

back burner



Slang of the Day

BACK BURNER

1) We worked hard on the project at first, but when a new project came along, we put it on the back burner.

Definition:

Not an urgent priority. To put something on the 'back burner' is to put something off until later stage.

Etymology:

The 'back burner' of a stove is where you put things that are slowly cooking, and that you can leave alone for a while.

back on your feet



Slang of the Day

BACK ON YOUR FEET

1) Rick has been in the hospital for a week, but he'll be back on his feet in no time.

Definition:

To recover, usually from an illness; to feel better after being sick.

Etymology:

To be 'on your feet' means that you are standing. So if you are 'back on your feet', it means that you are standing again, after a period of lying down due to sickness.



BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD

1) Professor Hoopeldinger had to go back to the drawing board after his experiment blew up.

2) Our sales plan isn't working, so I guess it's back to the drawing board!

Definition:

To begin again; to repeat a process, often after a major setback.

Etymology:

If the initial design for a building or aircraft fails, the designer has to go back to his or her work table and begin again.



BAD EGG

1) Emily is a real bad egg - - she's always starting fights and causing trouble.

2) We have to get rid of the bad eggs in the sales department.

Definition:

A troublemaker; someone who has a bad attitude and causes trouble.

Etymology:

In this phrase, 'egg' means 'person' or 'individual'. This is probably because the human head looks a lot like an egg. A bad egg, then, is simply a bad person. There is a similar phrase to describe a good person - a 'good egg'.



BAD MOUTH

1) Lisa bad-mouthed her boss at the water cooler.

2) I wish people would stop bad-mouthing Cleveland. It's really a very nice city.

Definition:

To say negative things about someone or something.

Etymology:

"Bad" means not good, and 'mouth' refers to the physical act of speech.



BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE

1) Tanya tried to get some money from her uncle, but she was barking up the wrong tree -- he's broke!

2) If you're looking for a new job, Ted, you're barking up the wrong tree. We aren't hiring right now.

Definition:

Looking for something in the wrong place; to be mistaken.

Etymology:

A dog will chase its prey (such as a cat) until it runs up a tree. The dog then barks to tell its owner where the prey is. Sometimes, the dog might get confused, and bark at the 'wrong tree' where there is no prey.