### Advanced 3- I wouldn't touch it with a barge pole

Class objective: I will be able to understand the idiom and use it appropriately.

# **Concept A- Meaning**

Said of something or someone so unappealing that one wouldn't want to go anywhere near.

Wouldn't touch it with a **bargepole** is an expression indicating extreme dislike and distaste for an object, person or situation. The expression can be used in a similar way to wouldn't touch her with a 10-foot pole, but is not solely applicable to females; it is even more disparaging when used about a female as it treats her as something less than human. Many bargepoles were 12 or 13 feet long, but one **specialised** type called a setting boom could be as long as 28 feet! So as you can imagine, **wouldn't touching it with a barge pole** means something which you would much rather keep well away from.

### Example-

- I do not want to become in any way involved in or with something or someone. Primarily heard in the UK, Australia.
- Get that cocaine away from me, I wouldn't touch that junk with a barge pole!
- You might think John is attractive, but I wouldn't touch him with a barge pole. He seems like a creep.

### Meaning:

Said of something or someone so unappealing that one wouldn't want to approach.

### Origin:

Barge-poles are the long wooden poles that are used to push barges along. The term was first recorded in Edward Farmer's scrap book, being a selection of poems, songs, scraps, etc., 1846:

Barge-pole - A large stick or thick bough. Also, generally used for any large piece of wood.

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