

Here are some familiar expressions used to talk or write about **difficulties** and **difficult situations**.

in difficulty

with your back to the wall
out of your depth
in the hot seat
in a tight spot
up against it
in hot water
in a pickle/fix/jam
in at the deep end
up a gum tree

up the creek without a paddle (*slang*)
out of the frying pan into the fire
in the soup
in trouble
in deep water
bogged down
(skate) on thin ice
have your work cut out

a difficult situation

a catch-22 situation
a pretty kettle of fish
a sticky situation
a fate worse than death
not a bowl of cherries
no picnic
no mean feat

a vicious circle
a no-win situation
a hard nut to crack
not a bed of roses
a tall order
the devil of a job

to cause difficulties for yourself

bite off more than you can chew
make a rod for your own back
open a can of worms

make a meal of something
tie yourself in knots

to cause difficulties for others

set the cat among the pigeons
lead someone a dance
make waves
throw a spanner in the works

set someone by the ears
box someone into a corner
rock the boat
leave someone in the lurch

to face difficulty

put a brave face on it
(keep going) to the bitter end
keep your chin up

keep your end up
have a cross to bear
weather the storm

to survive difficulty

ride out the storm
squeeze home
be over the hump

be off the hook
be out of the woods
be home and dry