STYLISTIC USE OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS AND SET EXPRESSIONS

Phraseological units

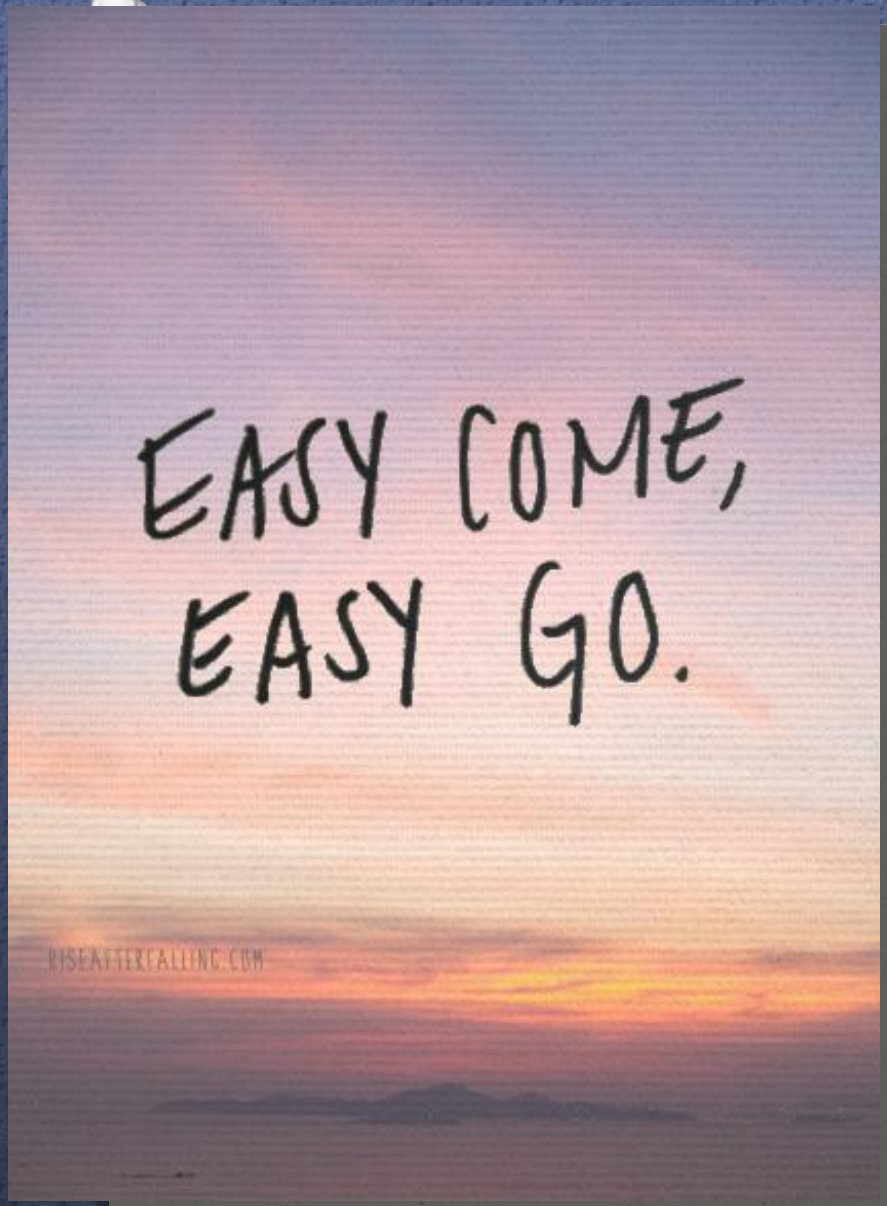
- are word groups that cannot be made in the process of speech, they exist in the language as ready made units. They are compiled in special dictionaries. The same as words phraseological units express a single notion and are used in a sentence as one part of it.

