

# Idioms & Phrases

## Class – 3





**A red rag to a bull:-** an object, utterance, or act that is certain to provoke someone. –

कोई वस्तु, कथन या कार्य जो निश्चित रूप से किसी को उत्तेजित करेगा / भड़काना

**Eg -** Don't tell him you're a vegetarian – it's like a red rag to a bull.

**Eg -** The refusal to discuss the central issue was like a red rag to a bull.





**Dead in water :-** No chance of succeeding or making any progress  
सफल होने का कोई मौका नहीं

**Eg -** So how does a government revive an economy that is dead in the water?

**Eg-** Without an effective leader, our plans for expansion are dead in the water.





A rolling stone gathers no moss - an aimless person cannot succeed.- लक्ष्यहीन व्यक्ति सफल नहीं हो सकता।

Eg. - It was time for you to settle down at least five years back. You should find a place that you like and build a home there because a rolling stone gathers no moss.

Eg. - He said that a rolling stone gathers no moss, that I'd never have a family if I spent my life touring with the band. I was determined to prove him wrong.





**A gentleman at large :-** A person without any serious occupation -  
बिना किसी स्थिर व्यवसाय वाला व्यक्ति

**Eg -** Having sold off his factory, he is now a gentleman at large.

**Eg -** Mohit's laziness as head coach makes him a gentleman at large.





**Be under someone's thumb** - completely under someone's influence or control. पूरी तरह से किसी के प्रभाव या नियंत्रण में।

**Eg. -** He's got the committee firmly under his thumb – they agree to whatever he asks.

**Eg. -** Although the job paid well, I couldn't stand the way I was under the boss's thumb.





**Bear the palm - To win - जीत**

**Eg. -** heard that you might bear the palm at the science fair!  
Congratulations – it would be a well-deserved victory.

**Eg. -** As he was practicing day and night,  
he may breathe palm in tomorrow's race.





**Catch a tartar** - to attack or oppose someone too strong for one -  
किसी ऐसे व्यक्ति पर हमला करना या उसका विरोध करना जो किसी के लिए  
बहुत शक्तिशाली हो

**Eg.** - She finally agreed to meet with you, you just might find that  
you've caught

**Eg.** - It looks like we caught a Tartar when we  
tried to muscle their store out of the area.



**By - Hemendra Sir**



**Cold comfort** - poor or inadequate consolation. - खराब या अपर्याप्त सांत्वना.

**Eg.** - The good news about the economy is cold comfort to people who have lost their jobs.

**Eg.** - The news that I got a meager raise is cold comfort after not getting that big promotion.

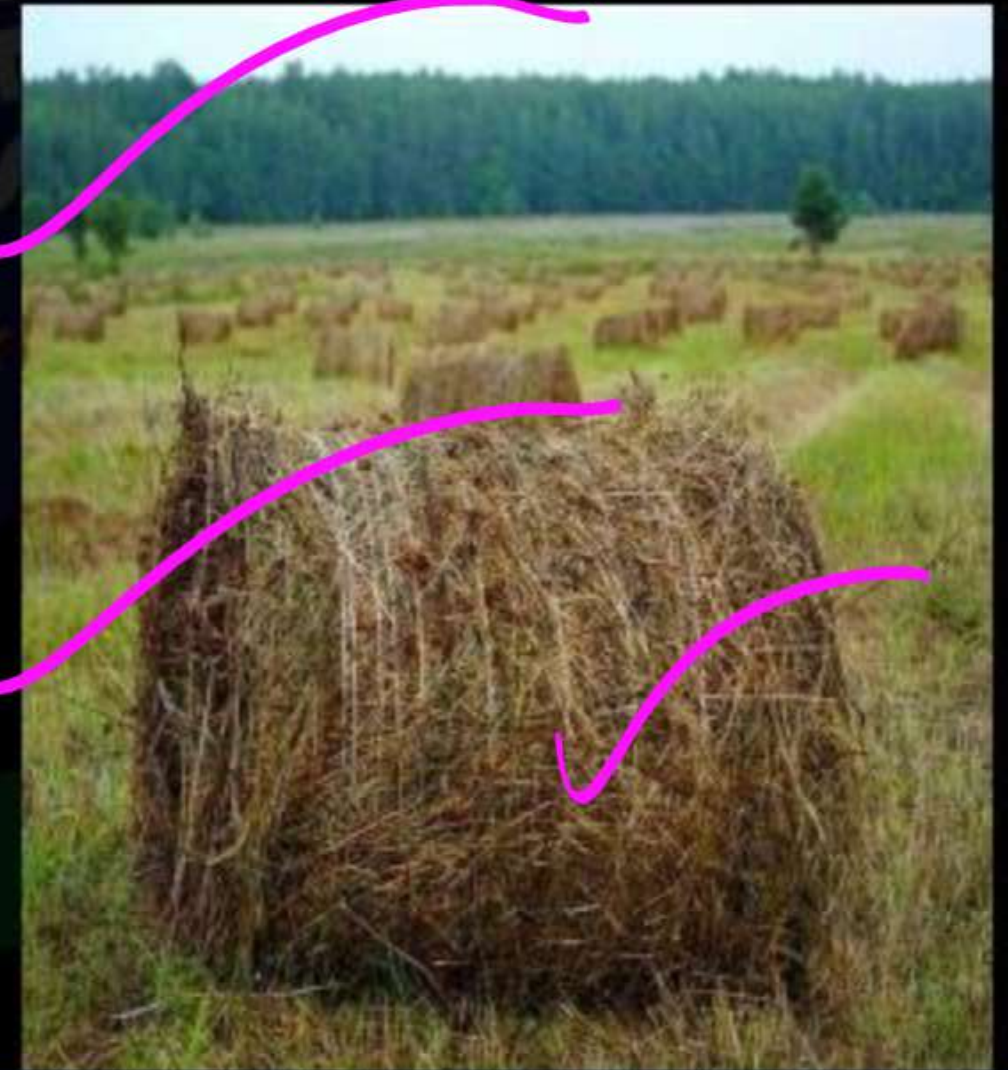




**Go haywire** - to stop working correctly. - सही ढंग से काम करना बंद करना

**Eg.** - They told us later in the hospital that his heart had gone haywire.

**Eg.** - My printer's gone haywire. It keeps stopping and starting.





# **Idioms & Phrases**

## **Practice**



## Adam's ale

- 1) Water ✓
- 2) Wine
- 3) Pleasure
- 4) Gratification

### Correct Option - 1

□ **The idiom 'Adam's ale'** 'a joking way to refer to a glass of water'

### Example:

1. Unfortunately, we have no wine or beer in the house. You will have to settle for some Adam's ale.
2. My children never have any sugary beverages. They are quite happy drinking some Adam's ale.



