

Business Expressions 1

BREAK THE ICE when you meet someone for the first time and start conversing.

Relax a tense or very formal situation

ACROSS THE BOARD Applying to all items in a group in approximately the same way, such as when nearly all stocks move in the same direction on a given day.

BOTTLENECKS A hindrance to progress or production.

BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD go back to start a project or idea from the beginning; start over again after a failure

“The manager didn't like our idea so I had to go back to the drawing board.”

BOTTOM LINE * The line in a financial statement that shows net income or loss.

* The final result or statement; upshot:

“The bottom line, however, is that he has escaped”

* The main or essential point:

“A lot can happen between now and December, but the bottom line—for now—is that the city is still heading toward default”

Exercise:

1. We've tried to promote this product in 5 different cities without success. The _____ is that it is a complete failure.

2. Yes, it looks like the product will need to be redeveloped. It's time to go _____.

3. There's been too many delays. The consumers want this new product now. What's being done to get rid of the _____.

4. Due to low sales this year we're having to cut budgets _____.

5. I'm not sure about starting this meeting. What can I say to _____.