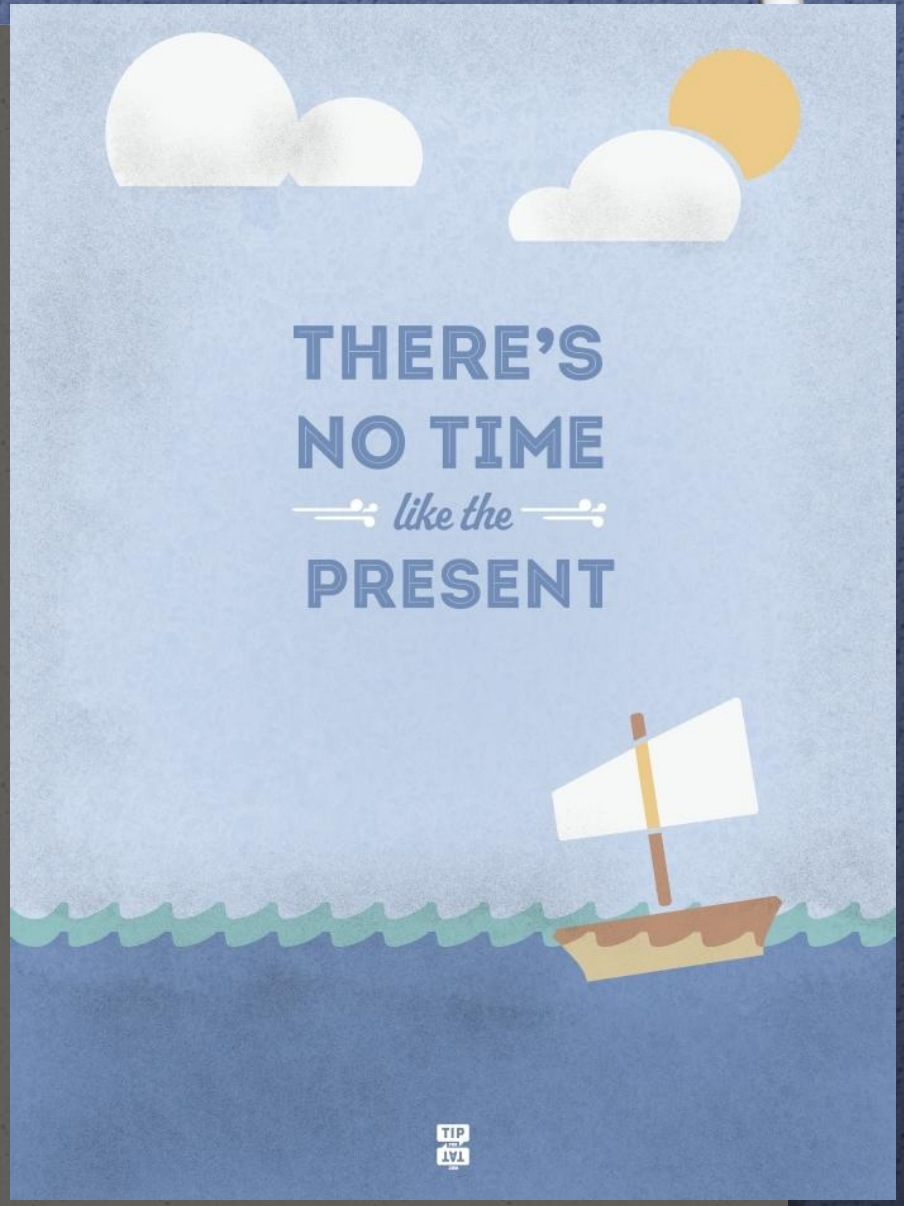
Sayings and proverbs

- Adages, or traditional **sayings** and **proverbs**, seem to belong to the oldest phrase and sentence patterns in English (as in other languages)

Proverb

- A simple and short saying, widely known, often metaphorical, which expresses a basic truth or practical precept, based on common sense or cultural experience.


