



American Expression E0724 Put something on ice

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"Put something on ice" is an idiomatic expression that means to postpone, delay, or temporarily set aside a plan, project, or idea. The phrase draws an analogy from the act of preserving or chilling food or beverages by placing them in a freezer or cooler to keep them fresh until they are needed or ready to be consumed. Figuratively, "putting something on ice" implies keeping it in a state of readiness for future use or consideration.

The expression is commonly used in various contexts, including business, negotiations, personal plans, and creative projects. For instance, in business, if a company is considering a new product launch but needs to address certain challenges or uncertainties first, they may decide to "put it on ice" until they have a clearer strategy or more favorable market conditions.

In personal relationships, the phrase can apply to romantic pursuits or future plans. If someone is interested in a romantic relationship but the timing is not right or they need to focus on other priorities, they may decide to "put it on ice" for the time being.

In negotiations, "putting something on ice" can indicate a temporary pause to allow both parties to gather more information or reassess their positions before resuming discussions.

In creative endeavors, artists, writers, or musicians may decide to "put a project on ice" if they are experiencing creative blocks or need time to gain fresh perspectives before continuing their work.

While "putting something on ice" can be a valuable strategy to gain clarity or address specific challenges, it is essential to ensure that it does not become a means of procrastination or avoidance. Regular review and follow-up are necessary to prevent ideas or plans from being forgotten or neglected indefinitely.

The phrase implies a sense of intentionality and control over the decision to delay something. By "putting it on ice," individuals or organizations demonstrate a willingness to wait for a more opportune moment, a clearer direction, or a better context.

In conclusion, "putting something on ice" is an idiomatic expression used to describe the act of postponing or temporarily setting aside a plan, project, or idea until a more appropriate time or circumstance. It is a strategy used in various contexts, including business, negotiations, personal relationships, and creative projects. The expression implies intentionality and control over the decision to delay, allowing for a period of reflection, preparation, or reassessment. However, it is crucial to maintain regular review and follow-up to prevent ideas or plans from being forgotten or neglected indefinitely. By strategically "putting something on ice," individuals and organizations can make more informed decisions and increase the likelihood of success when the timing is right.

#### Questions for Discussion

1. In what situations do you think it is beneficial to "put something on ice"? How can this strategy help individuals and organizations make more informed decisions and avoid hasty actions?
2. Discuss the potential risks and challenges of "putting something on ice" for an extended period. How can individuals strike a balance between delaying a plan for thoughtful consideration and avoiding procrastination?
3. Share personal experiences or examples where "putting something on ice" led to positive outcomes or helped you gain clarity and perspective. How did the delay influence your decision-making process?
4. In business and project management, how can leaders effectively communicate the decision to "put something on ice" to team members and stakeholders to maintain engagement and motivation?
5. Explore scenarios where "putting something on ice" may not be the best approach. What alternative strategies can individuals and organizations use to address challenges or uncertainties without delaying progress indefinitely?