## The nouveau riche

- 1) a person newly rich ✓
- ✗ 2) a new-born baby
- ✗ 3) an obligatory rule
- ✗ 4) a stingy person

### Correct Option - 1

✓ **The nouveau riche** - people are people from a low social class who have recently become very rich and like to show this publicly by spending a lot of money.

### Example:

o The restaurant is popular with the city's nouveau riche.



## **A peeping Tom**

- 1) Tom is peeping from the door
- 2) Tom is a cheat
- 3) A person working for Police
- 4) A person who secretly watches others, especially for sexual gratification



## Laissez-faire

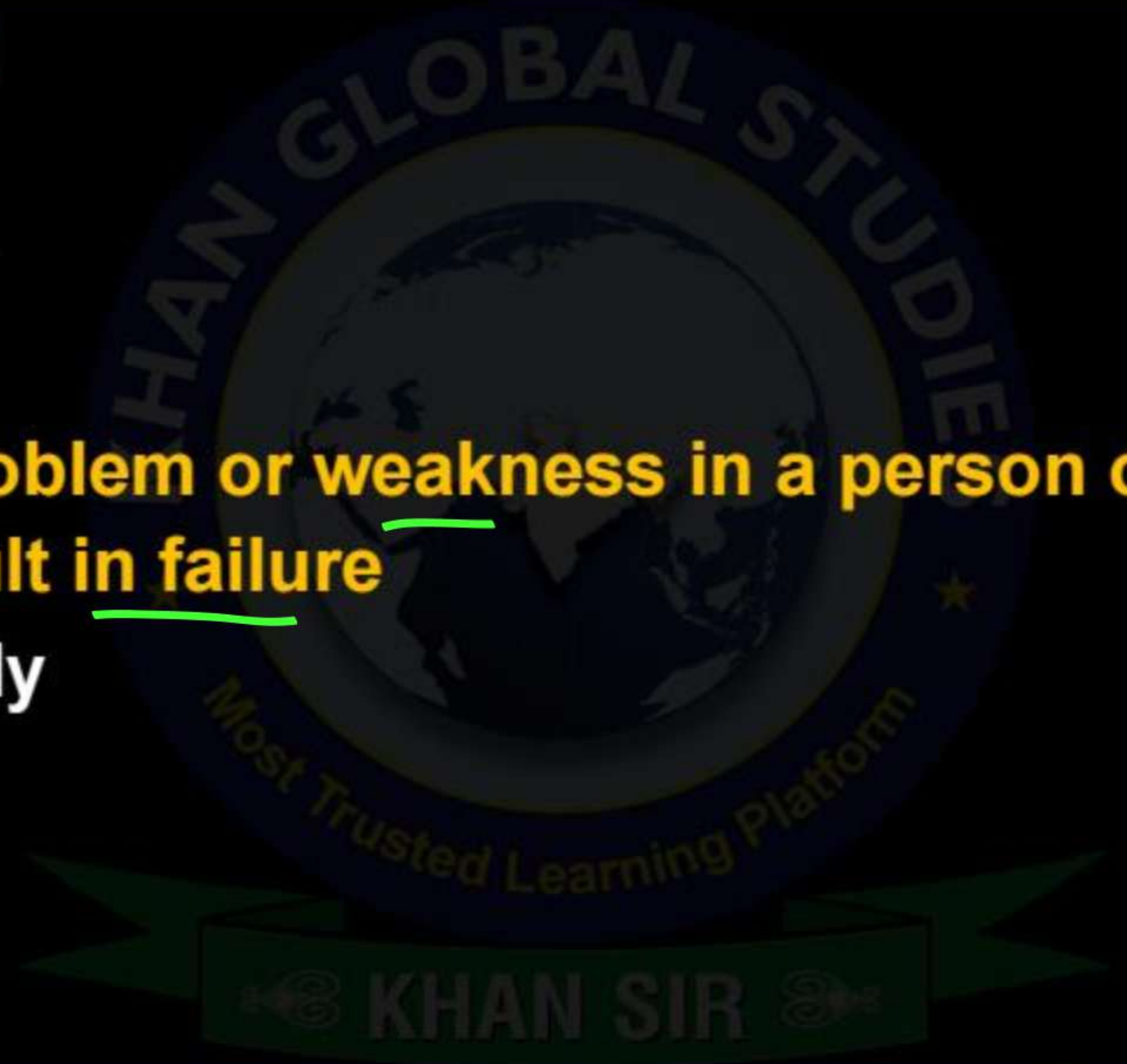
- 1) an ~~authoritarian~~ government
- ✓ 2) an economic theory with less red- tapism ✓
- 3) an ~~economic~~ theory with more red- tapism
- 4) to be ~~unfair~~ with everyone





## Achilles heel

- 1) ~~Run~~ away
- 2) ~~Soft~~ feet
- 3) a small problem or weakness in a person or system that can result in failure
- 4) ~~Walk~~ slowly



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## Damocles sword

- 1) a blunt sword
- 2) a closely impending disaster
- 3) a sword of Damocles
- 4) a disputed sword





## Hobson's choice

- 1) put option
- 2) an apparently free choice when there is no real alternative
- 3) more than one choice
- 4) call option

### Correct Option - 2

□ **'Hobson's choice'** - 'a situation in which it seems that you can choose between different things or actions, but there is really only one thing that you can take or do'

**Example:** The regional council must decide whether a private toll bridge is better than no bridge at all.



## Rob Peter to pay Paul

- 1) To borrow or take money from one person or source to fund or repay the debt of another.
- 2) To take money that was intended for one particular thing and not spend it on something else
- 3) Should not spend money intended for one thing on another
- 4) To borrow or take money from one person or source to fund or not repay the debt of other person

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## Jack of all trades.