EASY COME,
EASY GO.
RISEAFTERFALLING.COM

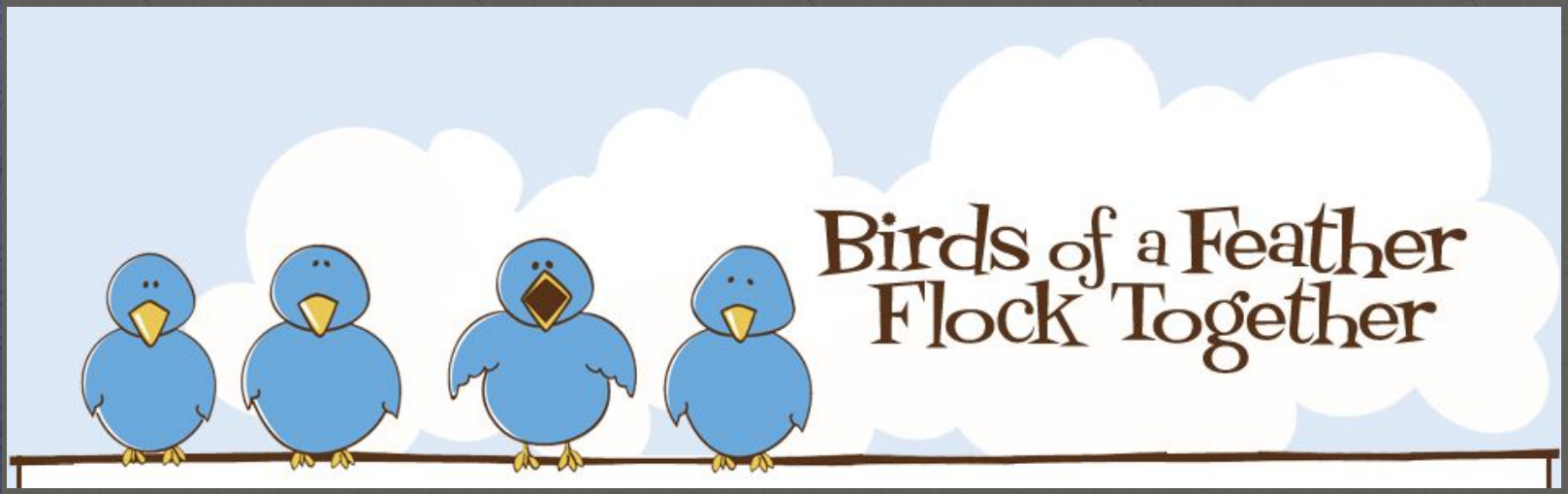

THERE'S
NO TIME
like the
PRESENT

Sometimes only the beginning of a **proverb** is given, which is enough for the interlocutor

since the rest is well-known to him,

e.g.:

