hurt me ~ than it hurts you  
 what could be ~ natural etc (than sth)?  
 (and) what is ~  
 what ~ can one ask etc?  
 without ~/further ado  
**morning** a/one's ~ off: a/one's day etc off  
 first thing (in the ~)  
 from dawn/~ to/till dusk/night of a ~ etc  
 (only) the other ~: (only) the other day etc  
 the top of the ~ (to you)  
**mortar** bricks and ~  
**moss** a rolling stone (gathers no ~)  
**most** at (the) ~  
 for the ~ part<sup>1,2</sup>  
 the man etc one ~ loves to hate the spectator etc sees more/~ of the game  
 the (~) unkindest cut of all

**mother** the father and ~ of a row etc  
 necessity is the ~ of invention  
 old enough to be sb's father/~  
**mother's** one's ~ etc apron-strings  
**motives** have etc mixed ~  
**mouse** (as) poor as a church ~ (as) quiet as a ~ (as) timid as a ~ etc  
 a man or a ~  
 the mountain labours and brings forth a (ridiculous) ~  
**mouth** born with a silver spoon in one's ~  
 by word of ~  
 have etc a ~ to feed  
 have etc a ~ like the bottom of a parrot's cage  
 keep one's ~/trap shut  
 look as if/though butter would not melt in one's ~ (not/never) look a gift horse in the ~  
 open one's (big) ~  
 out of the ~ (s) of babes and sucklings  
 shut one's ~ etc  
**mouthful** say a ~  
**move** one's/sb's every ~ (make) a false ~  
 make a ~  
 never etc miss a trick/~ ~  
**moves** as the spirit takes/~ one God ~ in a mysterious way, his wonders to perform  
**moving** get ~: get cracking etc  
**Mr** (~/Miss) Lonely Hearts  
**much** as ~ as one's life is worth as ~ as to say  
 be too ~ like hard work  
 be/have too ~ of a good thing a bit ~  
 for this relief etc, ~ thanks  
 have etc nothing (~) to shout/write home about  
 have etc too ~ money etc for one's own good  
 in as/so ~ as  
 it is all/as ~ as one can do (to do sth)  
 a lot of/~ water has run etc under the bridge  
 not ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 not ~ cop  
 not ~ of a sth<sup>1,2</sup>  
 not so ~ a programme, more a way of life  
 pretty ~: pretty well etc  
 protest too ~  
 so ~ as do sth  
 so ~ the better/worse (for sb/sth)  
 so ~ for sb/sth  
 so ~ nonsense etc  
 thank you (very ~)  
 which/that is not saying ~  
**muchness** much of a ~  
**muck** (as) common as dirt/~ Lord/Lady M ~

## nouns etc used in headphrases

rake ~  
 where there's ~ there's money  
**muckle** many a mickle makes a ~  
**mud** (as) clear as ~  
 one's name is ~  
**mule** (as) obstinate/stubborn as a ~  
 have (got)/with a kick like a ~  
**multitude** cover a ~ of sins  
**mum** keep ~  
**murder** a capital ~: a capital offence etc  
 could/would (cheerfully) ~ etc sb  
 create (bloody) hell/~  
 scream etc blue ~  
**muscles** flex one's ~  
**music** face the ~  
 frozen ~  
**mustard** (as) keen as ~  
**mutton** (as) dead as ~  
**mutual** a ~ admiration/  
 congratulation(s) society  
**my** as God is ~ witness  
 (God) bless ~ soul(!)  
 for ~ money  
 (~) goodness (me) (!)  
 if (~) memory serves me right  
 (~) Lady Bountiful  
 love me, love ~ dog  
 (you) mark ~ words  
 over ~ dead body  
 a poor thing but ~/mine own  
 shiver ~/me timbers  
 take ~ tip  
 that's ~ boy/girl  
 to ~ mind  
 upon ~ soul/word  
 you scratch ~ back and I'll  
 scratch yours  
**myself** (even) though I say it/so  
 ~  
**mysterious** God moves in a ~  
 way, his wonders to perform  
**myth** explode a ~ etc

**N**  
**nail** fight etc tooth and ~  
**nails** (as) hard as ~  
 pick one's ~: pick one's nose  
 etc  
**name** a big ~  
 blacken sb's character/~  
 for want of a better ~ etc  
 get etc a bad ~  
 give a dog a bad/ill ~ (and  
 hang him)  
 give sth/have a local habitation  
 and a ~  
 sb's good ~  
 the Greeks had a ~/word for it  
 a household ~/word  
 in all/everything but ~  
 in ~ (only)  
 in the ~ of sth/sb

in the ~ of God etc  
 make a/one's ~  
 a rose by any other ~ would  
 smell as sweet  
 under one's own etc ~  
 what's in a ~?  
 worthy of the ~  
 you ~ it (they have it etc)  
**nameless** shall be etc ~  
**names** call sb ~  
 drop ~  
 name (no) ~  
 no ~, no pack-drill  
 sticks and stones will break my  
 bones but ~ will never hurt  
 me  
**napping** catch sb ~  
**narrow** a close/~ shave/  
 squeak  
 the straight and ~ (path/way)  
**nasty** have etc a (~ etc) turn<sup>1,2</sup>  
 (see) something ~ in the  
 woodshed  
**nations** (add to) the gaiety of ~  
**native** go ~  
**natural** have etc a ~ bent (for  
 sth/doing sth)  
**nature** one's/sb's better ~  
 the call of ~<sup>1,2,3</sup>  
 a freak of ~  
 in the (normal/ordinary) course  
 of ~ etc  
 in the ~ of sb/sth  
 second ~  
**nature's** one of ~ gentlemen/  
 ladies  
**naughty** shine like a good deed  
 in a ~ world  
**navel** contemplate/gaze at one's  
 (own) ~  
**near** as ~ as dammit/kiss your  
 hand  
 as ~ ((to) sth/(to) doing sth)  
 as makes no difference etc  
 far and ~  
 a ~ relation/relative: a close etc  
 relation/relative  
 nowhere ~  
 so ~ and yet so far  
**neary** pretty ~: pretty well etc  
**neat** cut a ~ figure: cut a fine etc  
 figure  
**necessary** do the ~/needful  
 if God did not exist, it would be  
 ~ to invent him  
 (is your) journey really ~?  
 raise (the) ~: raise (the) money  
 etc  
**necessity** (a) brute fact/~  
 of ~  
**neck** break one's ~ (doing sth/  
 to do sth)  
 by the scruff of one's/the ~  
 dead from the ~ up  
 get it (in the ~/where the  
 chicken gets the chopper)  
 have etc eyes in/at the back of  
 one's head/~  
 have (got)/with the ~ to do  
 sth: have (got)/with the nerve

etc to do sth  
 a pain in the ~  
 risk one's ~  
 save sb's/one's ~: save sb's/  
 one's life etc  
 what a ~: what a nerve etc (!)  
 win/lose by a (short) ~  
 wring sb's ~  
**necking** heavy ~/petting  
**need** (~) a firm hand  
 a friend in ~ (is a friend indeed)  
 if ~ be  
 ~ a/the constitution like/of a  
 horse/an ox: have etc a/the  
 constitution like/of a horse/an  
 ox  
 ~ a free hand: get etc a free  
 hand  
 ~ a hide/skin like a rhinoceros:  
 have etc a hide/skin like a  
 rhinoceros  
 ~ the patience of Job/a saint:  
 have etc the patience of Job/a  
 saint  
 ~ a roof over one's head: have  
 etc a roof over one's head  
 ~ a/one's slice/share of the  
 cake: get etc a/one's slice/  
 share of the cake  
 ~ a thick ear: give sb etc a thick  
 ear  
 ~ a will of iron: have etc a will  
 of iron  
 not ~ any telling  
 not ~ to tell sb/say  
 there is no ~ for sth/(for sb) to  
 do sth<sup>1,2</sup>  
 to each according to his ~ (s),  
 (from each according to his  
 abilities)  
 your ~ is greater than mine  
**needful** do the necessary/~  
**needle** (as) sharp as a ~  
**needles** have etc pins and ~  
**needs** all one ~  
 (a) good wine ~ no bush  
**ne'er** faint heart ~/never won  
 fair lady  
**negative** the answer is in the  
 affirmative/~  
**neighbourhood** (your) friendly  
 ~ policeman etc  
**neither** be ~ here nor there  
 have etc ~ rhyme (n) or reason  
 nothing/~ more (n) or less than  
**nelly** not on your ~  
**nerve** have (got)/with a ~  
 have (got)/with the ~ etc (to  
 do sth)  
 have (got)/with the ~ etc to do  
 sth  
 lose one's ~  
 of all the ~ etc (!)  
 what a ~ etc (!)  
**nerves** a bag/bundle of ~  
 a war/battle of ~  
**nervous** (as) ~ as a cat/kitten  
**nest** a cuckoo in the ~  
 feather one's (own) ~  
 foul one's (own) ~

a hornets' ~  
 a mare's ~  
**net** cast one's ~ wide etc  
 spread one's ~  
**nettle** grasp/seize the ~  
**never** better late than ~  
 the course of true love ~ did  
 run smooth  
 East is East and West is West  
 and ~ the twain shall meet  
 faint heart ne'er/~ won fair  
 lady  
 hard work ~ hurt etc anybody  
 (yet)  
 (~) in (all) one's born days  
 it ~ rains but it pours  
 it/that will ~ /won't do  
 it's ~ too late to mend  
 lightning ~ strikes in the same  
 place twice  
 not/~ bat an eyelid  
 not/~ for a/one (single)  
 minute/moment  
 not/~ have etc the foggiest etc  
 idea etc  
 not/~ in a hundred etc years  
 not/~ suffer fools gladly  
 (it is) now or ~  
 old soldiers ~ die (they only  
 fade away)  
 once seen etc ~ /not forgotten  
 a slice off a cut cake is ~  
 missed  
 sticks and stones will break my  
 bones but names will ~ hurt  
 me  
 sweet sixteen (and ~ been  
 kissed)  
 this year, next year, sometime,  
 ~  
 a watched kettle/pot ~ boils  
 well I ~.(did) (!)  
 wonders will ~ cease  
**new** (as) clean as a ~ pin  
 (as) good as ~  
 be ~ to the game  
 (a) brave ~ world  
 break fresh/~ ground  
 feel like a ~ man/woman  
 give sb/sth etc a ~ etc lease of  
 life  
 (like) a ~ man/woman  
 make sth (look/seem) like ~  
 the old/~ school  
 (you can't) teach an old dog ~  
 tricks  
**new-born** (as) helpless as a  
 (~) babe etc  
 (as) innocent as a (~) babe etc  
**news** bad ~ travels fast  
 break the ~ (to sb/about sth)  
 no ~ is good ~  
**newt** (as) drunk as a lord/~  
 (as) pissed as a ~  
**next** as good etc as the ~ (one)  
 as good etc as the ~ man  
 as well etc as the ~ man/  
 person  
 better luck ~ time  
 (the) first/~ thing one knows

not know/be sure where one's  
 ~ meal/penny is coming from  
 (just) round the (~)/(every)  
 corner  
 this time last/~ year etc  
 this year, ~ year, sometime,  
 never  
 what is the ~ step?  
 what will they think of ~?/!  
**nic** sugar and spice (and all  
 that's/things ~)  
 a ~ kettle of fish: a fine etc  
 kettle of fish  
**nicely** be doing very ~, thank  
 you (very much)  
**nicety** to a ~  
**nick** in the ~ of time  
**night** all right on the ~ /day  
 at all hours (of the day/~)  
 (not) be/take all ~: (not) be/  
 take all day etc  
 day and ~  
 (in the/at) dead of (the) ~  
 from dawn/morning to/till  
 dusk/~  
 a hard day's ~  
 last thing (at ~)  
 (like) ships that pass in the ~  
 like/as a thief in the ~  
 the morning after (the ~  
 before)  
 morning, noon and ~  
 a/one's ~ off: a/one's day off  
 (only) the other ~: (only) the  
 other day etc  
 things that go bump in the ~  
 (in/through) the watches of the  
 ~  
 a white ~  
 the witching hour/time (of ~)  
**Nightingale** a Florence ~  
**nine** like a cat with ~ lives  
 possession is ~ parts etc of the  
 law  
 a stitch in time (saves ~)  
 you and the other (ninety-) ~  
**ninepins** go down etc like ~  
**Nineties** the naughty ~  
**ninety** you and the other  
 (~-)nine  
**no** all talk (and ~ action)  
 all work and ~ play (makes  
 Jack a dull boy)  
 as if/like there were/was ~  
 tomorrow  
 be ~ /not any better than one  
 should/ought to be  
 be ~ great shakes  
 be ~ oil painting  
 be ~ picnic  
 be ~ (kind of) place etc for sb  
 be ~ /not any respecter of  
 persons  
 be ~ room at/in the inn  
 be ~ skin off one's nose  
 be nobody's/~ man's fool  
 bear sb ~ ill-will  
 bear (sb) ~ /not bear (sb)  
 (any) malice  
 but me ~ buts

by ~ means  
 (~) can do  
 can't say ~  
 do oneself a bit/piece of ~  
 good  
 the emperor has ~ clothes  
 expense/money (is) ~ object  
 fine words butter ~ parsnips  
 (not) go any/go ~ farther/  
 further  
 (a) good wine needs ~ bush  
 half a loaf is better than ~  
 bread/none  
 have etc (~) good reason (for  
 (doing) sth)  
 have etc (~) hard feelings  
 have (got) ~ business (to do  
 sth/doing sth)  
 have (got)/there be ~ call to  
 do sth  
 have etc ~ /an inkling (of sth)  
 have etc ~ (more) nonsense  
 have etc ~ remedy but to do sth  
 have etc ~ time to lose  
 hell has/knows ~ fury like a  
 woman scorned  
 I won't say ~ (to sth)  
 in ~ time (at all)  
 in ~ uncertain terms etc  
 it is ~ wonder (that)  
 know ~ bounds  
 (and) last, but not/by ~ means  
 least  
 leave ~ / (not) any stone  
 unturned  
 like it or not/~  
 long time ~ see  
 look, ~ hands  
 make ~ mistake (about sth)  
 make ~ odds  
 name (~) names  
 need/require ~ introduction  
 and ~ mistake/error  
 of/to little/~ avail  
 on ~ account  
 the point of ~ return  
 to put it ~ higher  
 a rolling stone (gathers ~  
 moss)  
 there is ~ denying etc it etc  
 there is ~ future (for sb) (in  
 sth)  
 there is ~ holding/stopping sb  
 there is ~ knowing etc what  
 there is ~ law against it etc  
 there is ~ looking back etc  
 there is ~ mistaking sb/sth  
 there is ~ need for sth/(for sb)  
 to do sth<sup>1,2</sup>  
 there is ~ occasion for sth/(for  
 sb) to do sth  
 there is ~ /not any question  
 there's ~ business like show  
 business  
 through ~ (particular etc) fault  
 etc of one's own  
 thus/this far and ~ further  
 time and tide wait for ~ man  
 (all) to ~ /little avail  
 with etc (~) strings (attached/

## nouns etc used in headphrases

- binding its use)  
yes and ~
- nobody** it's an ill wind (that blows ~ (any) good)
- nobody's** be ~ business  
be ~/no man's fool  
like ~ business
- Nod** (in) the land of ~
- nodding** have etc ~/bowing acquaintance (with sb/sth)
- nods** Homer sometimes ~
- noes** the ayes/~ have it
- noises** (sweet airs/~ that) give delight and hurt not
- nonce** (just) for the ~
- none** have etc ~/nothing to speak of  
a jack of all trades (and (a) master of ~)  
second to ~
- nonsense** have etc no (more) ~ (all) a load/lot of (old) ~: (all) a load/lot of (old) rubbish etc stuff and ~  
talk (a load/lot of) ~: talk (a load/lot of) cock etc
- non-U** U/~
- noon** morning, ~ and night
- normal** in the (~/ordinary) course of nature etc  
the ~ run (of sb/sth): the common etc run (of sb/sth)
- nose** (as) plain as the ~ on your face  
be no skin off one's ~  
follow one's (own) ~  
keep one's ~ clean  
pick one's ~ etc  
under sb's ~
- note** the crusading ~: the crusading spirit etc  
drop sb a ~: drop sb a line etc of ~  
on an optimistic etc ~  
strike etc a false etc ~
- nothing** all or ~  
be ~ to it  
do ~/not do anything by halves  
feel/look like ~ on earth  
for ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
good for ~  
have etc none/~ to speak of  
have etc ~/something between one's ears  
have etc ~ better to do (than)  
have (got)/with ~/something to hide  
have etc ~ (much) to shout/write home about  
neck or ~  
next to ~  
not for ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
to say ~ of sth/sb  
something/~ doing  
there is ~/not anything like sth (for doing sth/to do sth)  
the truth, the whole truth, and ~ but the truth  
you ain't seen ~ yet
- notice** at a moment's ~  
at short ~  
escape (sb's) attention/~  
give (sb)/get ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
not so (as) you'd ~  
(not) take a blind bit of ~:  
(not) be etc a blind bit of use etc
- notion** canvass the ~ (that): canvass the idea etc (that)  
explode a ~: explode a myth etc
- 'nough** enough/~ said
- now** any time etc ~  
as of ~  
better bad ~ than worse later come (~)  
(~ I) come to think of it don't look ~, but  
even ~/then<sup>1,2</sup>  
every ~ and again/then  
from ~ etc on  
here and ~  
just ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
right ~/then  
speak ~ or forever hold one's peace
- nowhere** all dressed up and/with ~ to go  
get ~ etc  
get sb ~ etc  
news from ~
- nowt** there's ~ so queer/funny as folk
- nudge** jog/~ sb's arm/elbow (to do sth)
- nuisance** a bit of a ~ etc  
have etc (a) ~ value
- number** a back ~  
a cushy ~ etc  
have etc sb's ~  
one's opposite ~  
the world is so full of a ~ of things
- numbered** the days of sb/sth are ~
- numbers** safety in ~  
weight of ~
- nurse** a wet ~
- nut** do one's ~  
a hard/tough ~ to crack
- nutshell** in a ~
- nutty** (as) ~ as a fruit-cake
- O**
- oaks** tall etc ~ from little acorns grow
- oats** be/go off one's food/~  
feel one's ~  
sow (one's) wild ~
- obey** answer/~ the call (of duty)
- object** the ~ of the exercise: the aim etc of the exercise  
expense/money (is) no ~
- obstinate** (as) ~/stubborn as a mule
- obtain** ~ a grandstand view (of sth): get etc a grandstand view (of sth)  
~ a nodding/bowing acquaintance (with sb/sth): have a nodding/bowing acquaintance (with sb/sth)
- o'clock** at one (~) sharp
- occasion** have etc ~ to do sth  
improve the ~  
on ~  
take ~ to do sth  
there is no ~ for sth/(for sb) to do sth
- ocean** a drop in the bucket/~
- oceans** ~ apart: poles etc apart
- odd** ~ bedfellows: strange etc bedfellows
- odds** against the/all (the) ~  
as near ((to) sth/(to) doing sth) as makes no ~: as near ((to) sth/(to) doing sth) as makes no difference etc  
even ~  
make no ~  
what's the ~?
- odious** comparisons are ~
- off** better (~) dead (can) tell/see sth a mile ~  
a/one's day etc ~  
have/be one of one's ~ days:  
have/be one of one's good etc days  
a mile ~  
on the (~) chance (of sth/that)
- offence** a capital ~ etc
- offer** a firm ~  
have (got)/with something etc to ~  
~ sb an even/a fifty-fifty chance (of doing sth): have etc an even/a fifty-fifty chance (of doing sth)  
~ moral support: get etc moral support  
~ sb a new etc lease of life: give sb/sth etc a new etc lease of life  
(or) the nearest ~
- office** (the) box ~  
a hard day at the ~  
a jack in ~
- offices** (through etc) sb's good ~
- often** as ~ as not  
can't/couldn't do sth ~ etc  
enough  
every so ~  
how many times/how ~ do I have to do sth?  
more sth/more ~ than sb has had hot dinners  
once too ~
- oil** be no ~ painting  
burn the midnight ~
- ointment** the fly in the ~
- old** (all) a load/lot of (~) rubbish etc  
any ~ how

any ~ place/where  
 any ~ time  
 (as) hoarse as an (~) crow  
 as of ~  
 (as) ~ as the hills  
 (as) ~ as Methuselah  
 (as) ~ as time  
 (as) tough as leather/an ~  
 boot  
 be (only) as ~ as one feels  
 a chip of/off the ~ block  
 death/~ age comes to us all  
 a dirty ~ man  
 for ~ times' sake  
 give sb/get the ~ one two  
 good ~ sb/sth(!)  
 the good/bad ~ days  
 a Grand O ~ Man (of sth)  
 grow ~ gracefully  
 have/give sb a high ~ time  
 have etc an ~ head on young  
 shoulders  
 in days of ~/yore  
 make ~ bones  
 money for jam/~ rope  
 (there is) no fool like an ~ fool  
 of ~/yore<sup>1,2</sup>  
 of the ~ school  
 poor ~ sb/sth  
 a ripe ~ age  
 the same(/) ~ story  
 something ~, something new,  
 something borrowed,  
 something blue  
 (you can't) teach an ~ dog  
 new tricks  
 there is life in the ~ boy etc yet  
 young and ~  
**old-fashioned** give sb/get an  
 ~ look  
**omega** (the) alpha and ~  
**omelette** (one can't) make an  
 ~ without breaking eggs  
**on** have/be one of one's ~ days:  
 have/be one of one's good etc  
 days  
 off and ~  
 and so ~/forth  
**once** all at ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 at ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 for ~  
 for ~ in a way  
 if one has done sth ~ one has  
 done it a hundred etc times  
 more than ~  
 not as/so young as one used to  
 be/(~) was  
 try anything ~  
 you/we only live ~  
 you're only young ~  
**once-over** give sb/sth/get the  
 ~  
**one** as good etc as the next (~)  
 as ~ enchanted etc  
 as ~ man  
 as ~ man etc to another  
 at a/~ (single) blow  
 at ~ remove (from sb/sth)  
 at ~ and the same time  
 at ~/a sitting

at ~ (fell) swoop  
 at ~ time or another  
 be six of ~ and/to half a dozen  
 of the other  
 come ~, come all  
 dot and carry (~)  
 for ~ reason or another  
 for ~ thing (...and) for  
 another thing)  
 from ~ week's etc end to  
 another  
 give sb/get the old ~ two  
 go ~ better (than sb/sth)  
 have got/with ~ foot in the  
 grave  
 have etc ~ law for the rich, and  
 another for the poor  
 have/be ~ of one's good etc  
 days  
 have etc ~ over the eight  
 home in ~  
 I, for ~  
 if ever there was ~  
 if there is ~ thing sb hates etc, it  
 is  
 in ~ piece  
 it is only a little ~  
 (it is) just ~ of those things  
 (~/another of) life's little  
 ironies  
 like/as ~ of the family  
 a loved ~  
 nice ~, Cyril  
 not a/~ (little) bit  
 not/never for a/~ (single)  
 minute/moment  
 not have/without ~ penny to  
 rub against another  
 not (the) ~ etc to do sth  
 not ~ whit etc  
 number ~  
 (the/one's) number ~/two  
 on the ~ hand...on the other  
 (hand)  
 a/the policeman's lot is not a  
 happy ~  
 a quick ~  
 a/~ ray etc of hope  
 a short life and a merry (~)  
 a stiff ~: a stiff drink etc  
 stop a bullet/~  
 take ~ look (at sb/sth)  
 ten to ~  
 that's a good ~  
 there is a sucker/~ born every  
 minute  
 two can live as cheaply as ~  
 two heads are better than ~  
 what with ~ thing and another  
 with ~ hand/both hands tied  
 behind one's back  
 with ~ voice  
 without a/~ word  
 wouldn't know/recognize sth if  
 one saw ~  
**one-eyed** in the land of the  
 blind the ~ man is king  
**one-track** have (got)/with a ~  
 mind  
**onions** know one's ~/stuff

**onlooker** the ~ sees more/most  
 of the game: the spectator etc  
 sees more/most of the game  
**only** be (~) as old as one feels  
 beauty is but/~ skin deep  
 (the) dear (~) knows  
 for reasons/some reason best/  
 ~ known to oneself  
 have (got)/with ~ oneself to  
 blame/thank (for sth)  
 if ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 in name (~)  
 it is ~ a little one  
 not the ~ pebble on the beach  
 old soldiers never die (they ~  
 fade away)  
 (~) once removed (from sth)  
 one and ~  
 (~) the other day etc  
 (~) the tip of the iceberg  
 we're ~ here for the beer  
 you/we ~ live once  
 you're ~ young once  
**open** be an ~ secret  
 have etc an ~ mind  
 the heavens ~  
 keep one's ears/eyes ~  
 keep ~ house  
 lay oneself/sb (wide) ~ (to  
 sth)  
 wish etc (that) the ground  
 would (~ and) swallow one  
**opening** closing/~ time  
 fire the first/~ shot  
**opera** comic ~  
 a soap ~  
**operator** a smooth ~ etc  
**opinion** the climate of ~  
 (a) difference of ~  
 in sb's/one's ~  
 a matter of ~  
 received ~ (s) etc  
 a second etc ~  
**opinions** air one's ~: air one's  
 views etc  
**opponent** know one's man/~  
**opportunity** a golden ~  
**oppose** ~ sb/sth tooth and nail:  
 fight etc tooth and nail  
**opposition** in ~ (to sb/sth)  
**option** a soft ~  
 the zero ~  
**oracle** work the ~  
**orange** (all) Lombard Street to a  
 China ~  
**order** in ~ to do sth  
 law and ~  
 of the ~ of sth  
 a peck(ing) ~  
 a tall ~  
 they ~ things better in France  
 etc  
 to ~  
**ordered** just what the doctor ~  
**orders** give sb etc his marching  
 ~  
 the lower ~  
**ordinary** in the (normal/~)  
 course of nature etc  
 in the ~ way

