



# DR FINGERS' VOCABULARY CLINIC

# problems

HERE ARE SOME MORE USEFUL AND INTERESTING EXPRESSIONS FOR YOU TO LEARN. THIS MONTH: PROBLEMS.

DR FINGERS' VOCABULARY CLINIC



**Sleep on it**

NOT TO MAKE AN IMMEDIATE DECISION BUT TO WAIT UNTIL THE NEXT DAY IN ORDER TO HAVE MORE TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT.

"You don't have to decide right now, just sleep on it and let me know what you think tomorrow morning."



**We'll cross that bridge when we come to it**  
WE'LL DEAL WITH THAT PROBLEM AT THE APPROPRIATE MOMENT.

"Don't worry about how we're going to finance the project – we'll cross that bridge when we come to it."



**Be up in the air**

IF SOMETHING IS "UP IN THE AIR", NO DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN ABOUT IT.

"They still haven't decided where to get the new office. It's all still up in the air."



**A bone of contention**

SOMETHING CONTROVERSIAL THAT PEOPLE SPEND A LOT OF TIME ARGUING/FIGHTING ABOUT.

"Deciding who would end up with the house in the country and who would get the flat in the city was the main bone of contention."



**Use a sledgehammer to crack a nut**

TO USE MORE FORCE OR SPEND MORE MONEY THAN IS NECESSARY.

"Sixty armed police officers stormed into the building looking for the elderly tourists. It was like using a sledgehammer to crack a nut."



**Let sleeping dogs lie**

NOT TO TALK ABOUT THINGS WHICH HAVE CAUSED PROBLEMS IN THE PAST; NOT TO TRY TO CHANGE A SITUATION BECAUSE IT MIGHT CAUSE MORE PROBLEMS. IF YOU WAKE UP THE "SLEEPING DOG", THEY MIGHT ATTACK YOU.

"The government felt it was best to ignore the situation and just let sleeping dogs lie."



**Come up against a brick wall / Hit a brick wall**

TO BE UNABLE TO CONTINUE AN ACTIVITY BECAUSE THERE IS AN OBSTACLE OR PROBLEM TO DEAL WITH.

"The new law means that this building can't be used as a factory or office, so we have to stop working and move out asap. We've hit a brick wall!"