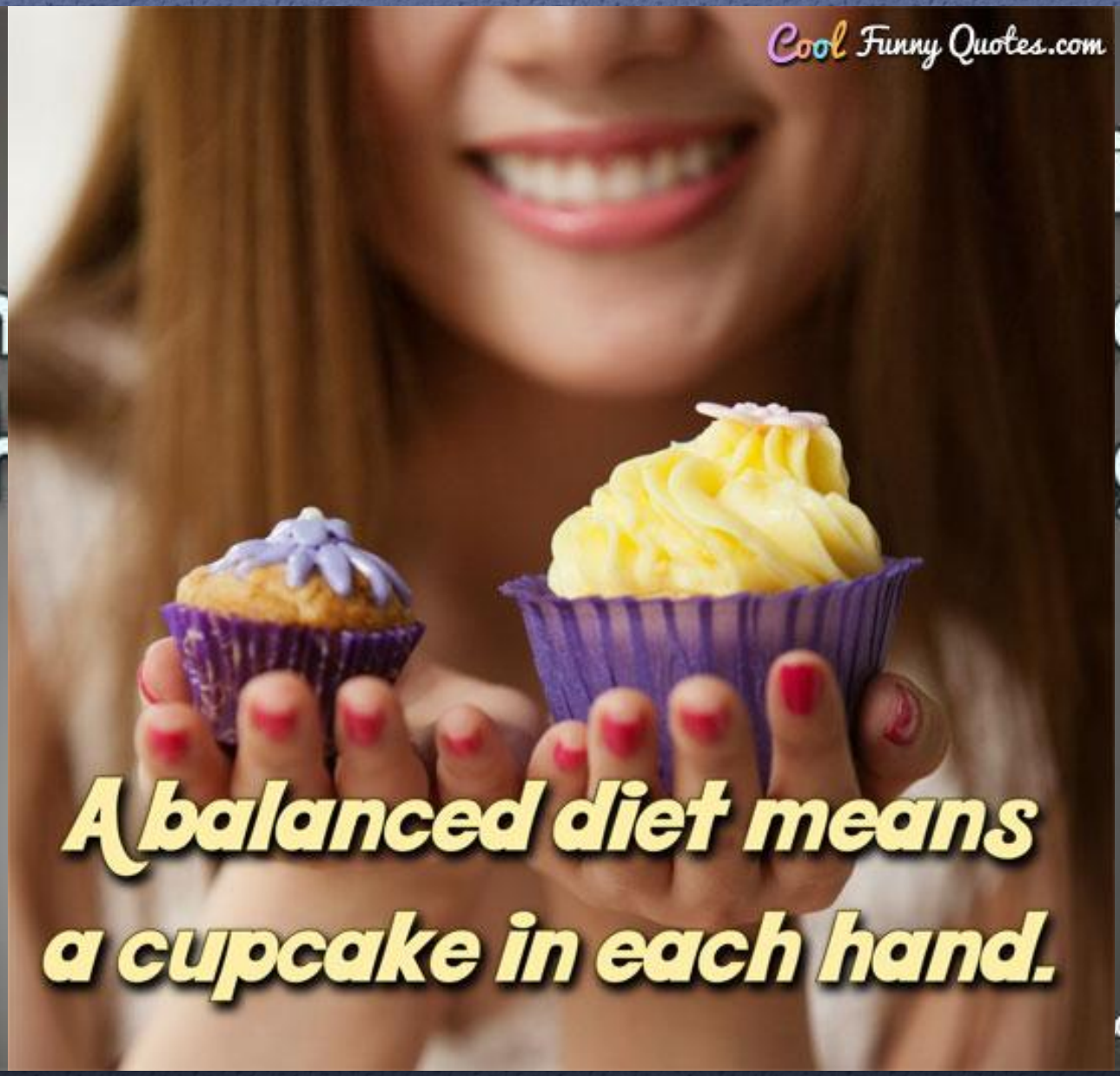
"What John can see in that horrid man, I can't think". *"Birds of a feather...* perhaps? " "Perhaps. If he's not careful it'll be a case of *"fool and his money..."*, I 'm afraid,



- ***A fool and his money are soon parted***

Saying

- Is a short well-known expression — a pithy remark of wisdom and truth or a general advice.
- While a **proverb** is characterized by the completeness of thought, a **saying** is not so completely expressed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A balanced diet means
a cupcake in each hand.

- We also has differences between **proverbs** and **maxims**, which are non-metaphorical. They are understood literally: *Better late than never.*
- **Maxim** is a synonym of **proverb**.
- the difference between **maxim** and **proverb** is that **maxim** is a self-evident axiom; a pithy expression of a general principle or rule while **proverb** is a phrase expressing a basic truth which may be applied to common situations.

Maxim

- A short, pithy statement expressing a general truth or rule of conduct.
- A well-known phrase that expresses a general truth about life or a rule about behavior

William Shakespeare

Neither a borrower nor a lender be, for loan oft loses both itself and friend, and borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry.