## nouns etc used in headphrases

- the ~ run (of sb/sth): the common etc run (of sb/sth) something etc out of the ~ / usual
- other** be not as ~ men are be six of one and/to half a dozen of the ~ blame the ~ fellow (sb can/could) do the ~ thing every ~ /second man etc for some reason (or ~) the grass is (always) greener on the ~ side (of the fence)/in the other man's field have (got)/with ~ /bigger fish to fry in ~ words look the ~ way none ~ than sb on the one hand... on the ~ (hand) one after another/the ~ one way or the ~ a rose by any ~ name would smell as sweet see etc how the ~ half lives (at) some time or ~ someone or ~ this, that, and the ~ turn the ~ cheek you and the ~ (ninety-)nine
- others** see ourselves as ~ see us some men etc are more equal than ~
- our** where is ~ wandering boy/girl tonight?
- ourselves** see ~ as others see us
- out far**/~ and away flat ~ know sth inside ~ an/the odd man ~
- outdone** not to be ~
- outline** a bare ~ (of sth)
- outlook** a jaundiced ~: a jaundiced eye etc
- outrageous** the slings and arrows (of ~ fortune)
- outs** the ins and ~ (of sth)
- outset** at the ~ (of sth) (right) from the ~: (right) from the start etc
- outside** at the ~ have etc ~ interests
- ovation** get etc a standing ~
- oven** have etc a bun in the ~
- over** all ~ (sb/sth) one's dancing etc days are ~: one's dancing etc days are done etc the day of sb/sth is ~ /finished have etc one ~ the eight (it's) the same the whole/all the world ~ twice ~
- overflows** one's cup ~: one's cup is full etc
- owes** (think/consider) the world ~ one a living
- owl** (as) solemn as an ~ (as) wise as an ~
- own** at one's (~) discretion at one's (~)/sb's expense at one's ~ risk be afraid of one's (~) shadow be sb's (~) funeral the beam in one's ~ eye blow one's ~ trumpet can(not) call one's soul etc one's ~ cut one's ~ throat defeat one's/its (~) purpose etc the devil looks after his ~ do one's ~ thing (with) one's/sb's (~) fair hand(s) feather one's (~) nest follow one's (~) bent follow one's (~) nose for sb's/sth's (~) good for one's/its ~ sake for one's (~) part foul one's (~) nest get etc a dose/taste of one's ~ / the same medicine get etc one's (~) way go one's ~ way have (got)/with the devil's ~ luck have etc a home (of one's ~) to go to have etc it/things one's (~) way have etc a mind of one's ~ have etc too much money etc for one's ~ good have (got)/with a will of one's ~ hold one's/its ~ in one's/its ~ right in its/one's (~) way keep one's ~ company keep one's ~ counsel know one's ~ mind like etc the sound of one's ~ voice one's (~) line of country line one's (~)/sb's pocket(s) a man etc after one's ~ heart master/mistress in one's ~ house mind one's ~ business of one's/its ~ accord of one's ~ free will off one's ~ bat on sb's/one's (~) head be it on one's/its ~<sup>1,2</sup> on one's ~ (account) on one's ~ account on one's ~ admission on one's ~ terms one's ~ master/mistress one's ~ worst enemy one's (~) peace of mind paddle one's ~ canoe a poor thing but my/mine ~ a prophet (is) without honour in his ~ country
- save one's (~)/sb's bacon spread etc one's (~) wings through no (particular etc) fault etc of one's ~ one's time is one's ~ to sb's (~) satisfaction under one's ~ steam virtue is its ~ reward
- owned** as if/though one ~ the place
- ox** (as) strong as a horse/an ~ have etc a/the constitution like/ of a horse/an ~
- oyster** as close as an ~ the world is/remains one's ~
- P** p's mind/watch one's ~ and q's
- pace** at a snail's ~ at (a) walking ~ go the ~ set the ~
- paces** show one's ~
- pack-drill** no names, no ~
- packet** catch a ~ cost (sb) a ~: cost (sb) a fortune etc a surprise ~
- packing** send sb ~
- pain** on/under ~ of death etc
- pains** aches and ~ for one's ~ genius is an infinite capacity for taking ~ growing ~ the ~ that flesh is heir to: the ill etc that flesh is heir to spare no ~: spare no expense etc take ~
- paint** (as) clever/smart as ~ a lick of ~
- painted** (not) as black as it is ~
- painting** be no oil ~
- pair** the happy couple/~ show (sb) a clean ~ of heels
- pal** a bosom friend/~
- palace** a gin ~
- pale** (as) ~ as death a whiter shade of ~
- palm** grease sb's ~ know sth like the back/~ of one's hand
- pan** dead ~ a flash in the ~ a Peter P ~ Tin P ~ Alley
- pancake** (as) flat as a ~
- Pandora's** open ~ box
- panic** action/~ stations
- pants** have etc ants in one's ~
- paper** (as) dry as ~ on ~
- par** above etc ~ (value) be ~ for the course under ~

**parade** air/~ one's knowledge  
**paradise** a fool's ~  
 (a) ~ on earth: (a) heaven etc on earth  
**paralysis** a creeping ~  
**parcel** part and ~ of sth  
**pardon** beg sb's ~  
 I beg your ~ ~ brand  
 if you'll ~ /excuse the liberty  
**parish** the world is one's ~  
**parlance** in common etc ~  
**parrot's** have etc a mouth like  
 the bottom of a ~ cage  
**parry** thrust and ~  
**parsnips** fine words butter no ~  
**part** act the ~ /role (of sb)  
 the best/better ~ of sth  
 (for) the best/better ~ of an  
 hour etc  
 discretion is the better ~ of  
 valour  
 dress the ~  
 for the most ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 for one's (own) ~  
 (all) in good ~  
 look/feel the ~  
 not want any ~ of sth  
 on sb's ~  
 till/until death us do ~ ~  
**particular** in general. . . in ~  
 a nothing in ~  
**parting** a Parthian/~ shot/  
 shaft  
 speed the ~ guest  
**parts** foreign ~  
 a man etc of (many) ~  
 possession is nine ~ etc of the  
 law  
**party** a bottle ~  
 collapse of stout ~  
 a hen ~  
 an interested ~  
 the life and soul (of the ~)  
 a stag ~  
 throw/give a ~ (for sb/sth)  
**pass** come to ~  
 (like) ships that ~ in the night  
 make/~ water  
 praise the Lord and ~ the  
 ammunition  
 sell the ~ with one  
 they shall not ~  
**passage** a bird of ~  
 give sb/sth etc a rough etc ~  
 a purple patch/~  
 smooth sb's/sth's ~: smooth  
 sb's/sth's path etc  
**passed** a lot of/much water has  
 ~ under the bridge: a lot of/  
 much water has run etc under  
 the bridge  
**passing** in ~  
**passion** in/into a towering ~/  
 rage  
 one's ruling ~  
**past** the age of miracles is not ~  
 ancient/~ history  
 bury the ~  
 one's dancing etc days are ~:  
 one's dancing etc days are

done etc  
 in the ~  
 on ~ form: on present etc form  
 a thing of the ~  
**paste** scissors and ~  
**pat** answer ~  
**patch** a bad etc ~  
 not a ~ on sb/sth  
 a purple ~ /passage  
 strike etc a bad ~  
**path** cross sb's ~  
 a lion in the ~ /way  
 the ~ of least resistance: the  
 line etc of least resistance  
 the primrose ~  
 a red herring (across sb's ~ /  
 track)  
 smooth sb's/sth's ~ etc  
 the straight and narrow (~ /  
 way)  
**patience** have etc the ~ of Job/  
 a saint  
 try sb's ~  
**patient** (as) ~ as Job  
**pave** a pregnant silence/~  
**paved** the road to hell is ~ with  
 good intentions  
 the streets (are) ~ with gold  
**pay** crime doesn't ~  
 (not) ~ a blind bit of attention:  
 ~ (not) be etc a blind bit of use  
 etc  
 ~ a/one's fair share: get etc a/  
 one's fair share  
 ~ one's pound of flesh: have  
 etc one's pound of flesh  
 there is etc the devil (and all  
 (hell)) to ~  
**payment** a down ~  
**pays** it ~ to do sth  
 you ~ your money and (you)  
 takes your choice  
**peace** break the ~  
 disturb the ~  
 hold one's ~  
 in ~  
 keep the ~  
 (there's) no ~ /rest for the  
 wicked  
 speak now, or forever hold  
 one's ~  
**peacock** (as) proud as a ~  
 (as) vain as a ~  
**peak** a widow's ~  
**peas** (as) like as two ~ /~ in a  
 pod  
**pebble** (as) smooth as a  
 billiard-ball/~  
 not the only ~ on the beach  
**peck** eat a ~ of dirt/dust before  
 one dies  
**peculiar** funny ~ or funny ha-  
 ha  
**pedal** soft ~ (on) sth  
**peeled** keep one's eyes ~ /  
 skinned (for sth)  
**peg** a square ~ (in a round  
 hole)  
**pelt** (at) full ~  
**pen** a poison-~ letter

a slip of the tongue/~  
**penalty** pay the penalty  
**pendulum** the swing of the ~  
**pennies** count (the) ~  
**penny** be ten/two a ~  
 cost (sb) a pretty ~: cost (sb) a  
 fortune etc  
 earn/turn an honest ~ etc  
 in for a ~, in for a pound  
 one's last ~ etc  
 like a bad ~  
 not have/without one ~ to rub  
 against another  
 not know/be sure where one's  
 next meal/~ is coming from  
**people** the/God's chosen (~)  
 flower children/~  
 (you can't) fool etc all (of) the  
 ~ all the time  
 go places (and see ~)  
 make/win friends and influence  
 ~  
 of all ~ etc<sup>1,2</sup>  
 the opium of the ~  
 the right/best ~  
**per** as ~ usual  
**perfect** practice makes ~  
 word ~  
**perfection** a counsel of ~  
**perfectly** know sth ~ well:  
 know sth very etc well  
**perform** God moves in a  
 mysterious way, his wonders  
 to ~  
 ~ wonders/miracles (for/with  
 sb/sth): do etc wonders/  
 miracles (for/with sb/sth)  
**peril** at one's ~  
 the Yellow P ~  
**perish** they that live by the  
 sword shall ~ /die by the  
 sword  
**Persians** the law of the Medes  
 and ~  
**person** as well etc as the next  
 man/~  
 a displaced ~  
 in the first etc ~  
 in ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 no less (a ~ /place) (than sb/  
 sth)  
**personalities** a clash of ~: a  
 clash of wills etc  
**persons** be no/not any  
 respecter of ~  
**persuaders** the hidden ~  
**Peru** from China to ~  
**Pete's** for ~ sake(!): for  
 goodness etc sake(!)  
**petting** heavy necking/  
**pew** take/grab a ~  
**philosophy** there are more  
 things in heaven and earth  
 than are dreamt of in your ~  
**phrase** coin a ~ /word  
 a turn of ~  
**phut** go ~  
**pianist** don't shoot the ~ etc  
 (he's doing his best)  
**pick** ~ up momentum: gather



## nouns etc used in headphrases

- etc momentum  
take/have one's ~
- picnic** be no ~
- picture** (as) pretty as a ~
- blacken the ~
- every ~ tells a story
- paint a gloomy etc ~ (of sth)
- pie** a custard ~
- eat humble ~
- piece** all of a ~ (with sth)
- a conversation ~<sup>1,2</sup>
- do oneself a bit/~ of no good
- give sb etc a ~ of one's mind
- in one ~
- a nasty ~ of work
- a/one's party ~
- a period ~
- say one's ~
- a set ~
- the villain of the ~
- pieces** bits and ~
- (for) thirty ~/(for) a handful of silver
- pig** (as) fat as a ~
- buy a ~ in a poke
- a dirty ~
- a guinea ~
- like a stuck ~
- a male chauvinist (~ /swine)
- pig's** in a ~ ear
- pigs** little pitchers/~ have long ears
- pikestaff** (as) plain as a ~<sup>1,2</sup>
- pile** make a/one's ~
- pill** a bitter ~ (for sb) to swallow
- gild/sugar the ~
- pillar** from ~ to post
- pin** (as) clean as a new ~
- pinch** at a ~
- feel the ~
- pinches** (know where) the shoe ~
- pink** tickled ~
- pins** for two ~
- have etc ~ and needles
- pip** give sb the ~
- pissed** (as) ~ as a newt
- pit** dig a ~ (for sb)
- a flea ~
- pitch** concert ~
- touch ~ and be defiled
- pitchers** little ~/pigs have long ears
- pitfalls** (the) snares and ~ (of sth)
- pity** more's the ~
- what a ~/shame(!)
- pity's** for ~ sake(!): for goodness etc sake(!)
- place** any old ~/where
- as if/though one owned the ~
- be no (kind of) ~ etc for sb
- have etc a ~ in the sun
- in the first ~<sup>1,2</sup>
- in ~ of sth/sb
- know/keep one's ~
- lightning never strikes in the same ~ twice
- no less (a person/~) (than sb/ sth)
- not one's ~ (to do sth)
- a one-horse ~: a one-horse town etc
- take first/second ~
- take ~
- there is a time (and a ~) for everything
- there's no ~ like home
- a woman's/wife's ~ is in the home
- the world will/would be a poorer ~ /the poorer
- places** go ~
- go ~ (and see people)
- in high ~
- of all ~: of all people etc<sup>1,2</sup>
- plague** avoid sb/sth like the ~
- a ~ on both your houses
- plain** (as) ~ as the nose on your face
- (as) ~ as a pikestaff<sup>1,2</sup>
- in ~ English
- make sth clear/~ (to sb)
- penny ~ or twopence/~
- tuppence coloured
- pure/~ and simple
- plan** according to ~
- hatch a ~: hatch a plot etc
- plank** walk the ~
- planks** (as) thick as two short ~
- planning** family ~
- plant** ~ the seeds of sth: sow etc the seeds of sth
- plaster** a garden/~ gnome
- play** all work and no ~ (makes Jack a dull boy)
- (as) good as a ~
- (~) Box and Cox
- (~) a cat-and-mouse game
- (~) catch-as-catch-can
- child's ~
- fair ~
- foul ~<sup>1,2</sup>
- a game that two can ~
- give etc free ~ to sth
- give sb/sth etc full ~
- (a) kitchen-sink drama/~
- the state of ~
- when/while the cat's away, the mice will ~
- play-off** a sudden death finish/~
- pleading** special ~
- please** if you ~<sup>1,2</sup>
- just as you ~: just as you like etc
- pleased** (as) ~ as Punch
- pleasure** half the ~ (of (doing) sth): half the fun etc (of (doing) sth)
- pleasures** stolen ~ are sweeter/the sweetest: stolen sweets etc are sweeter/the sweetest
- pledge** sign/take the ~
- plenty** enough/~ to be getting/going on with
- give a man etc ~ (of) rope (and he'll hang himself): give a man
- etc enough rope (and he'll hang himself)
- a horn of ~
- peace and ~
- there are (~) more (good) fish in the sea
- plot** hatch a ~ etc
- plucked** a brand ~ etc from the burning
- plunge** take the ~
- poacher** gamekeeper turned ~ / ~ turned gamekeeper
- pocket** easy/hard on sb's/the ~
- line one's (own)/sb's ~ (s)
- pick sb's ~
- swallow/~ one's pride
- pod** (as) like as two peas/peas in a ~
- point** be a case in ~
- beyond a certain ~
- (a) breaking ~
- carry one's ~
- draw/~ a moral
- from the money etc ~ of view
- have (got) a ~
- in ~ of fact
- labour the ~
- make one's ~
- miss the ~ (of sth)
- a moot ~/question
- more to the ~
- the ~ of the exercise: the aim etc of the exercise
- press/push the ~
- prove one's/the case/~
- short and to the ~
- a sore ~ (with sb)
- the sticking ~
- stretch a ~
- a strong ~
- suffice (it) to ~ out (that): suffice (it) to say etc (that)
- take etc sb's ~
- a talking ~
- to the ~
- tough etc to the ~ of brutality etc
- a turning ~
- up to a ~
- points** the finer ~ (of sth)
- have (got)/with one's/its ~
- possession is nine ~ of the law: possession is nine parts etc of the law
- poison** hate sb/sth like ~
- one man's meat etc is another man's ~ etc
- poke** buy a pig in a ~
- poker** (as) stiff as a ~
- polecat** stink like a ~/to high heaven
- policy** honesty is the best ~
- a scorched earth ~
- polish** spit and ~
- pond** a big fish in a little ~
- pony** Shanks's ~ /mare
- pool** scoop the ~
- poor** (as) ~ as a church mouse
- create/make a ~ impression: create/make a bad etc

impression  
 give a ~ account of oneself:  
 give a good etc account of oneself  
 have etc one law for the rich, and another for the ~  
 (a) ~ show(!): (a) good etc show(!)  
 rich and/or ~  
**poorer** the world will/would be a ~ place/the ~  
**pops** top of the ~  
**porridge** do ~: do time etc  
 save one's breath (to cool one's ~)  
**portrait** a pen ~  
 a thumbnail ~/sketch (of sb/sth)  
**pose** strike an attitude/~  
**posh** talk ~ etc  
**position** a man etc in his ~  
**possessed** as one ~: as one enchanted etc  
**possibility** canvass the ~ (that): canvass the idea etc (that)  
**possible** (in) the best of all ~ worlds  
 humanly ~  
**possum** play ~  
**post** (as) deaf as a ~  
 by return (of ~)  
 from pillar to ~  
**pot** keep the ~ boiling<sup>1,2</sup>  
 a watched kettle/~ never boils  
**pot-luck** take ~  
**potatoes** like a sack of ~  
 small beer/~  
**pound** have etc one's ~ of flesh in for a penny, in for a ~  
 penny wise (and) ~ foolish  
 wish one had a ~ etc for every book etc  
**pour** rain/~ cats and dogs  
**pours** it never rains but it ~  
**powder** keep one's ~ dry  
 take a ~  
**power** the corridors of ~  
 delusions of grandeur/~  
 do sb a ~/world of good  
 flower ~  
 have etc the gift/~(s) of total recall  
 more ~ to his elbow  
 staying ~  
**practical** for (all) ~ purposes  
**practice** in theory... in ~  
 sharp ~  
**prairie** the call of the ~: the call of the wild etc  
**praise** be loud in one's ~ (of/for sb/sth)  
 damn with faint ~  
**praises** sing sb's/sth's ~  
**pray** watch and ~  
**prayer** the answer to a maiden's ~  
**preaches** practise what one ~  
**precious** a ~ lot of good etc: a fat etc lot of good etc

**precise** to be ~: to be exact etc  
**predicament** the human ~  
**prefer** gentlemen ~ blondes  
**prejudice** without ~ (to sth)  
**prerogative** exercise one's right(s)/~  
**presence** have etc (the) ~ of mind (to do sth)  
 make one's ~ felt  
**present** at ~  
 for the ~: for the moment etc (there is) no time like the ~  
 on ~ etc form  
 ~ sb with a blank cheque: give sb etc a blank cheque  
**preserve** ~ an open mind: have etc an open mind  
**president** a caretaker ~: a caretaker government etc  
**press** get etc a good/bad ~  
 the gutter ~  
 push/~ one's luck  
 the yellow ~  
**pressed** hard put (to it)/~ to do sth  
**resto** hey ~  
**pretences** (on/under) false ~  
**pretty** (as) ~ as a picture  
 be sitting ~  
 cost (sb) a ~ penny: cost (sb) a fortune etc  
 (not) just etc a ~ face  
 a ~ kettle of fish: a fine etc kettle of fish  
**price** at a ~  
 at any ~  
 at what (a) cost/~  
 cheap at the ~  
 a cut-throat ~  
 every man has his ~  
 a fat ~ etc  
 for the ~ of sth  
 not at any ~  
 pay a/the ~ (for sth)  
 a pearl of great ~  
 what ~ that etc?  
**prices** (at) cut rates/~  
**pricks** one's conscience ~ one  
**pride** family ~  
 hurt/injure sb's ~  
 swallow/pocket one's ~  
**principle** (as) a matter of ~  
 in ~  
 on ~  
 on the ~ of sth/that  
**principles** first ~  
**print** (the) small ~/type  
**priorities** get etc one's/the ~  
 right etc  
**prism** prunes and ~(s)  
**private** in ~  
**privilege** it is a woman's/lady's ~  
 ~ to change her mind  
**prize** a consolation ~  
**probability** in all ~/likelihood  
**problem** no/not any ~ (at all): no/not any trouble etc (at all)  
**product** the end ~  
 the finished ~  
**profession** the oldest ~

**profile** a high ~  
 a low ~  
**profit** a fat ~: a fat price etc  
 make a loss/~  
**programme** a crash course/~  
 not so much a ~, more a way of life  
**progress** make ~  
**promise** a bargain's a bargain/a ~ is a ~  
 I can ~ you: I can tell etc you  
 ~ sb (the) first refusal: have etc (the) first refusal  
 show ~  
**proof** the burden/onus of ~  
**proper** do the ~ thing<sup>1</sup>: do the right etc thing<sup>1</sup>  
 exercise due/~ care (and attention)  
 fit and ~  
 good and ~  
 in the ~ spirit: in the right etc spirit  
 right and/or ~  
**property** public ~  
**prophets** confound the ~/  
 critics  
**proposes** man ~ but God disposes  
**proposition** a doubtful ~  
**prospect** at the ~ (of sth)  
**protest** a howl/storm of ~ etc  
 under ~  
**proud** (as) ~ as Lucifer  
 (as) ~ as a peacock  
 do sb/sth ~  
**prove** be/~ too hot to handle  
 show/~ one's mettle  
 you can ~ anything with/by statistics/figures  
**proves** the exception ~ the rule  
**provide** ~ a shot in the arm: get etc a shot in the arm  
**Providence** tempt fate/~  
**Pry** (a) Paul ~  
**public** in ~  
**pudding** the proof of the ~ (is in the eating)  
**puff** huff and ~  
**pull** make/~ a face  
 ~ one's forelock: touch etc one's forelock  
**pump** the parish ~  
**punch** (as) pleased as P ~  
 pack a ~  
**punches** pull one's ~  
**punishment** capital ~: a capital offence etc  
 a glutton for work/~  
 make the ~ fit the crime  
**pup** sell sb a ~  
**puppy-dogs'** rats etc and snails and ~ tails  
**pure** (as) ~ as the driven snow  
 Simon P ~  
 to the ~ all things are ~  
**purple** born in/to the ~  
 go etc ~ (in the face)  
**purpose** the ~ of the exercise:  
 the aim etc of the exercise

## nouns etc used in headphrases

defeat one's/its (own) ~ etc  
 on ~  
 to some etc ~  
**purposes** at cross ~  
 for (all) practical ~  
 to all intents (and ~)  
**purse** hold the ~ strings  
**pursue** ~ another course: take  
 etc another course  
**pursuit** the unspeakable in  
 (full) ~ of the uneatable  
**push** give sb/get the ~ etc  
 press/~ the point  
**pushed** did he fall or was he ~?  
**put** (add/~) the finishing  
 touches (to sth)  
 (~) first things first  
 hard ~ (to it)/pressed to do sth  
 have (got)/with a lot to ~ up  
 with  
 never ~ off/leave till tomorrow  
 what you can do today  
 postpone/~ off the evil hour/  
 day  
 ~ an old head on young  
 shoulders: have etc an old  
 head on young shoulders  
 ~ up a hare: start etc a hare  
 set/~ the record straight  
 stay ~  
 you know where you can ~ sth  
**pyjamas** be the cat's ~/  
 whiskers

**Q**  
 q's mind/watch one's p's and ~  
**QT** on the quiet/~  
**qualities** have etc the vices/  
 defects of one's/its virtues/~  
**quantity** an unknown ~  
**quartered** hanged/hung,  
 drawn and ~  
**quarters** at close ~  
**Queen's** the King's/~ English  
 take the King's/~ shilling  
 turn King's/~ Evidence  
**queer** there's nowt so ~/funny  
 as folk  
**question** beg the ~  
 the burning ~  
 a fair ~  
 give (sb) etc a civil answer to a  
 civil ~  
 in ~  
 it is a ~ of  
 a leading ~/remark  
 (a ~ of) life and/or death: (a  
 matter etc of) life and/or death  
 a moot point/~  
 an open ~  
 open to ~ etc  
 pop the ~  
 raise a ~  
 raise the ~ etc (of sth)  
 see both sides (of the ~ etc)  
 the sixty-four thousand dollar

~  
 there is no/not any ~  
 the vexed ~/subject (of sth)  
**questions** shoot first and ask ~  
 afterwards/later  
**queue** jump the ~  
**quick** (as) ~ as lightning etc  
 double ~  
 get rich ~  
 a ~ buck: a fast etc buck  
**quid** wish one had a ~ for every  
 book etc: wish one had a  
 pound etc for every book etc  
**quiet** anything for a ~ life  
 (as) ~ as a mouse  
 (as) ~/silent as the grave/tomb  
 fall ~ etc  
 on the ~/QT  
 peace and ~  
**quit** rats ~ a (sinking) ship: rats  
 desert etc a (sinking) ship  
**quite** it is (just/~) like sb to be/  
 do sth  
 it's (~/really) something  
**quits** double or ~  
**quiver** ~ like a jelly/leaf: shake  
 etc like a jelly/leaf  
**quo** a quid pro ~

**R**  
**Rs** the three ~  
**rabbit** let the dog see the ~  
**race** the rat(-) ~  
**rack** ~ one's brains: beat etc  
 one's brains  
**radio** steam ~  
**rag** chew the fat/~  
 (like) a red ~ to a bull  
 the local ~  
 lose one's ~  
**rage** (a) blind fury/~  
 a howl/storm of ~: a howl/  
 storm of protest etc  
 in/into a towering passion/~  
**rags** from ~ to riches  
 glad ~  
**raid** (a) smash and grab (~)  
**rain** (as) right as ~  
 come ~, come shine  
**rainbow** (at) the end of the ~  
 somewhere, over the ~  
**rains** it never ~ but it pours  
**raise** (not) lift/~ a finger  
 lower/~ one's sights  
 ~ the alarm/alert: give etc the  
 alarm/alert  
 ~ a hare: start etc a hare  
**rake** (as) thin as a ~/lath  
**ramrod** (as) stiff/straight as a ~  
**ranch** meanwhile, back at the ~  
**random** at ~  
**range** at close ~  
 at long/short ~  
**rank** pull ~ (on sb)  
**ranks** close (the/one's) ~  
**ransom** a king's ~

