

Discussion



How would you say the following in your language?

If there an equivalent, does literal translation make sense or do you have to find another way to express the meaning of the **phrases in bold**?

*Feel free to look up unfamiliar expressions or ask your trainer for help.

1. There are several treatment options available to you. Feel free to take your time to think and ask me questions. I want to make sure **we are on the same page** before we start on any treatment.
2. I believe that Mr. Sokolov thought he was above the law and that he spent years **gaming the system**.
3. I am glad you're doing your research, Mr. Sanchez, but I would take everything you find on the internet **with a grain of salt**. You can't believe everything you read.
4. Trying this medication is a bit of **a Hail Mary**. I think it is very likely that you'll end up needing surgery after all.
5. Sometimes waiting for an available appointment to become available is **like watching grass grow**.
6. The prosecution wants you to believe that the blame lies squarely with my patient, but I'd like to remind you that it takes **two to tango!**
7. Symptoms of mental health disorders are often **swept under the rug**, but you have nothing to be ashamed of. In fact, you should be proud of seeking the help you need.

8. Unfortunately, the local government's attempts to raise the funds for the community center have been unsuccessful so far and it looks like they'll need to come up with a new **game plan**.

9. Signing up for a clinical trial involves a lot of steps, and I just want to **give you a thumbnail** of the whole process so that you know what to expect.

10. This area of research is still **in diapers** – we need more evidence.

11. Mr. Vu, I see you've been working overtime with your exercise ball and doing the grip exercises for your hand. I am impressed with your willingness **to go the extra mile** outside your regular PT sessions. I am sure all your hard work will pay off and you will regain the use of your hand!

12. The weather is finally sunny and the days are getting longer! The **only fly in the ointment** is that we still can't really do much until the pandemic ends.

13. I'm afraid our plan **hit a snag**. We did not get the investment we were hoping for and we might have to **throw in the towel** at this point.

14. Mr. Chen, it's important that you take this medication exactly as prescribed. Do not wait until it's **down to the wire** to get a refill - ideally you should plan to refill your medication at least a week before you run out.

15. Unfortunately, it'll be a while before we can schedule your colonoscopy. There are a number of staff who are out on quarantine right now and we are down to **skeleton staff** performing only the most urgent procedures.

16. I have some good news – we found you a place to stay! I believe the **tide is turning** and there are only good things ahead for you!

17. Mrs. Florez, you **call the shots** here. We can stop this conversation at any point. I am here to offer you support but only if you are open to it.

18. Ok, to **get the ball rolling** we need you to sign this service agreement. Once it's signed, we can arrange the date for installation.

19. Unfortunately, with the pandemic and working from home, work-life balance is something that can **fall by wayside**. Many people end up **burning the candle at both ends** between working and helping their kids at school.

20. Last year was marked by many unfortunate and even tragic events. Well, as they say, **when it rains, it pours**.

Want more practice? Check out this blog post: [Idioms for Medical Interpreters. Practice Activities.](#)

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