



1

make one's blood run cold

When something gives you chills, or goosebumps, or when something is so shockingly gruesome or evil, we say that it makes your blood run cold.

"I was listening to a true crime podcast, but I had to turn it off. Hearing the details about what the serial killer had done made my blood run cold."

2

the devil is in the detail

This phrase means that while a plan at first glance might seem easy and possible, the small details of the plan can prove problematic and cause issues.

"Nidia's idea for the new marketing strategy sounds great, but we'll have to sit down tomorrow and plan it out a bit more to see if it would be feasible. The devil is in the detail."

3

night owl

If you are a night owl, you are more active or productive at night. Waking up later and working later in the day works better for you. The opposite is an 'early bird'. People who wake up early and enjoy being active in the mornings are early birds.

"I'm working the breakfast shift at the moment and I'm really struggling with it. I'm not an early bird, I'm definitely more of a night owl."

4

the final nail in the coffin

The final nail in the coffin is the last thing which kills or puts an end to something which was almost over.

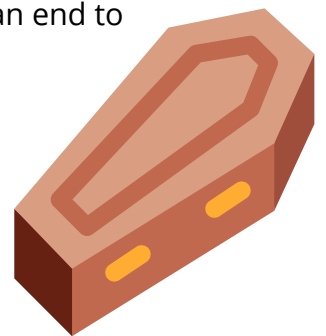
"The politician had been receiving a lot of public criticism about his policies for a while, but when the news came out about his extra-marital affairs it was the final nail in the coffin for his political career."

5

skeletons in the closet

Skeletons in the closet refers to a shameful secret that could destroy a person's reputation or public image.

"Despite his perfect public image, he had a shady past and some skeletons in the closet."



Practice activity

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Fill in the spaces with an idiom from the list above.

1. The popstar hired a Public Relations manager because he was hiding some _____.
2. I do my most creative work after 6pm. I'm a _____.
3. We are trying to organise a surprise birthday party for my sister. It's proving to be much more work than we anticipated. _____.
4. The plot twist in the horror movie that we watched last night was shocking. It _____.
5. After several major setbacks on the project, an investor pulling out was _____.

Answers

1. skeletons in the closet
2. night owl
3. The devil is in the detail
4. made my blood run cold
5. the final nail in the coffin



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