**rap** take the ~  
**rapture** the first fine (careless)  
 ~  
**rash** spread like a ~  
**raspberry** give sb etc the ~  
**rat** smell a ~  
**rate** at any ~  
 at that/this ~  
 the going ~ (for sth)  
**rates** (at) cut ~/prices  
**rather** it/that (all/~) depends  
 or ~  
**rations** iron ~  
**rattle** a death ~  
**rave** rant and ~/roar  
**raving** stark ~/staring mad/  
 bonkers  
**raw** get etc a ~ deal  
 in the ~  
**reach** ~ the headlines: hit etc  
 the headlines  
 ~ etc rock bottom  
**read** once ~ never/not  
 forgotten: once seen etc  
 never/not forgotten  
**reader** the common/general ~  
**ready** rough and ~  
**real** be a (dead/~) ringer for sb/  
 sth  
 for ~  
**reality** in ~  
 sober ~: sober fact etc  
**realize** only to ~: only to find  
 etc  
**really** it's (quite/~) something  
 (is your) journey ~ necessary?  
**reap** sow the wind and ~ the  
 whirlwind  
**rear** raise/~ its (ugly) head  
**rearing** raring/~ to go etc  
**reason** all the more ~  
 by ~ of sth  
 for one ~ or another  
 for reasons/some ~ best/only  
 known to oneself  
 for the simple ~ that  
 for some ~ (or other)  
 have etc (no) good ~ (for  
 (doing) sth)  
 have etc neither rhyme (n) or ~  
 have etc ~ to believe/for  
 believing etc  
 see ~  
 within ~  
**reasons** for ~/some reason  
 best/only known to oneself  
**rebellion** stage a ~: stage a  
 strike etc  
**recall** have etc the gift/  
 power(s) of total ~  
**receive** ~ sth as/for gospel etc:  
 take etc sth as/for gospel etc  
**recent** on ~ form: on present  
 etc form  
**reception** give sb etc a cold etc  
 ~  
 give sb etc a warm welcome/~  
**reckon** ~ oneself fortunate/  
 lucky: count etc oneself  
 fortunate/lucky

**reckoned** a force to be ~ with  
**reckoning** the day of ~  
**recognize** wouldn't know/~  
 sth if one saw one  
**recond** change the ~  
 (just) for the ~  
 off the ~  
 set/put the ~ straight  
**red** (as) ~ as a turkey-cock  
 give sb etc the green/~ light  
 go etc ~ (in the face)  
 have etc a ~ face  
 (like) a ~ rag to a bull  
 nature, ~ in tooth and claw  
 neither fish, flesh nor good ~  
 herring/fresh meat  
 paint the town ~  
 (make sb) see ~  
 the thin ~ line  
**red-handed** catch sb ~  
**reduced** (in) straitened/~  
 circumstances  
**reed** a broken ~  
**reel** right off the ~  
**re-examination** stand the test  
 of ~: stand the test of time etc  
**reflection** on ~  
**refuge** patriotism is the last ~ of  
 a scoundrel  
**refusal** have etc (the) first ~  
**regard** in/with ~ to sth  
**regiment** the monstrous ~ of  
 women  
**regular** (as) ~ as clockwork  
**regulations** rules and ~  
**rehearsal** the dress ~  
**reigns** confusion ~  
 silence ~  
**relation** a close etc ~/relative  
**relations** friends and ~  
 poor ~  
 strained ~  
**relationship** a close ~: a close  
 friend etc  
**relative** a close etc relation/~  
**relief** breathe etc a sigh of ~  
 comic ~  
 light ~  
 much to one's ~ etc  
**remains** the fact ~ (that)  
 it/that ~ to be seen  
 the world is/~ one's oyster  
**remark** a casual ~  
 a leading question/~  
**remedies** desperate diseases  
 etc call for/require desperate  
 measures/~  
**remedy** the cure/~ is worse  
 than the disease  
 have etc no ~ but to do sth  
**remove** at one ~ (from sb/sth)  
**removed** (not) far ~ from sth  
 (only) once ~ (from sth)  
**repairs** running ~  
**repeating** (not) bear ~/  
 repetition  
**repeats** history ~ itself  
**repent** marry in haste, ~ at  
 leisure  
**repetition** (not) bear

repeating/~  
**reply** in answer/~ (to sth)  
 make answer/~  
**reprobate** a hardened ~: a  
 hardened criminal etc  
**republic** a banana ~  
**require** desperate diseases etc  
 call for/~ desperate  
 measures/remedies  
 need/~ no introduction  
 ~ the patience of Job/a saint:  
 have etc the patience of Job/a  
 saint  
**re-reading** stand the test of ~:  
 stand the test of time etc  
**resentment** ~ runs high:  
 feelings etc run high  
**resistance** the line etc of least  
 ~  
**resort** (as) a/one's last ~  
 in the last ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
**respect** have etc a healthy ~ for  
 sb/sth  
 in ~ of sth  
 in this ~  
 with ~ (to sb)  
 with ~ to sth  
**respector** be no/not any ~ of  
 persons  
**response** in ~ (to sth)  
**responsible** hold sb/sth ~ (for  
 sth)  
**rest** a change is as good as a ~  
 do the ~  
 for the ~  
 God ~ him/his soul  
 (there's) no peace/~ for the  
 wicked  
 watch (the ~ of) the world go  
 by  
**result** the net ~  
**retain** ~ a sneaking suspicion  
 etc: have etc a sneaking  
 suspicion etc  
**return** by ~ (of post)  
 a fat ~: a fat price etc  
 in ~ (for sth)  
 the point of no ~  
**returns** (the law of)  
 diminishing ~  
 many happy ~ (of the day)  
 the prodigal (son) (~)  
**reveal** ~ one's hand: show etc  
 one's hand  
 ~ the vices/defects of one's/its  
 virtues/qualities: have etc the  
 vices/defects of one's/its  
 virtues/qualities  
 time (alone) will ~: time  
 (alone) will tell etc  
**revolution** a bloodless ~  
**reward** virtue is its own ~  
**rhinoceros** have etc a hide/skin  
 like a ~  
**rhyme** have etc neither ~ (n) or  
 reason  
**ribs** tickle sb's ~  
**rich** (as) ~ as Croesus  
 crumbs (that fall) from the (~  
 man's) table

get ~ quick  
 have etc one law for the ~, and  
 another for the poor  
 poor little ~ girl  
 stinking drunk/~  
 strike it ~  
 that's ~  
**riches** an embarrassment of ~  
 from rags to ~  
**riddance** good ~ (to bad  
 rubbish)  
**ride** give sb etc a rough ~  
 if wishes were horses, (then)  
 beggars would ~  
 (go to the funeral) just for the  
 ~  
 let it etc ~  
 ~ tall: stand etc tall  
 weather/~ the storm  
**rider** an easy ~  
**ridiculous** cut a ~ figure: cut a  
 fine etc figure  
 the mountain labours and  
 brings forth a (~) mouse  
**right** all ~<sup>1,2,3,4,5,6</sup>  
 all ~ by/with sb  
 all ~ for sb  
 all ~ on the night/day  
 as of ~  
 (as) ~ as rain  
 (as) ~ as a trivet  
 back the ~/wrong horse  
 be etc dead ~/wrong  
 a bit of all ~  
 by ~ of sth  
 clothed and in one's ~ mind  
 the customer is always ~  
 (the) divine ~  
 do the ~ etc thing<sup>1,2</sup>  
 exercise one's ~ (s)/  
 prerogative  
 (~) from the start etc  
 get etc one's/the priorities ~  
 etc  
 get sth ~/wrong<sup>1,2</sup>  
 go ~/wrong (for sb)  
 go the ~/wrong way  
 have etc a ~ to sth/to do sth  
 how ~/wrong you are(!)  
 I'm all ~, Jack  
 if (my) memory serves me ~  
 in one's/its own ~  
 in the ~ etc spirit  
 just ~ (for sb/sth)  
 left and/or ~  
 left, ~ and centre  
 might is/makes ~  
 Mr/Miss R ~  
 my/one's country ~ or wrong  
 nobody/anybody in his/their ~  
 mind could/would do sth  
 play it/things ~  
 a proper/~ Charley/Charlie  
 put sth ~/straight  
 put sb ~/straight (about etc  
 sth)  
 ~ in the middle (of sth): bang  
 etc in the middle (of sth)  
 say the ~/wrong thing  
 see sb (all) ~

## nouns etc used in headphrases

- serve sb ~  
 two blacks/wrongs do not  
 make a white/~  
 whatever is, is ~  
**rights** by ~  
**rigid** shake one/sb ~  
**Riley** live etc the life of ~  
**ring** give sb a ~ /tinkle  
 have etc a familiar etc ~  
 (about/to it)  
 have (got)/with the ~ of truth  
 etc  
 hold/keep the ~  
**ringer** be a (dead/real) ~ for  
 sb/sth  
**riot** read the R ~ Act  
 run ~  
**rip** let (her) ~  
 like R ~ van Winkle  
**ripe** be/make sb ~ for sth  
 the time etc is ~ for sth/(for sb)  
 to do sth  
**ripple** cause a ~ (on the  
 surface)  
**rise** early to bed and early to ~,  
 (makes a man healthy, wealthy  
 and wise)  
 (arise/~ like) a phoenix from  
 the ashes  
 one's spirits ~ /sink  
**rises** one's gorge ~  
 (one's) temper ~ /frays  
**risk** at one's own ~  
 at the ~ of doing sth  
 nothing venture/~, nothing  
 gain etc  
 run a ~ (of sth)  
**risks** take ~  
**rites** the last ~ /sacrament(s)  
**rivalry** cut-throat competition/  
 ~  
**road** all along the ~: all along  
 the line etc  
 the end of the ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 it's a long ~ /lane that has/  
 knows no turning  
 one for the ~  
**roads** all ~ lead to Rome  
**roar** rant and rave/~  
**roaring** do/drive a ~ trade/line  
 (in sth)  
**robbed** we was/wuz ~  
**robbers** cops and ~  
**robbery** daylight ~  
**robin** (R ~ Hood and his) merry  
 men  
 a round ~  
**Robinson** before you can say  
 Jack ~ /knife  
**rock** (as) hard as iron/~  
 (as) steady as a ~  
 reach etc ~ bottom  
**rocks** the hand that ~ the cradle  
 (rules the world)  
**rod** spare the ~ and spoil the  
 child  
**rolè** act the part/~ (of sb)  
**roll** rock 'n ~  
**rolling** keep the ball ~  
 set/start the ball ~
- rolls** sb's head ~  
**Romans** when in Rome, do as  
 the ~ do  
**Rome** all roads lead to ~  
 fiddle while ~ burns  
 when in ~, do as the Romans  
 do  
**roof** have etc a ~ over one's  
 head  
 hit the ceiling/~  
 raise the ~  
**room** be no ~ at/in the inn  
 have etc elbow ~  
 leave the ~  
 no ~ to swing a cat  
 there is always ~ at the top  
 there is no ~ for doubt etc  
 there is ~ for improvement  
**roost** rule the ~  
**root** the heart/~ of the matter  
 the love of money is the ~ of all  
 evil  
 take/strike ~  
**roots** the grass ~  
**rope** give a man etc enough ~  
 (and he'll hang himself)  
 give sb etc some ~  
 money for jam/old ~  
**ropes** know etc the ~  
**rose** (as) fresh as a ~  
**rose-tinted** rose-coloured/~  
 spectacles etc  
**rosebuds** gather ye ~ while ye  
 may  
**roses** come up ~  
 life is (not) a bed of ~  
**rosy** everything in the garden is  
 lovely/~  
**rot** start the ~  
 stop the ~  
 talk (a load/lot of) ~: talk (a  
 load/lot of) cock etc  
**rotten** a ~ trick: a dirty etc trick  
 ~ luck (on sb): hard etc luck  
 (on sb)  
**rough** at a (~ /wild) guess  
 give sb/get the (~) edge of  
 one's/sb's tongue  
 give sb/sth etc a ~ etc passage  
 give sb etc a ~ ride  
 have/give sb a ~ time (of it):  
 have/give sb a bad etc time (of  
 it)  
 sleep ~  
**round** all the year ~  
 (as) big/~ as saucers  
 better etc all ~ (for sb) (if)  
 the daily ~  
 (not) have etc time to turn ~  
 in the ~  
 it's love that makes the world go  
 ~  
 the other way about/(a) ~  
 the second/third time around/  
 ~  
 a square peg (in a ~ hole)  
 the trivial ~, the common task  
 the wrong way ~  
**roundabouts** swings and ~  
**rounds** do/go the ~
- roving** have (got)/with a ~ eye  
**row** have etc a hard ~ to hoe  
 in a ~  
 (not) worth a ~ of beans  
**royal** a battle ~  
 right ~  
**royalist** (one must not be) more  
 ~ than the king  
**rub** not have/without one penny  
 to ~ against another  
 there etc is/lies the ~  
**rubbish** (all) a load/lot of (old)  
 ~ etc  
 good riddance (to bad ~)  
 talk (a load/lot of) ~: talk (a  
 load/lot of) cock etc  
**rudder** like a ship without a ~  
**rude** have etc a ~ awakening  
**rug** (as) snug as a bug in a ~  
**rule** as a ~  
 born to command/~  
 divide and ~  
 the exception proves the ~  
 an exception to the ~  
 the general ~  
 the golden ~  
**rules** break the ~  
 the hand that rocks the cradle  
 (~ the world)  
 one's head ~ /governs one's  
 heart  
**run** at a ~ etc  
 the common etc ~ (of sb/sth)  
 the course of true love never did  
 ~ smooth  
 cut and ~  
 a dry/dummy ~  
 feelings etc ~ high  
 give sb/sth etc a (good) ~ for  
 his/its money  
 give sb etc the ~ of the house  
 give sth/sb etc a trial ~  
 go/~ like clockwork  
 hit and ~  
 in the long/short ~  
 a lot of/much water has ~ etc  
 under the bridge  
 ~ like the wind: go like the  
 wind  
 ~ out of momentum: gather etc  
 momentum  
 ~ a temperature: have etc a  
 temperature  
 still waters ~ deep  
 (~) true to form  
 walk before one can ~  
**running** make the ~  
**runs** one's blood ~ cold  
 one's cup ~ over: one's cup is  
 full etc  
**rush** give sb/get the bum's ~  
 what is the hurry/~?

**S**

**sack** get sb the ~  
 get/give sb the ~

like a ~ of potatoes  
 a sad ~  
**sacrament** the last rites/ ~ (s)  
**sacred** nothing is ~  
**sadness** drink/drain the cup of  
 ~: drink/drain the cup of  
 sorrow etc  
**safe** (as) ~ as houses  
 better (to be) ~ than sorry  
 fast blind, fast find/ ~ bind, ~  
 find  
 keep a ~ etc/one's distance  
 play it/things ~  
**safety** the nettle, danger (...the  
 flower, ~)  
**said** easier ~ than done  
 enough/'nough ~  
 least ~, soonest mended/  
 forgotten  
 the less/least ~ (about sb/sth)  
 the better  
 let it be ~  
 never let it be ~ (that)  
 sb/one never ~/spoke a truer  
 word  
 that's what the man ~  
 when all is ~ and done  
 you ~ it  
 you've ~ it all  
**sailing** (all) plain ~  
**sailor** spend money like water/  
 spend (money) like a ~  
 tinker, tailor, soldier, ~  
**saint** have etc the patience of  
 Job/a ~  
**saïe** art etc for art's etc ~  
 (just) for argument's ~  
 for appearances' etc ~  
 for goodness etc ~ (!)  
 for old times' ~  
 for one's/its own ~  
 for sb's/sth's ~  
**salary** a fat ~: a fat price etc  
**sale** be on ~  
 for ~  
**Sally** an Aunt ~  
**salt** worth one's ~  
**salve** ~ one's conscience: clear  
 etc one's conscience  
**Samaritan** a good ~  
**same** all the ~  
 all/just the ~  
 all the ~ (to sb)  
 at one and the ~ time  
 at the ~ time<sup>1,2</sup>  
 by the ~ token  
 get etc a dose/taste of one's  
 own/the ~ medicine  
 in the ~ way  
 lightning never strikes in the ~  
 place twice  
 one and the ~  
 play sb's/the ~ game  
 tell the ~ story/tale (of sth)  
**sand** sinking ~ (s)  
**sardines** pack sb like ~  
**Satan** the devil/~ finds/makes  
 work for idle hands  
**satisfaction** to sb's (own) ~  
**sauce** hunger is the best ~

**saucers** (as) big/round as ~  
**sausage** not a ~  
**savage** the noble ~  
 soothe the ~ breast  
**save** lose/~ face  
**saved** a brand ~ from the  
 burning: a brand plucked etc  
 from the burning  
**saves** a stitch in time (~ nine)  
**saw** what the butler ~  
 wouldn't know/recognize sth if  
 one ~ one  
**say** as one/you might ~  
 as much as to ~  
 before you can ~ Jack  
 Robinson/knife  
 can't/couldn't ~  
 do as I ~, not as I do  
 hard to ~/tell  
 have etc one's ~  
 have (got)/with something etc  
 to ~ for oneself  
 I can't/couldn't ~ (that)  
 I dare ~  
 I may/might ~/add  
 I mean (to ~) (!)  
 I must ~  
 I ~ (!)  
 I should ~/think so etc (!)  
 I won't ~ no (to sth)  
 I'll ~ it is  
 let us ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 more than one can ~/tell  
 more than one can ~ for/of sb/  
 sth  
 the most (that) one can ~/  
 claim (for/of sb/sth)  
 needless to ~  
 never ~ die  
 not need to tell sb/~  
 not ~ boo to a goose  
 ~ for certain/sure: know etc for  
 certain/sure  
 (just) ~ the word  
 so to speak/~  
 suffice (it) to ~ etc (that)  
 that is (to ~)<sup>1,2</sup>  
 that is not to ~ (that)  
 that's all I can ~  
 that's what I (always) ~  
 (even) though I ~ it/so myself  
 what Manchester says/thinks  
 today, London/the world will  
 ~/think tomorrow  
 what (do you) ~ we etc do sth?  
 you can ~ that again  
 you could ~ (that)  
 you don't mean to tell me/~  
 (that)?  
 you don't ~ (so)!  
**saying** which/that is not ~  
 much  
**says** what Manchester ~/thinks  
 today, London/the world will  
 say/think tomorrow  
 (and) what sb ~ goes  
**scalded** like a ~ cat  
**scale** on a large etc ~  
 tip/turn the balance/~ (s)  
**scarce** make oneself ~

**scarcely** can/could ~ afford to  
 do sth: can/could ill etc afford  
 to do sth  
**scene** make a ~  
 not one's ~  
 steal the show/~  
**scenes** behind the ~  
**schedule** ahead of time/~  
**scheme** hatch a ~: hatch a plot  
 etc  
 a wildcat ~ etc  
**schemes** the best-laid ~ of  
 mice and men (gang aft agley)  
**school** a finishing ~  
 of the old ~  
 the old/new ~  
 (the) old ~ tie  
**schoolboy** every ~ knows  
**score** hit the/~ a bull's eye  
 know etc the ~  
 on that ~  
 three ~ years and ten  
**scorned** hell has/knows no fury  
 like a woman ~  
**scot-free** go etc ~  
**scoundrel** patriotism is the last  
 refuge of a ~  
**scrape** bow and ~  
**scratch** you ~ my back and I'll  
 ~ yours  
**screaming** kicking and ~  
**screen** the silver ~  
 the small ~  
 a smoke ~  
 stage and ~  
**screw** have (got)/with a ~  
 loose  
 a turn of the ~  
**scruff** by the ~ of one's/the  
 neck  
**Scylla** between ~ and  
 Charybdis  
**sea** between the devil and the  
 deep blue ~  
 there are (plenty) more (good)  
 fish in the ~  
 worse things happen at ~  
**sealed** a closed/~ book (to sb)  
 one's lips are ~  
 signed (and) ~ (and delivered)  
**search** in ~ of sb/sth  
**season** a close ~  
 the compliments of the ~  
 the festive ~  
 open ~ for sth  
 the silly ~  
 a word in ~  
**seat** a back ~  
 a back-~ driver  
 the hot ~  
 a ringside ~  
 take a back ~  
**sec** half a ~: half a mo etc  
 (in) half a ~: (in) half a mo etc  
**second** at ~ hand  
 be a ~: be a moment etc  
 a close ~  
 every other/~ man etc  
 get one's ~ wind  
 half a ~: half a mo etc

## nouns etc used in headphrases

- (in)/half a ~: (in) half a mo etc  
 have etc ~ sight  
 have etc a ~ string (to one's bow)  
 have ~ thoughts  
 in a ~: in a moment etc  
 in the ~ person: in the first etc person  
 play ~ fiddle (to sb)  
 one's/its ~ state is worse than the first: one's/its last etc state is worse than the first  
 a split ~  
 take first/~ place  
 this (very) ~: this (very) minute etc
- seconds** be/take a matter of ~ etc  
 in a matter of ~: in a matter of minutes etc  
 in ten etc ~ etc flat
- secret** be an open ~  
 be top ~  
 in ~  
 keep a ~  
 no/not (any) ~
- see** as far as one can ~  
 be glad etc to ~ the back of sb/sth  
 for all the difference I can ~: for all the difference it makes etc  
 for all (the world) to ~  
 go places (and ~ people)  
 have to (go and) ~ a man about a horse/dog  
 hear/~ the last of sb/sth  
 I'll believe it/that when I ~ it  
 I'll ~ you in hell first  
 if you ~ what I mean: if you know etc what I mean  
 let the dog ~ the rabbit  
 let me ~  
 live to ~ the day  
 long time no ~  
 not ~ it/that happening  
 not ~ etc sb's/sth's like(s) again  
 not ~ the wood for the trees  
 now you ~ it, now you don't (~) pictures in the fire  
 (~) pink elephants  
 ~ (no) good reason (for (doing) sth): have etc (no) good reason (for (doing) sth)  
 ~ reason to believe/for believing etc: have etc reason to believe/for believing etc  
 ~ sb's point: take etc sb's point  
 ~ the score: know etc the score  
 (~) something nasty in the woodshed  
 (can) tell/~ sth a mile off  
 wait and ~  
 we shall ~ what we shall ~  
 what the eye doesn't ~ (the heart doesn't crave for/grieve over)
- seeds** sow etc the ~ of sth  
**seeing** I'll be ~ you  
**seek** hide and ~
- not far to ~  
 ~ the hand (and heart) of sb: win etc the hand (and heart) of sb  
**seem** make sth (look/~) like new  
 make oneself/sb ~ a fool etc: make oneself/sb look etc a fool etc  
**seems** (or) so it ~  
**seen** as we have ~  
 children should be ~ and/but not heard  
 have (got) to/must be ~ to be believed  
 have ~ etc it all  
 it/that remains to be ~  
 justice must not only be done, it must be ~ to be done  
 look as if/though one has ~ a ghost  
 not have ~ etc the like (of sth)/sth's like  
 now I've ~ everything  
 nowhere/not anywhere to be ~ etc  
 once ~ etc never/not forgotten  
 wouldn't be ~ dead (in a ditch) with sb/in sth  
 you ain't ~ nothing yet
- sees** know a good thing etc  
 when one ~ etc it  
 the spectator etc ~ more/most of the game
- seize** ~ sb's imagination: catch etc sb's imagination  
 grasp/~ the nettle
- self-defence** in ~
- sell** the hard/soft ~
- send** ~ sb berserk: go etc berserk  
 ~ sb crackers etc: go etc crackers etc  
 ~ sb crackers etc (about/over sb/sth): go etc crackers etc (about/over sb/sth)
- sense** common ~  
 a fat etc lot of ~: a fat etc lot of good etc  
 have (got)/with more money than ~  
 have etc a ~ of guilt etc  
 have etc a ~ of humour etc  
 have etc a sixth ~  
 in a ~  
 make ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 see ~  
 talk ~
- senses** a feast for the ~: a feast for the eyes etc
- sensible** do the ~ thing<sup>2</sup>: do the right etc thing<sup>2</sup>
- separate** go their ~ ways: go their different etc ways  
 on ~ counts: on both etc counts
- sepulchre** a whited ~
- seriously** take sb/sth ~/lightly
- servant** your humble ~
- serve** (~) God and Mammon
- served** first come, first ~  
**serves** if (my) memory ~ me right  
**service** active ~  
 do sb/oneself a ~/disservice  
 grow grey in the ~ of sth  
 render (sb) a ~  
 see ~
- sesame** an open ~ (to sth)
- set** all ~  
 the jet ~
- settles** the dust ~
- several** go their ~ ways: go their different etc ways  
 on ~ counts: on both etc counts
- sex** the fair ~
- sez** says/~ you
- shade** a whiter ~ of pale
- shadow** be afraid of one's (own) ~  
 coming events cast their ~ (s) before  
 the valley of the ~ of death
- shaft** a Parthian/parting shot/~
- shakes** be no great ~  
 in two ~ (of a lamb's tail)
- shame** drink/drain the cup of ~: drink/drain the cup of sorrow etc  
 for ~ (!)  
 tell the truth and ~ the devil  
 what a pity/~ (!)
- shape** in any ~ or form  
 in the ~/form of sth/sb  
 take ~
- shapes** in all ~ and sizes  
 of all ~ and sizes
- share** get etc a/one's fair ~  
 get etc a/one's slice/~ of the cake  
 have etc (more than) a/one's fair ~ of sth  
 the lion's ~ (of sth)
- sharp** (as) ~ as a needle  
 at one (o'clock) ~  
 have (got)/with a ~ tongue:  
 have (got)/with a wicked etc tongue  
 look ~ etc  
 so ~ one'll cut oneself
- shatter** dash/~ sb's hopes
- shave** a close/narrow ~/squeak
- shed** (~)weep crocodile tears
- sheep** the black ~ (of the family)  
 count ~  
 (like/as) ~ etc to the slaughter  
 one may/might as well be hanged/hung for a ~ as a lamb
- sheep's** a wolf in ~ clothing
- sheet** (as) white as chalk/a ~ a clean ~<sup>1,2</sup>
- sheets** be three ~ in the wind
- shilling** take the King's/Queen's ~  
 wish one had a ~ for every book etc: wish one had a pound etc for every book etc

