On Thin Ice



Sometimes people say that someone is, "...on thin ice." For example, "Joe is on thin ice!" This may seem like a silly thing to say. Joe may think it's silly, too, especially if he is not standing or walking on ice.



It's true that people need to know if they are on thin ice so that they may move to a safer place. Almost always, though, people described as being "...on thin ice..." aren't near any sort of ice at all. Usually, they are somewhere like at home, school, or in their community or on a trip. But not on the ice.

The phrase, "...on thin ice" is an idiom, a phrase with its own meaning. It doesn't mean that someone is on the ice, but it does warn of possible danger. It may be also be used to describe a person who is about to make an unwise choice, or who is very close to being in trouble or causing a problem.