



American Expression E0178 Come hell or high water

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"Come hell or high water" is an idiomatic expression that signifies an unwavering determination or commitment to achieving a goal or completing a task, regardless of any obstacles, challenges, or adverse circumstances that may arise. The phrase conveys a sense of resilience, perseverance, and the willingness to overcome any hardship or difficulty that stands in the way.

The origins of this expression can be traced back to the early 19th century, with various theories suggesting its connection to the American West and the challenging conditions faced by pioneers during their westward expansion. It is believed to capture the spirit of those who were determined to reach their destination, even if they had to face extreme challenges, such as unpredictable weather or impassable terrain.

When someone says they will do something "come hell or high water," they are making a firm commitment and emphasizing their unwavering dedication. It implies that they will not be deterred by any obstacles, setbacks, or hardships that may arise. The phrase signifies a willingness to persevere and overcome any adversity, regardless of the difficulty or discomfort involved.

"Come hell or high water" is often used in situations where there is a strong sense of urgency, importance, or duty. It reflects a mindset of resilience, tenacity, and a refusal to give up or back down in the face of challenges. It emphasizes the resolve to push through obstacles and fulfill commitments, regardless of the circumstances.

This expression can be applied to various aspects of life, including personal goals, professional endeavors, or even the fulfillment of responsibilities. It embodies the determination to stay true to one's word, honor commitments, and achieve desired outcomes, regardless of the difficulties encountered along the way.

While the phrase implies a sense of unwavering commitment, it is important to consider the context and evaluate whether the goal or task is realistic, ethical, and aligned with one's values. It is essential to balance determination with flexibility and adaptability, as circumstances may change, and it may be necessary to reassess and adjust one's approach.

In conclusion, "come hell or high water" is an expression that encapsulates a resolute determination to achieve a goal or fulfill a commitment, regardless of any obstacles or challenges that may arise. It reflects a mindset of unwavering dedication, resilience, and a refusal to be deterred by adversity. However, it is important to approach such determination with a balanced perspective, considering the context and the feasibility of the goal in question.

Questions for Discussion

1. Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you had to push through challenges "come hell or high water"? How did you maintain your determination and overcome the obstacles?
 2. Can you think of any historical or personal examples of individuals or groups who demonstrated a "come hell or high water" attitude in pursuing their goals or causes? What impact did their determination have on their success?
 3. What factors or beliefs do you think contribute to someone adopting a "come hell or high water" mindset? Is it purely a matter of personal determination, or are there external influences that play a role?
 4. Is there a point where maintaining a "come hell or high water" attitude becomes detrimental or unwise? How do you balance perseverance with adaptability and knowing when it's appropriate to reassess or change course?
 5. How can a "come hell or high water" mentality inspire and motivate others within a team or community? Are there any potential drawbacks or challenges associated with this level of determination and commitment?
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