**shine** come rain, come ~  
 rise/arise and ~ (!)  
**shines** happy the bride the sun  
 ~ on  
 make hay while the sun ~  
**shining** a knight in ~ armour  
**ship** like a ~ without a rudder  
 rats desert etc a (sinking) ~  
 spoil the ~ for a ha'porth/  
 ha'penny worth of tar  
**ships** (like) ~ that pass in the  
 night  
**shirt** lose one's ~  
 a stuffed ~  
**shock** give sb/get the ~ of his/  
 one's life: give sb/get the fright  
 etc of his/one's life  
**shocks** the ~ that flesh is heir  
 to: the ills etc that flesh is heir  
 to  
**shoes** fill sb's ~  
**shoestring** on a ~  
**shoot** don't ~ the pianist etc  
 (he's doing his best)  
**shootin'** huntin', ~, fishin'  
**shooting** the whole ~ match  
**shop** a bucket ~  
 a closed ~  
 a knocking ~  
 (like) a bull in a china ~  
 a/the rag and bone ~: a/the rag  
 and bone man etc  
 talk ~  
**shores** the wilder ~ of love etc  
**short** (as) thick as two ~ planks  
 at long/~ range  
 at ~ notice  
 be caught/taken ~  
 to cut a long story ~  
 cut sb/sth ~  
 fall ~ (of sth)  
 give sb/sth etc ~ shrift  
 in brief/~  
 in the long/~ run  
 in the ~ term: in the long etc  
 term  
 life is too ~ (for sth/to do sth)  
 the long and (the) ~ of it etc  
 nasty, brutish and ~  
 nothing/little ~ of sth  
 nothing ~ of sth (can/will do  
 sth)  
 run ~ (of sth)  
 sell sth/sb ~  
 stop ~ (at sth)  
 win/lose by a (~) neck  
**shot** a big ~  
 fire the first/opening ~  
 get etc a ~ in the arm  
 have etc a ~ (left) in the/one's  
 locker  
 a leap/~ in the dark  
 like a ~  
 a long ~  
 not by a long chalk/~  
 a Parthian/parting ~/shaft  
**shots** call the ~  
**shoulder** carry sb ~ high  
 give sb/get the cold ~  
 have etc a chip on one's ~

straight from the ~  
**shoulders** have etc an old head  
 on young ~  
 shrug one's ~  
**shout** have etc nothing (much)  
 to ~/write home about  
**shouting** the tumult and the ~  
 (dies)  
**shove** give sb/get the ~: give  
 sb/get the push etc  
 push and ~  
**shovel** a bloody ~  
 pick and ~  
**show** a brave ~ (of sth)<sup>1,2</sup>  
 go to ~  
 (a) good etc ~ (!)  
 have etc something etc to ~ for  
 it  
 a one-man ~: a one-man band  
 etc  
 ~ guts: have etc guts  
 ~ a healthy respect for sb/sth:  
 have etc a healthy respect for  
 sb/sth  
 ~ mixed feelings: have etc  
 mixed feelings  
 ~ a natural bent (for sth/doing  
 sth): have etc a natural bent  
 (for sth/doing sth)  
 ~ neither rhyme (n) or reason:  
 have etc neither rhyme (n) or  
 reason  
 ~ (the) presence of mind (to  
 do sth): have etc (the)  
 presence of mind (to do sth)  
 ~ sb the ropes: know etc the  
 ropes  
 ~ a sixth sense: have etc a sixth  
 sense  
 ~ the vices/defects of one's/its  
 virtues/qualities: have etc the  
 vices/defects of one's/its  
 virtues/qualities  
 steal the ~/scene  
 stop the ~  
 there's no business like ~  
 business  
 time (alone) will ~: time  
 (alone) will tell etc  
**showing** make a good etc ~  
 one's slip is ~  
**shrift** give sb/sth etc short ~  
**shuffle** (do) a double ~  
**shut** keep one's mouth/trap ~  
 an open and ~ case  
 ~ the stable door after the  
 horse has bolted etc: lock etc  
 the stable door after the horse  
 has bolted etc  
**shy** once bitten, twice ~  
**sick** (as) ~ as a dog  
 eat oneself ~ (on sth)  
 fall/be taken ill/~  
 go/report ~  
 hope deferred (maketh the  
 heart ~)  
**side** the distaff ~  
 the grass is (always) greener on  
 the other ~ (of the fence)/in  
 the other man's field

keep one's ~ of a/the bargain  
 know which/what ~ one's  
 bread is buttered (on)  
 on all sides/every ~  
 on the ~  
 the other ~  
 the other etc ~ of the coin  
 the seamy ~ (of sth)  
 see the funny ~ (of sth)  
 take sb's ~  
 this ~ (of) the grave/heaven  
 this ~ (of) idolatry etc  
 a thorn in the flesh/~ (of sb/  
 sth)  
 time is on the ~ of sb  
**sides** on all ~/every side  
 see both ~ (of the question  
 etc)  
 short back and ~  
 take ~  
**sieve** have (got)/with a memory  
 like a sponge/~  
**sigh** breathe etc a ~ of relief  
**sight** at first ~  
 at ~  
 at (the) ~ of sb/sth  
 be a ~ for sore eyes  
 can't/couldn't stand/bear the  
 ~ of sb/sth<sup>1,2</sup>  
 hate/loathe the ~ of sb/sth  
 have etc second ~  
 love at first ~  
 on ~  
 out of ~, out of mind  
 sick of the ~/sound of sb/sth  
 a sorry ~: a sorry state etc  
**sights** lower/raise one's ~  
 see the ~  
 set one's/sb's ~ high  
**sign** (~ sb's) death warrant  
 ~ a blank cheque: give sb etc a  
 blank cheque  
 (by) word or ~  
**signs** show ~ (of sth/that)  
**silence** an awkward ~  
 break the ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 dead ~  
 in ~  
 a pregnant ~/pause  
**silent** (as) quiet/~ as the  
 grave/tomb  
 fall ~: fall quiet etc  
 (the) strong ~ man/type  
**silk** take ~  
**silver** born with a ~ spoon in  
 one's mouth  
 every cloud has a ~ lining  
 (speech is ~ but) silence is  
 golden  
 (for) thirty pieces/(for) a  
 handful of ~  
**simple** (as) easy/~ as ABC etc  
 dead easy/~  
 for the ~ reason that  
 it's as ~ etc as that  
 pure/plain and ~  
**sin** (as) clever as ~  
 (as) miserable as ~  
 (as) ugly as ~  
 a/one's besetting ~



## nouns etc used in headphrases

- a cardinal ~: a cardinal error etc  
the wages of ~ (is death)
- sincerity** have (got)/with the  
ring of ~: have (got)/with the  
ring of truth etc  
in all honesty/~
- single** at a/one (~) blow  
every last/~ one etc  
not/never for a/one (~)  
minute/moment  
two minds with but a ~  
thought
- sink** everything but the kitchen  
~  
have etc enough luggage etc to  
~ a battleship  
one's spirits rise/~
- sinker** hook, line and ~
- sinking** have etc a/that ~  
feeling  
rats desert etc a (~) ship
- sinks** one's heart ~
- sinned** more ~ against than  
sinning
- sinner** a hardened ~: a  
hardened criminal etc
- sinning** more sinned against  
than ~
- sins** cover a multitude of ~  
the seven deadly ~
- sir** very good, (~ /madam)
- sit-in** stage a ~: stage a strike  
etc
- sitting** (as) sure/true as I'm ~/  
standing here  
at one/a ~  
be ~ pretty
- situation** save the ~  
see both sides (of the ~): see  
both sides (of the question  
etc)
- six** be ~ of one and/to half a  
dozen of the other
- sixteen** sweet ~ (and never  
been kissed)
- sixth** have etc a ~ sense
- size** a cloud no bigger than/the  
~ of a man's hand
- sizes** in all shapes and ~  
of all shapes and ~
- sketch** a thumbnail portrait/~  
(of sb/sth)
- skin** (all) sisters etc under the ~  
be no ~ off one's nose  
beauty is but/only ~ deep  
by the ~ of one's teeth  
flay/~ sb alive  
have etc a hide/~ like a  
rhinoceros  
have etc a thick/thin ~  
save sb's/one's ~: save sb's/  
one's life etc
- skinned** keep one's eyes  
peeled/~ (for sth)
- skips** one's heart ~ a beat: one's  
heart misses etc a beat
- skittles** (not) be all beer and ~
- sky** a cloud on the horizon/in the  
~  
pie in the ~
- sky-high** blow sb/sth ~
- slanging** a bawling/~ match
- slap** ~ in the middle (of sth):  
bang etc in the middle (of sth)  
get a ~ in the face
- slaughter** breathe fire and ~  
etc  
(like/as) sheep etc to the ~
- slave** a white ~  
work like a ~: work like a  
Trojan etc
- sleep** one's beauty ~  
not/hardly ~ a wink
- sleeping** let ~ dogs lie
- slept** look as if/though one has  
~ in that suit etc for a week
- slice** get etc a/one's ~ /share of  
the cake
- sliced** the greatest thing since ~  
bread
- slicker** a city ~
- slide** let sth ~
- slim** one's/the chances are ~
- slip** cry havoc (and let ~ the  
dogs of war)  
give sb/sth the ~  
let sth ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
there's many a ~ 'twixt (the)  
cup and (the) lip
- slope** a/the slippery ~
- slouch** no/not any ~
- slow** go ~  
quick/~ in/on the uptake
- slowly** the mills of God grind ~  
(but they grind exceeding  
small)
- slumming** go ~
- sly** on the ~
- smack** lick/~ one's lips/chops
- small** be thankful/grateful for ~  
mercies  
feel etc ~  
great and ~  
in a big/~ way  
in/into the (wee) ~ hours  
it's a ~ world  
the mills of God grind slowly  
(but they grind exceeding ~)  
no mean/~ feat etc  
the still ~ voice (of  
conscience)  
writ large/~
- smart** (as) clever/~ as paint
- smell** a rose by any other name  
would ~ as sweet  
the sweet ~ of success
- smile** give (sb)/get a broad  
grin/~  
raise a laugh/~
- smiling** keep ~
- smoke** (there is) no ~ without  
fire
- smooth** (as) ~ as a baby's  
bottom  
(as) ~ as a billiard-ball/pebble  
(as) ~ as a billiard-table/glass  
(as) ~ as a mill-pond  
(as) ~ as velvet  
the course of true love never did  
run ~
- snail's** at a ~ pace
- snails** rats etc and ~ and  
puppy-dogs' tails
- snap** a cold ~
- snappy** make it ~
- snatched** a brand ~ from the  
burning: a brand plucked etc  
from the burning
- sneaking** have etc a ~  
suspicion etc
- snips** ~ and snails and puppy-  
dogs' tails: rats etc and snails  
and puppy-dogs' tails
- snobbery** inverted ~
- snow** (as) pure as the driven ~  
(as) white as ~
- snug** (as) ~ as a bug in a rug
- so** as/~ long as  
be ~ good/kind (as to do sth)  
be/feel ~ inclined: be/feel that  
way etc inclined  
the day/time is not (~) far off/  
distant when  
even ~  
ever ~<sup>1,2,3</sup>  
every ~ often  
go as/~ far as to do sth/that  
in ~ far as  
in ~ /as many words  
it ~ happens (that)  
the more ~ because/in that  
not ~ /too hot  
not ~ much a programme,  
more a way of life  
not ~ (as) you'd notice  
or ~  
quite ~  
and ~ on/forth  
stoop (~ low as) to do sth  
(~) the story goes  
(even) though I say it/~ myself  
what is ~ special etc about sb/  
sth?  
the world is ~ full of a number  
of things
- soap** soft ~
- sober** (as) ~ as a judge  
(stone-)cold ~  
in one's more ~ etc moments
- society** a mutual admiration/  
congratulation(s) ~  
the permissive ~  
a pillar of ~ etc
- sods** odds and bobs/~
- soft** the hard/~ sell  
have (got)/with a ~ centre
- soil** a son of the ~
- soldier** tinker, tailor, ~, sailor
- soldiers** old ~ never die (they  
only fade away)
- solemn** (as) ~ as an owl
- Solomon** (as) wise as ~  
a judg(e)ment of ~
- solution** the final ~
- some** (at) ~ time or other  
by ~ fortunate etc chance/  
coincidence/by what  
fortunate etc chance/  
coincidence(?)  
for ~ reason (or other)

for ~ time  
 take ~ doing  
 and then ~  
 to ~ etc purpose  
**somehow** get there (~): get there (in the end etc)  
**something** don't just stand there (do ~)  
 give sb etc ~ to complain etc about  
 give sb/have ~ to think/talk about  
 have etc nothing/~ between one's ears  
 have (got)/with nothing/~ to hide  
 have (got) ~ (there)  
 it's (quite/really) ~  
 or ~  
**sometime** this year, next year, ~, never  
**sometimes** Homer ~ nods  
**something** something/~ of a sth  
**somewhere** get ~: get nowhere etc  
**son** like father etc, like ~ etc the prodigal (~) (returns)  
**song** sing a different ~/tune a ~-and-dance act etc  
 wine, woman/women and ~  
**soon** as ~ as look at sb can't/couldn't do sth ~ enough: can't/couldn't do sth often etc enough  
 none too ~  
 not a moment too ~  
 (~) settle sb's hash  
 would as ~ do A (as B)  
**soonest** least said, ~ mended/forgotten  
**sore** (as) cross etc as a bear with a ~ head  
 be a sight for ~ eyes  
 like a bear with a ~ head  
**sorrow** drink/drain the cup of ~ etc  
 more in ~ than in anger  
 much to one's ~: much to one's relief etc  
**sorrows** drown one's ~  
**sorry** better (to be) safe than ~ cut a ~ figure: cut a fine etc figure  
 I'm ~ (but)  
**sort** a decent/good ~  
 if one likes that kind/~ of thing kind/~ of  
 nothing/(not) anything of the kind/~  
 of a kind/~  
**sorts** all kinds/~ of sb/sth  
 it takes all ~ etc (to make a world)  
**soul** (God) bless my ~ (!)  
 body and ~  
 can(not) call one's ~ etc one's own  
 a feast for the ~: a feast for the eyes etc

God rest him/his ~  
 heart and ~  
 one's heart and ~  
 the iron enters (into) one's/sb's ~  
 the life and ~ (of the party)  
 a lost ~  
 not a (living) ~  
 save one's/sb's ~  
 search one's heart/~  
 upon my ~/word  
**sound** (as) ~ as a bell  
 born within the ~ of Bow bells  
 fast/~ asleep  
 like the look/~ of sb/sth  
 like etc the ~ of one's own voice  
 safe and ~  
 sick of the sight/~ of sb/sth  
 ~ the alarm/alert: give etc the alarm/alert  
 ~ a false etc note: strike etc a false etc note  
 ~ too good etc to be true: be etc too good etc to be true  
**sour** (as) ~ as vinegar/a crab  
 go/turn ~  
**sown** reap what/where one has (not) ~  
**space** in the ~ of sth  
 watch this ~  
**spade** call a ~ a ~  
**spadework** do the ~  
**span** one's/the allotted ~  
 spick and ~  
**spare** have etc enough and to ~ room (and) to ~ (for sb/sth)  
**spark** a bright ~  
**speak** (let) the facts ~ for themselves  
 have etc none/nothing to ~ of  
 not to mention/~ of sth/sb  
 not ~ ill of the dead  
 not (know sb) to ~ to  
 so to ~/say  
 ~ with the gift of tongues: have etc the gift of tongues  
**speaking** in a manner of ~  
 plain ~  
 strictly etc ~  
**spec** on ~  
**species** the female of the ~ is more deadly than the male  
**spectacles** rose-coloured/rose-tinted ~ etc  
**speculation** a wildcat ~: a wildcat scheme etc  
**speech** free ~  
 make etc a ~  
 (~ is silver but) silence is golden  
**speechless** fall ~: fall quiet etc  
 leave sb ~  
 strike sb dumb/~  
**speed** at full ~  
 at top ~  
 (at) break-neck ~  
 God ~ (sb/sth)  
 ~ like the wind: go like the wind

a turn of ~  
**speed-limit** break the ~  
**spell** break the ~  
 weave a/one's ~  
**spelt** (~) with a capital S etc  
**spent** money well ~  
**spice** sugar and ~ (and all that's/things nice)  
 variety is the ~ of life  
**spill** ~ the dirt: dish etc the dirt  
**spills** (the) thrills and ~  
**spine** chill sb's/the ~ etc  
**spiral** a vicious circle/~  
**spirit** as the ~ takes/moves one  
 break sb's ~  
 the crusading ~ etc  
 in the right etc ~  
 a kindred ~  
 lay a/one's ~: lay a/one's ghost etc  
 the moving ~  
 (the) team ~  
**spirits** high ~  
 raise one's/sb's ~  
**spite** in ~ of oneself  
 in ~ of sth  
**spiteful** have (got)/with a ~ tongue: have (got)/with a wicked etc tongue  
**spitting** the spit and image/~ image of sb/sth  
**splash** make a (big/tremendous) ~  
**splendid** create/make a ~ impression: create/make a bad etc impression  
 give a ~ account of oneself: give a good etc account of oneself  
**spoil** spare the rod and ~ the child  
 too many cooks ~ the broth  
**spoke** sb/one never said/~ a truer word  
**sponge** have (got)/with a memory like a ~/sieve  
**spoon** born with a silver ~ in one's mouth  
 need etc a long ~ (to sup/eat with the devil)  
**sport** be a ~ (and do sth): be a good chap etc (and do sth)  
**sporting** have etc a ~ chance (of doing sth)  
**spot** a beauty ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 a black ~  
 a blind ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 have etc a ~ of bother/trouble  
 a hot ~  
 on the ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 x marks the ~  
**spots** change one's ~  
**spring** (as) welcome as (the) flowers in May/~  
 full of the joys of ~  
**springs** hope ~ eternal (in the human breast)  
**spur** on the ~ of the moment  
**squad** a/the awkward ~  
**square** all ~ (with sb)

## nouns etc used in headphrases

- fair (and) ~  
 fair and ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 get etc a fair/ ~ deal  
 ~ one's conscience: clear etc  
 one's conscience  
**squeak** a close/narrow shave/  
 ~  
**squib** a damp ~  
**stable** lock etc the ~ door after  
 the horse has bolted etc  
**stables** cleanse the (Augean) ~  
**staff** a skeleton ~  
**stage** at this ~ (of sth)  
**stairs** up and down (the) ~  
**stakes** up ~ /sticks  
**stand** as things ~ /stood  
 (not) bear/ ~ close  
 examination/inspection  
 can't/couldn't ~ /bear the sight  
 of sb/sth<sup>1,2</sup>  
 don't just ~ there (do  
 something)  
 hold/ ~ one's ground  
 a house etc divided against  
 itself (cannot ~)  
 if there is one thing sb can't ~ it  
 is: if there is one thing sb hates  
 etc it is  
 if you can't ~ the heat, get out  
 of the kitchen  
 make one's hair ~ on end  
 make/take a ~  
 not have a leg to ~ on  
 not ~ an earthly (chance) (of  
 achieving sth): haven't etc an  
 earthly (chance) (of achieving  
 sth)  
 a one(-)night ~  
 (not) ~ a cat in hell's chance  
 (of doing sth): (not) have etc a  
 cat in hell's chance (of doing  
 sth)  
 (not) ~ a chance in hell (of  
 doing sth): (not) have etc a  
 chance in hell (of doing sth)  
 (not) ~ a ghost of a chance (of  
 doing sth): (not) have etc a  
 ghost of a chance (of doing  
 sth)  
 ~ no (more) nonsense: have  
 etc no (more) nonsense  
 ~ a sporting chance (of doing  
 sth): have etc a sporting  
 chance (of doing sth)  
 united we ~ (divided we fall)  
**standards** by anybody's/sb's ~  
**standing** (as) sure/true as I'm  
 sitting/ ~ here  
 from where one is ~  
 get etc a ~ ovation  
 leave sb/sth ~  
 of (good etc) ~  
**star** born under a lucky ~  
 a guiding light/ ~  
**staring** stark raving/ ~ mad/  
 bonkers  
**stars** the fault is in ourselves,  
 not in our ~  
 see ~  
 thank one's lucky ~ (that)
- start** a flying ~  
 for a ~  
 (make) a fresh ~  
 (right) from the ~ etc  
 from ~ to finish: from  
 beginning etc to end etc  
 have etc a head ~  
 make a beginning/ ~  
 set/ ~ the ball rolling  
 stop and ~  
**starts** by/in fits and ~  
**starvation** night ~  
**starve** feed a cold and ~ a fever  
**state** a buffer ~ /zone  
 one's/its last etc ~ is worse  
 than the first  
 (steer) the ship of ~  
 a sorry ~ etc  
 suffice (it) to ~ (that): suffice  
 (it) to say etc (that)  
 a welfare ~  
**statement** a sweeping ~  
**statesman** an elder ~  
**station** above one's ~  
**stations** action/panic ~  
**statistics** one's vital ~  
 you can prove anything with/by  
 ~ /figures  
**statue** (as) still as a ~ (not)  
 stay be here to ~  
 hold/ ~ one's hand  
 ~ clear (of sb/sth): steer etc  
 clear (of sb/sth)  
**steadily** see life (~ and see it)  
 whole  
**steady** (as) ~ as a rock  
 go ~ (with sb)  
 go ~ (with sth)  
 ready, ~, go  
**steal** beg, borrow or ~  
**stealth** do good by ~ (and  
 blush to find it fame/known)  
**steam** full ~ ahead  
 have etc a head of ~  
 under one's own ~  
**steal** (as) hard as ~  
 (as) true as ~  
**steer** (~) the ship of state  
**step** the first ~ (in/towards sth)  
 take a ~  
 watch/mind one's ~  
 what is the next ~?  
**stepped** look as if/though one  
 has (just) ~ out of a bandbox  
**steps** dog one's/sb's (foot) ~  
 take ~ (to do sth)  
**stick** the big ~  
 the carrot and the ~  
 the cobbler should ~ to his last  
 the dirty/thick end of the ~  
 look as if/though sth has been  
 stirred with a ~  
 make sth ~  
 a rod/ ~ to beat sb with  
 take etc a lot of ~  
**sticking** that is his story and  
 he's ~ to it  
**sticks** (as) cross as two ~  
 jolly hockey ~  
 mud ~
- up stakes/ ~  
**stiff** (as) ~ as a poker  
 (as) ~ /straight as a ramrod  
 frozen ~  
 scare etc (sb) ~  
**stile** help a lame dog over a ~  
**still** (as) ~ as death  
 (as) ~ as the grave  
 (as) ~ as a statue  
 better/worse ~  
 dead ~  
 stand ~  
 (~) going strong  
**sting** have etc a ~ in the tail  
**stir** cause etc a ~  
**stirred** look as if/though sth has  
 been ~ with a stick  
**stock** lock, ~ and barrel  
 make etc (sb/sth) a laughing ~  
**stole** like the cat that ~ the  
 cream  
**stomach** one's/sb's eyes are  
 bigger than one's belly/ ~  
 on an empty/a full ~  
 turn one's ~  
 the way to a man's heart is  
 through his ~ /belly  
**stone** (as) hard as (a) ~  
 (~-)cold sober  
 have (got)/with a heart of ~  
 kill sth ~ dead  
 kiss the Blarney S ~  
 leave no/(not) any ~ unturned  
 a rolling ~ (gathers no moss)  
 sink like a ~  
 a stepping ~ (from sth) (to sth)  
 stop (sb/sth) (~) dead  
**stones** people who live in glass  
 houses shouldn't throw ~  
 sticks and ~ will break my  
 bones but names will never  
 hurt me  
**stood** as things stand/ ~  
**stop** full ~  
 where is sb/sth going to ~?  
 whistle ~ (s)  
**stopping** there is no holding/ ~  
 sb  
**stops** the buck ~ here  
**Stork** King Log... King ~  
**storm** the calm before the ~  
 the eye of the ~ etc  
 a howl/ ~ of protest etc  
 weather/ride the ~  
**story** a cock and bull ~  
 to cut a long ~ short  
 every picture tells a ~  
 a fairy ~ /tale<sup>1,2</sup>  
 a fisherman's ~ etc  
 a hard luck ~  
 a likely ~  
 not the whole etc ~  
 the same(/)old ~  
 (a) sob ~ /stuff  
 a tall ~ /tale  
 tell the same ~ /tale (of sth)  
 tell (sb) a ~ (about sth): tell  
 (sb) a lie (about sth)  
 that is his ~ and he's sticking to  
 it

**stout** collapse of ~ party  
**straight** (as) stiff/~ as a ramrod  
 (as) ~ as an arrow  
 (as) ~ as a die  
 get sth ~  
 go ~  
 keep a ~ face  
 play it ~  
 play ~ (with sb)  
 put sth right/~  
 put sb right/~ (about etc sth)  
 right/~ away  
 set/put the record ~  
 think ~  
**straightforward** it's as ~ as that: it's as simple etc as that  
**strain** stand the ~ (of sth)  
 stress(es) and ~ (s)  
 take the ~  
**strange** a stranger in a ~ land  
**stranger** no ~ to sb/sth  
**strangle** could/would (cheerfully) ~ sb: could/would (cheerfully) murder etc sb  
**straw** the last/final ~  
 make bricks without ~  
**strays** waifs and ~  
**streak** have etc a ~ of cowardice etc (in one)  
**street** Civvy S ~  
 (all) Lombard S ~ to a China orange  
 the man in the ~  
**strength** brute force/~ in (full) ~  
 on the ~ of sth  
 a tower of ~  
 union/unity is ~  
**stress** suffice (it) to ~ (that): suffice (it) to say etc (that)  
**stretch** for days etc at a stretch: for days etc at a time etc  
 ~ one's (own) wings: spread etc one's (own) wings  
**stretched** fully ~  
**strictly** be (~) for the birds  
**strides** make great etc ~  
**strike** stage a ~ etc  
 take/~ root  
 a wildcat ~  
**strikes** lightning never ~ in the same place twice  
**string** have etc a second ~ (to one's bow)  
**strings** hold the purse ~  
 pull (the) ~/wires  
 with etc (no) ~ (attached/binding its use)  
**stripe** of the same ~  
**stroke** not do a ~ (of work)  
**strong** (as) ~ as a horse/an ox  
 a chain is (only) as ~ as its weakest link  
 come it ~  
 (still) going ~  
**struggle** ~ tooth and nail: fight etc tooth and nail  
**stubborn** (as) obstinate/~ as a

mule  
**stuck** like a ~ pig  
**stuff** do one's ~  
 kid(s) ~  
 know one's onions/~  
 old ~  
 (a) sob story/~  
 sterling ~  
 that's the ~ to give the troops  
**stuffed** get ~  
**style** cramp sb's ~  
 in (great/the grand) ~  
 in true naval etc fashion/~  
**subject** change the ~  
 raise the ~ (of sth): raise the question etc (of sth)  
 the vexed question/~ (of sth)  
**sublime** from the ~ to the ridiculous  
**substance** a man etc of ~  
**succeed** if at first you don't ~ (try, try again)  
**succeeds** nothing ~ like success  
**success** the crowning ~  
 a howling ~  
 nothing succeeds like ~  
 the sweet smell of ~  
**succession** in ~  
**such** as ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 a child in ~/these matters  
 no/(not) any ~ thing<sup>1,2</sup>  
**suck** milk/~ sb/sth dry  
 teach one's grandmother to ~ eggs  
**sucker** there is a ~/one born every minute  
**sucklings** out of the mouth(s) of babes and ~  
**sudden** all of a ~  
**suffer** not/never ~ fools gladly  
 ~ a bad patch: strike etc a bad patch  
 ~ the consequences (of sth): take etc the consequences (of sth)  
 ~ a good/bad press: get etc a good/bad press  
 ~ teething troubles: have etc teething troubles  
**sugar** gild/~ the pill  
**suit** one's birthday ~  
 follow ~  
 look as if/though one has slept in that ~ etc for a week  
 one's/sb's strong ~  
 one's Sunday ~: one's Sunday best etc  
**suitable** keep a ~ distance: keep a safe etc/one's distance  
**sum** a fat ~: a fat price etc  
 a tidy ~  
**summer** high ~  
 one swallow does not make a ~  
**sun** everything etc under the ~  
 happy the bride the ~ shines on  
 have etc a place in the ~  
 have etc a touch of the ~  
 make hay while the ~ shines

not let the ~ go down (up) on one's anger/wrath  
**Sunday** of a ~: of a morning etc  
**sundry** all and ~  
**sunshine** a ray of ~  
**sup** need etc a long spoon (to ~/eat with the devil)  
**support** get etc moral ~  
**supposing** always ~ (that)  
**supreme** reign ~  
**sure** (as) ~ as death etc  
 (as) ~ as eggs is eggs  
 (as) ~/true as I'm sitting/standing here  
 (as) ~ as (God made) little apples  
 to be ~  
 be ~ to do sth<sup>1,2</sup>  
 dead certain/~ (of/about sth)  
 don't be too ~  
 know etc for certain/~  
 make certain/~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 not know/be ~ where one's next meal/penny is coming from  
 safe and ~  
 slow but ~  
 that's for certain/~!  
**surely** slowly but ~  
**surface** cause a ripple (on the ~)  
 on the ~  
 scratch the ~ (of sth)  
**surprise** give sb/get the ~ of his/one's life: give sb/get the fright etc of his/one's life  
 much to one's ~: much to one's relief etc  
**survive** I'll live/~  
 ~ the course: stay etc the course  
 ~ to tell the tale: live etc to tell the tale  
**swallow** a bitter pill (for sb) to ~  
 one ~ does not make a summer  
 strain at a gnat (and ~ a camel)  
 wish etc (that) the ground would (open and) ~ one  
**swan** an ugly duckling (becomes etc a ~)  
**swans** (all) sb's geese are ~  
**swap** change/~ horses (in mid-stream)  
**sway** hold ~  
**swear** could ~ (that)  
**sweeps** a new broom (~ clean)  
**sweet** (as) ~ as honey (~ airs/noises that) give delight and hurt not  
 have (got)/with a ~ tooth  
 not on your (~ etc) life(!)  
 revenge is ~  
 a rose by any other name would smell as ~  
 short and ~  
 you (can) bet your (~) life (that)  
**sweeter** stolen sweets etc are ~/the sweetest