✓ 1) Someone who can do many different jobs well.

2) Trade that is done by Jack

3) Someone who can not do many different jobs

4) Central idea of all the trades

□ **Jack of all trades** - a person able to do a variety of different jobs.

□ **Example** - Dr. Anjali is a physician, homeopath, osteopath, and acupuncturist. She's a jack-of-all-trades.

□ **Synonyms** - handyman, factotum, pantologist, tinker  
handy person

□ **Antonyms** - moron, dunce, halfwit, jackass, lump,  
Neanderthal, pillock



**Directions: Choose the correct meaning of the underlined idiom.**

Give him enough rope and see what happens. ✓

1) To give enough space to stand ✗

2) To let someone do wrong. ✓

3) To be spacious ✗

4) To help others ✗



**Direction: Choose the correct meaning of the underlined idiom.**  
He was accused by his opponents of being a man of straw and lacking decisiveness.

1) Coward

2) Very thin

3) Strong

4) Muscular





**Directions: Choose the correct meaning for the highlighted idiom in the sentence.**

The Minister said law and order situation has improved, there is no hurdle of red - tapism or any other, and investors get necessary facilitation.

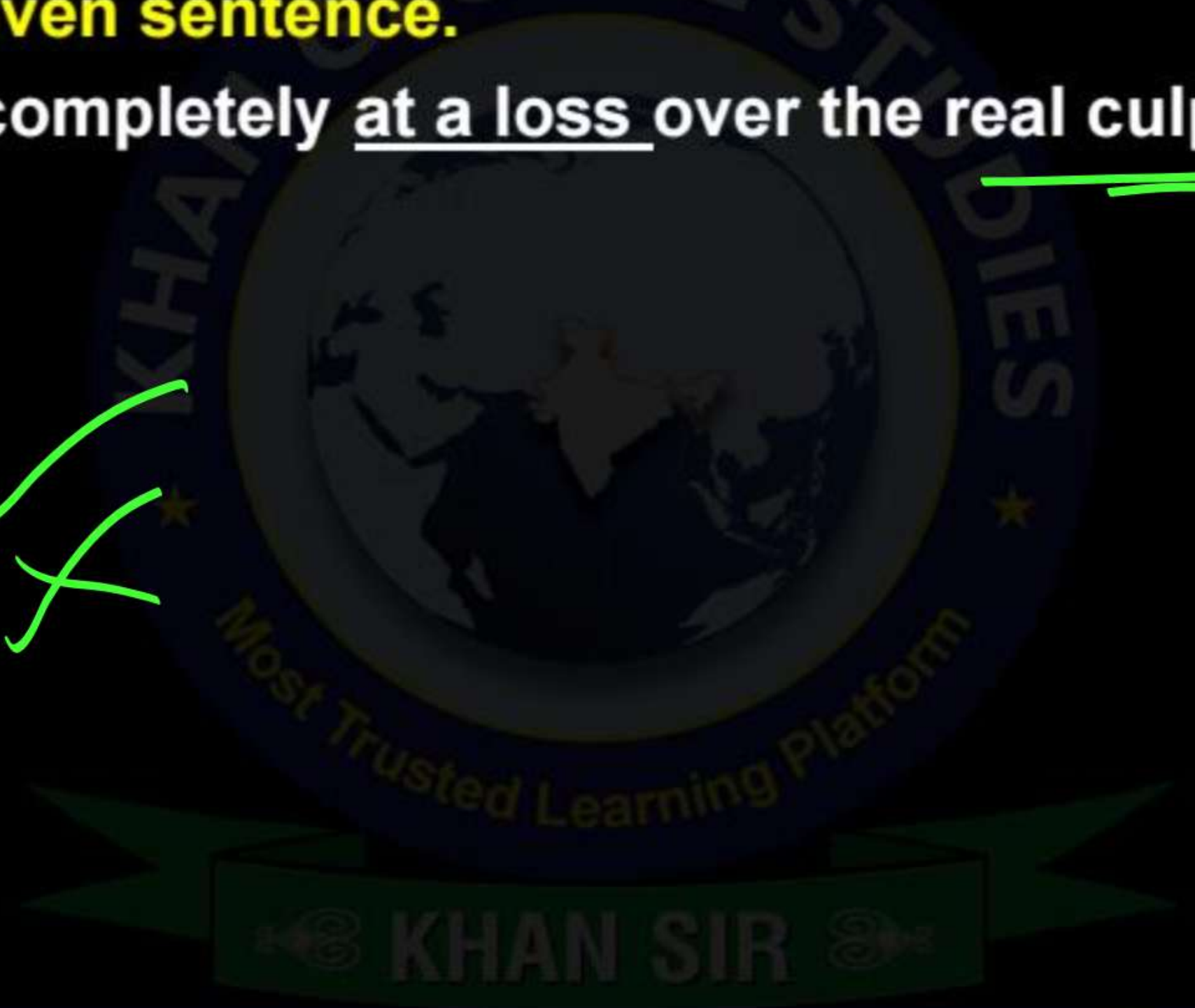
- 1) Dangerous situations
- 2) A tape which is red in colour
- 3) **Regulations or formal rules**
- 4) Oppositions



Directions: Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom in the given sentence.

The police is completely at a loss over the real culprit

- 1) Unfazed ~~X~~
- 2) Composed ~~X~~
- 3) **Perplexed** ✓
- 4) Undaunted ~~X~~





Directions: Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom in the given sentence.

