

Advanced (CAE) – Fixed Expressions

A. Look at the sample text with fixed expressions in bold and discuss the meanings.

Sarah was the head of human resources and was conducting interviews for a new supply manager in her company. There were many qualified candidates, but she **had no doubt** that Paul was the best candidate for the job. Despite being fired from his previous job, he **was highly regarded** in his field. **Being under the impression** that he was the best option, Sarah **made up her mind** and hired him.

At first, it **came as no surprise** that Paul helped the company make **a great deal of** progress. She never felt the need to **keep an eye on** him. **By the time** the yearly evaluation came about, Sarah **made it clear** to him that his work was of the highest standard and he would receive a promotion to regional manager.

Strangely, Paul was **by no means** grateful for the promotion and refused it. **In accordance with** company rules, Sarah had to investigate Paul. After a quick search, Sarah **was taken aback** when she discovered that Paul had been stealing supplies from the company. **Under no circumstances** could she let this continue, so she called him into her office and let him go. This was the 3rd new hire in a year and it seemed that **no matter what she did**, Sarah could not hire a trustworthy employee.

B. Look at this list of common expressions. Which ones have you seen before? Which ones are new? Discuss the meanings with a partner.

have no doubt	no chance of (+gerund)	come as a surprise
be in no doubt	on the point of (+gerund)	come as no surprise
highly regarded	short on time	a great deal of
have every chance of (+gerund)	have no choice but to (+verb)	have no choice but to
can't count on	to have sth in mind	by no means
make a full recovery from sth	there is no point in (+gerund)	keep an eye on so/sth
no matter how (adj) you (verb)	it is not worth (+gerund)	as far as I can tell
no matter what you do	be under the impression	turn out to be (+adjective)
stand a chance of (+gerund)	by the time	in accordance with
will result in	it's only a matter of time until	come to terms with
make it clear that	make no reference to	contrary to popular belief
keep in touch	change for the better	be taken aback
it never occurred to me	capable of (+gerund)	see the point of (+gerund)
make up your mind	no intention of (+gerund)	under no circumstances

C. Work with a partner to write a short text about work that uses 6-10 expressions.