## nouns etc used in headphrases

**sweetest** forbidden fruit (is ~)  
stolen sweets etc are sweeter/  
the ~  
**sweets** stolen ~ etc are  
sweeter/the sweetest  
**swells** one's head ~  
**swim** can a duck ~?  
sink or ~  
**swine** a male chauvinist (pig/  
~)  
**swing** no room to ~ a cat  
**swoop** at one (fell) ~  
**sword** the pen is mightier than  
the ~  
they that live by the ~ shall  
perish/die by the ~  
**sympathy** in ~ (with sb)

**T**  
T to a ~ /tee  
**table** crumbs (that fall) from the  
(rich man's) ~  
the head of the ~  
**tackle** a flying ~  
**tact** the soul of ~: the soul of  
courtesy etc  
**tail** have etc a sting in the ~  
have etc one's ~ between  
one's legs  
head to ~  
in two shakes (of a lamb's ~)  
top and ~  
turn ~ (and flee)  
twist sb's ~  
**tailor** tinker, ~, soldier, sailor  
**tails** heads I win, ~ you lose  
heads or ~ (?)  
like a dog with two ~  
rats etc and snails and puppy-  
dogs' ~  
**take** (not) be/ ~ all day etc  
can etc ~ a joke  
catch/ ~ sb unawares  
(the) devil ~ sb/sth  
do/get a double ~  
do I/am I to ~ it?: do I/am I to  
understand etc?  
each/every man for himself  
(and the devil ~ the  
hindmost)  
give sb an inch (and he'll ~ a  
mile etc)  
give or ~ ten years etc  
give and ~  
hard to ~  
lose/ ~ heart  
make/ ~ a stand  
sign/ ~ the pledge  
(not) ~ a blind bit of notice:  
(not) be etc a blind bit of use  
etc  
tomorrow will/can ~ care of/  
look after itself  
(~/be) a turn for the better/  
worse  
you can/can't ~ sb/sth

anywhere  
**taken** be caught/ ~ short  
fall/be ~ ill/sick  
**takes** as the spirit ~ /moves one  
have (got) what it ~ (to do sth)  
it ~ all sorts etc (to make a  
world)  
it ~ one all one's time (to do  
sth)  
it ~ two to do sth  
**taking** genius is an infinite  
capacity for ~ pains  
**tale** a fairy story/ ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
a fisherman's ~: a fisherman's  
story etc  
live etc to tell the ~  
an old wives' ~  
a sorry ~: a sorry state etc  
a tall story/ ~  
tell the same story/ ~ (of sth)  
(and) thereby hangs a ~  
a traveller's ~  
**talent** the local ~  
**tales** dead men tell no ~  
tell ~  
**talk** all ~ (and no action)  
big ~ /words  
double ~  
fighting ~ /words  
give sb/have something to  
think/ ~ about  
loose ~  
small ~  
speak/ ~ the same etc language  
**talking** be (just) the drink ~  
now you're ~  
**talks** money ~  
**tall** stand etc ~  
ten feet ~  
**tank** a think ~  
**tantamount** be ~ to sth  
**tape** (cut the) red ~  
**taped** have (got) sb/sth ~  
**tar** spoil the ship for a ha'porth/  
ha'penny worth of ~  
**target** a sitting duck/ ~  
**task** the ~ in hand: the job etc in  
hand  
the trivial round, the common ~  
~  
an uphill ~ etc  
**taskmaster** a hard ~ /  
taskmistress  
**taskmistress** a hard  
taskmaster/ ~  
**taste** an acquired ~  
each (one)/everyone  
(according) to his ~ (s)  
get etc a dose/ ~ of one's own/  
the same medicine  
in the best/worst of ~  
the shape/ ~ of things to come  
to sb's ~  
**tasted** not have ~ the like (of  
sth)/sth's like: not have seen  
etc the like (of sth)/sth's like  
**tat** (give) tit for ~  
**tatters** rags and ~  
**tea** another cup of ~  
sb's cup of ~

not for all the ~ in China  
a slap-up ~: a slap-up meal etc  
**tea-cup** a storm in a ~  
**teach** those who can, do; those  
who cannot, ~  
**teacher** an apple for the ~  
**tear** wear and ~  
**tears** (shed/weep) crocodile ~  
French etc without ~  
laughter and ~  
this/a vale of ~  
**tee** to a T/ ~  
**teeth** armed to the ~  
between one's ~  
by the skin of one's ~  
clench one's ~: clench one's  
hands etc  
draw sb's/sth's ~ /fangs  
gnashing of ~  
grind one's ~  
grit one's ~  
in the ~ of sth  
pick one's ~: pick one's nose  
etc  
show one's ~  
sow the dragon's/dragons' ~  
**teething** have etc ~ troubles  
**telegraph** (the) bush ~  
**tell** dead men ~ no tales  
don't ~ me  
hard to say/ ~  
I can ~ etc you  
I can't ~ you  
I'll ~ you what  
(you can) judge/ ~ a man by  
the company he keeps  
know/ ~ a hawk from a  
handsaw  
let me ~ you  
live etc to ~ the tale  
more than one can say/ ~  
not need to ~ sb/say  
~ for certain/sure: know etc for  
certain/sure  
~ the time<sup>1</sup>: have etc the time<sup>1</sup>  
~ what's what: know etc  
what's what  
time (alone) will ~ etc  
you don't mean to ~ me/say  
(that)?  
your best friend won't ~ you  
**telling** not need any ~  
you're ~ me!  
**tells** every picture ~ a story  
**temper** the crusading ~: the  
crusading spirit etc  
lose/keep one's ~ /cool  
**temperaments** a clash of ~: a  
clash of wills etc  
**temperature** have etc a ~  
**tempers** ~ run high: feelings  
etc run high  
**tempted** sorely ~ (to do sth)  
**ten** be ~ /two a penny  
in ~ etc seconds etc flat  
nine times out of ~  
three score years and ~  
**tender** at a ~ age  
**tenths** possession is nine ~ of  
the law: possession is nine

parts etc of the law  
**term** for want of a better ~: for want of a better name etc  
 in the long etc ~  
**terms** a contradiction in ~  
 easy ~  
 in no uncertain ~ etc  
 in ~ of sth  
 on one's own ~  
 on these ~  
**terrified** be ~ of sb/sth: be afraid etc of sb/sth  
 be ~ of doing sth: be afraid etc of doing sth  
**territory** forbidden ground/~  
**terror** a holy ~  
**test** the acid ~  
 stand the ~ of time etc  
 ~ the patience of Job/a saint:  
 have etc the patience of Job/a saint  
**testament** one's last will and ~  
**thank** be doing very nicely, ~ you (very much)  
 have (got)/with only oneself to blame/~ (for sth)  
 have (got)/with sb/sth to ~ (for sth)  
**thankful** be ~/grateful for small mercies  
 have etc a lot to be grateful/~ for  
**thanks** for this relief etc, much ~  
**thar** there's gold in them ~ hills  
**that** and all ~  
 and all ~ jazz etc  
 at ~<sup>1,2,3</sup>  
 at ~/this rate  
 at a time like this/~  
 be like ~  
 be ~ as it may  
 be/get ~ way  
 buy it/~  
 by this/~ time  
 can't/couldn't help it/~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 don't give me ~  
 for all ~  
 from ~ day to this  
 how about it/~(?)  
 I'll believe it/~ when I see it  
 in ~ case  
 it/~ (all/rather) depends  
 it/~ figures  
 it/~ is just as well  
 it/~ remains to be seen  
 it/~ will never/won't do  
 it's as simple etc as ~  
 let it go (at ~)  
 not see it/~ happening  
 of ~ ilk<sup>1,2</sup>  
 scrub it/~  
 (and) that's ~/it  
 there is ~  
 they don't make etc them like ~ any more  
 this and/or ~  
 this, ~, and the other  
 this way and ~  
 you can say ~ again

**that's** sugar and spice (and all ~/things nice)  
 and ~ a fact  
 and ~ fact!  
**their** in ~ hundreds etc  
**them** (as) clever etc as they  
 make 'em/~  
 cross one's bridges when one comes to ~  
 the daddy of ~ all  
 the evil that men do lives after ~  
 if you can't beat ~, join ~  
 let ~ eat cake  
 see ~ come and see ~ go  
 there's gold in ~ thar hills with the best (of ~)  
**theme** variations on the ~ (of sth)  
**themselves** God helps those who help ~  
**then** by ~  
 even now/~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 every now and again/~  
 now and again/~  
 now ~<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>  
 right now/~  
 and ~ some  
**theory** canvass the ~ (that):  
 canvass the idea etc (that)  
 explode a ~: explode a myth etc  
 in ~ in practice  
**there** be neither here nor ~  
 for all the difference ~ is: for all the difference it makes etc  
 get ~ (in the end etc)  
 get ~ first  
 have (got) something (~)  
 here and ~  
 here, ~ and everywhere  
 here/~ we go (again)  
 (~ is) nothing etc to choose between A and B  
 (~ is) nothing doing  
 over here/~  
 so ~ (!)  
 that/~ is gratitude etc for you  
 then/~ again  
 then and ~  
**there's** (~) no peace/rest for the wicked  
 that's/~ a good boy etc  
 where/while ~ life there's hope  
 where ~ muck there's money  
 where ~ a will there's a way  
**thereof** sufficient unto the day (is the evil ~)  
**these** a child in such/~ matters  
 one of ~ days  
 one of those/~ days  
 (~ things are) sent to try us  
**they** (as) clever etc as ~ make 'em/them  
 such as it is/~ are  
 what will ~ think of next?/!  
**thick** (as) ~ as thieves  
 (as) ~ as two short planks  
 be ~/thin on the ground  
 be ~ with sth

a bit ~  
 come etc ~ and fast  
 the dirty/~ end of the stick  
 give sb etc a ~ ear  
 have etc a ~ head<sup>1,2</sup>  
 have etc a ~/thin skin  
 through ~ and thin  
**thickens** the plot ~  
**thicker** blood is ~ than water  
**thief** like/as a ~ in the night  
 procrastination is the ~ of time  
 set a ~ to catch a ~  
**thieves** (as) thick as ~  
 a den of ~  
 (there is) honour among ~  
**thin** (as) ~ as a rake/lath  
 be the ~ end of the wedge  
 be thick/~ on the ground  
 have etc a thick/~ skin  
 have/give sb a ~ time (of it):  
 have/give sb a bad etc time (of it)  
 through thick and ~  
 wear ~  
**thing** be the done ~  
 be/have too much of a good ~  
 (sb can/could) do the other ~  
 chance would be a fine ~  
 a close etc ~  
 do one's own ~  
 do the right etc ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 do one's ~  
 a fine ~  
 first ~ (in the morning)  
 (the) first/next ~ one knows the first ~ etc that comes into/ enters one's head/mind  
 for one ~ (...and) for another ~  
 (the) funny ~ is that  
 (it's a) good job/~ (that)  
 a good/(not) a bad ~  
 the greatest ~ since sliced bread  
 if one likes that kind/sort of ~  
 if there is one ~ sb hates etc, it is  
 just the ~  
 know etc a ~ or two (about sth)  
 last ~ (at night)  
 the last ~ one wants etc (to do)  
 life/it is one (damn(ed)) ~ after another  
 like a mad ~  
 a little learning/knowledge is a dangerous ~  
 the next best ~  
 next door/~ to sth  
 no/(not) any such ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 not have etc a ~ (to do)  
 old ~: old boy etc  
 one ~ and another  
 (the) poor ~  
 a poor ~ but my/mine own  
 the real ~  
 say the right/wrong ~  
 a slip of a ~: a slip of a boy etc  
 sure ~  
 to travel hopefully is a better

## nouns etc used in headphrases

- ~ /is better than to arrive  
 what with one ~ and another  
**things** all ~ considered  
 all ~ to all men ~  
 as ~ stand/stood  
 the best ~ in life are free  
 the centre of ~  
 cut it/ ~ fine  
 (put) first ~ first  
 the good ~ in/of life  
 have etc it/~ both ways  
 have etc it/~ one's (own) way  
 imagine ~  
 in the (normal/ordinary) course  
 of ~: in the (normal/ordinary)  
 course of nature etc  
 in the nature of ~  
 (it is) just one of those ~  
 leave undone those ~ which/  
 that one ought to have done  
 let ~ ride: let it etc ride  
 make matters/~ worse  
 of all ~: of all people etc <sup>1,2</sup>  
 old, unhappy, far-off ~  
 other ~ being equal  
 play it/~ right  
 play it/~ safe  
 play ~ cool: play it etc cool  
 (these ~ are) sent to try us  
 the shape/taste of ~ to come  
 sugar and spice (and all that's/  
 ~ nice)  
 there are more ~ in heaven and  
 earth than are dreamt of in  
 your philosophy  
 these ~ will happen in the  
 best-regulated families etc:  
 accidents etc will happen the  
 best regulated families etc  
 they order ~ better in France  
 etc  
 to the pure all ~ are pure  
 work it/~ (so) that etc  
 the world is so full of a number  
 of ~  
 worse ~ happen at sea  
**think** can ~ of nothing better to  
 do (than): have etc nothing  
 better to do (than)  
 can't hear oneself ~  
 (now I) come to ~ of it  
 give sb furiously to ~  
 give sb/have something to ~/  
 talk about  
 have (got) another ~/guess  
 coming  
 I don't ~  
 I should say/~ so etc(!)  
 it's later than you ~  
 see/~ fit (to do sth)  
 shudder to ~  
 that's what you ~  
 ~ oneself fortunate/lucky:  
 count etc oneself fortunate/  
 lucky  
 what do you ~ you're doing?  
 what Manchester says/thinks  
 today, London/the world will  
 say/~ tomorrow  
 what will they ~ of next?/!
- who does he ~ he is?  
 (~ /consider) the world owes  
 one a living  
 (~) the world well lost  
**thinking** plain living and high  
 ~  
 positive ~  
 to sb's way of ~  
 wishful ~  
**thinks** what Manchester says/  
 ~ today, London/the world  
 will say/think tomorrow  
**thinner** not grow/get any  
 younger/~  
**third** in the ~ person: in the first  
 etc person  
 the second/~ time around/  
 round  
 a ~ opinion: a second etc  
 opinion  
**thirteenth** Friday the ~  
**this** all ~ and heaven too  
 at ~ stage (of sth)  
 at a time like ~ /that  
 by ~ /that time  
 from that day to ~  
 get an earful/eyeful of ~  
 get a load of ~  
 not long for ~ world  
 thus/~ far and no further  
 to ~ day  
 watch ~ space  
**thistledown** (as) light as ~  
**thither** hither and ~  
**Thomas** a doubting ~  
**thorn** a ~ in the flesh/side (of  
 sb/sth)  
**those** God helps ~ who help  
 themselves  
 (it is) just one of ~ things  
 leave undone ~ things which/  
 that one ought to have done  
 one of ~ /these days  
 (~) whom the gods love, die  
 young  
**thou** holier than ~  
**though** even if/~  
**thought** (as) quick as ~: (as)  
 quick as lightning etc  
 at the (very) ~ of (doing) sth/  
 that  
 food for ~  
 (not) give sb/sth a ~  
 it's the ~ that counts  
 one's/a line of ~  
 perish the ~ (that)  
 a school of ~  
 a sobering ~  
 take ~  
 one's train of ~  
 two minds with but a single ~  
 the wish is father to/of the ~  
**thoughts** have second ~  
 nothing is/can be farther from  
 one's mind/~ (than sth)  
 a penny for your ~  
 read sb's mind/~  
**thousand** if one has done sth  
 once, one has done it a ~  
 times: if one has done sth
- once, one has done it a  
 hundred times  
 not/never in a ~ years: not/  
 never in a hundred etc years  
 one etc in a ~ /million  
 the sixty-four ~ dollar question  
**thread** lose the ~ (of sth)  
**threads** (the) loose ends/~  
**three** be ~ sheets in the wind  
 give sb etc ~ guesses  
 on ~ counts: on both etc  
 counts  
 (where) two or ~ (are)  
 gathered together  
**three's** two's company, (~ a  
 crowd)  
**thrill** half the ~ (of (doing)  
 sth): half the fun etc (of  
 (doing) sth)  
**throat** clear one's ~  
 cut one's own ~  
 a cut-~ price  
 cut-~ competition/rivalry  
 have etc a frog in one's ~  
 have etc a lump in one's ~  
**throats** cut each other's/one  
 another's ~  
**throes** one's death agony/~  
**throne** the power behind the ~  
**throttle** could/would  
 (cheerfully) ~ sb: could/  
 would (cheerfully) murder etc  
 sb  
 (at) full ~  
**through** (in/~) the watches of  
 the night  
**throw** enough to make one ~  
 up: enough to make one weep  
 etc  
 not trust sb an inch/as far as  
 one could ~ him  
 people who live in glass houses  
 shouldn't ~ stones  
 a stone's ~ ((away) from sth)  
 ~ a fit: have etc a fit  
**thrush** (as) fat as butter/a  
 young ~  
**thrust** the cut and ~ (of sth)  
**thumb** a rule of ~  
 ~ a lift: give sb etc a lift  
**thumbs** all ~  
 give sb/sth etc the ~ down  
 give sb/sth etc the ~ up  
 twiddle one's ~  
**thunder** blood and ~  
 steal sb's ~  
**thus** be/feel ~ inclined: be/feel  
 that way etc inclined  
**thysself** physician, heal ~  
**tick** (as) tight as a ~  
 be a ~: be a moment etc  
 in a ~: in a jiffy etc  
 on credit/~  
 what/that makes sb/sth ~  
**ticket** just the job/~  
**tickle** ~ sb's fancy: catch etc  
 sb's fancy  
**ticks** in two twos/~  
**Tiddler's** Tom ~ ground  
**tide** against/with the ~ (of sb/

sth)  
 stem the ~ (of sth)  
 time and ~ wait for no man  
**tidings** (the) glad ~  
**tie** bind/~ sb hand and foot  
 collar and ~  
 (the) old school ~  
**tied** with one hand/both hands  
 ~ behind one's back  
**tiger** fight like a ~  
 a paper ~  
 ride a ~  
**tight** (as) ~ as a tick  
 sit ~ (and wait)  
 sleep ~  
**tightrope** walk a ~  
**tilt** (at) full ~  
**timbers** shiver my/me ~  
**time** (and) about ~ (too)  
 ahead of/in advance of one's ~  
 ahead of ~/schedule  
 all the ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 all the ~ (that)  
 any old ~  
 (as) old as ~  
 at the moment/~ of speaking  
 etc  
 at one and the same ~  
 at one ~ or another  
 at the same ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 at a ~  
 at the ~  
 better luck next ~  
 bide one's ~  
 the big ~  
 borrowed ~  
 by this/that ~  
 by the ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 can(not) call one's ~ one's  
 own: can(not) call one's soul  
 etc one's own  
 closing/opening ~  
 the day/~ is not (so) far off/  
 distant when  
 dead on ~  
 do ~ etc  
 every ~  
 a fine ~ (to do sth)  
 (you can't) fool etc all (of) the  
 people all the ~  
 for all ~  
 for days at a ~  
 for the first etc ~  
 for a long ~ to come: for years  
 etc to come  
 for some ~  
 for the ~ being: for the moment  
 etc  
 from/since ~ immemorial  
 from ~ to ~  
 half the ~  
 (in) half the ~  
 have/give sb a bad etc ~ (of it)  
 have etc a good ~  
 have had one's day/~  
 have/give sb a hard ~  
 have/give sb a high old ~  
 have etc no ~ to lose  
 have etc the ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 have/give sb the ~ of one's/his

life  
 (not) have etc ~ to turn round  
 have/give sb a/the whale of a  
 (good) ~  
 (it is) high/about ~ that  
 in sb's day/~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 in the fullness of ~  
 in good ~  
 (all) in good ~  
 in the nick of ~  
 in no ~ (at all)  
 in ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 in ~ (to/with sth/sb)  
 in ~ of war etc  
 in a year's etc ~  
 it takes one all one's ~ (to do  
 sth)  
 kill ~ etc  
 last one's ~  
 long ~ no see  
 lose/waste no ~ (in doing sth)  
 make good etc ~  
 many a ~  
 many's the ~  
 mark ~  
 a matter of ~  
 (there is) no ~ like the present  
 not before ~  
 not for the first ~  
 not give etc sb/sth the ~ of day  
 now is the ~ for all good men  
 to come to the aid of the party  
 of all ~  
 old before one's ~  
 on ~  
 once upon a ~  
 pass (the) ~  
 pass the ~ of day (with sb)  
 peace in our ~  
 procrastination is the thief of ~  
 a race/fight against ~  
 the second/third ~ around/  
 round  
 (the) small ~  
 (at) some ~ or other  
 (in) one's spare ~  
 stand the test of ~ etc  
 a stitch in ~ (saves nine)  
 take one's ~  
 take ~ (to do sth/doing sth)  
 there is a ~ (and a place) for  
 everything  
 there was a ~ when  
 there's (got to be) a first ~ for  
 everything  
 third ~ lucky  
 this ~ last/next year etc  
 waste (one's/sb's) ~  
 the witching hour/~ (of night)  
 (in) the womb of ~  
 you're a long ~ dead  
**time's** for old ~ sake  
**times** at all ~  
 at the best of ~  
 at ~  
 (in) between ~/whiles  
 how many ~/how often do I  
 have to do sth?  
 if one has done sth once one  
 has done it a hundred etc ~

one's life and ~  
 nine ~ out of ten  
 other ~ etc, other manners etc  
 a sign of the ~  
 a tract for the/our ~  
**timid** (as) ~ as a mouse etc  
**tinker's** (not) care/give a ~  
 curse/cuss: (not) care/give a  
 damn etc  
**tinkle** give sb a ring/~  
**tiny** the patter of little/~ feet  
**tip** arse over ~  
 give sb the ~  
 take my ~  
**tired** be dog ~  
 make sb ~  
 sick and ~ of sb/sth  
**toast** (as) warm as ~  
**tod** on one's ~  
**today** here ~ and gone  
 tomorrow  
 never put off/leave till  
 tomorrow what you can do ~  
 what Manchester says/thinks  
 ~, London/the world will say/  
 think tomorrow  
**toe** from crown to ~: from head  
 etc to foot etc  
 from head to ~: from head etc  
 to foot etc  
 from top to ~: from head etc to  
 foot etc  
**toffee** can't/couldn't do sth for  
 ~  
**together** all boys etc ~  
 all ~/told  
 birds of a feather (flock ~)  
 for days etc ~: for days etc at a  
 time etc  
 (where) two or three (are)  
 gathered ~  
**toilers** (all) ~ in the vineyard:  
 (all) labourers etc in the  
 vineyard  
**token** by the same ~  
**told** all together/~  
 do as/what one is ~  
 a little bird ~ me (that)  
 now it can be ~  
**Tom** old Uncle ~ Cobbleigh  
 and all  
 a peeping ~  
**tomb** (as) quiet/silent as the  
 grave/~  
**tomorrow** as if/like there were/  
 was no ~  
 (let us) eat, drink and be merry  
 (for ~ we die)  
 here today and gone ~  
 jam ~  
 never put off/leave till ~ what  
 you can do today  
 this time ~: this time last/next  
 year etc  
 what Manchester says/thinks  
 today, London/the world will  
 say/think ~  
**ton** like a ~ of bricks  
 weigh a ~  
**tone** set the ~ (of/for sth)