All the players played to their potential and India carried the day.

1) Triumph

2) Surrender

3) Be sad

4) Languish

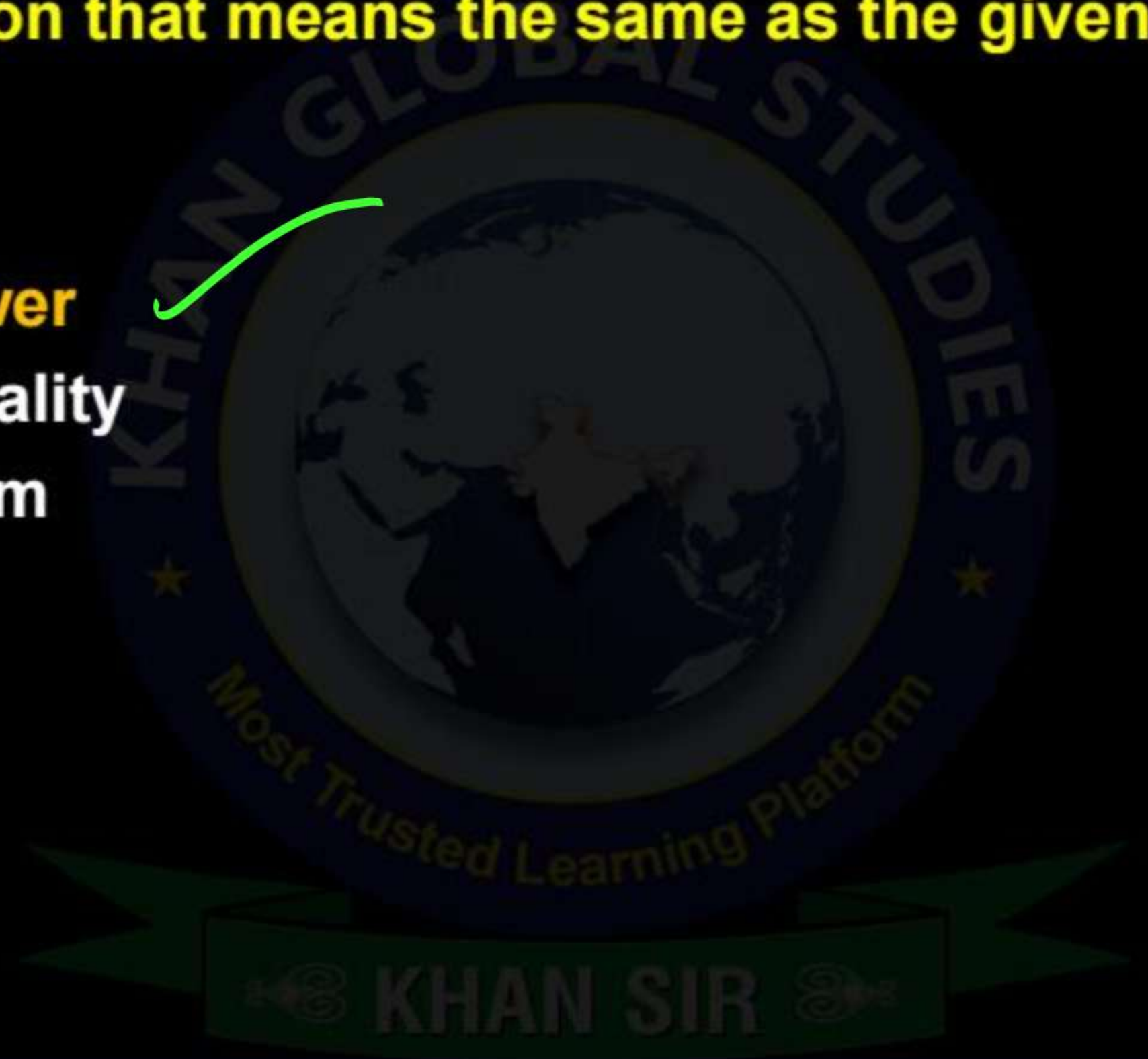




Select the option that means the same as the given idiom.

