

 $A \, \mbox{Bird}$ in the hand is worth two in the bush

means to take advantage of what you have.

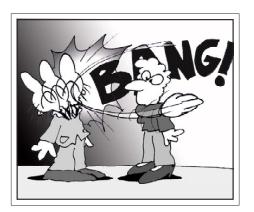
e.g. John sold his shares after the first peak because he believes that a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.



ACID TEST

means a severe or critical trial. In times when gold was in wide circulation, the question often arose as to whether an alleged gold coin or object was genuine. Nitric acid was applied: if the piece was false gold, the acid decomposed it, but if it was genuine, the gold remained intact.

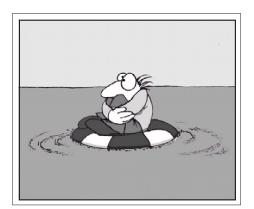
e.g. The acid test of their advertising cam-paign will be the fourth quarter figures.



ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

means that what you do is more significant than what you say.

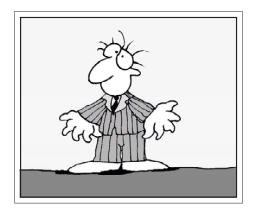
e.g. Nobody takes our boss seriously because he doesn't keep to his own rules and, as everyone knows, actions speak louder than words.



ALL AT SEA

means to be lost, bewildered, confused.

e.g. This new technology has me all at sea. I can't understand it at all.



ALL THUMBS

means to be clumsy and awkward at practical tasks.

e.g. I always need a computer expert when my PC crashes, as I am all thumbs and totally impractical.



ANTS IN HIS PANTS

means to be excessively restless or eager.

e.g. John has ants in his pants and can't wait to get the project started.