## nouns etc used in headphrases

- tongue** bridle one's ~  
 click one's ~  
 give sb/get the (rough) edge of one's/sb's ~  
 have (got)/with a wicked etc ~  
 hold one's ~  
 lose/find one's ~  
 a slip of the ~/pen  
 watch/mind one's language/~
- tongues** have etc the gift of ~
- tonight** not ~, Josephine  
 where is our wandering boy/girl ~?
- too** all ~ brief etc  
 all ~ briefly etc  
 be ~ bad (that) <sup>1,2</sup>  
 be ~ clever by half  
 be ~ funny etc for words  
 be etc ~ good etc to be true  
 be ~ good to last  
 be ~ good to miss/turn down  
 be/prove ~ hot to handle  
 be ~ little (and) too late  
 be ~ much like hard work  
 be/have ~ much of a good thing  
 be ~ true  
 don't be ~ sure  
 get/be ~ big for one's boots  
 hanging is ~ good for sb  
 have one's cake and eat it (~)  
 have etc ~ much money etc for one's own good  
 life is ~ short (for sth/to do sth)  
 love not wisely but ~ well  
 none/not any ~  
 none ~ soon  
 not so/~ hot  
 once ~ often  
 one ~ many  
 only ~ aware/conscious of sth/that  
 only ~ glad etc  
 only ~ well  
 the pace is etc ~ hot (for sb)  
 protest ~ much
- tools** down ~
- tooth** an eye for an eye (and a ~ for a ~)  
 fight etc ~ and nail  
 have (got)/with a sweet ~  
 long in the ~  
 nature, red in ~ and claw
- top** at the ~ of one's voice  
 at ~ speed  
 be ~ secret  
 the Big T ~  
 blow one's ~  
 the (~) brass  
 from ~ to bottom  
 from ~ to toe: from head etc to foot etc  
 the man at the ~  
 on ~ of sth  
 reach the ~ (of sth)  
 sleep like a log/~  
 there is always room at the ~
- Topsy** 'just growed' (like ~)
- torn** that's done/~ it
- toss** argue the ~
- pitch and ~
- total** have etc the gift/power(s) of ~ recall  
 in all/~  
 the sum ~ (of sth)
- touch** be ~ and go  
 the common ~  
 have (got)/with the Midas ~  
 have etc a ~ of class  
 have etc a ~ of the sun  
 lose one's ~  
 nothing to ~ sth  
 a soft/easy ~  
 (not) ~ a hair of sb's head:  
 (not) harm etc a hair of sb's head  
 a woman's ~
- touches** (add/put) the finishing ~ (to sth)
- tough** (as) ~ as leather/an old boot  
 get ~ (with sb)  
 a hard/~ nut to crack  
 have (got) a (hard/~) job to do sth/doing sth  
 ~ luck (on sb): hard etc luck (on sb)
- tower** an ivory ~  
 a pillar/~ of strength etc
- towering** in/into a ~ passion/rage
- town** a man about ~  
 a one-horse ~ etc  
 paint the ~ red  
 the talk of the ~
- track** a red herring (across sb's path/~)
- tracks** cover one's ~
- trade** do/drive a roaring ~/line (in sth)  
 ply a/one's ~  
 the rag ~  
 a/the rag and bone ~: a/the rag and bone man etc  
 one's stock in ~  
 the tools of the/one's ~  
 the tricks of the ~
- trades** a jack of all ~ (and (a) master of none)
- trail** blaze a ~
- train** the gravy ~
- trained** to sb's ~ etc eye(s)
- traitor** the enemy/~ within (the gate(s))
- trap** keep one's mouth/~ shut  
 shut one's ~: shut one's mouth etc
- trash** white ~
- traveller** a fellow ~
- travels** bad news ~ fast
- tread** ~ the light fantastic: trip etc the light fantastic
- treads** worship the ground sb walks/~ on
- treason** capital ~: a capital offence etc
- treat** a Dutch ~  
 work etc a ~
- treating** how's the world been ~ you?
- tree** a family ~  
 flourish like the green bay ~
- trees** not see the wood for the ~
- tremble** ~ like a jelly/leaf:  
 shake etc like a jelly/leaf
- trembling** in fear and ~
- tremendous** make a (big/~) splash  
 make ~ strides: make great etc strides
- trespasses** forgive sb his ~
- trial** by ~ and error  
 give sb/sth etc a ~  
 give sth/sb etc a ~ run
- triangle** the eternal ~
- trice** in a ~
- trick** a con (fidence)  
 a dirty etc ~  
 do the ~ etc  
 a hat ~  
 never etc miss a ~/move
- tricks** know (all) the dodges/~ monkey business/~  
 (you can't) teach an old dog a new ~  
 the whole/full bag of ~
- trip** (a ~) down memory lane
- tripe** talk (a load/lot of) ~: talk (a load/lot of) cock etc
- trivet** (as) right as a ~
- Trojan** work like a ~ etc
- troops** that's the stuff to give the ~
- troth** plight one's ~
- trouble** court ~: court death etc  
 half the ~ (with sb/sth)  
 have etc a spot of bother/~  
 make/cause ~  
 more ~ than one/it is worth  
 no/not any ~ etc (at all)  
 the root of it/the ~  
 take the ~ to do sth  
 that's just it/(just) the ~
- troubles** have etc teething ~
- trousers** wear the ~/breeches
- trove** (a) treasure ~
- truant** play ~/hook(e)y
- true** (as) sure/~ as I'm sitting/standing here  
 (as) ~ as steel  
 be etc too good etc to be ~  
 be too ~  
 come ~  
 the course of ~ love never did run smooth  
 (all) good men and ~ hold ~  
 in ~ naval etc fashion/style  
 the marriage of ~ minds  
 right/~ enough  
 ring ~ etc  
 so ignorant etc it isn't ~  
 tried and ~
- truer** sb/one never said/spoke a ~ word
- truly** really and ~  
 well and ~  
 yours ~
- trump** play a/one's ~/winning card

**trumpet** blow one's own ~  
**trumps** go ~ (on sth/sb)  
**trust** hope and ~ (that)  
 not ~ sb an inch/as far as one  
 could throw him  
**truth** fact/~ and/or fiction/  
 fantasy  
 have (got)/with the ring of ~  
 etc  
 the moment of ~  
 not have etc a word of ~ in sth  
 sober ~: sober fact etc  
 speak the ~  
 tell (sb) the ~  
 tell the ~ and shame the devil  
 to tell you the ~  
**truths** a few home ~  
**try** do/~ one's best  
 do/~ one's (level/very) best  
 (to do sth)  
 do/~ one's damndest (to do  
 sth/for sb)  
 give it a ~  
 give it/sb a ~  
 if at first you don't succeed, (~,  
 ~ again)  
 (these things are) sent to ~ us  
 ~ the patience of Job/a saint:  
 have etc the patience of Job/a  
 saint  
 ~ one's (own) wings: spread  
 etc one's (own) wings  
 worth a ~  
**trying** not for want of ~  
**tub** thump a/the ~/Bible  
**tuck** nip and ~  
**tucker** one's best bib and ~  
**tug** ~ one's forelock: touch etc  
 one's forelock  
 when Greek meets Greek (then  
 is/comes the ~ of war)  
**tumble** a rough and ~  
 take a ~  
**tune** change one's ~  
 sing a different song/~  
 to the ~ of sth  
**tunes** (why should) the devil  
 have all the best/good ~  
**tuppence** penny plain or  
 twopence/~ coloured  
**tuppenny** a twopenny  
 halfpenny/~ ha'penny affair  
 etc  
**turkey** talk ~  
**turkey-cock** (as) red as a ~  
**turn** at every ~  
 be too good to miss/~ down  
 Buggins' ~  
 change/~ one's coat  
 do (sb) a good/bad ~  
 done etc to a ~  
 earn/~ an honest penny etc  
 have etc an enquiring etc ~ of  
 mind  
 (not) have etc time to ~ round  
 have etc a (nasty etc) ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 in ~  
 in (one's/its) ~  
 not do a hand's ~  
 not know where/which way to

look/~ one's eyes  
 not know where/which way to  
 ~  
 not ~ a hair  
 one good ~ deserves another  
 serve one's/its ~  
 serve sb's ~  
 the star ~  
 tip/~ the balance/scale(s)  
 toss and ~  
 twist(s) and ~ (s)  
 wait one's ~  
**turned** gamekeeper ~ poacher/  
 poacher ~ gamekeeper  
**turneth** a soft answer (~ away  
 wrath)  
**turning** it's a long road/lane  
 that has/knows no ~  
**turns** by ~  
 take (it in) ~ (to do sth)  
 the tide ~  
 the worm ~  
**turtle** turn ~  
**twain** East is East and West is  
 West and never the ~ shall  
 meet  
**Tweedledee** Tweedledum and  
 ~  
**twenty** rising ~ etc  
**twice** lightning never strikes in  
 the same place ~  
 once bitten, ~ shy  
**twinkling** in the ~ of an eye  
**two** (as) cross as ~ sticks  
 (as) like as ~ peas/peas in a  
 pod  
 (as) thick as ~ short planks  
 be ten/~ a penny  
 a bird in the hand is worth ~ in  
 the bush  
 cut both/~ ways  
 a day etc or ~  
 for ~ pins  
 a game that ~ can play  
 give sb/get the old one ~ (a)  
 have/get ~ bites at the cherry  
 in ~ shakes (of a lamb's tail)  
 in ~ twos/ticks  
 it takes ~ to do sth  
 know etc a thing or ~ (about  
 sth)  
 lead/live a double life/~ lives  
 the lesser of ~ evils  
 like a dog with ~ tails  
 (there are) no ~ ways about it  
 (the/one's) number one/~  
 on ~ counts: on both etc  
 counts  
**twopence** get in etc one's ~/  
 fourpence worth  
 penny plain or ~/tuppence  
 coloured  
**twos** in two ~/ticks  
**type** (the) small print/~  
 (the) strong silent man/~  
**types** it takes all ~ (to make a  
 world): it takes all sorts etc (to  
 make a world)

**U**  
**ugly** (as) ~ as sin  
 raise/rear its (~) head  
**umbrage** take ~ (at sth)  
**'un** a wrong ~  
**unawares** catch/take sb ~  
**uncertain** in no ~ terms etc  
**uncle** Bob's your ~  
 old U ~ Tom Cobbleigh and all  
 talk like a Dutch ~  
**uncomfortable** ~ bedfellows:  
 strange etc bedfellows  
**under** down ~  
**underground** go ~  
**understand** do I/am I to ~ etc?  
 give sb to ~ (that)  
**understanding** on the ~ that  
 pass all ~  
 pass (sb's) ~: pass (sb's)  
 comprehension etc  
**undone** leave ~ those things  
 which/that one ought to have  
 done  
 what is done cannot be ~  
**unduly** not ~ worried etc  
**uneatable** the unspeakable in  
 (full) pursuit of the ~  
**unfavourable** create/make a ~  
 impression: create/make a bad  
 etc impression  
**unhappy** (by) a happy/an ~  
 coincidence  
 old, ~, far-off things  
**unhonoured** unwept, ~ and  
 unsung  
**unison** in ~ (with sb)  
**unity** union/~ is strength  
**unjust** the rain falls on the just  
 and the ~  
**unlucky** lucky at cards, ~ in  
 love  
**unspotted** keep etc oneself ~  
 from the world  
**unstuck** come ~  
**unsung** unwept, unhonoured  
 and ~  
**untruth** tell (sb) a ~ (about  
 sth): tell (sb) a lie (about sth)  
**unturmed** leave no/(not) any  
 stone ~  
**unwrung** one's withers are ~  
**up** anything ~ to  
 face down/~  
 give sb/get a leg ~  
 give sb/sth etc the thumbs ~  
 the jig is ~  
 one ~ for/to sb  
**uphill** believe (that) water can/  
 will flow ~  
**upper** get etc the ~ hand (of  
 sb)  
 a stiff ~ lip  
**upright** sit/be bolt ~  
**uptake** quick/slow in/on the ~  
**uptight** get etc ~ (about sth)  
**us** don't call ~, we'll call you  
 let ~ say<sup>1,2</sup>  
 the poor are always with ~

## nouns etc used in headphrases

see ourselves as others see ~  
(these things are) sent to try ~  
them and ~  
till/until death ~ do part  
**use** (not) be etc a blind bit of ~  
etc  
a fat etc lot of ~: a fat etc lot of  
good etc  
with etc (no) strings (attached/  
binding its ~)  
**useful** make oneself ~  
**useless** worse than ~  
**usual** as per ~  
as ~ etc  
do the/one's ~  
something etc out of the  
ordinary/ ~

**V**  
**vacuum** nature abhors a ~  
**vagueness** brook no ~: brook  
no delay etc  
**vain** (as) ~ as a peacock  
in ~ etc  
**vale** this/a ~ of tears  
**valour** discretion is the better  
part of ~  
**value** above etc par (~)  
at (its/one's) face (~)  
have etc (a) nuisance ~  
**various** go their ~ ways: go  
their different etc ways  
**vein** in a similar etc ~  
**veins** have etc blue blood (in  
one's ~)  
**velvet** (as) smooth as ~  
an iron fist/hand in a ~ glove  
**vengeance** with a ~  
**venom** breathe fire and ~:  
breathe fire and slaughter etc  
**venture** nothing ~/risk,  
nothing gain etc  
a wildcat ~: a wildcat scheme  
etc  
**verse** chapter and ~  
**versus** brain(s) ~ brawn  
**very** all ~ fine/well (for sb)  
at the (~) thought of (doing)  
sth/that  
be doing ~ nicely, thank you  
(~ much)  
a (~) different kettle of fish  
do/try one's (level/~) best (to  
do sth)  
the (~) ideal  
know sth ~ etc well  
the (~) least one can do  
may (~) well  
the (~) picture of health etc  
the (dead/~) spit of sb/sth  
thank you (~ much)  
this (~) minute etc  
**vessel** a chosen instrument/~  
a weaker ~  
**vested** have etc a ~ interest (in  
sth)

**vices** have etc the ~/defects of  
one's/its virtues/qualities  
**victory** a bloodless ~  
a famous ~  
a Pyrrhic ~  
**view** a bird's-eye ~ (of sth)  
distance lends enchantment to  
the ~  
from the money etc point of ~  
get etc a grandstand ~ (of sth)  
in full ~ of sb/sth  
in sb's ~  
in ~ of sth  
a jaundiced ~: a jaundiced eye  
etc  
a/one's point of ~  
take the long ~  
take the ~ that  
with a ~ to doing sth  
**views** air one's ~ etc  
**vinegar** (as) sour as ~/a crab  
**vineyard** (all) labourers etc in  
the ~  
**violet** a shrinking ~  
**virgin** a wise/foolish ~  
**virtue** by ~ of sth  
a cardinal ~: a cardinal error etc  
a paragon of ~  
patience is a ~  
through no (particular etc) ~ of  
one's own: through no  
(particular etc) fault etc of  
one's own  
**virtues** have etc the vices/  
defects of one's/its ~/  
qualities  
**vision** cloud one's ~: cloud  
one's brain etc  
**visit** a flying/lightning ~  
**visited** the sins of the fathers  
(are ~ upon the children)  
**vocation** find one's ~  
miss one's ~  
**voice** at the top of one's ~  
(a ~) crying in the wilderness  
a flat ~  
have etc an edge to one's ~  
in a loud etc ~  
like etc the sound of one's own  
~  
make one's ~ heard  
the still small ~ (of  
conscience)  
with one ~  
**void** null and ~  
**vote** a snap ~ etc  
**culture** a culture ~

**W**  
**wagon-load** as artful etc as a ~  
etc of monkeys  
**wags** the tail ~ the dog  
**wait** sit tight (and ~)  
time and tide ~ for no man  
**waiting** what are we ~ for?  
**wake** in sb's/sth's ~

**waken** (would) ~ the dead:  
(would) wake etc the dead  
**walk** (the) cock of/o' the ~  
~ tall: stand etc tall  
**walking** at (a) ~ pace  
**walks** worship the ground sb  
~/treads on  
**wall** climb the ~ (s)  
a hole in the ~  
the writing (is) on the ~  
**wand** wave a (magic) ~ (and  
do sth)  
**wandering** where is our ~ boy/  
girl tonight?  
**wane** wax and ~  
**want** for lack/~ of sth  
for ~ of a better name etc  
no lack/~ of sth  
not for ~ of trying  
not ~ any part of sth  
not ~ to know  
that's what I ~/I'd like to know  
~ a fair/square deal: get a fair/  
square deal  
~ one's head examined etc:  
need etc one's head examined  
etc  
~ it/things both ways: have etc  
it/things both ways  
~ it/things one's (own) way:  
have etc it/things one's (own)  
way  
~ one's money's worth: get etc  
one's money's worth  
~ a place in the sun: have etc a  
place in the sun  
~ one's pound of flesh: have  
etc one's pound of flesh  
~ a roof over one's head: have  
etc a roof over one's head  
~ a/one's slice/share of the  
cake: get etc a/one's slice/  
share of the cake  
~ a thick ear: give sb etc a thick  
ear  
waste not, ~ not  
what more can one ~: what  
more can one ask etc?  
work or ~  
**wanting** find sb/sth ~  
**wants** get/have (got) sb where  
one ~ him  
the last thing one ~ etc (to do)  
**war** all is fair in love and ~  
the cold ~  
cry havoc (and let slip the dogs  
of ~)  
a holy ~  
when Greek meets Greek (then  
is/comes the tug of ~)  
**warfare** conventional ~/  
weapons  
**warm** (as) ~ as toast  
cold hands and a ~ heart  
give sb etc a ~ welcome/  
reception  
keep sb's seat etc ~ for him  
**warning** give sb etc ~  
a word of ~ (to sb)  
**warrant** (sign sb's) death ~

was as it is/ ~  
**wash** not fit to ~ sb's feet  
 (~) whiter than white  
 will/would (not) ~  
**waste** lay sth ~  
 lose/ ~ no time (in doing sth)  
 not ~ words  
**watch** keep ~  
 mind/ ~ one's p's and q's  
**water** (as) weak as ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 believe (that) ~ can/will flow  
 uphill  
 blood is thicker than ~  
 bread and ~  
 come hell or high ~  
 a diamond etc of the first ~  
 a fish out of ~  
 hewers of wood and drawers of  
 ~  
 hold ~  
 like ~ off a duck's back  
 a lot of/much ~ has run etc  
 under the bridge  
 make/pass ~  
 milk and ~  
 oil and ~ (do not mix)  
 ordeal by fire/ ~  
 soap and ~  
 spend money like ~ /spend  
 (money) like a sailor  
 (you can) take etc a horse to the  
 ~, but you can't make him  
 drink  
 tread ~  
**Waterloo** (meet) one's ~  
**waters** one's mouth ~  
 still ~ run deep  
**wave** ride (the crest of) the ~  
**waving** not ~ but drowning  
**way** all along the ~: all along  
 the line etc  
 be built/made that ~  
 be by ~ of being sth  
 be downhill all the ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 be/get that ~  
 be/feel that ~ etc inclined  
 better that ~  
 by the ~/by  
 by/from the ~ (that)  
 by ~ of sth<sup>1,2</sup>  
 come one's ~  
 cry/laugh all the ~ to the bank  
 each ~/both ways  
 either ~  
 everything is going/coming  
 one's ~  
 feel one's ~  
 find one's ~ (to sth)  
 for once in a ~  
 get etc one's (own) ~  
 give ~  
 go/come a long ~  
 go a long ~ to do sth/towards  
 (doing) sth  
 go one's own ~  
 go the right/wrong ~  
 go the ~ of sb/sth  
 go the ~ of all flesh  
 God moves in a mysterious ~,  
 his wonders to perform

the hard ~  
 have etc it/things one's (own)  
 ~  
 have etc a long ~ etc to go  
 have (got)/with a ~ of doing  
 sth  
 in a big/small ~  
 in its/one's (own)  
 in the ordinary ~  
 in the same ~  
 in the same etc ~ (as sb/sth)  
 in a ~  
 in the ~ of sb/sth  
 it's not what you do etc, it's the  
 ~ that you do etc it  
 know etc one's ~ about/  
 around  
 a lion in the path/ ~  
 a little (sth) goes a long ~  
 look the other ~  
 look sb's ~  
 no/(not) any ~ of doing sth  
 no ~  
 not know where/which ~ to  
 look/turn one's eyes  
 not know where/which ~ to  
 turn  
 not so much a programme,  
 more a ~ of life  
 once in a while/ ~  
 (in) one ~ and/or another  
 one ~ or the other  
 the other ~ about/(a)round  
 pay one's/its ~  
 (not) roses all the ~  
 see one's ~ (clear) to do sth  
 see etc which ~ the cat jumps  
 see etc which ~ the wind is  
 blowing  
 smooth sb's/sth's ~: smooth  
 sb's/sth's path etc  
 the straight and narrow (path/  
 ~)  
 this ~ and that  
 to sb's ~ of thinking  
 the ~ of least resistance: the  
 line etc of least resistance  
 where there's a will there's a ~  
 the wrong ~ round  
**ways** change one's ~  
 cut both/two ~  
 the error of one's/sb's ~  
 go their different etc ~  
 have etc it/things both ~  
 (there are) no two ~ about it  
 a/the parting of the ~  
 there are more/easier ~ of  
 killing a cat than by choking it  
 with cream  
**we** as ~ have seen  
 here/there ~ go (again)  
 (and) there you/ ~ are  
 united ~ stand (divided ~ fall)  
 what are ~ waiting for?  
 what has sb got that I/ ~  
 haven't (got)?  
**weak** (as) ~ as water<sup>1,2</sup>  
 the spirit is willing (but the flesh  
 is ~)  
**weakest** a chain is (only) as

strong as its ~ link  
**wealthy** early to bed and early  
 to rise, (makes a man healthy,  
 ~ and wise)  
**weapons** conventional warfare/  
 ~  
**wear** if the cap fits, (~ it)  
 ~ a chip on one's shoulder:  
 have etc a chip on one's  
 shoulder  
 the worse for ~  
**weather** (in) fair (~) and/or  
 foul  
 nice/lovely ~ for ducks  
 wind and ~  
**weathercock** (as) changeable:  
 as a ~  
**weathers** in all ~  
**weaving** get ~: get cracking etc  
**wedge** be the thin end of the ~  
**wee** in/into the (~) small hours  
**weeds** widow's ~  
**week** any day (of the ~)  
 look as if/though one has slept  
 in that suit etc for a ~  
 (only) the other ~: (only) the  
 other day etc  
 this time last/next ~: this time  
 last/next year etc  
 ~ in (and) ~ out: day etc in  
 (and) day etc out  
 a/one's ~ off: a/one's day etc  
 off  
**week's** from one ~ etc end to  
 another  
**weeks** for ~ at a time etc: for  
 days etc at a time etc  
 for ~ to come: for years etc to  
 come  
**weep** (shed/ ~) crocodile tears  
 laugh and the world laughs  
 with you, (~ and you ~  
 alone)  
 (shed/ ~) crocodile tears  
**weight** carry ~  
 a dead ~  
 pull one's ~  
 worth one's/its ~ in gold (to  
 sb)  
**welcome** (as) ~ as (the)  
 flowers in May/spring  
 give sb etc a warm ~/reception  
 more than ~  
 outstay one's ~  
 you're ~  
**well** alive and kicking/ ~  
 all being ~  
 all is (not) ~ (with sb)  
 all very fine/ ~ (for sb)  
 all ~ and good  
 all's ~ that ends ~  
 (as) deep as a ~  
 as ~ (as sb/sth)  
 (just) as ~ (that)  
 as ~ do sth (as do sth else)  
 as ~ sb may/might (do)  
 be ~ etc advised to do sth  
 can/could ~ believe it  
 do ~ to do sth etc  
 get ~ etc

## nouns etc used in headphrases

a good job ~ done  
 hail fellow ~ met (with sb)  
 it/that is just as ~  
 jolly ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 know (sth) very ~ as I do  
 know sth as ~  
 leave/let ~ alone  
 love not wisely but too ~  
 may/might (just) as ~ do sth  
 may (very) ~  
 one may ~ ask  
 mean ~  
 money ~ spent  
 only too ~  
 pretty ~ etc  
 very ~  
 wish sb ~/ill  
 (think) the world ~ lost  
 (~) worth doing etc  
 (~) worth it etc  
**well-chosen** (in) a few ~ words  
**well-off** talk ~: talk posh etc  
**wen** the great ~  
**were** as it ~  
 as you ~  
 those ~ the days  
 wish you ~ here  
**west** the call of the W ~: the call of the wild etc  
 East is East and W ~ is W ~ and never the twain shall meet  
 East, (or) W ~, home's best go ~  
 go ~, (young man)  
 the Wild W ~  
**whale** have/give sb a/the ~ of a (good) time  
 a sprat to catch a mackerel/  
**what** at ~ (a) cost/price  
 bet sb anything/~ he likes (that)  
 call it etc ~/which you will etc  
 come ~ may/might  
 for ~ sth is worth  
 give sb/get ~ for  
 and I don't know ~ (all)  
 I don't know ~ the world's coming to  
 I'll tell you ~  
 it's not ~ you do etc, it's the way that you do etc it  
 know ~ sb/sth is  
 know ~ one is doing  
 know etc ~ love etc is  
 know etc what's ~  
 a little of ~ you fancy does you good  
 may/might I ask ~ etc?  
 mean ~: mean it etc  
 no matter ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 no/~ matter (that/if)  
 not all/always (that)/~ one/it might be  
 not know anything about sth but know ~ one likes  
 not know ~ to do with oneself  
 not know ~ one is missing  
 practise ~ one preaches  
 reap ~/where one has (not)

sown  
 (~ is) sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander  
 so ~?  
 that's ~ I (always) say  
 that's ~ I want/I'd like to know that's ~ the man said  
 that's ~ you think  
 we shall see ~ we shall see  
 where would one be/~ would one do without sb/sth?  
 you know ~ etc  
 you ~!  
**what's** get/take what's coming to one  
 know etc ~ what  
**whatever** or ~  
**when** as and ~  
 cross one's bridges ~ one comes to them  
 dread the moment (~)  
 if/~ in doubt, do sth if and/or ~  
 needs must (~ the devil drives)  
**where** any old place/~  
 before one knows ~ one is from ~ one is standing  
 get it (in the neck/~ the chicken gets the chopper)  
 get sb ~ he lives  
 get/have (got) sb ~ one wants him  
 give credit ~ credit is due  
 know ~ one is going  
 not know ~/which way to look/turn one's eyes  
 not know/be sure ~ one's next meal/penny is coming from  
 not know ~/which way to turn  
 reap what/~ one has (not) sown  
 (know ~) the shoe pinches  
 that's ~ you are wrong  
 this is ~ we came in  
 (~) two or three (are) gathered together  
 you know ~: you know what etc  
 you know ~ you can put sth  
**wherefore** why and ~(?)  
**whiff** catch/get a ~ of sth  
**while** for a bit/~  
 go etc ~ the going is good  
 once in a ~/way  
 the ~  
 worth ~  
 worth sb's ~  
**whiles** (in) between times/  
**whimper** not with a bang but a ~  
**whip** have etc a fair crack of the ~  
 hold etc the ~ hand (over/of sb)  
**whirl** give sth a ~  
**whirlwind** the eye of the ~: the eye of the storm etc  
 sow the wind and reap the ~  
**whiskers** be the cat's pyjamas/~