Tooth and nail

- 1) **With all power** ✓
- 2) Unconditionality
- 3) Top to bottom
- 4) Hungry

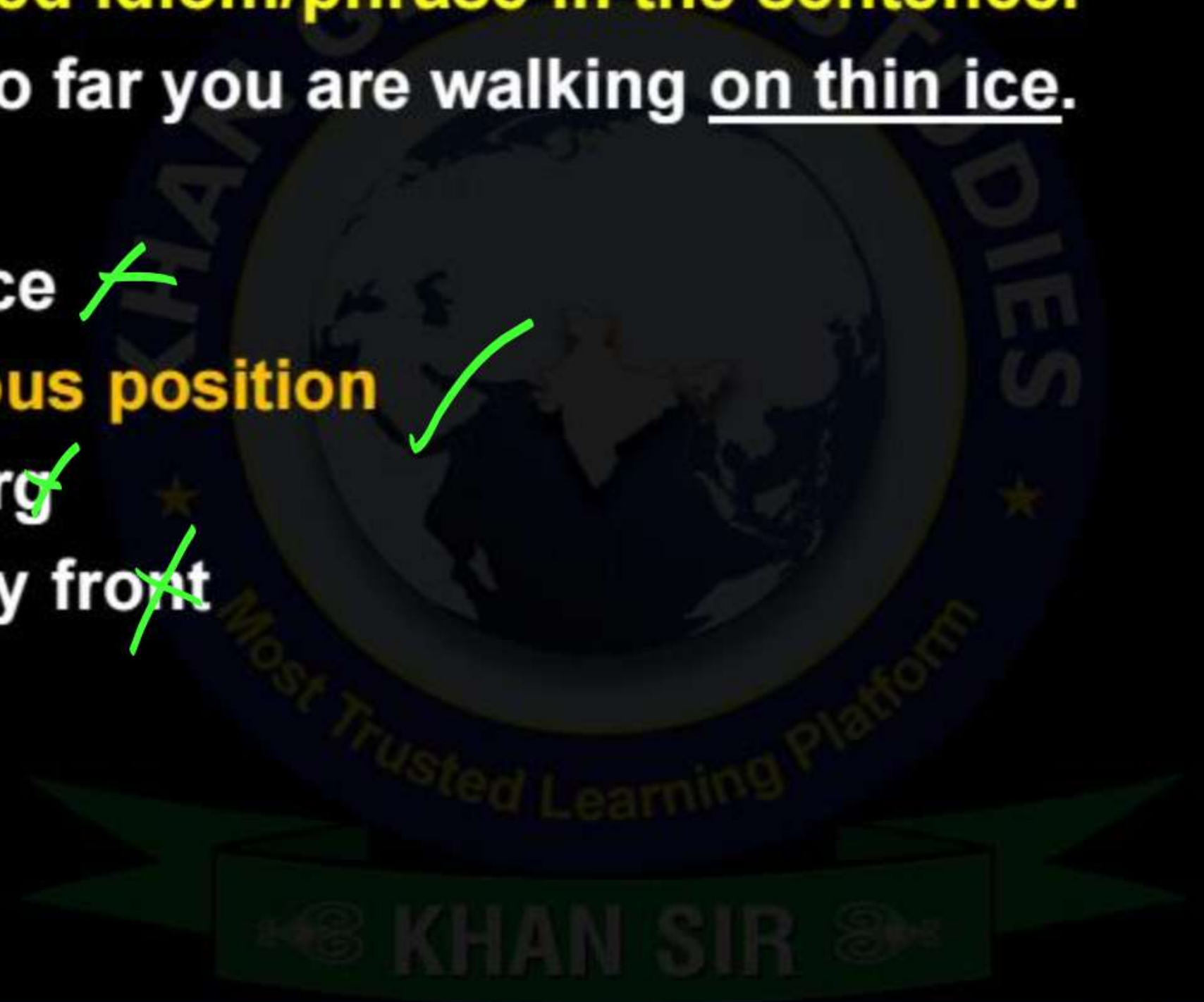




Direction: Choose the option which best expresses the meaning of the underlined idiom/phrase in the sentence.

Don't take it too far you are walking on thin ice.

- 1) As thin as ice ✗
- 2) In a dangerous position ✓
- 3) On an iceberg ✓
- 4) On a slippery front ✗

