



American Expression E1252 I'll be the judge of that

IOTS Publishing Team
International Online Teachers Society
Since 2011

The phrase "I'll be the judge of that" is an idiomatic expression used to convey skepticism or doubt about a statement or claim made by someone else. When someone says, "I'll be the judge of that," they are essentially asserting their authority or prerogative to evaluate the accuracy, truthfulness, or validity of what has been said. This phrase is often used in situations where someone is challenging or questioning the veracity of a statement or where they want to personally assess a situation or claim before forming their own opinion.

The expression implies a degree of skepticism and suggests that the speaker is not willing to blindly accept what they've been told. Instead, they want to make their own assessment based on their knowledge, judgment, or experience. It's a way of asserting one's independence in forming opinions or making decisions.

For example, if someone tells you that a new restaurant in town serves the best pizza ever, you might respond with, "I'll be the judge of that," indicating that you're not ready to take their word for it and that you intend to try the pizza yourself before reaching a conclusion.

"I'll be the judge of that" can also be used in a more serious or critical context. For instance, in a legal setting, a judge might use this phrase when a lawyer makes a claim or argument in court. It signifies that the judge will carefully consider the evidence and legal arguments presented before making a decision.

In everyday conversations, this expression can be used playfully or lightheartedly. For example, if a friend boasts about their impressive cooking skills, you might respond with, "Oh really? Well, I'll be the judge of that," with a playful tone, implying that you look forward to trying their cooking.

This phrase is a way of asserting one's independence and critical thinking skills. It's a reminder that individuals have the right and responsibility to evaluate information and claims for themselves rather than blindly accepting what others say. It encourages a healthy level of skepticism and promotes independent thought.

However, it's essential to use this expression with care, as it can come across as confrontational or dismissive if used inappropriately. In some situations, it might be more diplomatic to express skepticism or doubt in a more considerate manner.

In conclusion, "I'll be the judge of that" is a common idiomatic expression used to convey skepticism or doubt about a statement or claim. It emphasizes the speaker's intention to personally assess a situation or statement before forming an opinion. This phrase encourages critical thinking and independent evaluation of information, highlighting the importance of making informed judgments rather than blindly accepting what others say. It can be used in various contexts, from casual conversations to more formal settings, to express a desire to assess information or claims firsthand.

Questions for Discussion

1. Have you ever used the phrase "I'll be the judge of that" in a conversation? If so, can you share the context and what led you to express skepticism or doubt about a statement or claim?
 2. How do you differentiate between healthy skepticism and being overly critical when saying "I'll be the judge of that"? Are there situations where you believe it's important to reserve judgment?
 3. In what types of scenarios or interactions do you find yourself most inclined to assert your authority to evaluate a statement or situation with "I'll be the judge of that"?
 4. Can you recall a situation where someone responded to your statement or claim with "I'll be the judge of that"? How did it make you feel, and did it influence your subsequent communication or actions?
 5. What do you think "I'll be the judge of that" reveals about our human tendency to question and assess information independently, and how does it impact our interactions and relationships with others?
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