

English Vocabulary for learners

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

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

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 _____.