



ACE

1) I'm going to ace this exam - I've been studying all week!

2) Lois Lane was the ace reporter for The Daily Planet -- although she did have a lot of trouble uncovering Superman's identity!

Definition:

To do something very well, particularly an examination (verb); first-rate (adjective), or an expert (noun).

Etymology:

In World War I, a pilot who shot down five enemy planes was called an 'ace', which is the powerful one card in a deck of playing cards. 'Ace' can be used as a verb (to do well) or as an adjective (excellent, best) or as a noun (a nickname for someone who is good at something, or for a good friend).



ALL EARS

1) I was all ears as Chris told me this exciting story.

Definition:

Listening carefully; keenly attentive.

Etymology:

You listen with your ears, so if you are 'all ears' your entire being is listening to someone speak.

an arm and a leg



Slang of the Day

AN ARM AND A LEG

- 1) My new Mercedes cost me an arm and a leg!
- 2) I can't buy that, it costs an arm and a let.

Definition:

A large amount of money; very expensive or costly

Etymology:

Some things are so expensive that they are painful to buy, and cost everything you have.

ants in your pants



Slang of the Day

ANTS IN YOUR PANTS

- 1) The children had ants in their pants, so we took them outside for some exercise.
- 2) Would you please stop tapping your foot?! You must have ants in your pants!

Definition:

To be nervous or anxious or jumpy; to be unable to sit still.

Etymology:

If you had 'ants' (small insects) in your 'pants' (clothing) you would probably feel like jumping around.



AT THE END OF YOUR ROPE

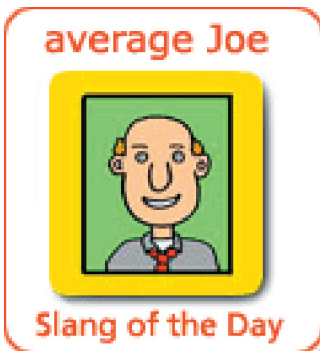
1) I'm at the end of my rope -- I lost my job, my car died, and I don't have any money in the bank.

Definition:

To be out of options or alternative courses of action; to be stuck in a bad situation.

Etymology:

A 'rope' is thrown to someone who is in a difficult place, such as deep water or the edge of a cliff. If there is not enough rope, the person might be in trouble. So to be 'at the end of your rope' means that there is no more help available, and the situation is not good.



AVERAGE JOE

1) Mickey is your average Joe -- he likes football, hates opera, and thinks it's a crime to do any work on weekends.

Definition:

Someone who is just like everyone else; a normal person.

Etymology:

'Average' means 'in the middle' or 'not extreme', and 'Joe' is a common male name, So 'average Joe' refers to a man who is not extremely different from everyone else.