

Phraseology

Print-N-Play Cards

What Goes Up

**By Choice
As A Clam**

**Brevity Is
The Soul of Wit
Been There**

Done That

**Challenge
To Be**

As Happy

Or Not To Be

Must Come Down

Developed by Dr. Chris Cavert

Phraseology Cards Set 1

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Welcome to Phraseology Cards – a norming and processing activity about "meaning" and making meaning. In some educational theories it's said that we should start with what we know before venturing into the unknown. Using Phraseology Cards can help us practice this idea before diving deeper into new social learning experiences.

Activity Objective: Using all the cards, pair them up so that two cards make a phrase that has a particular (Part 1) or new (Part 2) meaning.

Facilitated Objective: Explore prior knowledge (and why this might be useful), and practice behaviors related to communication, sharing voice, community knowledge, and building rapport.

Needs & Numbers: Print out the 38 Phraseology Cards below on copy paper or card stock paper - go with a color other than white to spice it up a bit (or, maybe a few different colors). For long-term use laminated the cards if you are using regular (thin) copy paper. Card stock holds up well on its own. One set of 38 cards works well with a group of two to 16 participants.

Time: 15 to 20 minutes at any time during a program – maybe a little longer if you plan to use the phrases for a processing session at the end of a program (depending on the number of players of course and how much they like to talk).

Set-Up: Spread out the cards, words-side up, on a tabletop or floor, so all the cards can easily be read.

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Procedure: (This is a brand-new activity, so help me add to the use of the cards.) Here's what I have so far:

Part 1: Ask (challenge) your group to match two cards together that make up a known (documented) phrase that is known to have a particular meaning. (The Meanings Key below includes one or two historical meanings for each phrase.)

When someone identifies a pair, discuss what meaning the phrase has for people. Depending on the diversity of the group, there could be a wide range of meanings. Then, find out if the phrase might have a particular connection to the group or might it have any influence on the group as they work together - could it be a "norm" the group wants to adopt?

There will be some phrases (I'm betting) that will be unknown to the group. This can be a good time to talk about "unknowns" that might show up during a program. You can use the "Meaning Key" to share a meaning and discuss how this impacts the group.

Does the group need to match up all the cards? Maybe? Maybe not?

If there is time, move into Part 2. Or, after working together for a while and "trying out" some of the phrases, put out the cards again and try Part 2 - make some new meaning.

Part 2: The group has already matched the cards into the common form. Now, make new meanings by matching two (or more?) cards into an uncommon form and define the phrase. These could end up being fun, silly combinations or more serious, norm-relevant combinations.

Making new meaning might be a good conversation (processing) topic. Run with the energy of the group.

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Processing with the Cards: You could pull the cards back out at the end of a program and find out, by putting cards together, which phrases really stood out for the group during the program.

Facilitation Notes: As the group works through Part 1 (or later in Part 2), they may notice the borders of the cards and realize one type of border (solid lines) is the first part of a phrase and the other border (dotted line) is the second part of a phrase.

If they recognize this, will it be easier? Maybe? Maybe they never realize this. No matter. It's just another form of data that can be useful or not needed. This can relate to the work you do together. When we "look" or "pay attention" we might see something that will help. Looking is a learned skill that can help us in many ways.

When we look, we have the opportunity to uncover more meaning and make more meaning. This activity is all about making meaning together as a group. And, know that it's okay to share your understanding of the phrases as well - it doesn't "mean" you have the right answer, it's only "an" answer.

Share your Phraseology Cards experiences. Please email me: chris.cavert@gmail.com
And, be sure to visit FUNdoing.com for more teambuilding resources.....

Be well! Have FUN doing what you do!

Chris

Again, thank you for supporting the FUNdoing adventures by sharing the source of the Phraseology Cards (FUNdoing.com/blog) with those who might find it useful.

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Phraseology Meanings Key

Most "Meanings" included come from: The Phrase Finder, www.phrases.org.uk

A sledgehammer to crack a nut. Expression evolving over time, starting in the late 1800s

A Meaning: Using a disproportionate force or expense to overcome a minor problem.

As happy as a clam. Expression first appearing in the early 1800s

A Meaning: Very happy and Content.

Back to the Drawing board. Expression starting in the mid-1900s

A Meaning: Start again on a new design or plan after a failure of an earlier attempt.

Barking up the wrong tree. James Kirke Paulding, *Westward Ho!*, 1932

A Meaning: Making a mistake or false assumption in something you are trying to achieve.

Been there, done that. Expression beginning in the 1970s - different references.

A Meaning: Having experienced the topic under discussion, to the point of boredom or complacency.

Brevity is the soul of wit. William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

A Meaning: Literal interpretation and if you talk too much, people stop listening.

Challenge by Choice. Karl Rohnke, *Project Adventure*

A Meaning: You have the option to choose the level at which you would like to be challenged.

Fly off the handle. Thomas C. Haliburton, *Sam Slick in England*, 1843

A Meaning: Lose self-control.

I took the one less traveled by. Robert Frost, *The Road Not Taken*

A Meaning: The unconventional or uninvestigated option

It's Better to burn out than to fade away. Neil Young, *My, My, Hey, Hey*

A Meaning: Live life to its fullest potential, don't always take the easy road.

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Jump on the bandwagon. Attributed to Teddy Roosevelt in the late 1800s.
A Meaning: Join a growing movement in support of something or someone.

Keep your chin up. The Evening Democrat, 1900, Pennsylvania Newspaper
A Meaning: Remain cheerful in a difficult situation.

Paddle your own canoe. Expression starting in the early 1800s
A Meaning: Act independently and decide your own fate.

Talk to the hand. U.S. expression, 1996 reference.
A Meaning: "Stop talking, I have no interest in what you are saying."

The first story I ever write is a bright crayon picture. Margarite Engle, Turtle Came to See Me
A Meaning: Without influence, the sky's the limit. Over time, influences dull the sense of wonder and creativity.

To be or not to be. William Shakespeare, Hamlet
A Meaning: Is it better to "live" or to "die" - could be literally or figuratively

You can't always get what you want. Rolling Stones
A Meaning: Literal interpretation - you can't always get what you want.

What goes up, must come down. Tyrone Davis, Song
Meanings: You'll not always be at your best. After you reach the "top" someone, eventually, will take your place.

What you see is what you get. Expression starting in the 1940s
Meanings: Most often referred to as what you see on a computer screen is what you'll see when you print it on paper. When referring to a person, what you are and have observed in someone is all you'll see - there are no other surprises (which is usually not the case).

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**What
Goes Up**

Phraseology Cards #1 – www.fundoing.com

**Must
Come Down**

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Challenge

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By Choice

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To Be

Phraseology Cars #1 – www.fundoing.com

**Or Not
To Be**

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**I Took
The One**

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**Less
Traveled By**

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**It's Better
To Burn Out**

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**Than To
Fade Away**

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**The First
Story I
Ever Write**

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**Is A Bright
Crayon Picture**

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**Been
There**

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**Done
That**

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**You Can't
Always Get**

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**What
You Want**

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Brevity Is

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**The Soul
Of Wit**

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A Sledgehammer

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To Crack a Nut

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**Everybody
Got Somebody**

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**To
Lean On**

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**As
Happy**

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**As A
Clam**

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Back To

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The Drawing Board

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Barking Up

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The Wrong Tree

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Fly Off

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**The
Handle**

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Jump On

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The Band Wagon

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**Keep
Your**

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Chin Up

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**What
You See**

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**Is What
You Get**

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Talk To

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The Hand

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Paddle

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Your Own Canoe

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