



C1-C2
Best Grammar
Sheets & Tables
Master advanced
grammar for
C1 and C2 exams

Be a Dead Duck

To be a failure or something that is no longer viable.

- The project was a dead duck after the main sponsor pulled out.
- Without proper management, the startup was a dead duck from the start.

Blow Up in One's Face

To fail disastrously, especially in an unexpected or ironic way.

- The plan to surprise her blew up in our faces when she walked in early.
- His investment blew up in his face when the stock market crashed.

Crash and Burn

To fail spectacularly and often suddenly.

- Their startup crashed and burned after just six months due to poor planning.
- His attempt to win the contest crashed and burned when he forgot the rules.

Fall Flat

To fail completely, especially in an attempt to entertain or impress.

- His joke fell flat, leaving the audience in awkward silence.
- The marketing campaign fell flat and didn't attract any new customers.

Flop

To fail completely, often in an attempt to achieve success or popularity.

- The new app flopped because it was riddled with bugs.
- Her attempt to impress her boss flopped when she misquoted the report.

Go Belly Up - US

To go bankrupt or fail completely.

- The company went belly up after years of mismanagement.
- His business went belly up when investors pulled out.

Go Pear-Shaped- UK

To go disastrously wrong or fail unexpectedly.

- The event went pear-shaped when the keynote speaker canceled last minute.
- Everything was fine until the negotiations went pear-shaped.

Go to Pot

To deteriorate or fail, often due to neglect or lack of care.

- After the owner left, the whole business went to pot.
- My garden went to pot while I was on vacation.
- I didn't have a pool to train in and my technique went to pot.

Sink Like a Stone

To fail or be unsuccessful very quickly and completely.

- The new product sank like a stone because it was poorly marketed.
- The play sank like a stone after receiving bad reviews on opening night.

Bite the Dust

To fail, suffer defeat, or come to an end.

- Their plans to expand into Europe bit the dust due to lack of funding.
- The once-popular game bit the dust after newer versions were released.

Come a Cropper

To fail badly or suffer misfortune, often unexpectedly.

- She came a cropper when she underestimated the difficulty of the exam.
- The new business venture came a cropper after only a few months.

Fall apart

If an organization, system, or agreement falls apart, it fails or stops working effectively:

- The deal fell apart because of a lack of financing.
- Don't be reckless or your plans may fall apart.

Fall through

to fail to happen:

- We found a buyer for our house, but then the sale fell through.
- The studio planned to make a movie of the book but the deal fell through.

Go Awry

To go off course or not happen as planned.

- Our plans to host a picnic went awry due to the unexpected rainstorm.
- The experiment went awry when the chemicals reacted unpredictably.

Go down the pan UK slang

to fail or to be lost or destroyed:

- We don't want to see our business go down the pan.
- My career was going down the pan.

Go South

To deteriorate, decline, or fail.

- After the company lost its biggest client, their profits started to go south.
- Our vacation plans went south when the storm hit unexpectedly.

Meet with Disaster

To encounter complete failure or calamity.

- Their expedition met with disaster when their equipment malfunctioned.
- The company's risky merger met with disaster and bankrupted them.

Tank

To fail suddenly and dramatically.

- Their stocks tanked after the CEO's resignation.
- His presentation tanked because he wasn't prepared for the questions.