

Topic 2: Idiomatic Expression


EN110





Idiomatic Expressions:


An idiom is an expression that has become acceptable in the English language even if it is peculiar in meaning and construction. When one uses an idiom, he may be conversing figuratively.





Examples:



- 
1. “lend a hand”
 - To give help or assistance

2. “to catch a cold”
 - To be sick with a cold

3. “to break the ice”
 - To be able to put people at ease or to relax them
- 
- 

+ Examples: +

+

4. “to drop in”

- To pay a casual visit

5. “to face the music”

- To face trouble or punishment

6. “to beat around the bush”

- To talk around the point or the topic



Examples:

7. “A picture is worth a thousand words”

- A picture tells a story just as well as a large amount of descriptive text.

8. “It is raining cats and dogs”

- It is raining very heavily.

9. “like a fish out of water”

- Appears to be completely out of place; very awkward
- 
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Examples:

10. “caught red handed”

- Was seen doing something illegal

11. “my lips are sealed”

- You will not talk about something

12. “a bird in the hand is worth in the bush”

- It is better to keep what you have than to risk it by trying to get something better

+ Examples: +

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13. “She has butterflies in her stomach”

- She feels very nervous

14. “He drinks like a fish”

- He drinks alcohol excessively

15. “A little bird told me”

- A way of indicating that you do not want to reveal who told you something

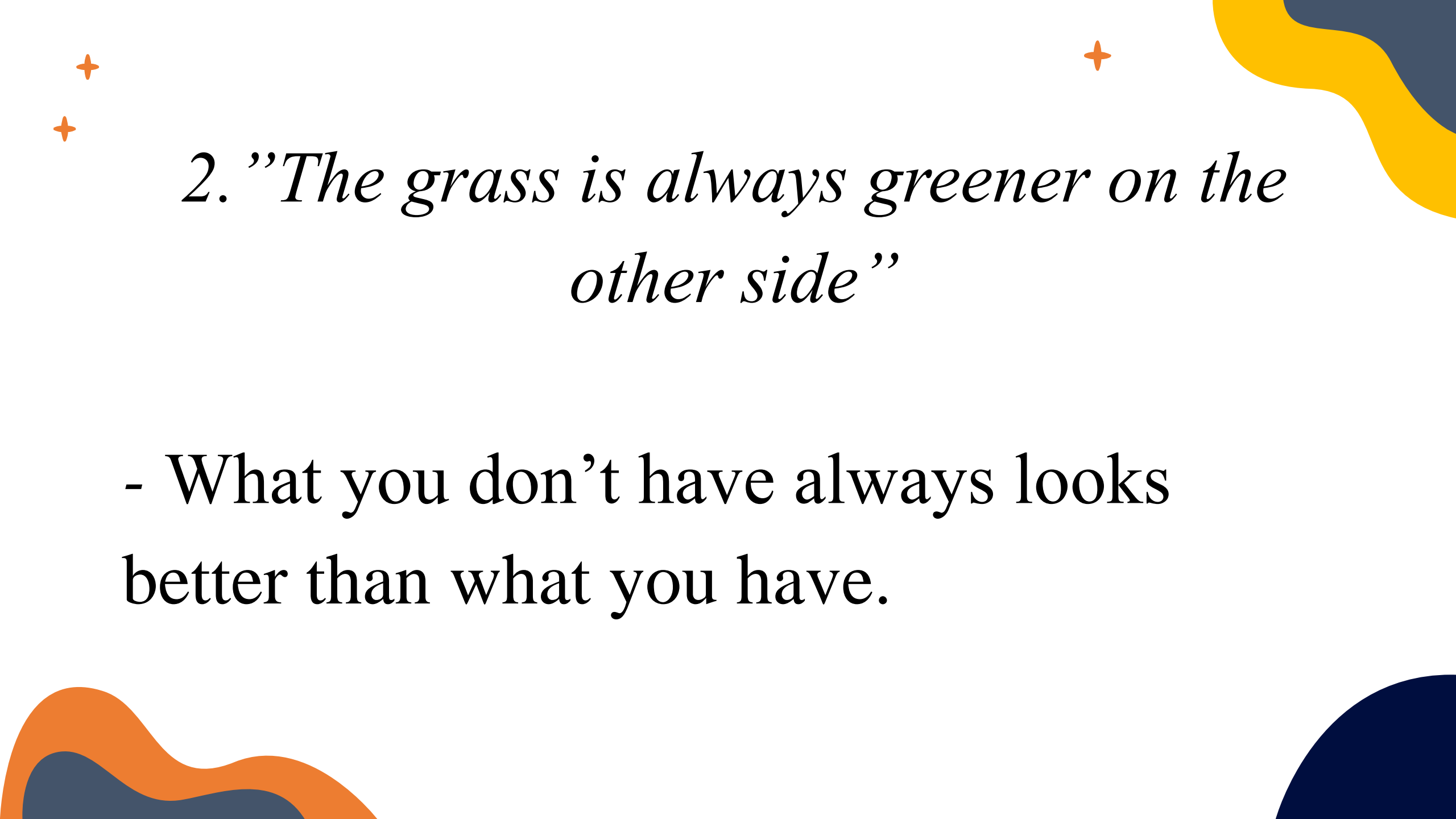


LET'S HAVE A TRY!!!!!!
ACTIVITY 1



1. *“Time flies when you’re having fun”*

- To feel that very little time has passed when actually a lot of time has gone by.




2. *”The grass is always greener on the other side”*

- What you don't have always looks better than what you have.

+ + 3. “Susan was wondering what she was
going to present at the meeting, and then
a lightbulb went off and she knew what
she would present.

- To get an idea



4. “He cannot make up his mind whether or not to buy stocks right now. He is *straddling the fence*”

- To have trouble coming to a decision





5. “*Time is running out* to turn in homework, you better and get it done”

- It’s almost too late.