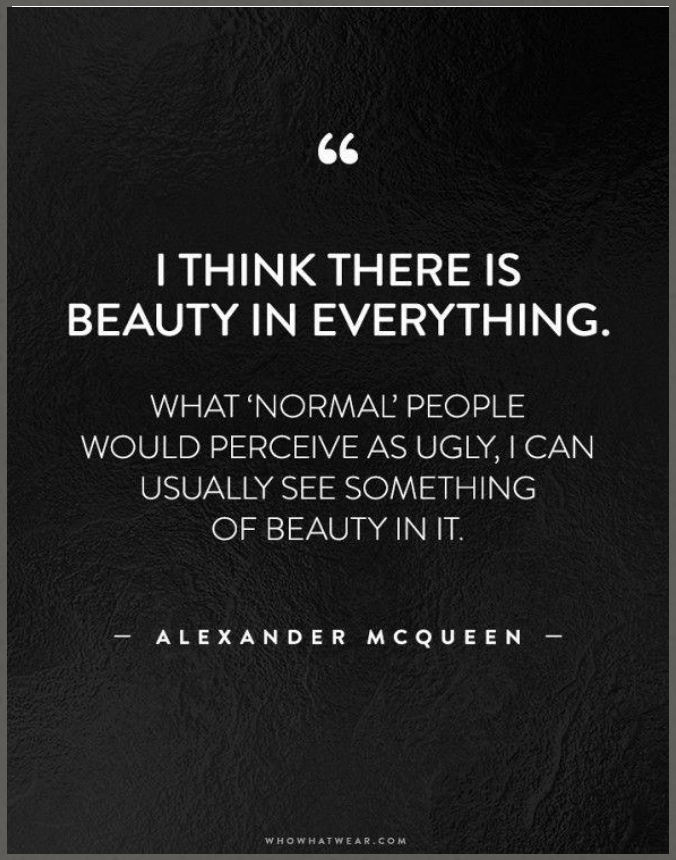
AZ QUOTES

Epigram

- A concise, clever, often paradoxical statement, thought or observation; sometimes expressed as a short, witty poem.
- Example: The only way to get rid of temptation is to yield to it.

- Unlike **proverbs**, originated far back in the past and having no author but the people of this land, **epigrams** are, as a rule, created by men of letters.

