

Irreversible binomials and trinomials are sequences of two or three words that are in a fixed order, such as fast and furious. We never say furious and fast.

**arm and a leg:** That bracelet costs an arm and a leg.

**alive and kicking:** I may be 95 years old, but at least I'm alive and kicking.

**all or nothing:** Sally wouldn't accept partial payment. She said it was all or nothing.

**all work and no play:** (This comes from a saying All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. It basically means you can't work all the time. Everyone needs time for play.) Are you going home now? It's only 4 o'clock. All work and no play.

**apples and oranges:** (comparing two things that are not the same) You can't really compare her first book to this one. It's like comparing apples and oranges.

**armed and dangerous:** (is used to refer to a criminal who has not yet been captured and is armed and expected to resist arrest). The police have a warrant out for the arrest of John Smith for murder. He should be considered armed and dangerous.

**bait and switch:** (This means a deceptive marketing practice where one item is advertised, but when the customer arrives the salesman says they are out of that item, but they have this other one which is more expensive. So they "bait" you with an offer that they don't really have, then "switch" to another item.) I went to the store to buy the refrigerator advertised in the paper, but they said they were out of that model. The only refrigerators they had in stock were several hundred dollars more. I was really disappointed and a little angry.

Have you ever been the victim of a bait and switch?

**bed and breakfast:** (Usually refers to someone's house where you rent a room and are provided breakfast as part of the rate. Occasionally small boutique inns use this term.) All the hotels were full, but we found a great little bed and breakfast in the center of town.

Have you ever stayed in a bed and breakfast?

**birds and the bees:** (refers to human reproduction) My son is almost 9 years old. I guess I need to talk to him about the birds and the bees.

Who told you about the birds and the bees? At what age do parents usually talk to their kids about the birds and the bees? Is "sex education" taught in schools in your country?

**biscuits and gravy:** We had a country breakfast consisting of bacon and eggs, biscuits and gravy and plenty of piping hot coffee.

Have you ever eaten a big southern style breakfast that included biscuits and gravy? What was your favorite part of this breakfast? Describe your favorite breakfast. Is that what you eat every day? What is served for breakfast in your country?

**black and blue:** Gina wasn't hurt in the car wreck, but she had lots of cuts and bruises. She was black and blue all over.

**blood, sweat and tears:** After years of blood, sweat and tears, Jane finally got her nursing degree.

What do you have that is the result of blood, sweat and tears?

**born and raised:** (refers to being born and living all of your childhood in one place) I was born and raised in Texas.

Did you move frequently as a child, or were you born and raised in one place?