



ENGLISH REVISION AID (6)

Colloquialisms are expressions which can be used in everyday conversation, but also when writing direct speech to make things more interesting.

- **Beside oneself** – out of one's mind (with grief, worry, anger)
- **Carried away** – over-excited
- **Down on one's luck** – not having much luck with anything
- **To nip in the bud** – to cut something short in its early stages
- **A peppery individual** – a hot-tempered person
- **Sit on the fence** – avoid taking sides
- **Burn the candle at both ends** – overdoing oneself by working too much
- **Make no bones about it** – to be outspoken
- **Have a feather in one's cap** – to have something to be proud of

Proverbs may sound like colloquialisms, but they are actually popular sayings expressed in a clever way.

- Absence makes the heart grow fonder
- Birds of a feather flock together
- Don't carry all your eggs in one basket
- Every cloud has a silver lining
- From little acorns mighty oak trees grow
- He laughs best who laughs last
- Look after the pennies and the pounds will look after themselves
- None so deaf as those who will not hear
- Once bitten, twice shy
- When the cat's away, the mice will play

Replacing words very often there will be more useful and original words that we can use in writing than the ones which first pop into our heads, so it's worth spending an extra moment or two thinking about an alternative word – you never know, it may even get you that extra good mark!

Instead of using....	Try using....
Nice	Lovely, pretty, pleasant, fine
Good	Excellent, fair, splendid, kind
Sad	Blue, crestfallen, dispirited, glum
Fun	Enjoyable, amusing, pleasurable,
Bad	Beastly, dreadful, terrible, unfortunate
Wrong	Mistaken, in error, dishonest, faulty
Very	Greatly, highly, particularly, especially
Said/to say	Announce, comment, mention, exclaim, express, come out with, declare
Thought/think	Brood, concentrate, dwell on, deliberate
Before	Already, earlier, previously, sooner