

BINOMIALS

By and large

used for referring to something in a very general way
By and large I think the emphasis should be on recruiting the right people.

Short and sweet

not too long or complicated
Time is limited, so please keep your remarks short and sweet.

Touch and go

not certain and with a risk of death or serious failure
It had been touch-and-go for him in the hospital, but he had eventually recovered.

Hard and fast

not to be changed:
A hard-and-fast rule.

Make or break

something that is make-or-break will lead to either success or failure
This could be a make-or-break speech for the prime minister.

Born and bred

used for saying where someone was born and grew up
Jane was born and bred in Seattle.
He's a Parisian born and bred.

Trial and error

a way of finding a good method that involves trying several possibilities and learning from your mistakes
I figured out how to use the new software by a process of trial and error.

Ins and outs

the detailed or complicated facts of something:
I know how to use computers, but I don't really understand the ins and outs of how they work.

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Pick and choose

to take only the things you want from a group:
You can't pick and choose which rules you want to follow and which ones you don't

Leave someone high and dry

to put someone in a very difficult or unpleasant situation that they cannot escape from
By switching to cheaper overseas suppliers they have left us high and dry.

Through thick and thin

in spite of any difficulties or problems
Then, families stuck together through thick and thin.

Wear and tear

the changes or damage that normally happen to something that has been used, causing it to be less useful or less valuable.

Here and there

in or to several different places
There were a number of cottages scattered here and there across the hillside.

More or less

almost
The team is more or less the same as it was last season.

Aches and pains

slight feelings of pain that are not considered to be serious
Apart from the usual aches and pains, she felt all right.

sooner or later

used to say that something is certain to happen at some time in the future, though you cannot be sure exactly when
His wife's bound to find out sooner or later.