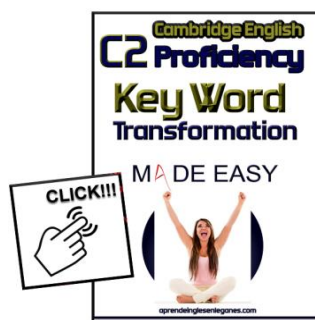


COMMON PHRASES WITH

LINE



C2 PROFICIENCY

Learn how to do
**Key Word
Transformation
Exercises**

A fine line

A very small difference between two things that are similar, often used to describe a situation that is tricky or delicate.

- There's a fine line between being confident and being arrogant.
- In politics, there's a fine line between compromise and betrayal.
- As a manager, he walks a fine line between being friendly and maintaining authority.

Along the lines of something
(also along these/those lines)

similar to something else:

- We usually start with general questions along the lines of, 'How do you feel?'
- They're trying to organize a trip to the beach or something along those lines..
- If you're looking for a gift, maybe a book or a journal—something along those lines would work.

Be/step out of line

To behave inappropriately or disrespectfully; not conforming to expectations or rules.

- Your comments were completely out of line during the meeting.
- You can disagree with her, but calling her dishonest was out of line
- He apologized for being out of line with his harsh criticism.
- His boss warned him that if he stepped out of line once more he would be fired.

Colour within the lines

To follow the rules or stick to what is expected or conventional.

- She prefers to colour within the lines at work, avoiding risks or controversial decisions.
- Artists often find it hard to color within the lines because they crave creative freedom.

Cross the line

To go beyond what is acceptable or appropriate.

- Your comment about her family crossed the line.
- He likes to joke around, but sometimes he crosses the line without realizing it.

Draw the line

To set a limit on what one is willing to accept or do.

- I'm willing to work late, but I draw the line at working weekends.
- You can joke around, but I draw the line at making fun of someone's appearance.

In line with

In agreement or accordance with something; consistent with.

- His actions were in line with company policies.
- Her salary increase was in line with her performance and experience.

Read between the lines

To understand the hidden or implicit meaning in something, not just the literal words.

- When she said she was "fine," I tried to read between the lines and sensed something was wrong.

Somewhere along the line

at some moment during a relationship or process:

We were close friends during our childhood, but somewhere along the line, we drifted apart

The bottom line

The most important aspect or point; the final outcome or result.

- The bottom line is that we need more funding to continue the project.
- You can list all the pros and cons, but the bottom line is whether we can afford it.
- The bottom line is that we have to make a decision today.

Toe the line

To conform to rules or authority; to follow instructions strictly.

- In that company, you have to toe the line if you want to keep your job.
- He doesn't always agree with the boss, but he toes the line to avoid conflict.
- The coach expects all players to toe the line during practice.