

## UNIT 2: Dangerous situations

### Dangerous situations

**Play with Fire:** jugar con fuego (*If you play with fire you are going to get burnt.*)

**'By being late all the time, Paul is playing with fire.'**

**Skate on Thin Ice:** estás en la cuerda floja (the 'ice' may break and you will fall through).

**'You are skating on thin ice by being late.'**

**On Dangerous Ground / On Icy Ground:** estás haciendo algo que te traerá consecuencias negativas.

**'Paul is on dangerous ground at the moment - he's always late for work.'**

**Sail Close to the Wind:** pisar terreno peligroso

**'You're sailing close to the wind, Paul, you need to be in work on time.'**

**To be at stake:** estar en juego

**'The company's reputation is at stake'**

### Warning Someone

**There is safety numbers:** cuantos más, mejor

**'None of the group went sightseeing alone, knowing there was safety in numbers'.**

**Watch one's step:** ir con cuidado

**'You need to watch your step - if you continue being late, you will lose your job.'**

**Pull your socks up:** espabilar

**'Pull your socks up, Paul. You've got to start arriving on time; no more being late.'**

**Keep your head down:** pasar desapercibido

**Save one's neck/skin:** salvar el pellejo

**'He saved his skin by reversing off the bridge just before it collapsed'.**

**Wrapped up in cotton wool:** envuelto entre algodones

**'Their children are kept wrapped up in cotton wool'.**

**Hang on for dear life:** agarrarse a algo como si te fuera la vida en ello

<b>Live to tell the tale:</b> Vivir para contarlo	<i>'Only two members of the expedition lived to tell the tale'.</i>
<b>Look before you leap:</b> piensa antes de actuar/ mira antes de dar el salto	<i>"Don't decide too quickly. Look before you leap!"</i>
<b>No-go area:</b> zona prohibida, zona peligrosa	<i>"Tourists have been advised to avoid parts of the city which have become no-go areas".</i>
<b>Out of harm's way:</b> fuera de peligro	<i>"I'm going to put this glass bowl out of harm's way so that it doesn't get broken".</i>
<b>Play with fire:</b> jugar con fuego	<i>"Driving alone on isolated roads in this weather is playing with fire".</i>
<b>Put your head on the block:</b> jugársela	<i>"Jenny asked me to recommend her son for the job, but I'm not putting my head on the block for someone I hardly know".</i>
<b>Ride it out /Ride out the storm:</b> salir, huir	If you manage to survive a dangerous or very unpleasant situation, like a ship sailing through a storm, you <i>ride it out</i> . <i>"His business was hit by the recession but he managed to ride it out".</i>
<b>Risk life and limb:</b> jugarse el pellejo	<i>"The roads are icy today; you'll risk life and limb if you go by car".</i>
<b>In safe hands:</b> en buenas manos	<i>"I'll look after Jamie while you go shopping. Don't worry - he'll be in safe hands".</i>
<b>On the safe side:</b> curarse en salud, sobre seguro	<i>"I think I locked the door but I'll check again to be on the safe side".</i>
<b>Batten down the hatches:</b> asegurad las escotillas	<i>"Here comes that trouble-making guy. Batten down the hatches! "</i>
<b>Calculated risk:</b> riesgo calculado	<i>"The company took a calculated risk when they hired Sean straight out of college".</i>
<b>Throw caution to the wind:</b> seguir tu sueño, hacer una locura...	<i>"I decided to throw caution to the wind and invest".</i>

**Coast is clear:** no hay monos en la costa

*“OK. The dog has gone inside. The coast is clear”.*

**Cry wolf:** que viene el lobo

*“There's Mary screaming again! Does she really have a problem or is she just crying wolf again?”*

**Dice with death:** Jugar a los dados con la muerte

*“Going mountain-climbing alone is dicing with death”.*

**Dicey situation:** situación incierta, peligrosa

*“The politician put himself in a dicey situation by getting involved with an intern”.*

**False move:** movimiento en falso

*“He is under close surveillance. If he makes one false move he'll be arrested”.*

**Fraught with danger:** peligrosísimo

*“His journey across the mountains was fraught with danger”.*

**By a hair's breadth:** por un pelo, por los pelos

*“A slate fell off the roof and missed the child by a hair's breadth”.*