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ENGLISH
IDIOMS
AND HOW TO
USE THEM

Revised by R. C. Goffin

As good as one's word is equivalent to, faithful to one's promise.

I said I would make you a present at Christmas, and I'll be as good as my word.

If the gentleman promised you an appointment, he will surely be as good as his word.

If your employer said he would dismiss you, you may depend upon it he will be as good as his word.

To hold good or *stand good*, is to continue solid or fixed, to remain true after examination, to remain valid. A statement which was called in question or was supposed to be doubtful is said to *hold good* or *stand good* when it is proved to be correct. Evidence *holds good* when it is not shaken by cross-examination. A contract is said to *hold good* or *stand good* when it is legally made, i.e. in such circumstances it cannot be broken, it remains inviolable. An offer is said to *hold good* when it remains valid or continues in force.

A corn rick has been maliciously burnt; a reward of twenty-five pounds has been offered for information that will lead to the arrest of the incendiary; and the offer will hold good (*or stand good*) for two months.

To make good is to accomplish, to establish, to supply defect, to compensate for. To make good a claim or an accusation, is to establish it beyond dispute.

The police ran after the fellow, but he made good his escape.

The loss is large, but the Insurance Company is bound to make it good.

This creditor has made good his claim, and must get his money.

My garden wall has been blown down, but the landlord will make it good, i.e. he will repair the injury or damage done.

To think good is to approve, to regard as proper or expedient.

She thinks it good to defer her visit to us.

He thought it good to open a school in his village.

To keep good. Fruit is said to keep good when it remains in a fresh or sound condition and does not spoil.

Oranges if well packed should keep good during a long sea voyage.

50. HARD

Hard is used in some turns of expression in the sense of abundantly or severely.

It froze hard last night.

The wind blew harder than before.

It rained so hard that I could not keep myself dry.

Hard of hearing, is rather deaf.

Hard to please, is difficult to please.

Hard-ship, is the season of adversity.

A good long ride.
A good round sum.
A good sound sleep.
A good sound scolding.
A good warm cloak.

A good stiff breeze.
A good hearty laugh.
A good hot cup of tea.
A good strong dose (of medicine).

8. *Good* also means fair, honourable, unblemished, unimpeached. This is the meaning in such expressions as, a *good name*, a *good report*, *good repute*, a *good conscience*, i.e. one not conscious of any wrong-doing.

A good name is better than great riches.

9. *Good* also means full, complete, not deficient.

Good measure, pressed down, and running over.—Bible

10. *Good* in the phrase *in good earnest*, means real, serious, actual.

11. In certain idiomatic phrases, the word *good* occurs. It is used, for instance, in expressions of greeting and leave-taking, and indicates wishing well to the person addressed; as in the phrases *good morning*, *good day*, *good evening*, *good night*.
Good luck to your fishing.

For good means finally, permanently, as a fixed thing. Thackeray makes a girl home from a boarding school say, 'I've come home for good', i.e. I have now left school and do not mean to return.

In the year 1882 she bade farewell to Indian shores for good.
He has either come home on furlough or for good.

For good and all is similar in meaning to *for good*, but is a shade more forcible as expressing greater finality. The word *all* in the phrase is equivalent to *altogether*.

He has left this town for good and all.

Say four pounds and you've got rid of him for good and all.

As good as means not less than, not falling short of; also, virtually, in effect, equally well.

I was as good as an almanac in those days.—Lamb

As good almost kill a man as kill a good book.—Milton

In the fens a mile is as good as four, i.e. it is as hard to walk one mile in the fens as to walk four miles on an ordinary road.

As good as done, means, almost accomplished or used up.

The work is as good as done.

The food in the besieged town is as good as done.

Note that while *as good as dead*, *as good as new*, mean *as good as if he were dead*, *as good as if it were new*, we must not fill up the ellipsis.

As good as on
I said I would
my word.
If the gentle
as his word
If your enemy
he will be

To hold good
remain true
which was
said to hold
Evidence has
A contract
made, i.e.
inviolable.
or continuing

A corn
has
increased

To make
compensation
establish

The
The
This
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