

I'm not a robot



























March 24, 2016 6:37 AMTwist armMeaningto make someone do what you want by making it difficult for them to refuse to persuade someone to do what they don't want to doExample SentencesI did not want to attend the concert, but he twisted my arm into it.They had to twist his arm a bit, but they managed to get him to join the team.We had to twist his arm to get the information out of him.I've twisted his arm a bit and he will get you the passes to the event.Do you intend to cooperate or should we twist your arm?If he doesn't agree, you have to twist his arm till you get him to agree.The witness was reluctant to cooperate at first, but when the police twisted his arm, he came out with the details.If you find him difficult, just twist his arm a bit and he'll comply.OriginThis phrase originated in the mid 1900s and refers to using physical force (by twisting someone's arm) to get something done. Next »« Previoussnake in the grasswith a bangbuy a lemonParthian shotMeaning: A sharp, telling remark or gesture made in departing.Example: As he exited the meeting, he delivered a Parthian shot about the project's unrealistic timeline. Read more →in one fell swoopshipshape on the runthe dead of nightnodding acquaintance From Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English twist somebody's arm twist somebody's arm) informal PERSUADE to persuade someone to do something they do not want to do No one twisted my arm about coming to see you. b) INJURE to bend someone's arm upwards behind their back in order to hurt them The policeman twisted my arm behind me and arrested me. → twist Examples from the Corpus twist somebody's arm • "Go on, have another drink." "Oh well, if you twist my arm." • "I'm sure he would never have come if I hadn't twisted his arm a little." • "We had to twist her arm to get her to come. The idiom 'Twist someone's arm' usually implies a degree of persuasion, often friendly or mild, to get someone to agree to do something, rather than forcing them physically. It is used when someone is convinced to do something they would not have done otherwise. This phrase does not involve actual physical twisting of a person's arm. The 'twisting' here is figurative and refers to the application of pressure (physical force or mental influence) to get someone to do something. The idiom 'Twist someone's arm' usually implies a degree of persuasion, often friendly or mild, to get someone to agree to do something rather than forcing them physically. It is used when someone is convinced to do something they would not have done otherwise. This phrase does not involve actual physical twisting of a person's arm. The 'twisting' here is figurative and refers to the application of pressure (physical force or mental influence) to get someone to do something. the use of a lot of pressure or even physical force to persuade somebody to do something Topics Discussion and agreement 2 See arm-twisting in the Oxford Advanced American Dictionary Do you know what 'twist your arm' means? To 'twist someone's arm' is an idiom that means to persuade or convince someone to do something. In other words, to get somebody to do something they maybe don't want to do. It's often used in speaking, especially when trying to get someone to do something in a friendly or non-forceful way. The verb 'twist' means to turn (rotate) something in another direction. So, we can imagine your arm being twisted as being uncomfortable but also kind of funny or humorous. Verb 'twist' Here are some examples using the idiom 'twist your arm.' I didn't want to stay for dinner, but Sally twisted my arm. They had to twist his arm but they eventually got Bill to join the project. Jack didn't want to come tonight but I twisted his arm. So how can we respond to people trying to twist our arm? Continued below If you agree to the arm-twisting, try replying by saying 'Okay, if you really want me to' or 'Okay, I give in.' If you don't want to do something when someone is trying to twist your arm, you can say 'Maybe some other time,' or, if you want to be more direct, try saying 'I'm sorry, I'd rather not.' Related links: What does 'I'm pulling your leg' mean? Try the 5min idiom quiz from Breaking Free Share on Facebook Tweet Follow us Save (redirected from twisted someone's arm) slang A girl or woman. From rhyming slang, in which "twist" is short for "twist and twirl," which rhymes with "girl." Tommy's spending all his time with his new twist. He never comes around to see us anymore. To pressure or force one into doing something. Oh, she immediately agreed to come tonight—I didn't even have to twist her arm. They had to twist my arm to convince me to start volunteering, but when I finally did, I realized how much I loved it. Farlex Dictionary of Idioms. © 2024 Farlex, Inc, all rights reserved. Fig. to pressure someone. (Fig. on the image of hurting someone until they agree to cooperate.) I had to twist her arm a little, but she agreed. Do I have to twist your arm, or will you cooperate? McGraw-Hill Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs. © 2002 by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. Coerce or persuade someone, as in If you twist my arm I'll stay for another drink, or She didn't really want to go to the theater but he twisted her arm. Originally alluding to physical coercion, this term is now generally used more loosely and often jocularly. [Mid-1900s] The American Heritage® Dictionary of Idioms by Christine Ammer. Copyright © 2003, 1997 by The Christine Ammer 1992 Trust. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. If you twist someone's arm, you try hard to persuade them to do something. I had to twist their arm to get them to start working with me, but once they did, it went well from there. I didn't twist your arm to make you come. You wanted to because you sensed a story. Note: You can also talk about arm-twisting. He borrowed 70 per cent of the money from his banks, after some arm-twisting. Collins COBUILD Idioms Dictionary, 3rd ed. © HarperCollins Publishers 2012 persuade someone to do something that they are or are thought to be reluctant to do, informal Farlex Partner Idioms Dictionary © Farlex 2017 (informal, often humorous) force or persuade somebody to do something, but not by using physical force: 'Do you think Jane will lend us her car?' 'I think we could probably twist her arm.' Farlex Partner Idioms Dictionary © Farlex 2017 and frail n. a girl; a woman. (Underworld. Possibly rhyming slang twist and twirl = girl and frail frame = dame. Detective novels and movies.) This good-looking twist comes over to the table and asks Lefty if he'd like to dance. I'll shoot the frail if you don't hand it over! tv. to pressure someone. I had to twist her arm a little, but she agreed. McGraw-Hill's Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial Expressions Copyright © 2006 by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. All rights reserved. /wrap around (one's) little finger To dominate utterly and effortlessly. Slang To pressure or coerce: If you twist my arm, I'll stay for a second beer. American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright © 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. See also: Want to thank TFD for its existence? Tell a friend about us, add a link to this page, or visit the webmaster's page for free fun content. Link to this page: twist (one's) arm