



American Expression E2095 Clean sweep

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"Clean sweep" is a colloquial expression that originates from the sport of curling, where it refers to a coordinated effort by the team's sweepers to vigorously sweep the ice in front of a moving stone, clearing debris and smoothing the surface to help guide the stone to its intended target. In a figurative sense, "clean sweep" has come to mean a thorough and comprehensive victory or success in which one side dominates completely, leaving no room for opposition or resistance.

When used outside of the context of sports, "clean sweep" typically describes a situation where someone or something achieves total or overwhelming success, often by decisively overcoming obstacles or challenges. This can apply to a wide range of scenarios, including competitions, elections, business endeavors, or personal achievements.

In a competitive context, a "clean sweep" signifies a complete and unambiguous victory where one competitor or team wins every event or round without any losses. For example, a sports team may achieve a "clean sweep" by winning every game in a series or tournament, demonstrating their superiority over their opponents. Similarly, a political party may achieve a "clean sweep" by winning all available seats or offices in an election, consolidating their power and control.

Moreover, in the context of business or organizational success, a "clean sweep" refers to a situation where a company or individual achieves significant accomplishments across various metrics or objectives. This could include surpassing sales targets, winning awards or accolades, expanding market share, or successfully launching new products or initiatives. A "clean sweep" in this sense demonstrates excellence, efficiency, and effectiveness in achieving strategic goals and objectives.

The concept of a "clean sweep" also extends to personal achievements and accomplishments. For example, an individual may undergo a personal transformation or achieve a series of goals that result in a complete overhaul of their life or circumstances. This could involve overcoming obstacles, breaking bad habits, achieving career milestones, or improving relationships. A "clean sweep" in this context represents a fresh start or a new chapter in one's life, characterized by success, growth, and fulfillment.

However, achieving a "clean sweep" is not always easy or straightforward, and it often requires dedication, perseverance, and strategic planning. It may also involve taking risks, making difficult decisions, and learning from setbacks and failures along the way. Nonetheless, the sense of accomplishment and satisfaction that comes with achieving a "clean sweep" can be immensely rewarding and fulfilling.

In conclusion, "clean sweep" is an expression that signifies a thorough and comprehensive victory or success in which one side dominates completely, leaving no room for opposition or resistance. Whether in sports, business, politics, or personal endeavors, achieving a "clean sweep" requires determination, perseverance, and strategic planning. It represents the culmination of hard work, excellence, and achievement, and it can be a source of pride and satisfaction for those who attain it.

Questions for Discussion

1. What are some examples of "clean sweep" victories or successes in various domains, such as sports, business, politics, or personal achievements? How do these examples illustrate the concept of complete dominance and success?
 2. Reflecting on personal experiences, have you ever witnessed or been part of a "clean sweep" situation? What factors contributed to the overwhelming success or victory in that scenario?
 3. Discuss the potential implications of a "clean sweep" in competitive contexts, such as sports tournaments or political elections. How does the absence of competition or opposition impact the dynamics of the situation, and what are the consequences for the losing side?
 4. Consider the role of strategy and preparation in achieving a "clean sweep." What are some key factors that contribute to a team or individual's ability to dominate completely and achieve a decisive victory?
 5. Reflecting on the broader significance, what are the psychological and emotional effects of experiencing or witnessing a "clean sweep"? How do feelings of success, accomplishment, and triumph contribute to individual and collective morale and motivation?
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