



American Expression E1151 Hands down the best

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The phrase "hands down the best" is an idiomatic expression that conveys a strong and definitive assertion about something being the superior choice or option among a group of alternatives. It is often used to emphasize the unmatched quality, excellence, or superiority of a particular person, thing, or idea in comparison to others. This phrase employs a visual metaphor, suggesting that the winner is so evident and undisputed that one can confidently raise their hands in agreement without hesitation.

When someone refers to something as "hands down the best," they are emphasizing that the choice or option in question is so outstanding that it stands head and shoulders above the rest. This assertion can pertain to a wide range of contexts, including products, services, performances, achievements, or even personal qualities. The phrase conveys a sense of unwavering certainty and conviction, suggesting that the excellence of the chosen item or idea is beyond dispute.

This expression is often used colloquially in conversations, reviews, and evaluations to convey a high level of approval and endorsement. It implies that the individual making the statement has found something that has exceeded their expectations and has left no room for doubt or debate regarding its superiority.

The use of "hands down the best" is not limited to tangible objects; it can also apply to intangible qualities such as skills, talents, and achievements. For instance, one might say that a certain athlete is "hands down the best" in their field, emphasizing their unmatched expertise and accomplishments.

It's important to note that while "hands down the best" is a strong declaration of excellence, it is also subjective and dependent on personal preferences and opinions. What is considered the best by one person might not hold the same position for another, as individual tastes and criteria can vary widely.

In conclusion, "hands down the best" is an idiomatic expression that emphatically conveys the idea of something being the undisputed and superior choice among a set of options. This phrase is used to underline the exceptional quality or excellence of a person, thing, or idea and is often employed to express strong approval and endorsement. While the assertion is powerful, it's important to remember that perceptions of what is "the best" can be subjective and vary from person to person.

Questions for Discussion

1. What are some examples from your own experiences where you would confidently say something was "hands down the best"? What factors influenced your judgment in those situations?
2. How does the phrase "hands down the best" impact our perceptions and expectations when evaluating different options? Can this phrase contribute to a bias towards certain choices?
3. Can you think of instances where something was considered "hands down the best" by a majority, but you had a different perspective? What factors might lead to differing opinions on what constitutes excellence?
4. In what areas of life do you find people often using the expression "hands down the best"? Are there instances where this phrase might be more appropriate or less applicable?
5. How can the assertion "hands down the best" influence marketing, advertising, and consumer decision-making? Are there potential drawbacks to using such strong language to promote products or services?