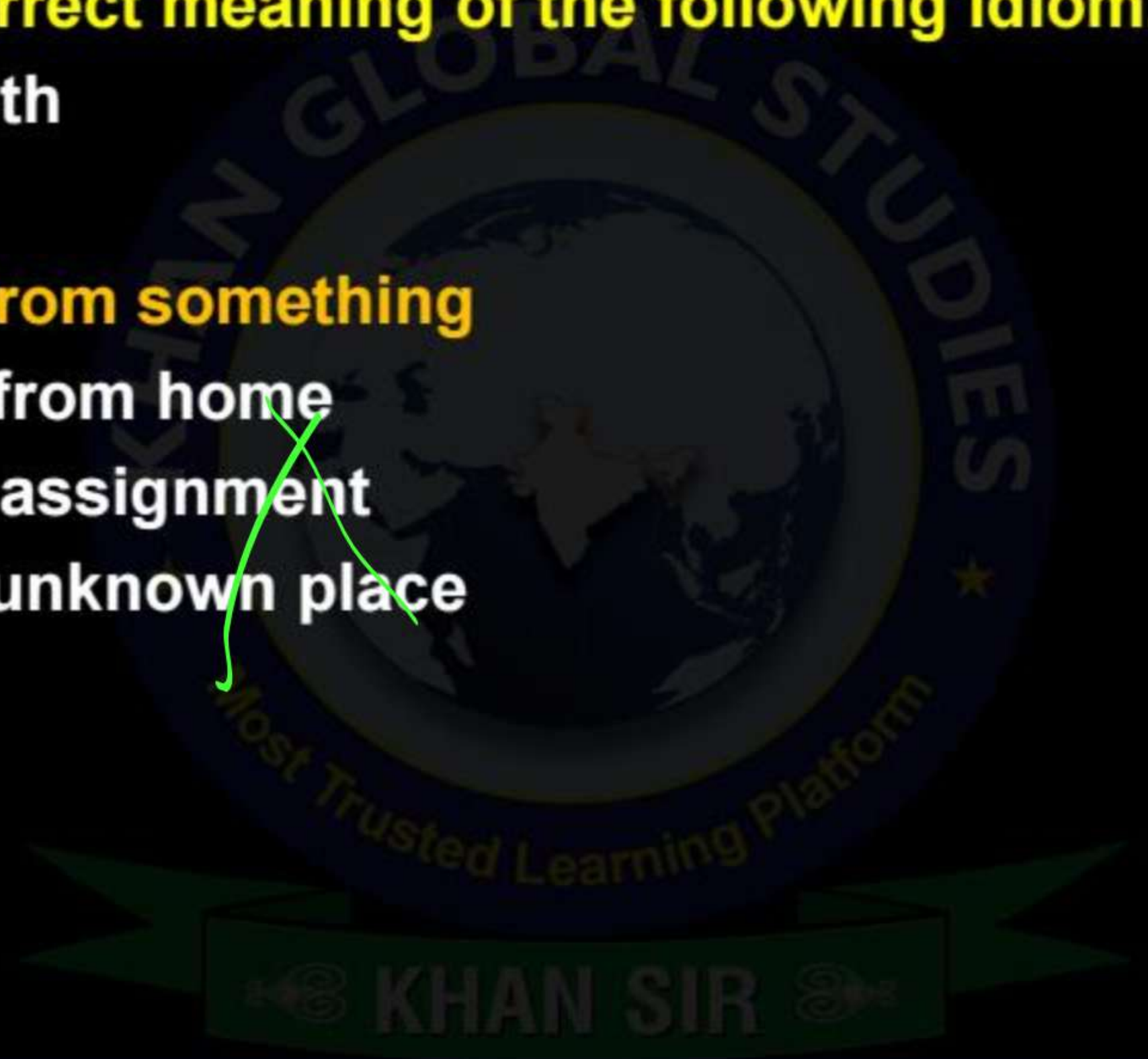




**Choose the correct meaning of the following idiom.**

**To get away with**

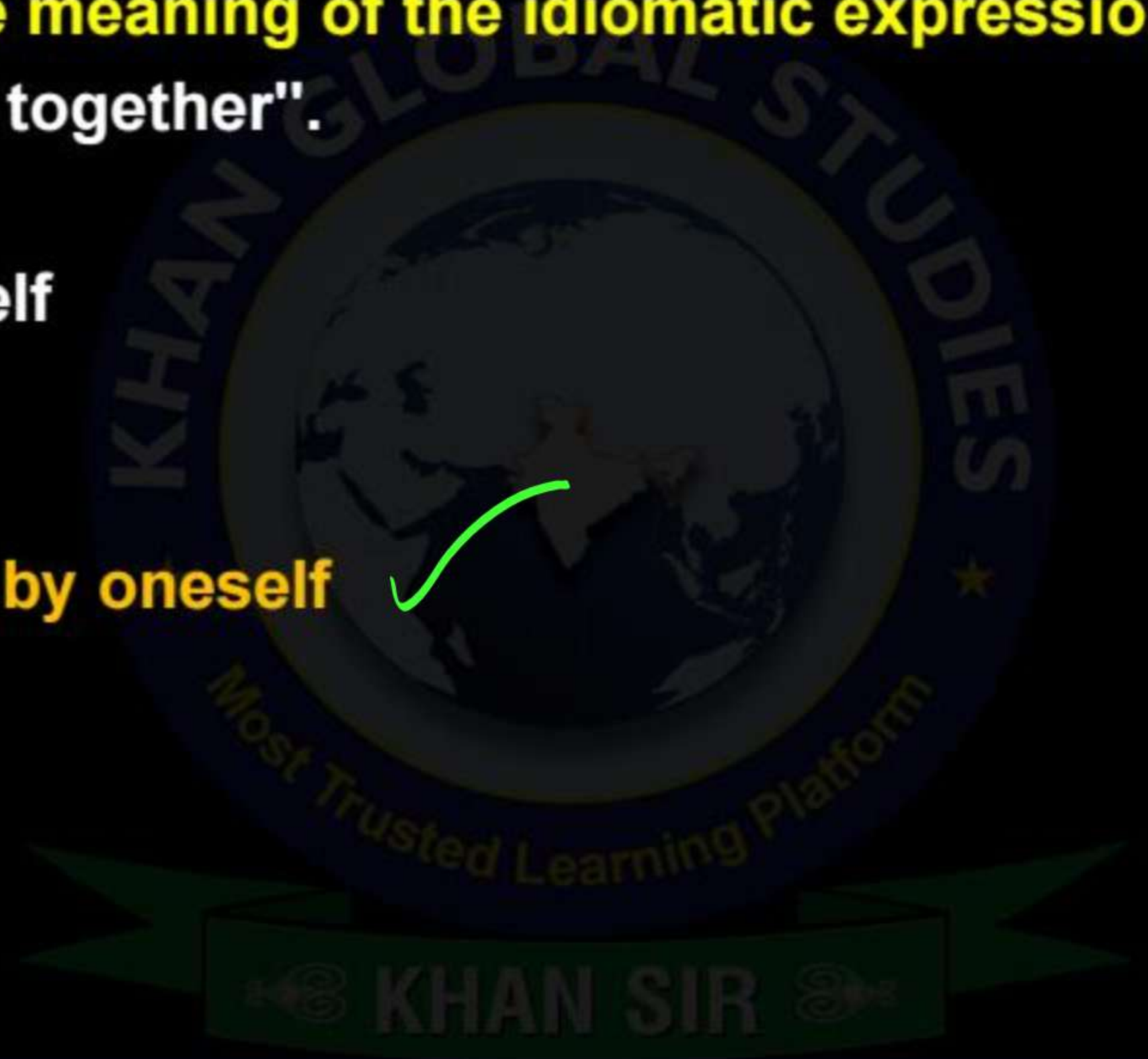
- 1) To escape from something**
- 2) To go away from home
- 3) To finish an assignment
- 4) To go to an unknown place





