

Idioms describing working relationships

One of our recent workshops has focused on working across cultures and the impact this has on business communication in English. As a little warm down, we explored some idioms (see below) around the theme of working relationships. Some of these idioms don't work so well in our period of confinement!

- **Blank canvas:** Nothing is written. Everything is possible.
- **Get the wrong end of the stick:** A misunderstanding between two people.
- **Saving face:** To protect your reputation in some way.
- **Go Dutch:** To share the bill at a restaurant. We don't think this is used so much now!
- **Wined and dined:** To invest money and time in entertaining and charming a client.
- **To put my foot in it:** To make a mistake which causes embarrassment/problems for somebody.
- **To break the ice:** To establish a more relaxed professional relationship.
- **To get on like a house on fire:** To have an excellent relationship with someone.
- **Like a fish out of water:** To feel unfamiliar or uncomfortable in a particular environment.
- **Real eye opener:** To gain a new and informative perspective on a situation.
- **To get into hot water:** To get into trouble with your manager or a person of authority.