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# Reader's Club

- Today's Idioms
- Vocabulary & Pronunciation
- Reader's Club
- Question & Answer Period
- Questions
  - After class [steve@doeducation.net](mailto:steve@doeducation.net)
  - During class Please raise your hand during

# Today's Idioms

## sidelines

### stay on the sidelines

to not be actively involved in something  
👉 The sidelines are the lines that mark the edges of a sports field. • *The majority of western countries decided to stay on the sidelines during the crisis in the Middle East.*

**be left on the sidelines** • *Telephone companies which do not offer competitive rates will be left on the sidelines.*

## seat

**be in the driving seat** *British*

**be in the driver's seat** *American & Australian*

to be in control of a situation • *The consumer is in the driving seat due to the huge range of goods on the market.*

**fly by the seat of your pants** *informal*

to do something difficult without the necessary experience or ability • (often in continuous tenses) *None of us had ever worked on a magazine before so we were flying by the seat of our pants.*

**by the seat of your pants** if you do something by the seat of your pants, you do it using your own experience and ability, without help from anyone else  
• *We found our way by the seat of our pants, but if I ever did another jungle trek I'd take a guide.*

# Vocabulary & Pronunciation

custody - the legal right or duty to take care of or keep sb/sth.

deceased - dead.

unanimously - in complete agreement.

uphold - to support or defend.

retain - to keep sth.

traumatize - to wound or injure (a tissue), as in a surgical operation.

judicial - connected with a court

reciprocity - A mutual or cooperative interchange of favors or privileges, especially the exchange of rights or privileges of trade between nations.

sanction - permit

appeal - an application or proceeding for review by a higher tribunal.

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**Brazilian child custody  
decision delayed**

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A Brazilian Supreme Court decision in an international custody battle was delayed until Tuesday, said Orna Blum, a spokeswoman at the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia.

David Goldman has been locked in a legal battle over custody of his 9-year-old son, Sean, with the family of the boy's deceased mother.

Last week, a lower court unanimously upheld a decision ordering that Sean be returned to his father in New Jersey.

David Goldman arrived in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to be reunited with his son, but one of the justices issued a stay, ordering Sean to remain with his Brazilian relatives until the high court could consider the case.

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On Sunday, Brazilian Chief Justice Gilmar Mendes said he would make the final decision on Monday.

The custody battle began in 2004, when Goldman's wife, Bruna Bianchi, took their then 4-year-old son from their home in New Jersey to Rio de Janeiro for what was to have been a two-week vacation. She never returned. Instead she remarried there and retained custody of Sean. She died last year in childbirth.

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Goldman has argued that as the sole surviving parent, he should be granted custody.

The Bianchi family argues it would traumatize Sean to remove him from what has been his home for five years.

While the chief justice studies the case, Brazilian Attorney General Luis Inacio Adams said that the executive branch sides with Goldman.

"Once we stop cooperating and start breaking our treaties and international obligations, Brazil risks the chance of not having its own requests in the matters regarding international judicial help granted, based on the principle of international reciprocity," Adams said Monday.

"Not releasing the minor into the custody of his father could bring sanctions against Brazil," he added. "It could damage Brazil's image before the international community."

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The Bianchi family, which has invited Goldman to spend Christmas with them, has prepared the necessary paperwork to file an appeal immediately if the court finds against them.

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Please answer the each question in a minute.

Q1 What do you think about this whole situation?

Q2 Do you think it is fair for the courts to decide who gets custody of a child? Should they consider the child's decision?

Q3 Do you know anyone who has been through a child custody battle? Describe the details & what was the outcome.