

I'm not a bot























## Test the water meaning

(redirected from test the waters)Also found in: Acronyms. To informally or casually attempt to gauge the reaction of a potential audience or recipient of something, or to try to get an idea of what something will be like before actually doing it. Likened to feeling the temperature of water before getting in. I want to test the water before I make the proposal at the general meeting. Do you think you can float the idea to the boss and gauge his reaction? You better test the waters before you fully commit to that plan.Farlex Dictionary of Idioms. © 2024 Farlex, Inc. all rights reserved. or 1. If you test the water or test the waters, you try to find out people's opinions about an idea or plan before putting that idea or plan into practice. I was a bit sceptical and decided to test the water before committing the complete management team. It's hard to make a comment until we test the water at the party conference.2. If you test the water or test the waters, you try something in order to see if you like it or it is suitable. This placement period in a company can provide an excellent opportunity to test the waters without long-term commitment. Test the water. Rent a motor caravan for a few days and see how you like it before buying one of your own.Collins COBUILD Idioms Dictionary, 3rd ed. © HarperCollins Publishers 2012 judge people's feelings or opinions before taking further action.Farlex Partner Idioms Dictionary © Farlex 2017 try to find out whether something is likely to succeed, by asking people for their opinions before you do something: Your idea might not be popular with people, so before you start marketing it you should test the waters.Farlex Partner Idioms Dictionary © Farlex 2017To try something out. This expression, which alludes either to testing the purity of water in a well or to putting one's hand or foot into water to test its temperature, dates from the late 1800s. Diana Ramsay used it in A Little Murder Music (1970), "If you're attempting to establish a motive. . . .'—I'm just testing the water,' Meredith said."See also: test, to, waterThe Dictionary of Clichés by Christine Ammer Copyright © 2013 by Christine AmmerSee 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: test the water(s) Most often, I have one or two people tell me that I've firmed up an interest that has been gnawing at them, and several more people asking me questions to test the waters or to see if they can find a weak spot in my argument or conviction.We recognize that most companies are just beginning to test the waters for electronic distribution (after several years of false starts), but there's clearly the potential for an important change in how software is produced, marketed, and delivered to customers.Fishermen from this town had expressed fear of a backlash from the filing of the complaint, but those from Barangay Cato who had sailed to Panatag to 'test the waters' returned on Thursday with good news.As the first office of its kind in Northern Ontario, Aspin says the 30-month initiative is designed to "test the waters" in analysing the level of exporting interest among small- and medium-sized businesses in the North Bay, Temagami, West Nipissing, Mattawa and Almaguin areas.Those projects, now complete and performing well, have created the foundation for others to test the waters.Before you invest in the hobby, test the waters, Organizations such as the Black Boaters Summit (www.blackboaterssummit.com)and the Water Babies Sailing Club (www.wbsc.org) sponsor sailing trips featuring recreational boating activities as well as scuba diving and snorkeling.While buzz cards may represent little more than sticking one's toe in the technological ocean, the real estate firms that are willing to test the waters may find they are the bigger fish when all is said and done. Certain phrases and common idioms are a key part of our everyday language. Without them, English would be pretty boring! Take the idiom "testing the waters" as a good example. It's a commonly used phrase that holds both literal and metaphorical meanings. But where did it come from, and what does it truly mean? Let's have a look!"Testing the waters" is a super common idiom you've surely heard and maybe even used. It means assessing a situation with caution or trying something out before committing to it. We often use it when we want to gauge others' reactions to something or if we're unsure how certain things will play out.New foods are a great example. Myself, I have a number of health issues that limit what food I can eat. So, when introducing new food to my diet, I try it in small amounts, aka testing the waters to see how my body will react to it.The origin of the idiomatic phrase "testing the waters" doesn't have an exact date to trace back to, but the whole idea behind it has been used for centuries. It worked its way into the everyday language from situations like testing the bath water for a child before putting them in so you ensured they would be scaled.Testing the waters and testing the water usage trend.While you can use both "testing the water" and "testing the waters" in any conversation, "testing the waters" is the more popular version of the idiom. Because both expressions convey the same meaning, it wouldn't make a huge difference. With that being said, as a writer and author, I would personally use "testing the waters" to refer to broader situations, like dating, and reserve "testing the water" for more specific things, like new food.I'm testing the waters and getting back into dating after the divorce.I'm testing the water with red peppers.Easy peasy! Basically, any word or phrase that expresses the idea of trying something in small amounts before committing will convey the same message.Dipping one's toes inGauging the situationFeeling outSounding outTrying outTaking the temperatureAssessing the situationVenturingSkirting the edgeBefore investing heavily in this new publishing project, I decided to test the waters by working with a short story first.Unsure of her friend's opinion on the subject of baking, Jane tested the waters by casually bringing up the topic during their conversations.My daughter is an artist and wanted to test the waters with a new style, so I bought her the cheaper version of the new tools to see how she liked it.When our son expressed an interest in piano, we bought him a second-hand one first to test the waters of his dedication to learning the instrument.I adore idioms and the color they can add to conversation and writing. I hope my quick guide on "testing the waters" has given you some insight into how you can use the phrase yourself. Play around with it and test the waters!