

LEARN HOW TO USE TRUMP AS AN IDIOM OR PHRASAL VERB

IDIOM - TO PLAY A TRUMP CARD

MEANING – To have an unexpected or surprise advantage over someone. In card games, the trump card is the card with the highest value. In many games, players will use their best card at the last moment to win the hand or round.

EXAMPLES - (1). They won the negotiation by using free advertising as a trump card. (2). The defence played a trump card by producing a solid alibi for the accused.

NOTE - Trump can also simply be used as a verb (to trump someone or something). It means to beat someone or get the better of someone. For example: (1). My wife cooked a fantastic meal, but I trumped it with the dessert. (2). Children play with balls more than with any other toy. Balls trump all the other toys. (3). He always trumps my jokes with a better one. (4). Iphones have trumped all other mobile phones on the market.

IDIOM
(to play) a trump card

MEANING
to use a final trick or secret advantage

EXAMPLE
The surprise evidence was their trump card.

In card games, the trump card is the most important card.

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come up trumps / turn up trumps - to achieve something unexpectedly. This idiom is normally used to express a surprise win or success.

Example: (1). Our team was losing but we *came up trumps* when Mario scored a goal in the last five minutes of the match. (2). I didn't have enough money to take my girlfriend out for dinner but my Dad *came up trumps* and surprised me with some extra cash. (3). He wasn't expected to do well in the exam but he *turned up trumps* when he got the highest score in the class.

TRUMP AS A PHRASAL VERB

to trump up - to invent something bad to cause problems for someone else / to lie or create a falsehood.

Example: (1). In some communist countries, innocent people are put into prison on trumped up charges. (2). He trumped up an excuse so that we wouldn't have to go to the party.