

# English Vocabulary for learners

## Expressions with 'MATTER' from: 'a matter of life' to: 'take matters into your hands'

Expression	Meaning	Example
<b>a matter of life and/or death</b>	Involves decisions that will affect people's lives.	"The peace process is a <b>matter of life or death</b> in some countries."
<b>a matter of time.</b>	Something that will inevitably happen although we don't know when.	"Restrictive measures will be introduced. It's just <b>a matter of time.</b> "
<b>as a matter of fact</b>	Used to add something more to what you have just said	"The shoes are very comfortable. <b>As a matter of fact</b> , I'm wearing them right now."
<b>for that matter</b>	Used to add something that is also true	"My father refuses to fly, and he won't travel by train either <b>for that matter.</b> "
<b>it doesn't matter</b>	It's not important; it's of no consequence	" <b>It doesn't matter</b> if it rains. We'll just take an umbrella."
<b>the fact of the matter is</b>	Emphasises the reality of a situation	"She thinks Sammy needs help with his homework, but <b>the fact of the matter is</b> : Sammy is just lazy!"
<b>the crux /heart of the matter</b>	The most vital or most important part of a problem	"We need to get to <b>the heart of the matter</b> - what caused the accident?" " <b>The crux of the matter</b> is that he's too old to live alone."
<b>make matters worse</b>	Make the situation even more unpleasant or difficult	"Don't start giving advice - you'll only <b>make matters worse.</b> "
<b>mind over matter</b>	The mental power to overcome physical difficulties	"He managed to live until the baby was born - a case of <b>mind over matter.</b> "
<b>no laughing matter</b>	To be taken seriously, not to be laughed at	"Failing an exam is <b>no laughing matter.</b> "
<b>take matters into your own hands</b>	Take action yourself rather than wait for others to do it	"When Dad saw the danger, he decided to <b>take matters into his own hands.</b> "

## EXERCISE

Complete with the proper expression. You can choose in each case among:

*a matter of time – another matter – as a matter of fact – no matter – the matter – to make the matters worse*

1. You look so tired today, Sami. what's \_\_\_\_\_?
2. We will be able to use our mobile phones to surf on the internet; it is only \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I burnt the meat I was preparing for the reception, and \_\_\_\_\_ guests arrived early.
4. Your face is swollen and your eyes are red, what's \_\_\_\_\_?
5. I will have to pay for my phone bills soon \_\_\_\_\_ I am already late.
6. Oh! your skin is so red this morning. what's \_\_\_\_\_?
7. \_\_\_\_\_ what I do, my parents never seem to be satisfied.
8. I can write with my right hand, but writing with the left is \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Emy, what's \_\_\_\_\_? I see that you are sad this evening.
10. I can speak English fairly well, but writing it is \_\_\_\_\_.