**Direction: The meaning of the idiomatic expression:**  
**"pull yourself together".**

- 1) drag oneself
- 2) help one
- 3) get angry
- 4) **calm down by oneself**

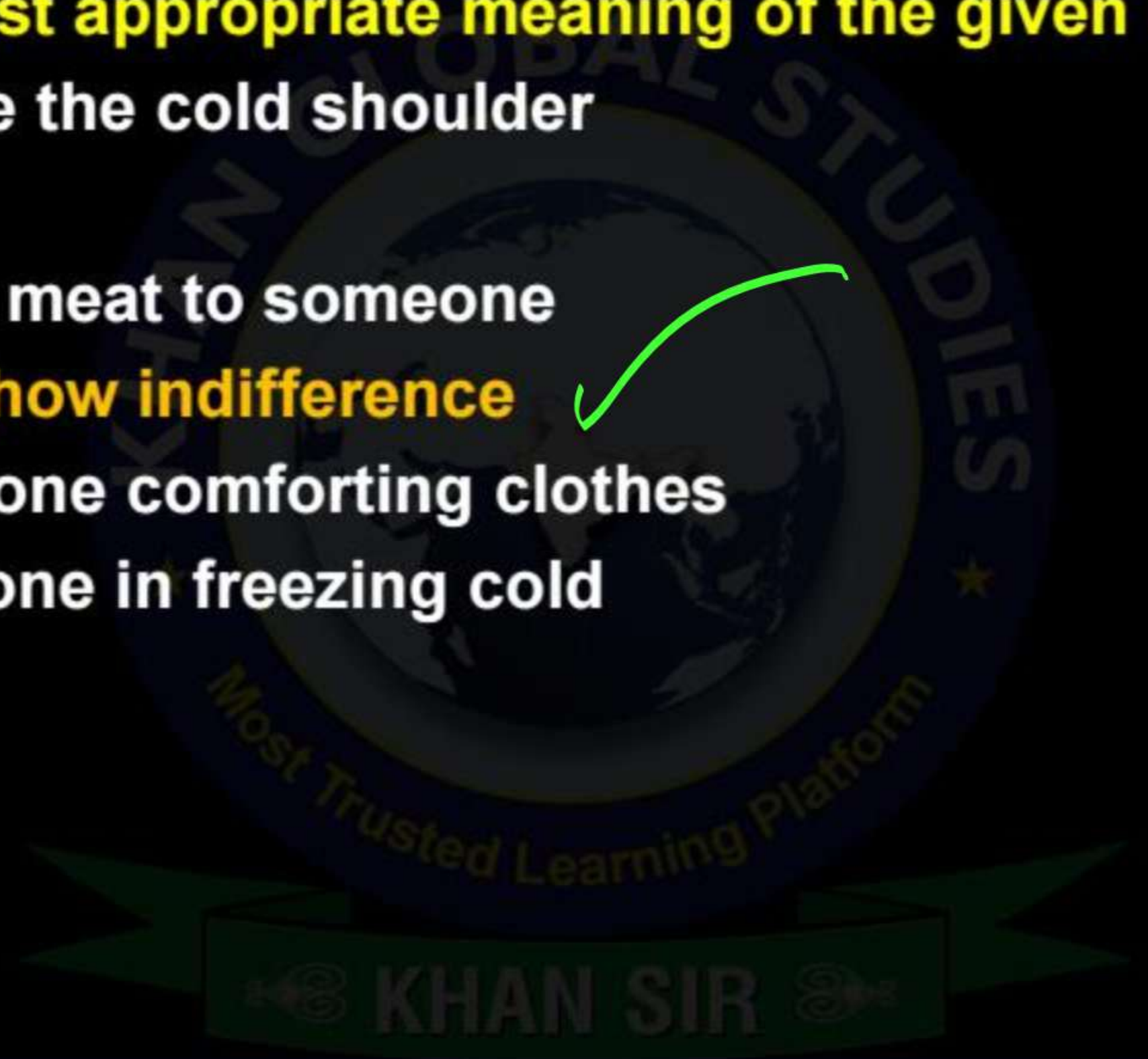




**Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

**Give someone the cold shoulder**

- 1) serve cold meat to someone
- 2) ignore or show indifference** ✓
- 3) deny someone comforting clothes
- 4) bury someone in freezing cold