- Enough is enough!—Michelle Obama


“
I THINK THERE IS BEAUTY IN EVERYTHING.
WHAT ‘NORMAL’ PEOPLE WOULD PERCEIVE AS UGLY, I CAN USUALLY SEE SOMETHING OF BEAUTY IN IT.
— ALEXANDER MCQUEEN —
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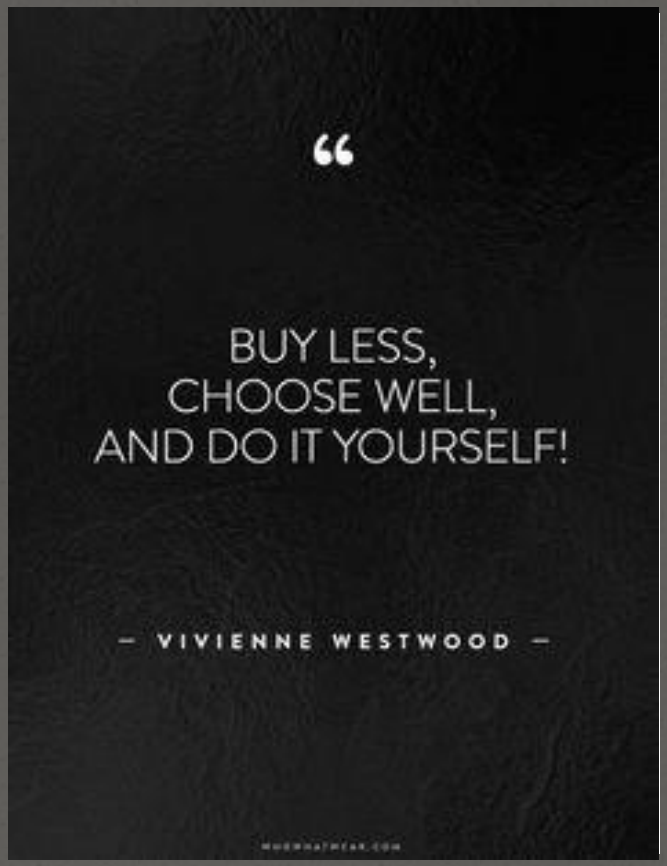
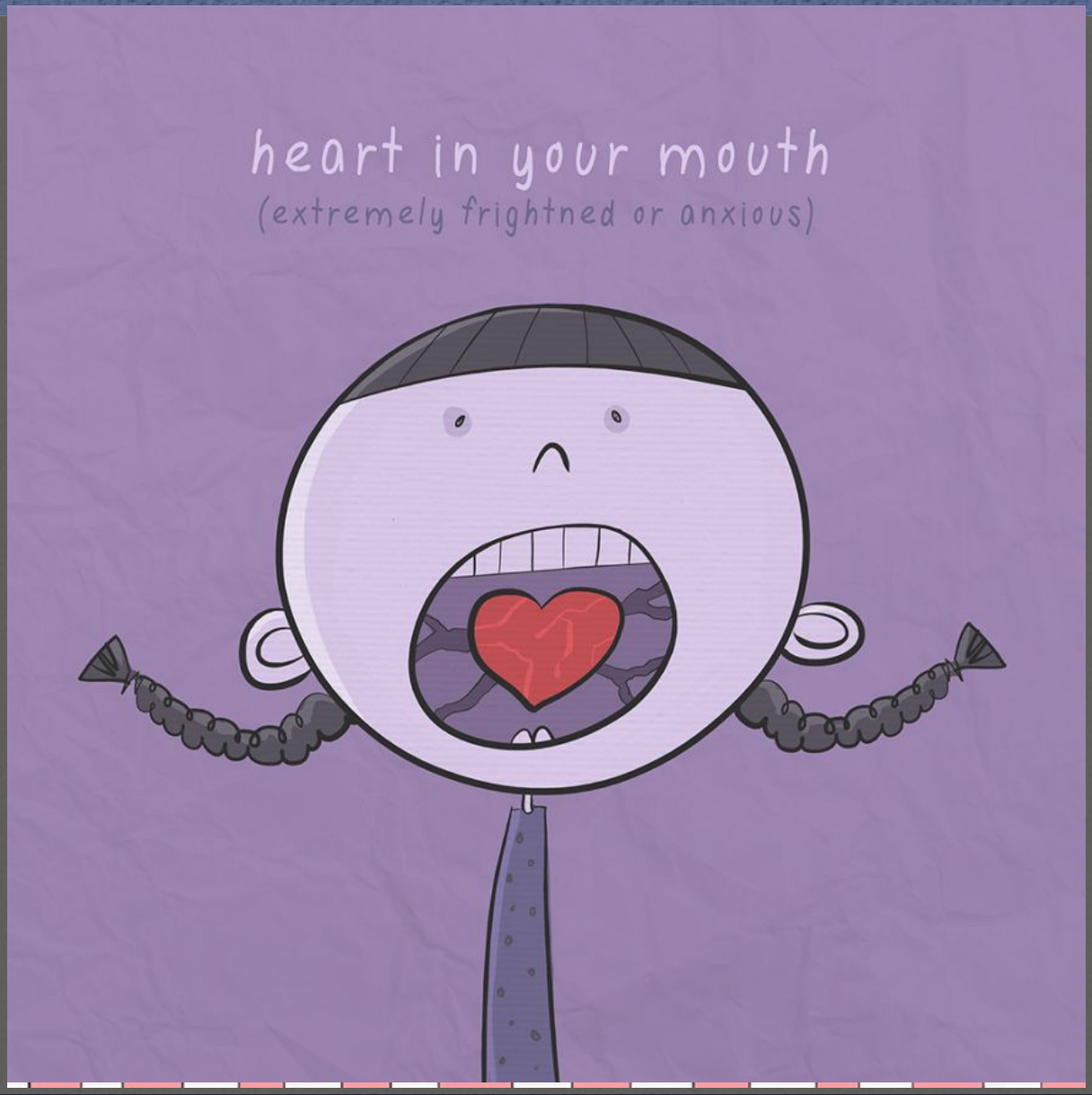

“
BUY LESS, CHOOSE WELL, AND DO IT YOURSELF!
— VIVIENNE WESTWOOD —

The stylistic function of **proverbs** and **sayings** is adding an expressive element to speech. To this group of expressive means

employed in an artistic text, scholars usually refer numerous other **set phrases** and **idioms**.

Idioms/Set phrases

- An expressions that is peculiar to itself grammatically or cannot be understood from the individual meanings of the words. Quite a few idioms are language specific, and thus difficult to translate.


heart in your mouth
(extremely frightned or anxious)

- However their stylistic potential is usually realized not so much by being used in the text in their fixed form, but through their “decomposition”, i.e. breaking them up, or violating their traditional structure.