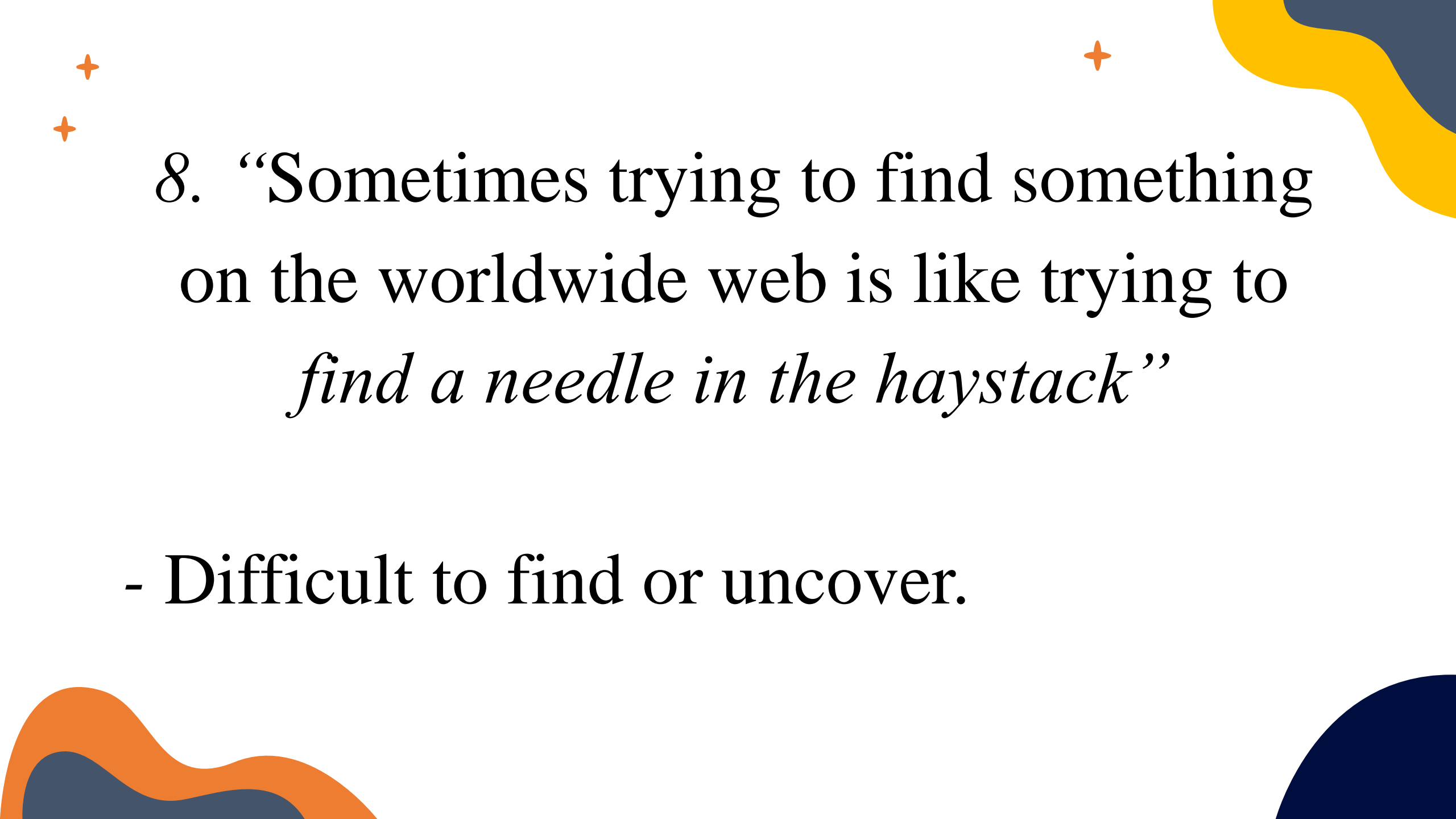
6. *“A penny saved is a penny earned”*

- Even small amounts of money are worth saving.



7. “I’ll believe politicians *when fish fly*”

- Something that will never happen



8. “Sometimes trying to find something on the worldwide web is like trying to *find a needle in the haystack*”

- Difficult to find or uncover.



9. *“Don’t cry over spilled milk”*

- Don’t worry about things you have done that you can’t change.



10. "Their business *is a money pit*"

- It is losing a lot of money with little hope for profit.



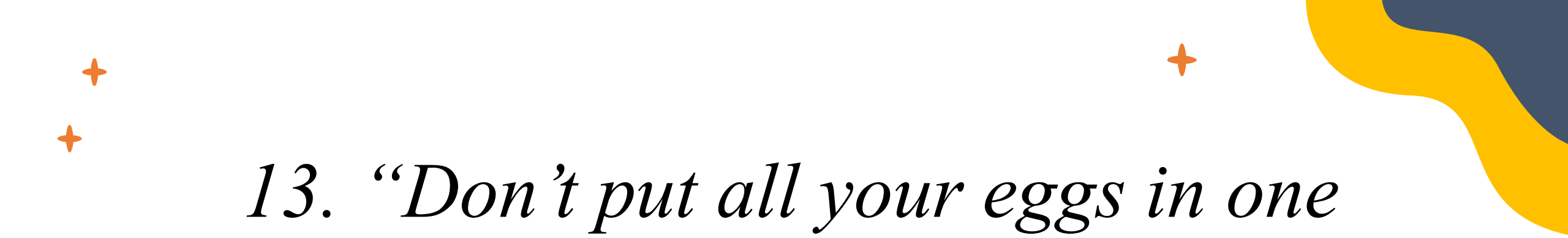
11. *“He’s on pins and needles”*

- He’s waiting anxiously or nervously.




12. *“He’s moving at a snail’s pace”*

- He is moving very slowly.



