

FAIL TO UNDERSTAND

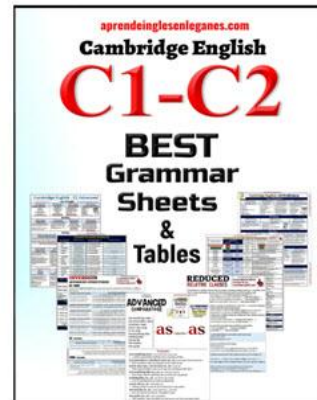
IDIOMS, PHRASES & VERBS



C1-C2

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Be beyond someone

To be too difficult or advanced for someone to understand.

- The technical explanation was beyond me.
- That kind of abstract art is beyond him.
- Don't ask us where she gets all her money from. It's completely beyond us.

Be lost on someone

Not understood or appreciated by someone.

- The irony in his speech was lost on most of the audience.
- The cultural references were lost on me.
- The joke was completely lost on him

Can't fathom

Formal tone, often used for deep confusion or disbelief.

to be unable to understand something, although you think carefully about it.

- I really couldn't fathom what he was talking about.
- I can't fathom why he would quit such a great job without a backup plan.

can't get your head around sth

If you say that you can't get your head around something, you mean that you cannot understand it:

- I just can't get my head around these tax forms.
- I just can't get my head around how he solved that equation so quickly.

Can't make heads or tails of something

To be unable to understand anything about something.

- I can't make heads or tails of this contract.
- When he talks math, I can't make heads or tails of it.

Go over someone's head

Too complex or sophisticated for someone to understand.

- Most of the scientific talk went over my head.
- That joke went over his head completely.

It's all Greek to someone

Completely unintelligible or incomprehensible.

- The legal terms were all Greek to me.
- "When the mechanic talked about the engine problems, it was all Greek to my wife."

Miss the point

to not understand something correctly or what is important about it:

- What you say is true, but you've missed the point of my argument.
- If she thinks it's the money that bothers me, then she's missing the point. It's being treated like a fool.

Not have a clue

To have no understanding or idea about something.

- I don't have a clue what this chart means.
- She asked me to help, but I didn't have a clue what to do.