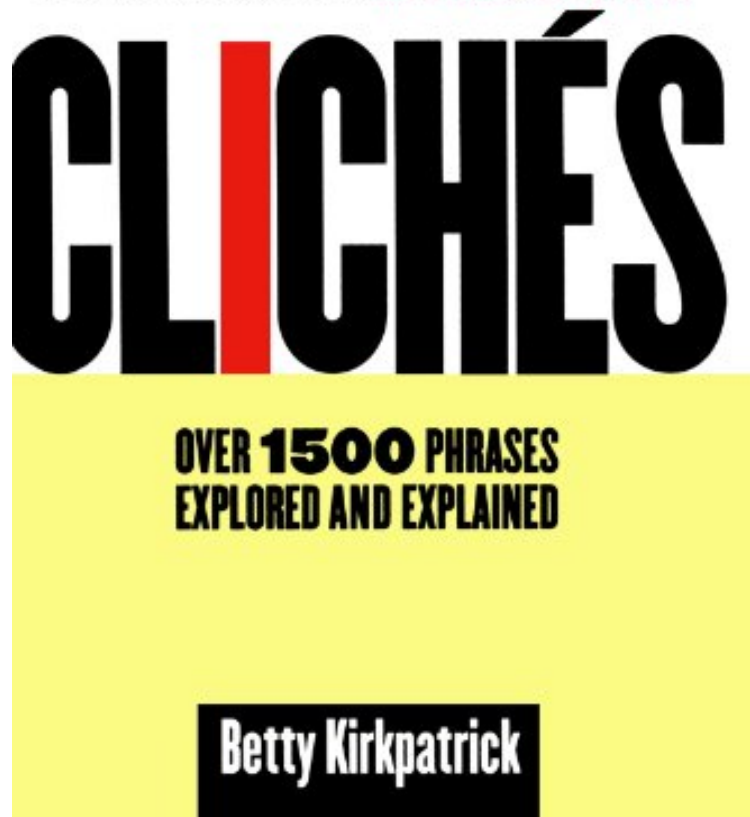


Cliches: Over 1500 Phrases Explored and Explained

Betty Kirkpatrick

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Absence makes the heart grow fonder ♦ *Beggars can't be choosers*
Better late than never ♦ *Birds of a feather flock together* ♦ **Crazy like a fox**
Don't count your chickens before they're hatched ♦ *The early bird catches the*
worm ♦ *Hold your horses* ♦ *It takes two to tango* ♦ **Kick the bucket**
Kill two birds with one stone ♦ *Let sleeping dogs lie* ♦ *Make a mountain out of*
a molehill ♦ **No rest for the wicked** ♦ *Once bitten, twice shy* ♦ **Over my**
dead body ♦ *Paint the town red* ♦ *Rain cats and dogs* ♦ **The tip of the iceberg**
When the cat's away the mice will play ♦ *You can't teach an old dog new tricks*



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Betty Kirkpatrick : Cliches: Over 1500 Phrases Explored and Explained before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cliches: Over 1500 Phrases Explored and Explained:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. How Many Cliches Can You Come Up WithBy AlanWarnerSometimes you just want to read a book and smile well this is the book for you, I was pleased to see some of the clichs in this book that I have used in my various other reviews, how many of these clichs have you ever used in a conversation or your writings, on page 196 I did not know that we'll see and we'll let you know are clichs how many

times have you heard those two clichés during a job interview. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I love this book - people use clichés everyday and don't ...By sunny schewe I love this book - people use clichés everyday and don't know where they came from. I keep it handy so I can educate my friends when they use a cliché'. ONE THING I FORGOT WAS TO ORDER "LARGE PRINT." The book was a great bargain. 63 of 73 people found the following review helpful. superficial, lacking scholarship, tedious and arbitrary By MPetal2000@aol.com Any etymological information is scanty or assumed. This was a waste of my time, a waste of my money and a waste of my shelf space. After reading the belabored introduction and several pages of exemplary clichés, I couldn't pick the book up.