- As is known, the components of a **phraseological unit** have no independent meaning, but make up the meaning of the whole combination. So for stylistic purposes writers may either

(1) revive the original independent meaning of a word/words in a phrase, which gives that phrase a fresh understanding or significance (this often results in SDs called **zeugma** and **pun**)

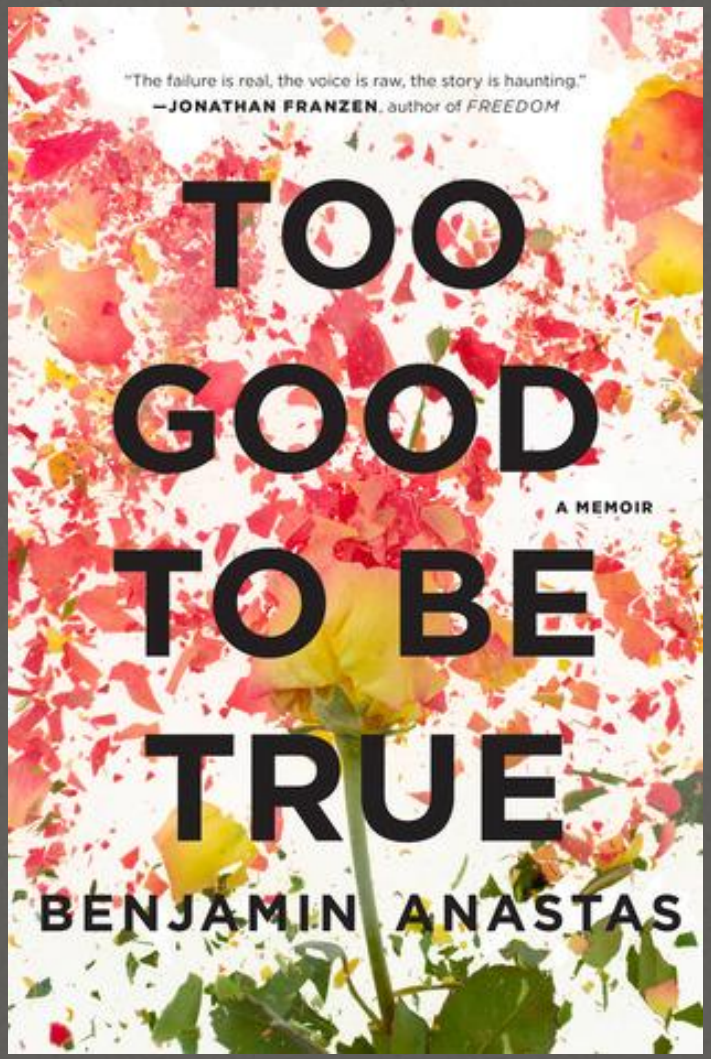
(2) attach a continuation to some element of a phraseological unit by means of qualifying it. (the socalled prolongation)

The effect created is either originally fresh, or humorous, or sometimes ridiculous, since the writer, as it were, pretends to understand the phrase literally (i.e. words are used in their primary sense). These are **two** popular types of intentional violation of set expressions.

1. - *He took his leave and hat*, (to take one's leave — “say goodbye” vs to take one’s hat = “to get it with one’s hands”: the
figurative and literal meanings of the verb “to take” are realized
simultaneously) (C. Boyle)

2. - *He was reported to have his finger in all the backstairs pies*
that went on in the Balkans. (A. Christie)
(The idiom “to Jiave a finger in every pie” (to be involved in everything that is happening) is split by the attribute “all the backstairs” and
then prolonged and turned into a metaphor.)

- One more case of violation of set phrases is a deliberate mixing up or transformation of different sayings, proverbs, fixed idiomatic expressions and/or making up so called false phraseological coinages. The aim is to play upon words and achieve a humorous effect.


"The failure is real, the voice is raw, the story is haunting."
—JONATHAN FRANZEN, author of FREEDOM
TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE
A MEMOIR
BENJAMIN ANASTAS

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