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On the face of it

1. We use "on the face of it" for saying 1. In a situation where you have to deal that something appears to be true but

On the face of it = AT FIRST GLANCE

might not be true when you have

examined it in more detail.

- On the face of it, it seems like a bargain, but I bet there are hidden costs.
- We do not believe on the face of it that there has been illegal activity by the banks.
- On the face of it, he's a great candidate, but have you checked out his references yet?

with something unpleasant or difficult.

in the face of

In the face of = DESPITE

- They won in the face of stiff competition from all over the country.
- In the face of all her problems, Mary persisted in her studies.

2. When confronted with.

- In the face of the angry crowd, the speaker maintained her calm.
- In the face of several lawsuits, the company took the product off the market.