BBC Learning English The Teacher Transport idioms Mile



In this episode The Teacher introduces you to three idioms connected with miles:

- 1. It sticks out a mile.
- 2. I'd run a mile.
- 3. Give them an inch and they'll take a mile.

Hello, I'm a very interesting and intelligent man. And today, this mile and I will be teaching you some English idioms.

A mile is a distance of 1,600 metres, used by strange British people like me... and weird Americans like him.

I bet you've never been taught by a mile before.

Now, the thing is, if you wear clothes like that...

...or like this...

...you stick out a mile.

In English, if something is very obvious and easy to see, we say **It sticks out a mile'**.

It sticks out a mile.

Like my dog, Colin.

When I took Colin to work with me that time, we really stuck out a mile.

Hello everybody! Come on Colin, come on boy. Good boy Colin, that's a boy. Come on Colin, come to me. Yes, good boy Colin, good boy. There's a good boy, yes Colin.

Ah, my boss. He wants me to wear more 'normal' clothes.

But if he tried to get me to dress like that, I'd run a mile.

In English, if we really don't want to get involved with something, we can say, **T'd run a** mile'.

I'd run a mile.

That's the problem with my boss. If I let him decide what clothes I wear, then next he'd want to decide my hairstyle...

...where I live.

...who I go out with.

...and even who I marry.

Give him an inch he'll take a mile.

In English, if you want to say that someone who's been given a little bit of freedom then tries to take much more, you can say 'Give them an inch and they'll take a mile'.

'Give them an inch and they'll take a mile'.