

## A Sporting Chance by Neil McMahon

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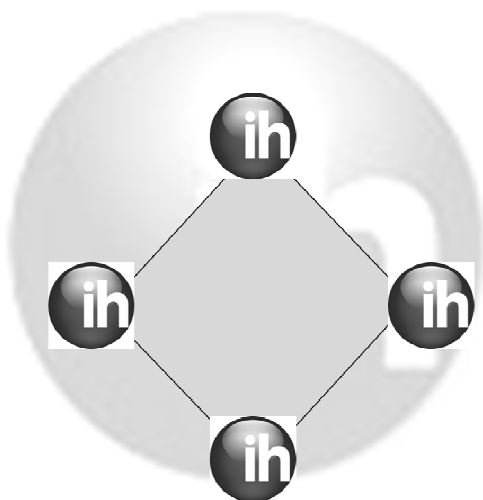
### Let's set sail...



**sail overboard  
ride berth ship  
rope waves bail  
tack sheet wind**

### Let's play ball!

## Baseball



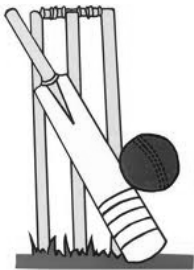
1. Let's play ball!
2. He made a good pitch for the party at last night's dinner.
3. He threw me a curve ball when he asked me about the figures.
4. I need a ball park figure on what it will cost.
5. Go to the big boss; that bloke's a minor leaguer
6. I wish I could get to first base with her.
7. We sure dropped the ball that time.
8. We need to play hardball this time.
9. Do you mind if we take a rain check on that dinner?
10. Our bases are loaded. We should win hands down.
11. I need to touch base with the missus.
12. We need someone to step up to the plate or we're done for.



## Play or Pass – Card playing idioms

keep your cards close to your chest	have the cards piled against you	put your cards on the table	force someone's hand
follow trumps	an ace up your sleeve	on the cards	when the cards are down
hedge your bets	above board	dealt a bad card	come up trumps
come within a joker of	in spades	up the ante	hold all the aces

## It's just not cricket



1. I saw Morrissey live in concert last month and **I was bowled over** by his performance.
2. When my wife left me **it really hit me for six**.
3. "If she carries on like this she won't pass the year and will have to repeat",  
"Yes, **she's** really **on a sticky wicket**."
4. "In order to get the job he lied about his experience and criticised the other candidates,"  
"But **that's just not cricket**"
5. The exam was going well until they asked me a question about the Russian Revolution and **I was completely stumped**.
  - A. *to have no idea, to be confronted by a problem you can't find the solution to.*
  - B. *to play unfairly or against the rules of fair play*
  - C. *A difficult situation*
  - D. *To be deeply shocked or hurt (by someone/thing)*
  - E. *To be astonished, greatly surprised and excited, left speechless.*





## **Guess the sport**

1. **the ball is in your court**
2. **you're barking up the wrong tree**
3. **she calls the shots**
4. **we all chipped in**
5. **it's going down to the wire**
6. **you'll soon get into the swing of things**
7. **he's off the hook**
8. **they gave us a run for our money**
9. **don't jump the gun**
10. **she's just about keeping her head above water**
11. **it's never been a level playing field**
12. **he might not make the cut**
13. **it's neck and neck**
14. **it's no sweat off my nose**
15. **that sounds par for the course**
16. **there's plenty of other fish in the sea**
17. **it was a bit of a shot in the dark**
18. **he's skating on thin ice if you ask me**
19. **I'm never going to throw in the towel**
20. **she'll win hands down, just you wait**