**whisky** a stiff ~: a stiff drink etc  
**whisper** in a ~  
**whistle** (as) clean as a ~  
 get away (as) clean as a ~  
 wet one's ~  
 wolf ~ (s)  
**whit** not one ~ etc  
**white** (as) ~ as chalk/a sheet (as) ~ as snow  
 (in) black and ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 bleed sb ~  
 from log cabin to W ~ House  
 in black and ~  
 swear black is ~  
 two blacks/wrongs do come  
 make a ~/right  
 (wash) whiter than ~  
**whizz** gee ~ (!)  
**who** you know ~: you know what etc  
 you and ~ else?  
**who's** show (sb) ~ boss  
**whole** as a ~  
 go the ~ hog  
 leaven the (~) lump  
 not the ~ etc story on the ~  
 (it's) the same the ~/all the world over  
 see life (steadily and see it) ~  
 the truth, the ~ truth, and nothing but the truth  
 the (~) world over  
**whopper** tell (sb) a ~ (about sth): tell (sb) a lie (about sth)  
**whose** you and ~ army?  
**why** (~ should) the devil have all the best/good tunes  
**wicked** have (got)/with a ~ etc tongue  
 (there's) no peace/rest for the ~  
**wide** cast one's net ~ etc  
 dead to the ~  
 far and ~  
 give sb/sth a ~ berth  
 high, ~ and handsome  
 lay oneself/sb (~) open (to sth)  
**widely** cast one's net ~: cast one's net wide etc  
**widen** ~ one's horizons:  
 broaden etc one's horizons  
**widow** a grass ~  
**wife** husband and ~  
 (like) Caesar's ~  
 (all) the world and his ~  
**wife's** one's ~ apron-strings:  
 one's mother's etc apron-strings  
 a woman's/~ place is in the home  
**wild** at a (rough/~) guess  
 the call of the ~ etc  
 run ~ sb etc  
 sow (one's) ~ oats  
**wilderness** (a voice) crying in the ~  
 a howling ~  
**wildest** beyond one's ~

dreams/hopes  
**wildfire** like ~  
 spread like ~  
**will** against one's/sb's ~/  
 inclination  
 at ~  
 call it etc what/which you ~  
 etc  
 have etc a ~ of iron  
 have (got)/with a ~ of one's  
 own  
 if you ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 one's last ~ and testament  
 of one's own free ~  
 peace and good ~  
 where there's a ~ there's a way  
 with the best ~ in the world  
 with a ~  
**willies** give sb etc the ~: give sb  
 etc the creeps etc  
**willing** God ~  
 show ~  
 the spirit is ~ (but the flesh is  
 weak)  
**wills** a clash of ~ etc  
**win** carry/~ the day  
 heads I ~, tails you lose  
 make/~ friends and influence  
 people  
 nothing venture/risk, nothing  
 ~: nothing venture/risk,  
 (nothing gain etc  
 ~ sb's ear: have etc sb's ear  
 ~ etc the hand (and heart) of  
 sb  
 you can't ~  
**wind** be three sheets in the ~  
 a breath of ~  
 get one's second ~  
 go like the ~  
 it's an ill ~ (that blows nobody  
 (any) good)  
 raise (the) ~: raise (the) money  
 etc  
 see etc which way the ~ is  
 blowing  
 sound in ~ and limb  
 sow the ~ and reap the  
 whirlwind  
 a straw in the ~  
**wine** (a) good ~ needs no bush  
**wing** take ~  
**wings** clip sb's ~ (own) ~  
 spread etc one's (own) ~  
**wink** a nod is as good as a ~ (to  
 a blind horse)  
 not/hardly sleep a ~  
 tip sb a ~  
 tip sb the ~  
**Winkle** like Rip van ~  
**winks** (have/take) forty ~  
**winning** play a/one's trump/~  
 card  
**wins** the best man ~  
**winter** in (the) dead of ~  
**wire** a live ~  
**wires** pull (the) strings/~  
**wisdom** received ~: received  
 opinion(s) etc  
 wear one's ~ lightly: wear

one's learning etc lightly  
 with (the ~/ease of) hindsight  
 wit and ~  
 words of ~  
**wise** (as) ~ as an owl  
 (as) ~ as Solomon  
 do the ~ thing: do the right etc  
 thing<sup>2</sup>  
 early to bed and early to rise,  
 (makes a man, healthy,  
 wealthy and ~)  
 get ~ (to sb/sth)  
 penny ~ (and) pound foolish  
 a word to the ~  
 worldly ~  
**wisely** love not ~ but too well  
**wiser** a sadder and (a) ~ man  
**wish** just as you ~: just as you  
 like etc  
 what more can one ~?: what  
 more can one ask etc?  
**wishes** if ~ were horses, (then)  
 beggars would ride  
**wisp** a will o' the ~  
**wit** the soul of ~: the soul of  
 courtesy etc  
**witness** as God is my ~  
**wits** a battle of ~  
 collect/gather one's ~  
 sharpen one's/sb's brain/~  
**wives'** an old ~ tale  
**wobble** ~ like a jelly/leaf: shake  
 etc like a jelly/leaf  
**woe** a tale of ~  
**wolf** cry ~  
 a lone ~/bird  
**woman** a fancy ~: a fancy man  
 etc  
 feel like a new man/~  
 a grown man/~  
 hell has/knows no fury like a ~  
 scorned  
 (like) a new man/~  
 the little ~ (for sb):  
 a man/~ of his/her word  
 a man/~ of the world  
 (every) man, ~ and child  
 an old ~  
 the/one's old ~: the/one's old  
 man etc  
 the other ~  
 one's own man/~  
 a scarlet ~  
 to a ~: to a man etc  
 wine, ~/women and song  
**woman's** it is a ~/lady's  
 privilege to change her mind  
 a ~ apron-strings: one's  
 ~ mother's etc apron-strings  
**women** a devil with the men/~  
 (all) men/~ of goodwill  
 the monstrous regiment of ~  
 wine, woman/~ and song  
**won** faint heart ne'er/never  
 fair lady  
**wonder** a chinless ~  
 I shouldn't ~  
 it is no ~ (that)  
 a nine day(s) ~  
**wonderfully** (hanging)

concentrates the mind ~  
**wonders** do etc ~/miracles  
 (for/with sb/sth)  
 God moves in a mysterious  
 way, his ~ to perform  
 work a miracle/~  
**wood** babes in the ~  
 the dead ~  
 hewers of ~ and drawers of  
 water  
 not see the ~ for the trees  
 touch ~  
**woodpile** the nigger in the ~  
**woods** (in our) neck of the ~  
**woodshed** (see) something  
 nasty in the ~  
**woof** the warp and ~ of sth  
**woolly** wild and ~  
**word** as good as one's ~  
 (not) believe a ~ (of sth/  
 (that))  
 by ~ of mouth  
 coin a phrase/~  
 a dirty ~  
 (not) doubt sb's ~  
 for want of a better ~: for want  
 of a better name etc  
 from the ~ go  
 give (sb) one's ~ (of honour)  
 (that)  
 the Greeks had a name/~ for it  
 have etc the last ~  
 have etc sb's (bare) ~ (for sth)  
 a household name/~  
 in a ~  
 in ~ and (in) deed  
 keep/break one's ~  
 the last ~ (in sth)  
 a man/woman of his/her ~  
 mean every ~ (of it): mean it  
 etc  
 mum's the ~  
 sb/one never said/spoke a truer  
 ~  
 not have etc a ~ of truth in sth  
 not know the meaning of the ~  
 not a ~  
 say/be one's last ~  
 (just) say the ~  
 send etc ~  
 (in) thought, ~ and/or deed  
 upon my soul/~  
 without a/one ~  
 without a ~ of a lie  
**words** be too funny etc for ~  
 big talk/~  
 eat one's ~  
 (in) a few well-chosen ~  
 fighting talk/~  
 fine ~ butter no parsnips  
 a four-letter (ed) ~  
 hard ~  
 in other ~  
 in so/as many ~  
 (famous) last ~  
 a man etc of few ~  
 (you) mark my ~  
 not mince matters/(one's) ~  
 not waste ~  
 strong language/~

## nouns etc used in headphrases

- weigh one's ~  
**work** all ~ and no play (makes Jack a dull boy)  
 be too much like hard ~  
 the devil/Satan finds/makes ~ for idle hands  
 dirty ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 dirty ~ at the crossroads  
 do the donkey ~  
 a glutton for ~/punishment  
 hard ~ never hurt etc anybody (yet)  
 it is all in the day's ~  
 a job of ~  
 a maid etc of all ~  
 make sth ~  
 many hands make light ~  
 a nasty piece of ~  
 nice ~ if you can get it  
 not do a stroke (of ~)  
 send a boy on a man's errand/to do a man's ~  
 ~ wonders/miracles (for/with sb/sth): do etc wonders/miracles (for/with sb/sth)  
**worker** a fast ~  
**workers** (all) ~ in the vineyard: (all) labourers etc in the vineyard  
**works** give sb/sth etc the (full) ~  
 good ~  
 the way one's mind ~  
**world** blind to the ~  
 (a) brave new ~  
 dead to the ~  
 do sb a power/~ of good  
 the end of the ~  
 for all (the ~) to see  
 for all the ~ like/as if  
 the four etc corners of the earth/~  
 the hand that rocks the cradle (rules the ~)  
 a hard/harsh ~  
 have etc all the money etc in the ~  
 how on earth/in the ~?  
 how's the ~ been treating you?  
 it takes all sorts etc (to make a ~)  
 it's love that makes the ~ go round  
 it's a small ~  
 keep etc oneself unspotted from the ~  
 laugh and the ~ laughs with you, (weep and you weep alone)  
 a man/woman of the ~  
 more than anything (else) (in the ~)  
 not have/without a care in the ~  
 not long for this ~  
 the outside ~  
 (it's) the same the whole/all the ~ over  
 see the ~  
 shine like a good deed in a
- naughty ~  
 tell the ~ (that etc)  
 watch (the rest of) the ~ go by the way of the ~  
 what Manchester says/thinks today, London/the ~ will say/think tomorrow  
 what on earth/in the ~?  
 where on earth/in the ~?  
 who on earth/in the ~?  
 why on earth/in the ~?  
 with the best will in the ~  
**world's** I don't know what the ~ coming to  
**world** olde ~  
**worlds** (in) the best of all possible ~  
 not for ~/the world  
 ~ apart: poles etc apart  
**worm** the early bird catches the ~  
**wormwood** gall and ~ (to/for sb)  
**worried** not unduly ~ etc  
**worry** I should ~!  
 not to ~  
 ~ (sb) stiff: scare etc (sb) stiff  
**worse** sb's bark is ~ than his bite  
 better bad now than ~ later  
 better/~ still  
 can do ~ than  
 a change for the better/~  
 (make) confusion ~  
 confounded  
 the cure/remedy is ~ than the disease  
 a fate ~ than death  
 for better or (for) ~  
 get ~: get well etc  
 go farther/further and fare ~  
 one's/its last etc state is ~ than the first  
 look ~ (for sb): look bad etc (for sb)  
 make matters/things ~  
 more means ~  
 so much the better/~ (for sb/sth)  
 (take/be) a turn for the better/~  
**worst** at best/~  
 the best/~ of it/sth is (that)  
 confirm one's ~ fears  
 do one's ~  
 if the ~/it comes to the ~  
 in the best/~ of taste  
 one's own ~ enemy  
**worth** as much as one's life is ~  
 a bird in the hand is ~ two in the bush  
 for all one/it is ~  
 for what sth is ~  
 the game is (not) ~ the candle get in etc one's twopence/fourpence ~  
 get etc one's money's ~  
 it is more than one's job is ~ (to do sth)  
 life is (not) ~ living
- more trouble than one/it is ~  
 not be ~ the time of day: not give etc sb/sth the time of day  
 spoil the ship for a ha'porth/ha'penny ~ of tar  
**worthy** the labourer is ~ of his hire  
**wounds** lick one's ~  
**wrath** not let the sun go down (up) on one's anger/~  
 a soft answer (turneth away ~)  
**wreck** a nervous ~  
**write** have etc nothing (much) to shout/~ home about  
**wrong** back the right/~ horse be etc dead right/~  
 can/could do no ~  
 can't/couldn't go ~  
 do the ~ thing: do the right etc thing<sup>2</sup>  
 get sb ~  
 get sth right/~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 go ~<sup>1,2</sup>  
 go ~ (with sth)  
 go right/~ (for sb)  
 go the right/~ way  
 how right/~ you are(!)  
 in the ~ spirit: in the right etc spirit  
 my/one's country right or ~  
 right and ~  
 right and/or ~  
 say the right/~ thing  
 soft/~ in the head  
 that's where you are ~  
 what etc is the matter/~ (with sb/sth)(?)  
 what etc is the matter/~ with sb/sth?  
**wrongs** the rights and ~ of sth  
**two** blacks/~ do not make a white/right
- Y**  
**yard** give sb an inch (and he'll take a ~): give sb an inch (and he'll take a mile etc)  
**yarn** a fisherman's ~: a fisherman's story etc  
 a rattling good etc ~ etc  
 spin sb a ~  
**ye** gather ~ rosebuds while ~ may  
**year** all the ~ round  
 the seven-~ itch  
 this time last/next ~ etc  
 this ~, next ~, sometime, never ~ in (and) ~ out: day etc in (and) day etc out  
**year's** from one ~ end to another: from one week's etc end to another  
 in a ~ etc time  
**years** one's declining ~ (for) donkey's ~  
 the fat ~ and the lean ~

for ~ etc to come  
 not/never in a hundred etc ~  
 old etc beyond one's ~  
 three score ~ and ten  
**yellow** (as) ~ as a guinea  
**yesterday** (not) be born ~  
 this time ~: this time last/next  
 year etc  
**yet** as ~  
 early days ~  
 the end is not ~  
 hard work never hurt etc  
 anybody (~)  
 so near and ~ so far  
 there is life in the old boy etc ~  
 you ain't seen nothing ~  
**you** in days of old/~  
 of old/~<sup>1,2</sup>  
**you** as coolly etc as ~ like/as  
 anything  
 as one/~ might say  
 as ~ were  
 be doing very nicely, thank ~  
 (very much)  
 before ~ can say Jack  
 Robinson/knife  
 believe ~ me  
 (God) bless ~!  
 (God) bless ~  
 can ~ imagine!  
 don't call us, we'll call ~  
 (I'm) glad to meet ~  
 heads I win, tails ~ lose  
 the higher ~ climb etc the  
 harder ~ fall  
 how crazy etc can ~ get?  
 how do ~ do?  
 how's the world been treating  
 ~?  
 I ask ~  
 I('ll)/~ bet (that)  
 I can't tell ~  
 I('ll) tell ~ what

I'll be seeing ~  
 if ~ ask me  
 if ~ can't beat them, join them  
 if ~ can't stand the heat, get  
 out of the kitchen  
 if ~ know etc what I mean  
 if ~ like  
 if ~ must know  
 if ~ please <sup>1,2</sup>  
 if ~ will <sup>1,2</sup>  
 laugh and the world laughs  
 with ~; (weep and ~ weep  
 alone)  
 let me tell ~  
 a little of what ~ fancy does ~  
 good  
 (~) mark my words  
 mark/mind ~  
 nice work if ~ can get it  
 not eat ~  
 now ~ see it, now ~ don't  
 over to ~  
 (I) promise (~)  
 right ~ are  
 says/sez ~  
 scratch A and (~) find B  
 (are ~) sitting comfortably(?)  
 thank ~ (very much)  
 that/there is gratitude etc for ~  
 to tell ~ the truth  
 (but) there it is/~ are  
 (and) there ~/we are  
 this will hurt me more than it  
 hurts ~  
 the top of the morning (to ~)  
 what do ~ know(!)  
 what do ~ mean, lazy etc?/!  
 what do ~ think you're doing?  
 (and/or) what have ~  
 what (do ~) say we etc do sth?  
 what ~ call him  
 whatever ~ do, (don't do sth)  
 would ~ believe (it)?

your best friend won't tell ~  
**you'd** not so (as) ~ notice  
**you'll** if ~ pardon/excuse the  
 liberty  
**you're** now ~ talking  
**young** an angry ~ man  
 (as) fat as butter/a ~ thrush  
 go west, (~ man)  
 have etc an old head on ~  
 shoulders  
 love's ~ dream  
 not as/so ~ as one used to be/  
 (once) was  
 (those) whom the gods love,  
 die ~  
 you're only ~ once  
**younger** not grow/get any ~/  
 thinner  
**your** as near as dammit/kiss ~  
 hand  
 (as) plain as the nose on ~ face  
 be ~ age  
 Bob's ~ uncle  
 (~) friendly neighbourhood  
 policeman etc  
 not on ~ (sweet etc) life(!)  
 not on ~ nelly  
 a penny for ~ thoughts  
 you pays ~ money and (you)  
 takes ~ choice  
 a plague on both ~ houses  
**you's** you scratch my back and  
 I'll scratch ~  
**yourself** do it ~  
**youth** (a/one's) callow ~  
 gilded ~

**Z**

**zone** a buffer state/~



## Index of variant and derived forms

This index covers both the structural variants of headphrases and the noun, adjective, and adverb compounds derived from headphrases recorded in the main part of the Dictionary. For a full treatment of these variants and derivatives ⇨ Introduction, 8.

Each variant and derived compound is listed alphabetically and is followed by the headphrase(s) of the entry (or entries) in which it appears in the main text:

**(do) Trojan work** work like a Trojan

**a pickpocket** pick sb's pocket

Hyphenation or lack of it tends to be a matter of printing convention or individual usage. Noun and adjective compounds may be printed as one word, or as two (or more) words with or without a hyphen (or hyphens). The entries in this Dictionary and in this index generally show the most accepted form in British usage, but variations are recorded where appropriate, eg *a show-stopper/showstopper*.

**an academic question** (a matter etc) of academic interest/concern

**accident-prone** prone to sth<sup>1</sup>

**act (the part of) the stern father** act the part/role (of sb)

**action-man** a man of action

**all I can say is (that)** that's all I can say

**all rubbish, garbage etc** (all) a load/lot of (old) rubbish

**the answer came pat** answer pat

**argue etc for argument's etc sake** art etc for art's sake

**arm-twisting** twist sb's arm

**an arse-licker** lick sb's boots/arse

**art etc for the sake of art etc** art etc for art's etc sake

**as easy as cutting butter with a hot knife** like a (hot) knife through butter/margarine

**as green as a cabbage/a leek** (as) green as grass

**as innocent as a babe unborn** (as) innocent as a (new-born) babe

**as large as life and twice as natural** (as) large as life

**(not) as long in the tooth as that/sb** long in the tooth

**as pleased as a dog with two tails** like a dog with two tails

**as restless/nervy as a cat on hot bricks** like a cat on hot bricks

**as sb would put it** put it etc differently etc

**at a healthy distance** have a healthy respect for sb/sth

**at one or another time** at one time or another

**at the tender age of 12 etc** at a tender age

**at this moment in time** at the moment

**the back end of nowhere** the back of beyond

**back-seat driving** a back-seat driver

**be called Joe etc for short** short for sth

**be dead silent** dead silence

**be dressed for the part** dress the part

**be sb's/one's hard etc luck** hard etc luck (on sb)

**be heavy/light of heart** have a heavy/light heart

**be a heavy/small price to pay (for sth)** pay a/the price (for sth)

**be none/not any of sb's doing** (not) be sb's doing

**be (like) one's old self again** be oneself again

**be sb's scene** not one's scene

**be so bold as to do sth** make bold to do sth

**be sb's steady** go steady (with sb)

**be thick in the head** have etc a thick head<sup>1</sup>

**be one's thing** do one's thing

**be/seem the thing (to do)** be the done thing

**be too bad of sb to do sth** be too bad (that)

**be too serious etc for one's own good** have too much money etc for one's own good

**bear no malice (towards sb)** bear (sb) no/not bear (sb) (any) malice

**beat that if you can!** can you beat it!

**begin to see the break of day** day/dawn breaks

**belt-tightening** tighten etc one's belt

**the best form of defence being attack** attack is the best form of defence

**better the devil one knows than the devil one doesn't** the devil one knows is better than the devil one doesn't

**a Bible-thumper** thump a/the tub/Bible

**Bible-thumping** thump a/the tub/Bible

**a big fish in a big pond** a big fish in a little pond

**blue-blooded** have blue blood (in one's veins)

**bone-dry** (as) dry as a bone

**a boot-licker** lick sb's boots/arse

**brain-racking** beat etc one's brains

**a breach of the peace** break the peace

**break of day** day/dawn breaks

**breast-beating** beat one's breast

**broken-hearted** break one's/sb's heart

**a bubble-pricker** prick the bubble (of sth)

**buck-passing** pass the buck

**bugger all** damn all

**by daylight** by the light of sth

**by moonlight** by the light of sth

**by this/that means** by means of sth

**call sb Joe etc for short** short for sth

**call names at sb** call sb names

**can do nothing wrong** can/could do no wrong

**can't/can hardly hear oneself speak** can't hear oneself think  
**capitalism etc has its unacceptable face** the unacceptable face of capitalism etc  
**change for the better/worse** a change for the better/worse  
**the changing/changed face of sth** change the face of sth  
**characterized, typified etc by nothing if not by sth** nothing if not sth  
**a Cheshire-cat grin/smile** grin like a Cheshire cat  
**chock(-)full (of/with sb/sth)** chock-a-block (full) (with sb/sth)  
**a choice of (two) evils** the lesser of two evils  
**clean-handed** have clean hands  
**clear-headed** have a clear head<sup>1,2</sup>  
**a clock-watcher** watch the clock  
**clock-watching** watch the clock  
**close-run** run sb/sth close  
**coal-black** (as) black as coal  
**coat-trailing** trail one's coat  
**a coffin nail** a nail in sb's/sth's coffin  
**come rain or shine** come rain, come shine  
**come storm or shine** come rain, come shine  
**come sun or shower** come rain, come shine  
**(have sth) coming out of one's ears** eat/drink (sth) till/until it comes out of one's ears  
**a confidence trickster/man** a con(fidence) trick  
**the confirmation of one's worst fears** confirm one's worst fears  
**a conman** a con(fidence) trick  
**conspicuously absent** conspicuous/distinguished by one's/its absence  
**corner-cutting** cut corners  
**(a) counting of heads** count heads  
**crystal-clear** (as) clear as crystal  
**cut more ways than one** cut both/two ways  
**cut several ways** cut both/two ways  
**DV** God willing  
**the dark continent** darkest Africa  
**one's darkest hour** the darkest hour is that/comes before the dawn  
**the day/time is approaching when** the day/time is not (so) far off/distant when  
**daybreak** dawn/day breaks  
**dead-certain/-sure** dead certain/sure (of/about sth)  
**dead on two o'clock etc** dead on time  
**a deadbeat** dead beat  
**dear to the soul of sb** dear to sb's heart  
**a death agony** one's death agony/throes  
**the death throes** one's death agony/throes  
**decision-taking** take a decision  
**a declaration of interest** declare an/one's interest  
**die in one's boots** die in harness  
**dirty deeds** dirty work  
**display the wisdom of Solomon** (as) wise as Solomon  
**a disturbance of the peace** disturb/keep the peace  
**do sb all the good in the world** do sb a power/world of good  
**do as/what sb says/tells one** do as/what one is told  
**do the best one can do/try one's best**  
**do sb's bidding** at sb's bidding

**a do-gooder** do good  
**do-gooding** do good  
**do sb/sth the injustice** do sb/sth justice  
**do x months/years** do time etc  
**do one's rounds** do/go the rounds  
**do sth too often etc for one's own good** have too much money etc for one's own good  
**do sth with one's hands tied** tie sb's hands  
**do you mean to tell me/say (that)?** you don't mean to tell me/say (that)?  
**dog does not eat dog** dog eat dog  
**Don Juanism** a Don Juan  
**don't cross your bridges before/until you come to them** cross one's bridges when one comes to them  
**a double-dyed reactionary etc** a dyed-in-the-wool reactionary etc  
**a drawer of morals** draw/point a moral  
**the dreaded moment** dread the moment (when)  
**drink a bitter cup** drink/drain the cup of sorrow etc  
**dry-as-dust** (as) dry as dust  
**(in) every nook and cranny** nooks and crannies  
**every virtue/quality has its vice/defect** have the vices/defects of one's virtues/qualities  
**eye-catching** catch sb's eye  
**face downward(s)/upward(s)** face down/up  
**face the fact that** face (the) facts  
**one's face is red** have a red face  
**face-lifting** have a face-lift  
**face-saving** lose/save face  
**a faint-heart** faint heart ne'er/never won fair lady  
**fair shares (for all)** get etc a/one's fair share  
**fair weather** (in) fair (weather) and/or foul  
**fairly and squarely** fair (and) square  
**fairly and squarely** fair and square<sup>1,2</sup>  
**a far remove from sth** (not) far removed from sth  
**feel one's heart sink(ing)** one's heart sinks  
**one's feelings are mixed** have etc mixed feelings  
**fellow-travelling** a fellow traveller  
**a few go a long way** a little (sth) goes a long way  
**fight hand-to-hand** hand-to-hand fighting etc  
**fight like cat and dog** (have/lead) a cat-and-dog life  
**find the going heavy etc** heavy etc going  
**finders keepers** finding is keeping  
**findings keepings** finding is keeping  
**fine-feathered** fine feathers make fine birds  
**fitness for human consumption** fit for human consumption  
**a flag-waver** wave the flag  
**flag-waving** wave the flag  
**fleetness of foot** fleet of foot  
**(cause) a flutter in the dovecote(s)** flutter the dovecotes  
**follow my leader** follow sb's lead  
**fool enough etc (to do sth)** enough of a fool etc (to do sth)  
**foot-stamping** stamp one's foot  
**football-crazy** mad etc about sb/sth

