

BINOMIALS

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Are you looking for material
to prepare for your
Cambridge English Exam?



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.

Bits and pieces/bobs

small things or jobs of different types

I just need to get a few bits and pieces at the supermarket.

Blow hot and cold

to keep changing your attitude towards someone or something.

He's been blowing hot and cold about the trip to Brazil.

Born and bred

used for saying where sb was born and grew up

Jane was born and bred in Seattle.

He's a Parisian born and bred.

By and large

used for referring to sth in a very general way

By and large I think the emphasis should be on recruiting the right people.

Far and wide

from many places:

People came from far and wide to see the parade.

Hard and fast

(especially after a negative)

that cannot be changed in any circumstances

There are no hard and fast rules about this.

Here and there

in or to several different places

There were a number of cottages scattered here and there across the hillside.

hustle and bustle:

a lot of noise and activity

I love the hustle and bustle of city life. I'd get bored in the countryside.

Ifs and/or buts

the reasons why someone doesn't want to do something; their objections

I want no ifs and buts - just get on and tidy your room now.

In dribs and drabs

in small amounts, a few at a time:

The information has been released in dribs and drabs.

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.

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.

Mix and match

to combine things in different ways for different purposes

You can mix and match courses to suit your requirements.

More or less

almost

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

Odds and ends/sods

a collection of small and unimportant things.

She spent the day sorting through a box full of odds and ends.

On and off /Off and on

from time to time; now and again

It rained on and off all day.

Peace and quiet

used to describe a setting or period of time which is calm and without stress or distractions.

I need some peace and quiet to concentrate on this job application.

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

Pros and cons

the advantages and disadvantages of something.

What are the pros and cons of capital punishment?

Safe and sound

not hurt or damaged:

Three days later, the hikers were found safe and sound.

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.

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.

Wear and tear

the damage that happens to an object in ordinary use during a period:

Seat covers on buses take a lot of wear and tear.