

## IDIOMS

- **all set to**

→ ready to (do something)

Example: The salesman at the Gap asked, "**All set to** check out?"

- **bells and whistles**

→ product features which are attractive, but not essential for the product to function

Example: I just want a reliable car. I'm not looking for a lot of **bells and whistles**.

- **(to) break up**

→ to lose a phone signal; to start losing a phone connection

Example: I can barely hear you. We're **breaking up**.

- **could use**

→ need; have use for

Example: Your ties are all stained. You **could use** some new ones.

- **(the) fine print**

→ the part of a contract with special rules and limitations. These are often "hidden" in small print, which is why you'll often hear: "Be sure to read the fine print."

Example: Julie didn't read **the fine print** of the fitness club contract carefully, and now she's stuck with a lifetime membership.

- **first rate**

→ of the highest quality

Example: If you're looking for a restaurant, I recommend the Mediterranean Grill. The food there is **first rate**.

NOTE: You will also hear the term "second rate" to describe something that is of inferior quality or not very good.

- **(to) get into**

→ to get involved with (often used in a negative sense, as when one has gotten involved with something that is now unpleasant or not wanted)

Example: My evening MBA program is more demanding than I thought it would be. What have I **gotten into**?

- **(to) get stuck with**

→ to have something unwanted or undesirable that one cannot get rid of

Example: I'm in charge of cleaning the bathroom once a week at our dormitory. I don't know how I **got stuck with** this task!

- **hidden fees**

→ extra charges that are not made clear from the beginning

Example: When you sign up for a new credit card, make sure there are no **hidden fees**.

- **in the market for**

→ shopping for; interested in buying

Example: We're **in the market for** a flat-screen television.

- **no-frills**

→ a simple and basic service or product

Example: If you want to fly cheaply, try a **no-frills** airline like Ryanair.

NOTE: "frills" are extra features or benefits

- **no strings attached**

→ with no limits or special demands attached (to an offer)

Example: Kim got a full scholarship to Stanford, **no strings attached**.

- **one-time fee**

→ a charge that you only pay one time

Example: To join FitOne Gym, I had to pay a **one-time fee** of \$199, then a monthly membership fee of \$49.

- **(to) run you**

→ to cost you

Example: It's going to **run you** \$600 for a one-year membership to Club Five Fitness.

- **(to) set up**

→ to establish; to arrange; to put something new in place

Example: I **set up** direct deposit so that my paychecks are automatically deposited into my bank account.

- **(to) sign on the dotted line**

→ to agree to or sign up for something ( often by signing a contract or agreement)

Example: I'm interested in joining the gym but before I **sign on the dotted line**, can you please explain the cancellation policy?

- **(to) throw in**

→ to include for no additional fee

Example: If you sign up for a one-year gym membership today, we'll **throw in** a free set of towels.

## **PRACTICE THE EXPRESSIONS**

**Fill in the blank with the missing word:**

1. A new Honda Civic will run \_\_\_\_\_ \$16,000 with tax.
  - a) you
  - b) at
  - c) on
2. Did you read the \_\_\_\_\_ print before signing the contract?
  - a) small
  - b) little
  - c) fine
3. Can you recommend a simple DVD player - one without all the \_\_\_\_\_ and whistles?
  - a) buttons

- b) bells
- c) rings
- 4. When I ordered tea from the Aroma Tea Shop, the company threw \_\_\_\_\_ a free sample of some oolong tea.
  - a) up
  - b) in
  - c) on
- 5. Charlie was \_\_\_\_\_ set to order a cappuccino at Starbucks before he realized he forgot his wallet at home.
  - a) ready
  - b) every
  - c) all