**(just) for the fun of it** (just) for fun  
**for good or ill** for better or (for) worse  
**(just) for the sake of argument** (just) for argument's sake  
**for those who like that sort of thing** if one likes that kind/sort of thing  
**for want of anything better to do (than)** have nothing better to do (than)  
**forelock-touching/-tugging/-pulling** touch etc one's forelock  
**frayed temper** (one's) temper rises/frays  
**free-load** a free loader  
**free-loading** a free loader  
**freedom of speech** free speech  
**from one job etc to another/the next** from job etc to job etc  
**fuck all** damn all  
**full marks to sb (for sth)** give sb etc full marks (for sth)  
**fund-raising** raise (the) money etc  
**fussing and bothering** fuss and bother  
**gain on the swings what one loses on the roundabouts** swings and roundabouts  
**a game of cat and mouse** (play) a cat-and-mouse game  
**generate less light than heat** generate more heat than light  
**generate a lot of heat** generate more heat than light  
**get one's fingers burnt** burn one's fingers  
**get a lucky strike** strike lucky  
**the gilded pill** gild/sugar the pill  
**give sb a box on the ear** box sb's ear(s)  
**give sb's memory a jog** jog one's/sb's memory  
**give a shrug of one's/the shoulders** shrug one's shoulders  
**give sb a swelled/swollen head** one's head swells  
**gnash one's teeth** gnashing of teeth  
**go Dutch** a Dutch treat  
**go the same way (as sb/sth)** go the way of sb/sth  
**a go-slow** go slow  
**go through hell and/or high water** come hell or high water  
**go to the trouble to do/of doing sth** take trouble to do sth  
**the going is heavy etc** heavy etc going  
**a good-for-nothing** good for nothing  
**(and) a good time was had by all** have a good time  
**sb's got a hope!** not have a hope (in hell) (of sth)  
**grapple hand-to-hand** hand-to-hand fighting etc  
**a Greek gift** fear the Greeks, bearing gifts  
**green-fingered** have green fingers  
**grin broadly** give (sb)/get a broad grin/smile  
**(feel/make) one's/sb's hackles rise** raise sb's hackles  
**had it not been for sb/sth** if it wasn't for sb/sth (doing sth)  
**hair-splitting** split hairs  
**sb's hands are clean** have clean hands  
**one's hands are full** have one's hands full  
**have any/no idea of what it is to be/do sth** know what it is to be/do sth  
**have etc a better than even/fifty-fifty chance** have etc an even/a fifty-fifty chance (of doing sth)  
**have etc better than an even/a fifty-fifty chance** have etc an even/a fifty-fifty chance (of doing sth)  
**have better things/something better to do (than)** have nothing better to do (than)  
**have come to stay** be here to stay  
**have a cowardly etc streak (in one)** have a streak of cowardice etc (in one)  
**have/get one's face lifted** have a face-lift  
**have gone (quite) far enough** go too etc far  
**have/be a good etc day** have/be one of one's good etc days  
**have one's good etc days** have/be one of one's good etc days  
**have got it bad** have got it badly  
**have/with a grin (on one's face) like a Cheshire cat** grin like a Cheshire cat  
**have sth hands down** win hands down  
**have a heavy cross to bear/carry** bear/carry one's cross  
**have etc the luck of the devil** have the devil's own luck  
**have nine lives (like a cat)** like a cat with nine lives  
**have no earthly chance (of achieving sth)** haven't an earthly (chance) (of achieving sth)  
**have no/not have any idea of what it is to be/do sth** know what it is to be/do sth  
**have no need to do sth** there is no need for sth/(for sb) to do sth<sup>1,2</sup>  
**have only (got) to say the word** (just) say the word  
**have a swelled/swollen head** one's head swells  
**have wisdom/understanding/appreciation beyond one's years** old etc beyond one's years  
**have sb's word (of honour) (that)** give (sb) one's word (of honour) (that)  
**he was (doing) what!** you what!  
**he who laughs last laughs longest/loudest** have the last laugh  
**a head-count** count heads  
**head-counting** count heads  
**head-scratching** scratch one's head  
**head-shaking** shake one's head<sup>2</sup>  
**a head-shrinker** shrink heads  
**heart-breaking** break one's/sb's heart  
**one's heart gets the better of one's head** one's head rules/governs one's heart  
**one's heart runs away with one's head** one's head rules/governs one's heart  
**heart-searching** search one's heart/soul  
**one's heart's desire** everything/all (that) the heart (of a man) could desire  
**heavy-hearted** have a heavy/light heart  
**a hell-raiser** raise Cain/(merry) hell<sup>1</sup>  
**a high-flyer** fly high  
**high-flying** fly high  
**a hole in (the) corner business etc** (a) hole and corner business etc  
**hollow laughter** a hollow laugh  
**hopes are high** have high hopes  
**hopes run high** have high hopes  
**sb's hunch is (that)** have a hunch (that)  
**I don't know how to put it** put it etc differently etc

**I'll give you a penny for your thoughts a penny for your thoughts**  
**ice-cold** (as) cold as ice etc  
**if/whether any living soul(s)** not a (living) soul  
**if ever I/if I ever saw one** if ever there was one  
**if sth is (not) so, (then) I'm a Dutchman** or I'm a Dutchman  
**if it kills one** if one dies in the attempt  
**if it's the last thing one does** if one dies in the attempt  
**if pigs had wings they might be taught to fly** pigs may/might fly  
**if that day should ever dawn** dawn/day breaks  
**if you get my meaning/drift** if you know etc what I mean  
**in sb's/sth's absence** in the absence of sb/sth  
**in bare outline** a bare outline (of sth)  
**in one's capacity as sth** in an advisory etc capacity  
**in the long view** take the long view  
**in more than one case/instance** more than once  
**in order that sb may do sth** in order to do sth  
**in sb's/sth's palmy days** in/during the palmy days  
**in the parlance of sb** in common etc parlance  
**in sober fact/truth** sober fact etc  
**in spirit and/as well as in letter** the letter of the law etc  
**in the spirit in which sth is intended/meant/offered** in the right etc spirit  
**in this/thata/another/a different light** in the light of sth  
**in this/thata regard** in/with regard to sth  
**in the vein of sb/sth** in a similar etc vein  
**in war/peace time** in time of war etc  
**the injured innocent** injured innocence  
**ink black** as black as ink etc  
**invention is born of necessity** necessity is the mother of invention  
**it can happen here** it can't happen here etc  
**it comes to us all** death/old age comes to us all  
**it is all part of the day's work** it is all in the day's work  
**it is a funny thing (but)** the funny thing is  
**it is just as well that** it/that is just as well  
**it takes a thief to catch a thief** set a thief to catch a thief  
**it would be better doing/to do sth** do better to do sth  
**it's/he's the exception that proves the rule** the exception proves the rule  
**it's odds on (that)** the odds are (that)  
**its vices/defects are those of its virtues/qualities** have the vices/defects of one's virtues/qualities  
**a jet-setter** the jet set  
**just one pebble on the beach** not the only pebble on the beach  
**just then** just now<sup>1</sup>  
**keep one's conscience clear** have a clear conscience  
**keep dead silent** dead silence

**keep an ear/an eye/a weather eye open** keep one's ears/eyes open  
**keep one's face straight** keep a straight face  
**keep one's hands clean** have clean hands  
**keep one's head clear** have a clear head<sup>2</sup>  
**keep (sb's) memory green** sb's memory is green  
**keep one's/the mind a blank** one's/the mind goes blank  
**keep the pot on the boil** keep the pot boiling<sup>2</sup>  
**the King is dead, long live the King** long live the King  
**know right from wrong** right and wrong  
**know what one doesn't like** not know anything about sth but know what one likes  
**(you) know what I mean?** if you know etc what I mean  
**know/be aware of who's who** know etc what's what  
**(all) labour/work/toil in the vineyard** (all) labourers etc in the vineyard  
**the land of milk and honey** a land flowing with milk and honey  
**the land of promise** a/the promised land  
**a last ditcher** the last ditch  
**laughter-prone** prone to sth<sup>2</sup>  
**the law etc has a long arm** the long arm of the law  
**the law's etc arm is long** the long arm of the law etc  
**lay waste to sth** lay sth waste  
**a lead-swing** swing the lead  
**leave no avenue unexplored** explore every avenue  
**leave sth till/until the eleventh hour** at the eleventh hour  
**leave sth till/until the last minute** at the last minute  
**a leg-pull** pull sb's leg  
**a leg-puller** pull sb's leg  
**let the cobbler stick to his last** the cobbler should stick to his last  
**let a man etc have enough rope (and he'll hang himself)** give a man etc enough rope (and he'll hang himself)  
**let tomorrow take care of/look after itself** tomorrow will/can take care of/look after itself  
**lie possum** play possum  
**one's life expectancy** the expectation of life  
**life is hard** a hard life  
**a life-saver** save sb's/one's life etc  
**life-saving** save sb's/one's life etc  
**light-hearted** have a heavy/light heart  
**one's lightly-worn learning etc** wear one's learning etc lightly  
**(when) the lights go on** the lights are going out all over Europe  
**(like) a Cheshire cat's grin/smile** grin like a Cheshire cat  
**like cutting butter with a hot knife** like a (hot) knife through butter/margarine  
**like the proverbial bad penny** like a bad penny  
**like a rudderless ship** like a ship without a rudder  
**a little fish in a big pond** a big fish in a little pond

**a little of sb/sth goes a long way** a little (sth) goes a long way  
**look as if/though sb has been dragging one backwards through hedges** look as if/though one has been dragged through a hedge backwards  
**look as if/though one has been feeding hens in the rain** look as if/though one has slept in that suit etc for a week  
**look at sb (in an) old-fashioned way** give sb/get an old-fashioned look  
**look blank** give sb/get a blank look  
**look like a ghost** look as if/though one has seen a ghost  
**lose no time (in) doing sth** waste (one's/sb's) time  
**loss-making** make a loss/profit  
**a loss of face** lose/save face  
**(a) loss of life** lose one's life  
**a lucky strike** strike lucky  
**maintain the spirit as much/as well as the letter of the law etc** the letter of the law etc  
**make certain/sure about/of sth** make certain/sure<sup>1</sup>  
**make certain/sure of sth** make certain/sure<sup>2</sup>  
**a make-do-and-mend** make do and mend  
**make one's gorge rise** one's gorge rises  
**make sb's heart sink** one's heart sinks  
**make a laughing stock of sb/sth** make etc (sb/sth) a laughing stock  
**make life hell for sb** life is hell  
**make life worth living** life is (not) worth living  
**make oneself look foolish/silly/ridiculous etc** make oneself/sb look etc a fool etc  
**make a lucky strike** strike lucky  
**make one's/the mind a blank** one's/the mind goes blank  
**make one's/the mind go blank** one's/the mind goes blank  
**make one's mouth water** one's mouth waters  
**make a new man/woman of sb (like)** a new man/woman  
**make-or-break** make or break etc  
**make so bold as to do sth** make bold to do sth  
**male chauvinism** a male chauvinist (pig/swine)  
**marry for convenience** a marriage of convenience  
**master of the house** the man/lady of the house  
**a matchmaker** make a match  
**matchmaking** make a match  
**the matter etc is (purely etc) academic** (a matter etc) of academic interest/concern  
**matter-of-course** (as) a matter of course  
**matter-of-fact** a matter of fact  
**matter-of-factly** a matter of fact  
**matter-of-factness** a matter of fact  
**sb/sth may/can go hang** let sb/sth go hang  
**a/the meeting of extremes** extremes meet  
**a merrymaker** make merry  
**merrymaking** make merry  
**mind-blowing** blow one's/sb's mind  
**a mind-boggler** one's/the mind/imagination boggles

**mind-boggling** one's/the mind/imagination boggles  
**one's/the mind is a blank** one's/the mind goes blank  
**sb's mind is open** have an open mind  
**mind other people's business** mind one's own business  
**a mind-reader** read sb's mind/thoughts  
**mind your own business** mind one's own business  
**a miracle-worker** work a miracle/wonders  
**a mischief-maker** make etc mischief  
**mischief-making** make etc mischief  
**mistress of the house** the man/lady of the house  
**a mixture of motives** have etc mixed motives  
**money-mad** mad etc about sb/sth  
**money-making** make money  
**money marries money** marry money  
**more changeable than a weathercock** (as) changeable as a weathercock  
**more harm than good comes of doing sth** do more harm than good  
**the more the pity** more's the pity  
**more than one can claim/say for sb/sth** more than one can say for/of sb/sth  
**more than meets the eye in it etc** more in it etc than meets the eye  
**a morning-after** the morning after (the night before)  
**one's motives are mixed** have etc mixed motives  
**mouth-watering** one's mouth waters  
**muck means/begets money** where there's muck there's money  
**muck and money go together** where there's muck there's money  
**muck rake** rake muck  
**a muck-raker** rake muck  
**muck-raking** rake muck  
**a mummy's boy** a mother's boy  
**muscle flexing** flex one's muscles  
**(if sb doesn't like it,) sb must lump it** like it or lump it  
**nail-picking** pick one's nose etc  
**name-calling** call sb names  
**name-dropping** drop names  
**nature's abhorrence of a vacuum** nature abhors a vacuum  
**need the wisdom of Solomon** (as) wise as Solomon  
**neither of them grows/gets any younger/thinner** not grow/get any younger/thinner  
**never see hide nor hair of sb/sth** neither hide nor hair of sb/sth  
**never think to see/one would see the day** live to see the day  
**a new high/low** an all-time high/low  
**a night on the town** a (big) night out  
**(in/through) the night watches** (in/through) the watches of the night  
**a nine-to-fiver** a nine to five job etc  
**no/not any better etc than the next (one)** as good etc as the next (one)  
**no/not any better etc than the next man** as good etc as the next man  
**sb/sth, no less** no less (a person/place) (than sb/sth)

**(with) no/some etc loss of cool** keep/lose one's cool  
**no price is too high to pay** pay a/the price (for sth)  
**no/small/little wonder** it is no wonder (that)  
**none of them grows/gets any younger/thinner** not grow/get any younger/thinner  
**nose-picking** pick one's nose etc  
**not be the only fish in the sea** there are (plenty) more (good) fish in the sea  
**not feel (so) good** feel good  
**not know if/whether one is on one's arse or one's elbow** not know if/whether one is on one's head or one's heels  
**not know where to put oneself** not know what to do with oneself  
**not let one's left hand know what one's right hand is doing** one's left hand does not know what one's right hand is doing  
**not (just/quite) right (for sb/sth)** just right (for sb/sth)  
**not a schoolmaster etc for nothing** not for nothing<sup>2</sup>  
**not that I'm any judge** if I'm any judge (of sb/sth)  
**a not unmixed blessing** a mixed blessing  
**noted, renowned etc for nothing if not for sth** nothing if not sth  
**nothing happens to sb** if anything happens to sb  
**observe the spirit as much/as well as the letter of the law etc** the letter of the law etc of every shape and size of all shapes and sizes  
**of sorts of a kind/sort**  
**of tender age** at a tender age  
**the old(-)boy net(work)** an old boy  
**old-fogeyish** an old fogey  
**old-fogeyism** an old fogey  
**old-maidish** an old maid  
**old maidishness** an old maid  
**on sb's account** on account of sb/sth  
**(be) on the crest of the wave** ride (the crest of) the wave  
**on the footing of sth/that** on a firm etc footing  
**on form** on present etc form  
**on the lines of sth** on these lines  
**on merit** on sb's merits  
**on more than one occasion** more than once  
**on a note of optimism etc** on an optimistic etc note  
**on one/this/that condition** on (the) condition that  
**on the score of sth** on that score  
**on second thoughts** have second thoughts  
**on the terms agreed** on these terms  
**on the terms on which** on these terms  
**on the terms proposed** on these terms  
**on that basis** on the basis of sth  
**on that front** on the home etc front  
**on these/those conditions** on (the) condition that  
**on this/that ground** on the ground(s) that  
**on this/that scale** on a large etc scale  
**on this/that understanding** on the understanding that  
**on those/other/all kinds of grounds** on the ground(s) that  
**(be) on time** dead on time  
**on what conditions** on (the) condition that  
**once a certain point is reached** beyond a certain point  
**only half the story** not the whole etc story  
**only time will tell etc** time (alone) will tell etc  
**open-minded** have an open mind  
**the opening of Pandora's box** open Pandora's box  
**or however** or whatever  
**or whenever** or whatever  
**an ounce of prevention is worth a pound/ton of cure** prevention is better than cure  
**over hill and dale** up hill and down dale  
**a pace-setter** set the pace  
**a packed house** pack the house  
**painstaking** take pains  
**a Pandora's box** open Pandora's box  
**parish-pumpery** the parish pump  
**parish-pumping** the parish pump  
**one's/sb's paths cross** cross sb's path  
**pay sb the compliment of doing sth** pay (sb) a compliment  
**pay (sb) compliments** pay (sb) a compliment  
**peace(-)keeping** keep the peace  
**(how/which way) the pendulum swings** the swing of the pendulum  
**(a) penny for them/'em** a penny for your thoughts  
**a pickpocket** pick sb's pocket  
**pit black** as black as ink etc  
**pitch black** as black as ink etc  
**plough one's own furrow** plough a lone/lonely furrow  
**a plougher of a lonely furrow** plough a lone/lonely furrow  
**point (already) taken** take etc sb's point  
**poker-faced** a poker face  
**poker-stiff** (as) stiff as a poker  
**a pot-boiler** keep the pot boiling<sup>1</sup>  
**a pound etc here and a pound etc there** here and there  
**a practical joker** a practical joke  
**a precious lot (of sth)** precious few/little  
**prefer the devil one knows to the devil one doesn't** the devil one knows is better than the devil one doesn't  
**the pricks/prickings of conscience** one's conscience pricks one  
**probably sooner than later** sooner or later  
**profit-making** make a loss/profit  
**a pub-crawler** a pub crawl  
**pub-crawling** a pub crawl  
**a puff-puff** a puffing billy  
**a puffer** a puffing billy  
**pursed-lipped** purse one's lips  
**put sb wise (to sb/sth)** get wise (to sb/sth)  
**question-begging** beg the question  
**the question is/remains open** an open question  
**a queue jumper** jump the queue  
**queue-jumping** jump the queue  
**raise eyebrows** raise one's/sb's eyebrows  
**raise some/certain eyebrows** raise one's/sb's eyebrows  
**a raiser of hackles** raise sb's hackles  
**ramrod-stiff/-straight** (as) stiff/straight as a ramrod  
**rather the devil one knows than the devil**

**one doesn't the devil one knows is better than the devil one doesn't**  
**a reactionary etc of the deepest dye** a dyed-in-the-wool reactionary etc  
**a rib-tickler** tickle sb's ribs  
**rib-tickling** tickle sb's ribs  
**rightly or wrongly** right and/or wrong  
**the rise and fall (of sb/sth)** rise and fall  
**the rise and fall of sb/sth** rise and fall<sup>2</sup>  
**a risk/threat/danger to life and limb** life and/or limb  
**the rot starts/sets in** start the rot  
**rough-house sb** a rough house  
**the rub is that** there etc is/lies the rub  
**the rub lies in doing sth** there etc is/lies the rub  
**rules are made to be broken** break the rules  
**(cause) a rustle in the dovecote(s)** flutter the dovecotes  
**a scene-stealer** steal the show/scene  
**searching of heart** search one's heart/soul  
**searching of soul** search one's heart/soul  
**see etc the lie of the land** see how the land lies  
**set too hot a pace (for sb)** the pace is etc too hot (for sb)  
**shame on you!** for shame(!)  
**a short-fall** fall short (of sth)  
**a short haul** a long haul  
**short of sth (nothing can/will do sth)** nothing short of sth (can/will do sth)  
**should the worst come to the worst** if the worst/it comes to the worst  
**show scant respect for persons** be no/not any respecter of persons  
**a show-stopper/showstopper** stop the show  
**show wisdom/understanding/appreciation beyond one's years** old etc beyond one's years  
**a sigh of relief arose** breathe etc a sigh of relief  
**sight-seeing** see the sights  
**a sightseer** see the sights  
**a skeleton outline (of sth)** the bare bones (of sth)  
**slap bang in the middle (of sth)** bang etc in the middle (of sth)  
**a small fish in a big pond** a big fish in a little pond  
**smart aleckry** a smart alec(k)  
**smart-alecky** a smart alec(k)  
**smile broadly** give (sb)/get a broad grin/smile  
**soft-soaping** soft soap  
**(at) some or other time (at)** some time or other  
**something happens to sb** if anything happens to sb  
**sooner rather than later** sooner or later  
**soul-searching** search one's heart/soul  
**soundness in wind and limb** sound in wind and limb  
**a special pleader** special pleading  
**a speech-maker** make etc a speech  
**speech-making** make etc a speech  
**a spent force** spend one's/its force  
**a spine-chiller** chill sb's/the spine etc  
**spine-chilling** chill sb's/the spine etc

**(be) spit-and-polished** spit and polish  
**spot etc sb's (little) game** what/that is sb's (little) game  
**a spring clean** spring clean  
**spring cleaning** spring clean  
**(stars of) stage, screen and television** stage and screen  
**statistics/figures can (be made to) prove anything** you can prove anything with/by statistics/figures  
**a steady (boy-friend/girl-friend)** go steady (with sb)  
**stomach-turning** turn one's stomach  
**one's stomach turns** turn one's stomach  
**stone-cold** (as) cold as ice etc  
**stop sb short** stop short (at sth)  
**stops and starts** stop and start  
**strike the iron while it is hot** strike while the iron is hot  
**a string-puller** pull (the) strings/wires  
**string pulling** pull (the) strings/wires  
**the stuff of which dreams etc are made** the stuff that dreams etc are made of  
**a sucker is born every minute** there is a sucker/one born every minute  
**suffer from a swelled/swollen head** one's head swells  
**(the) sugar on the pill** gild/sugar the pill  
**suspend (one's) disbelief** the suspension of disbelief  
**the sweet taste of stolen fruit** stolen sweets etc are sweeter/the sweetest  
**swollen-headed** one's head swells  
**take another/a different/the opposite etc view** take the view that  
**take one's ease** at one's ease  
**take a tip from me** take my tip  
**talk etc for the sake of it** etc for art's etc sake  
**teach sb a lesson** learn a/one's lesson  
**a tell-tale** tell tales  
**tell sb what he can do with sth** you know what you can do (with it/sth)  
**tell sb where he can put sth** you know where you can put sth  
**and that** and all that  
**that/this is all I need** all one needs is sth  
**that/this is the funny thing** the funny thing is (that)  
**that's the best/worst of sth** the best/worst of it/sth is (that)  
**that's the rub** there etc is/lies the rub  
**there are as good fish in the sea (as ever came out of it)** there are (plenty) more (good) fish in the sea  
**there are plenty of (other) fish in the sea** there are (plenty) more (good) fish in the sea  
**there's no harm in doing sth** do no/not do any harm  
**they don't come like that any more** they don't make etc them like that any more  
**thick-skinned** have a thick/thin skin  
**thin-skinned** have a thick/thin skin  
**think positive(ly)** positive thinking  
**the throes of death** one's death agony/throes  
**thumb-twiddling** twiddle one's thumbs  
**a tightrope walker** walk a tightrope  
**tightrope walking** walk a tightrope  
**till death do us part** till/until death us do part

**time, the great healer** time is a great healer  
**time heals** time is a great healer  
**time was when** there was a time when  
**tip a wink at sb** tip sb a wink  
**to the effect that** to that effect  
**to the tips of one's fingers** to one's/the fingertips  
**a tommy** Tommy Atkins  
**touch-and-go** be touch and go  
**a trail-blazer** blaze a trail  
**trail-blazing** blaze a trail  
**transform geese into swans** (all) sb's geese are swans  
**treble crossing** a double cross  
**(do) Trojan work** work like a slave etc  
**a trouble-maker** make/cause trouble  
**a true blue** true blue  
**trumpet-blowing** blow one's own trumpet  
**truth to tell** to tell you the truth  
**a tub-thumper** thump a/the tub/Bible  
**tub-thumping** thump a/the tub/Bible  
**turn geese into swans** (all) sb's geese are swans  
**turn the tide** the tide turns  
**a turncoat** change/turn one's coat  
**two can play at that game** the game is (not) worth the candle  
**two's company, three's not/none** two's company, (three's a crowd)  
**um and ah** hum and ha(w)  
**under the name of sb/sth** under one's own etc name  
**unlucky at cards** lucky at cards, unlucky in love  
**until death do us part** till/until death us do part  
**velvet-smooth** (as) smooth as velvet  
**the very thing** just the thing  
**a viewpoint** a/one's point of view  
**one's voice has an edge to it** have an edge to one's voice  
**want no part of it** not want any part of sth  
**was my face red!** have a red face  
**a waste of (one's/sb's) time** waste (one's/sb's) time  
**waste no time (in) doing sth** waste (one's/sb's) time  
**waste no words** not waste words  
**watch hawk-like** watch (sb/sth) like a hawk  
**wave a red rag at a bull** (like) a red rag to a bull  
**the weak(est) link in the chain** a chain is (only) as strong as its weakest link  
**well-meaning** mean well  
**were it not for sb/sth** if it wasn't for sb/sth (doing sth)  
**wet-nurse** a wet nurse  
**a what-d'you-call-it** what d'you call him  
**what one gains on the swings one loses on the roundabouts** swings and roundabouts  
**what hope does sth/sb have?** not have a hope (in hell) (of sth)

**what I (always) say is (that)** that's what I (always) say  
**what's the world coming to?** I don't know what the world's coming to  
**wheel and deal** wheeling and dealing  
**a wheeler-dealer** wheeling and dealing  
**when the great day dawns** dawn/day breaks  
**where are the other (ninety-)nine?** you and the other (ninety-)nine  
**(the) whiter-than-whiteness (of sth)** (wash) whiter than white  
**the why(s) and (the) wherefore(s) (of sth)** why and wherefore?  
**the wild and woolly west** the Wild West  
**one will cross that bridge when one comes to it** cross one's bridges when one comes to them  
**a wire-puller** pull (the) strings/wires  
**wire pulling** pull (the) strings/wires  
**wisdom after the event** wise after the event  
**with as good a grace as possible** with (a) good grace  
**with clockwork regularity** (as) regular as clockwork  
**with/having eyes as big as saucers** (as) big/round as saucers  
**with one's hand on one's heart** hand over heart  
**with/and no expense etc spared** spare no expense etc  
**with pursed lips** purse one's lips  
**with a shake of one's head** shake one's head  
**with a shrug of one's/the shoulders** shrug one's shoulders  
**with a sinking heart** one's heart sinks  
**with a wisdom/an understanding beyond one's years** old etc beyond one's years  
**within a stone's throw (of sth)** a stone's throw ((away) from sth)  
**without a hope in hell** not have a hope (in hell) (of sth)  
**without turning a hair** not turn a hair  
**witty and wise** wit and wisdom  
**word-eating** eat one's words  
**(on sb's) word of honour** give (sb) one's word (of honour) (that)  
**worldly wisdom** worldly wise  
**would sooner do A (than B)** would as soon do A (as B)  
**you (can) bet your sweet life on sth** you (can) bet your (sweet) life (that)  
**you can use statistics/figures to prove anything** you can prove anything with/by statistics/figures  
**you can't have your bread buttered on both sides** know which/what side one's bread is buttered (on)  
**you did what!** you what!  
**you heard what the man said** that's what the man said  
**you know something(?)** do you know  
**you've never had it so good** have it good