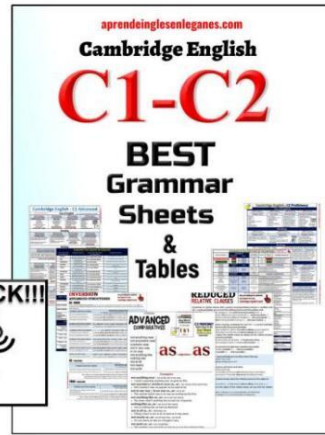




DIFFICULT

PHRASES & IDIOMS



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

A hard row to hoe –mainly US

A task that is particularly difficult to accomplish.

- Raising three kids on a single income is definitely a hard row to hoe.
- Teachers have a tough row to hoe in today's schools.

A tall order mainly US

Something that is very challenging to achieve or fulfill.

- Winning the championship after losing our star player is a tall order.
- Completing the project in just two weeks is a tall order, but we'll do our best.

A tough nut to crack

Difficult to deal with or solve.

- That math problem was a tough nut to crack, but eventually, I figured it out.
- Negotiating with him is always a tough nut to crack because he never compromises.

An uphill battle

Something requiring a lot of effort or struggle.

- Convincing the board to approve the budget increase is going to be an uphill battle.
- Starting a business during a recession felt like an uphill battle, but we managed to succeed.

Be no bed of roses

Not easy or comfortable; full of challenges.

- Adjusting to life in a new country was no bed of roses at first.
- The job may sound glamorous, but it's no bed of roses with all the long hours

Be no picnic

A situation or task that is unpleasant or challenging.

- Dealing with that client is no picnic; he complains about every little detail.
- Recovering from surgery was no picnic, but the doctors were very supportive.

Blood, sweat, and tears

Refers to great effort, hard work, and suffering needed to achieve something.

- Building this company from scratch took blood, sweat, and tears.
- This has been a tough time. We have all put in a lot of blood, sweat, and tears.

Easier said than done

Something that appears simple but is hard to execute.

- Getting everyone to agree on the same strategy is easier said than done.
- They suggested I just 'relax and let things go,' but that's easier said than done.

Herculean task

A situation or task that requires extremely great strength or effort.

- She faces the Herculean task of bringing up four children single-handedly.
- For a small team, organizing a large event may seem like a Herculean task.

Like herding cats

To try to control or organize something inherently chaotic.

- Getting the kids ready for school is like herding cats every morning.
- Managing a team of creative professionals can feel like herding cats sometimes.

Like pulling teeth

Something tedious or very challenging.

- Getting him to talk about his feelings is like pulling teeth.
- Convincing my team to agree on the design was like pulling teeth.

Not a walk in the park

A situation or task that is challenging.

- Training for a marathon is not a walk in the park, but the results are worth it.
- Starting my own business was not a walk in the park, but I've learned so much.