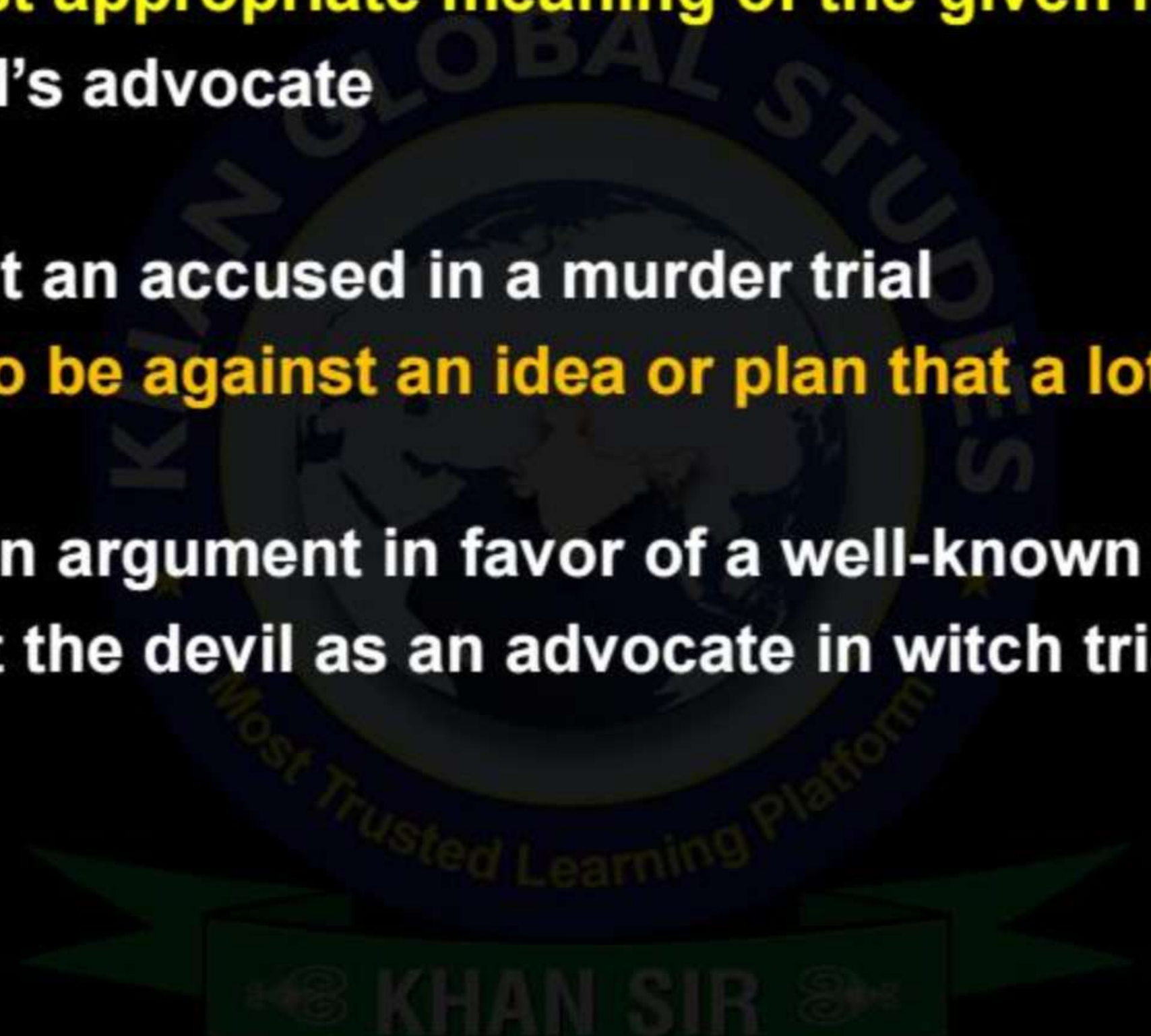




Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

To be the Devil's advocate

- 1) to ~~represent~~ an accused in a murder trial
- 2) to pretend to be against an idea or plan that a lot of people support
- 3) to ~~present~~ an argument in favor of a well-known evil man
- 4) to represent the devil as an advocate in witch trials



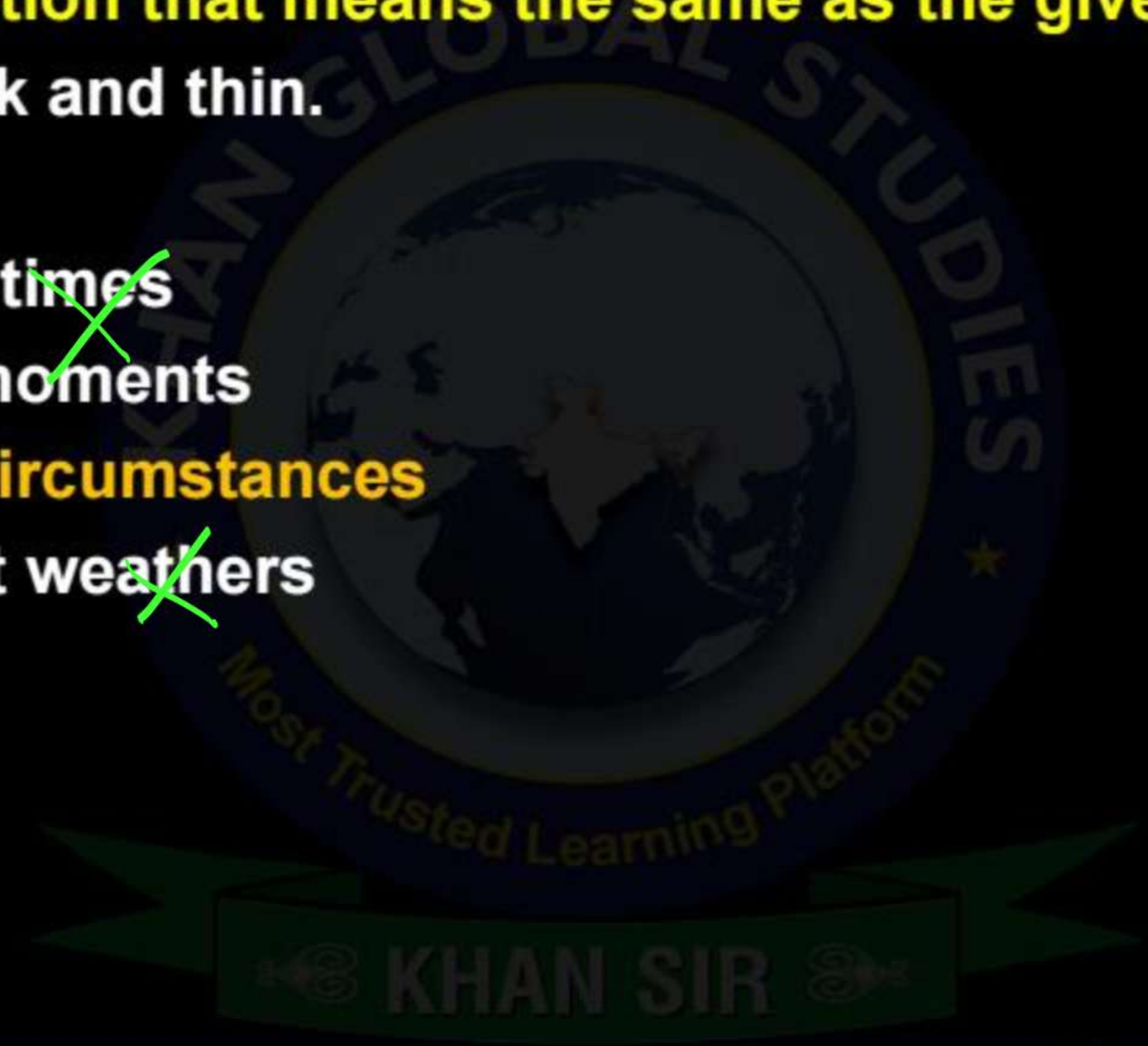
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Select the option that means the same as the given idiom.

Through thick and thin.

- 1) in difficult times
- 2) in happy moments
- 3) under all circumstances
- 4) in different weathers





Out of the four alternatives given for the idioms/phrase, choose the one which best expresses the meaning of the given idiom/phrase.

To flog a dead horse.

- 1) To ~~try~~ to achieve an easy task
- 2) To try ~~to~~ table work from a weak horse.
- 3) To beat ~~a~~ horse that is dead.
- 4) To revive interest in a subject which is out of date.



Directions: Out of the four alternatives given for the idioms/phrase, choose the one which best expresses the meaning of the given idiom/phrase.

To meet one's Waterloo.

- ☒ 1) To meet a strong adversary.
- ☒ 2) To die an ignoble death.
- ☒ 3) To meet one's final defeat.
- ☒ 4) To meet with humiliation.



Out of the four alternatives given for the idioms/phrase, choose the one which best expresses the meaning of the given idiom/phrase.

To nail ones colours to the mast

- 1) To understand the fact
- 2) To refuse to surrender
- 3) To mishandle something
- 4) To accept the proposal