

# The Things We Say

Canadians use a lot of idioms, which are words and phrases that have special meaning.

They can be really hard for newcomers to understand!

- A. Cut corners
- B. On the same page
- C. Throw in the towel
- D. Back to square one
- E. Cut to the chase
- F. Long shot
- G. In the red
- H. Have a lot on your plate

- I. By the book
- J. Off the top of one's head
- K. A fish out of water
- L. Up in the air
- M. No-brainer
- N. The elephant in the room
- O. Rock the boat

Think about it - will the people around you understand what you are trying to say?

Check for understanding, and explain the phrase when you need to!

**Answers:** **A.** To do something the easiest or quickest way **B.** To have a shared understanding with others **C.** To quit or accept failure **D.** To go back to the beginning or start over **E.** To get to the point without wasting time **F.** A low chance of something happening **G.** To owe money to the bank or people **H.** To have a lot of responsibilities **I.** To do something by law or rule **J.** A rough estimate **K.** Feeling uncomfortable or in an unfamiliar situation **L.** Something is undecided or uncertain **M.** Something that is easy or obvious **N.** A topic that no one wants to discuss **O.** To do or say something that will cause a problem



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**Calgary Immigrant Women's Association**

#200 138 4th Avenue SE Calgary, AB T2G 4Z6

PHONE 403-263-4414 | FAX 403-264-3914 | E-MAIL [director@ciwa-online.com](mailto:director@ciwa-online.com) | WEB [www.ciwa-online.com](http://www.ciwa-online.com)