13. *“Don’t put all your eggs in one basket”*

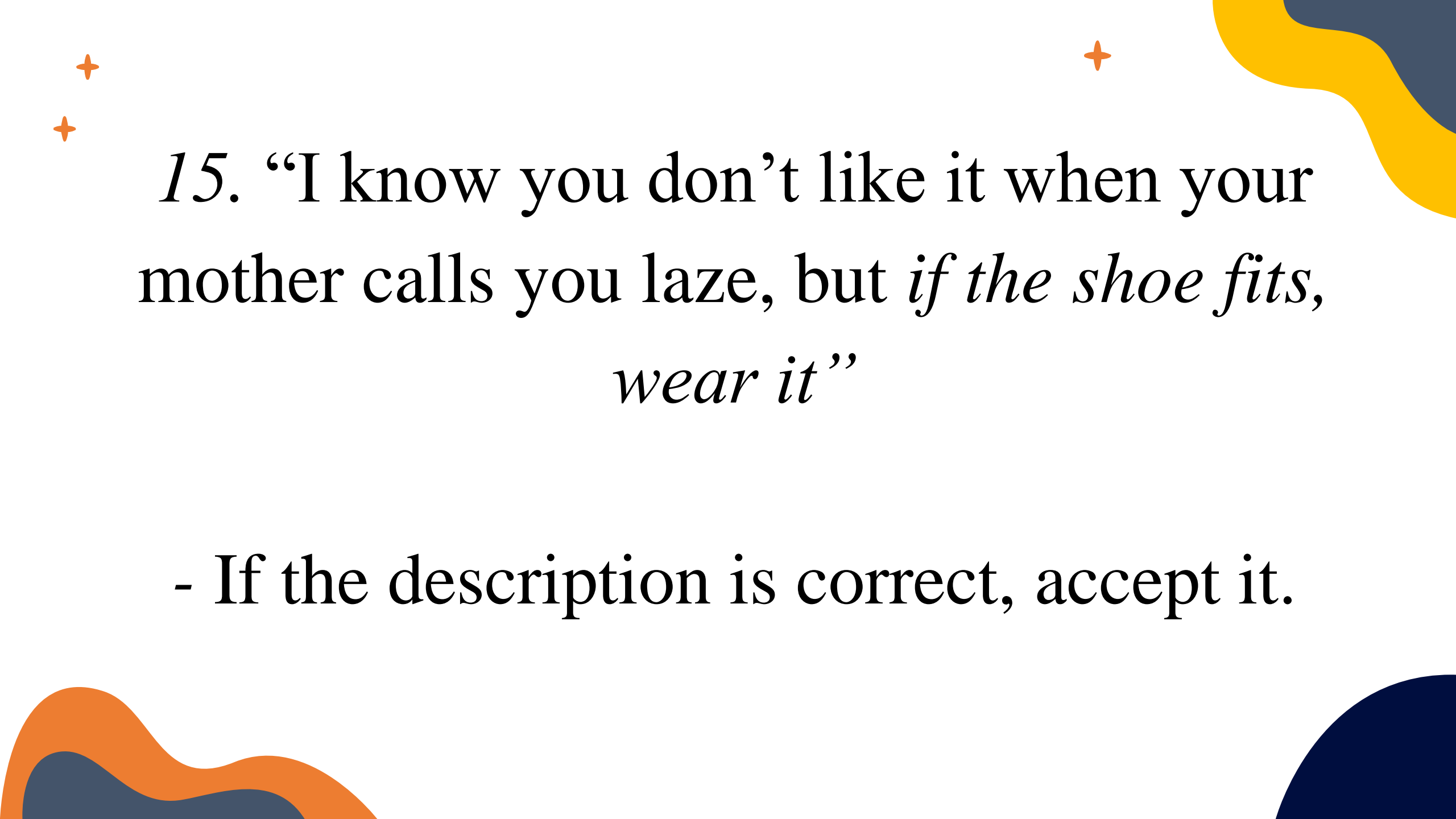
- Diversify. Try many types of things, not just one.





14. *“He’s going around in circles”*

- He isn’t getting anything accomplished.



15. “I know you don’t like it when your mother calls you lazy, but *if the shoe fits, wear it*”

- If the description is correct, accept it.