

We all know a **bear** is a large furry wild animal. But **bear** has many other meanings. If you **bear** something to a place, you carry it. For example, you could say, "They **bore** the giant, wooden box into the kitchen." If something **bears** the weight of something else, it supports the weight. For example, "The ice was not thick enough to **bear** their weight." If you **bear** something difficult, you accept it and are able to deal with it. For example, "She will have to **bear** her loneliness while he is gone." Or you could say, "I can't **bear** to think about the long plane ride home tomorrow." If you **bear** someone a feeling such as love or hate, you feel that emotion towards them. For example, "She **bears** you no ill feeling, even though you insulted her."

Two students will work together to act out the conversation, then explain the meaning of the idioms.

Joe: I hate to be the **bearer of bad news**, but I just learned one of us will be laid off after the first of the year.

Bill: Are you kidding? I don't know what I'll do if I lose this job. I can't **bear to** tell my wife about this.

Joe: **Bear in mind**, the bosses could change their minds. Maybe the sales will be bigger than expected during the Christmas season and we'll keep our jobs.

bearer of bad news:

bear to tell you:

bear in mind:

Ken: Bill, did you hear about the new sales figures?

Bill: No, are they improved?

Ken: Well, they are slightly improved, but we are worried that they haven't improved more. I think this could be a bad sign. It certainly **bears watching**. If they continue to improve, the company will be in better shape. But if the sales flatten out, we could all be looking for new jobs.

Bill: I have only been working here for two years. I'm afraid if sales don't improve, the newer employees will **bear the brunt** of the lay offs.

Ken: You could be right. **Bear in mind**, the best salesmen are not going to get laid off even if they have only been working here a short time.

bears watching:

bear the brunt:

Joe: I just got my pink slip. I have until the end of the day to clean out my desk.

Bill: Joe, I'm really sorry. I didn't think the company would let you go.

Joe: Well, my sales have been down the last couple of years. I think the boss doesn't like me because I accidentally spilled a drink on his wife at the company party. I felt so bad about it. It's been my **cross to bear**.

Bill: I'm sure he doesn't **bear a grudge** against you for that. It was a mistake.

Joe: Maybe you're right. It's too bad I'm being laid off now because I am developing lots of good leads that will probably **bear fruit** in the coming months. Now I won't be around to get credit for them.

cross to bear:

bear a grudge:

bear fruit:

The Boss: Hello, Joe, what can I do for you?

Joe: I know you're a busy man, but I wanted to explain why you shouldn't fire me.

The Boss: Now, Joe, that decision has already been made. I'm afraid it's too late to be talking about that now.

Joe: **Bear with me** for a minute. I want to explain about all the new leads I've been working on. I really think my sales are going to go up after the first of the year.

The Boss: Joe, I know you've been working hard to develop new business. The truth is, we have to let someone go and we've decided to cut the person with the weakest sales over the last twelve months. Unfortunately, that's you.

Joe: This is **unbearable**. I have worked so hard for this company. I work longer hours than almost everyone here. I **bear my own weight** in this company. I know I can turn my sales around. How am I going to explain this to my wife. We've been looking for a new house. She won't be able to **bear it**. I know your decision was affected by that unfortunate incident with your wife at the Christmas party. I'm really sorry about that.

The Boss: Joe, I **bear you no ill will** about that. It was an accident. This is not personal. It's a simple business decision.

bear with me:

unbearable:

bear my own weight:

bear it:

Take turns answering these questions in your group.

One thing I really can't bear is _____

My cross to bear is _____