

What does the idiom “Under the hammer” mean?

- A. To be extremely happy
- B. To be under great pressure
- C. To be physically trapped
- D. To be lost in thought

Show Answer...

Correct Answer: B (To be under great pressure)

Explanation:

The idiom “Under the hammer” means to be under great pressure or in a difficult situation, often due to a deadline or urgent demand. The phrase is derived from the act of using a hammer to strike an object, such as a gavel in an auction or a judge’s bench in a courtroom, to signal the end of a bidding process or the finalization of a decision.

This idiom is often used in the context of financial transactions, such as auctions or sales, where there is a sense of urgency and pressure to make a decision. It can also be used more broadly to describe any situation where there is a sense of urgency or high stakes involved.

For example, “The team is under the hammer to finish the project before the deadline,” or “The company is under the hammer to meet its quarterly earnings target.”

Conclusion

In summary, the idiom “Under the hammer” means to be under great pressure or in a difficult situation. Understanding common idioms like this can be helpful in improving one’s language skills and ability to communicate effectively.



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