Betty Kirkpatrick has compiled an exhaustive dictionary--a must for writers, crossword puzzle buffs, and anyone who is intrigued by language. Sample entries from *Cliches* Let the cat out of the bag is an idiom cliché meaning to reveal a secret. In origin it refers allegedly to a fairground trick by which traders sold unwary buyers a cat in a bag, assuring them it was a pig. The buyers did not realize their mistake until they let the cat out of the bag, by which time it was too late. Bite the bullet is an idiom cliché meaning to steel oneself to accept something distressing. In origin it probably refers to the days before anesthesia, when soldiers wounded in battle were given a lead bullet to bite on to brace themselves against the pain of surgery. Fly off the handle is an idiom cliché meaning to lose one's temper. Originally American, the expression has its origin in an ax or hammer, the handle of which becomes loosened and flies off after it has struck a blow.

.com The cliché is "... the bad guy of the English language. Furthermore it is the worst kind of bad guy--the bad guy that used to be a good guy before it suffered a fall from grace or, in the case of the cliché, a fall from freshness." Was this always so? Is originality of usage a classic value or a more recent one? In an exhaustive, 10-page introduction to *Cliches: Over 1,500 Phrases Explored and Explained*, lexicographer Betty Kirkpatrick presents a fascinating history of the classification of this linguistic category as well as of various aspects of language, illustrating its elasticity and ongoing evolution. For the literal thinker, it may be satisfying to know that the word cliché comes from the French *clicher*, meaning "to stereotype" (a printing term), but a succinct and consensual definition? No can do. Cliches are, Kirkpatrick contends, "impossible to pigeonhole." Designating such categories as quotations and misquotations, euphemistic clichés, catchphrases, vogue expressions, or buzzwords, Kirkpatrick has assembled 207 pages of commentary on the subject. For all of the wrath and ridicule expended on it, the cliché, to coin a phrase, is as old as the hills. Look up as old as the hills in Betty Kirkpatrick's *Cliches* and you'll find the phrase, its history, and examples of its usage. You'll want to keep this entertaining dictionary in your reference library for when your dinner guest asks, "What is the shape of things to come?" You'll be able to provide two thought-provoking answers, the first of which will come from your copy of *Cliches*; the second may come from your tarot. From *Library Journal* Kirkpatrick, the editor of the *Bloomsbury Thesaurus* (Bloomsbury, 1993) and the latest edition of *Roget's Thesaurus* (Little, Brown, 1996), has turned her lexical attention to the cliché. In this dictionary, she examines and categorizes more than 1500 clichés, using her own classification system. Arranging entries alphabetically, she moves from "absence makes the heart grow fonder" to "zero hour." Kirkpatrick offers an explanation of each cliché's meaning, uses it in a sentence, places it in historical context, and explains who is most likely to use it (e.g., the young or the old, doctors or sports announcers). Thus, the reader can learn that "every effort is being made" is a hackneyed phrase most often used by officials to "reassure people who fear that very little is being done" and that it originated in the 20th century. An interesting introduction exploring the idea of the cliché and how it has been treated over time adds a touch of scholarship to this general-reader dictionary. It will be handy in almost any reference collection and is therefore recommended for all libraries. ?Neal Wyatt, Chesterfield Cty. P.L., Va. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Publisher Sample Entries from *Cliches*: LET THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG is an idiom cliché meaning to reveal a secret. In origin it refers allegedly to a fairground trick by which traders sold unwary buyers a cat in a bag, assuring them it was a pig. The buyers did not realize their mistake until they let the cat out of the bag, by which time it was too late. BITE THE BULLET is an idiom cliché meaning to steel oneself to accept something distressing. In origin it probably refers to the days before anesthesia, when soldiers wounded in battle were given a lead bullet to bite on to brace themselves against the pain of surgery. FLY OFF THE HANDLE is an idiom cliché meaning to lose one's temper. Originally American, the expression has its origin in an ax or hammer, the handle of which becomes loosened and flies off after it has struck a blow.