



American Expression E1815 Through thick and thin

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"Through thick and thin" is an idiomatic expression that conveys unwavering loyalty, commitment, and support in the face of challenges, difficulties, or adversity. This phrase is often used to describe the depth of a strong and enduring relationship or the determination to stand by someone's side, regardless of the circumstances. It suggests a willingness to weather both favorable and unfavorable conditions together, emphasizing the strength and resilience of the bond.

The origins of this phrase are somewhat unclear, but it has been in use for centuries and is deeply ingrained in the English language. It may have evolved from older idioms, such as "through great and small" or "through good report and ill report." Regardless of its precise origin, "through thick and thin" has become a well-known expression that encapsulates the essence of steadfastness and loyalty.

In personal relationships, saying that you'll be there "through thick and thin" implies that you will support and stand by someone, no matter what challenges they may face. It signifies a commitment to sharing both the joys and the burdens of life's journey together. This phrase is often used in wedding vows to express the enduring commitment between partners, promising to support each other in times of trouble and times of joy.

Friendships that endure "through thick and thin" are considered especially valuable. These are the friendships where you can rely on one another during both the highs and lows of life. Such friendships are built on trust, empathy, and a shared history of overcoming challenges together.

In a broader context, "through thick and thin" can also apply to one's dedication to a cause, a goal, or a lifelong ambition. It implies a resolute determination to pursue a path despite obstacles or setbacks, acknowledging that success often involves persevering through difficulties.

This expression can be applied to various life situations. For example, an athlete who remains committed to their training regimen "through thick and thin" is more likely to achieve their goals. Likewise, entrepreneurs who persist in pursuing their business ventures despite setbacks are often admired for their "through thick and thin" dedication.

In literature and popular culture, characters who exhibit loyalty and unwavering support for their friends or allies are often described as being there "through thick and thin." These characters are seen as exemplars of steadfastness and reliability.

In conclusion, "through thick and thin" is a powerful idiom that encapsulates the idea of unwavering loyalty and support in the face of challenges. Whether in personal relationships, friendships, or the pursuit of goals, this phrase signifies a commitment to stand by someone or something through all of life's ups and downs. It celebrates the resilience and determination that can strengthen bonds and lead to lasting success.

#### Questions for Discussion

1. Can you share a personal experience or story that exemplifies a time when someone stood by you "through thick and thin," and how did their unwavering support impact your life?
2. In what ways does the concept of being there "through thick and thin" apply to the dynamics of long-lasting friendships, and what qualities do you believe are essential for maintaining such enduring relationships?
3. How do you think the idea of commitment "through thick and thin" influences our choices and decision-making, both in personal relationships and in pursuing our goals or dreams?
4. Can you think of any famous examples from literature, film, or history where characters or individuals demonstrated their loyalty and dedication "through thick and thin"? What lessons can we draw from these examples?
5. When facing adversity or challenges in life, do you believe it's more important to have people who will be there "through thick and thin" or to develop personal resilience and self-reliance? How do these factors complement or contrast with each other?