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We'll cross that bridge when we get to it meaning

To "cross a bridge when we get there" is to prolong discussing or addressing a difficult situation that may (or may not) happen in the future, but isn't currently a pressing issue. It means someone doesn't want to think about how to solve that problem and "crossing" it represents solving it. Therefore this idiom means we will think about how to solve that problem when it happens, but not immediately. While it may be because we don't know how to handle it yet, more often it's just avoiding extra work or worry until the time arises that it must or should be done. Also, sometimes circumstances can entirely change with delayed timing; so avoiding or delaying a discussion can often save time and energy that otherwise would be wasted. Examples: "The housing market seems to be slowing down. We might have to lower our asking price, but we'll cross that bridge when we get there." "I really don't want to move, but it looks like they might offer me the job. I guess I'll cross that bridge when I get there." Even though the origin of the phrase is not known, it has been used since well before the 1800s where crossing a bridge often required long travels on foot or horseback. It was also a risky matter because the reliability of faraway or shaky bridges was not guaranteed, and life was often at stake. So crossing a bridge related to a huge problem. Will see when we cross the bridge? What is the meaning of beat around the bush? Does every cloud has a silver lining? Do something at the drop of a hat? Do not cross the bridge until you come to it meaning? What does the idiom When Pigs Fly mean? What does the idiom worth his weight in gold mean? What does the idiom on pins and needles mean? (Definition of I'll/we'll cross that bridge when I/we come/get to it from the Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary & Thesaurus © Cambridge University Press) (Definition of I'll/we'll cross that bridge when I/we come/get to it from the Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary & Thesaurus © Cambridge University Press) This comes from Ugly Betty season 4, episode 1-2. Mark comes to Whilhalmina's apartment. She's obviously not happy to see him at the moment and she's trying to get rid of him. Mark: "But I got a message from Claire and Hartley and they want to meet with you tonight. What if they fire you? What happens with us?" Whilhalmina: "We will blow up that bridge when we get to it." Could you tell me what Whilhalmina means by this statement "We'll blow up that bridge when we get to it." I think she is trying to say we will talk about it when the time is right, but I'm not positive though. Is this some kind of fixed idiom? Thanks! I would think that you are correct in your understanding. Another common expression is: "we will cross that bridge when we get to it". And, yes, that means that if Whilhalmina is fired, what happens to her and Mark will be figured out if she is, in fact, fired. If that makes sense... Kind of hard to explain! It is a play (a humourous twist) on the common expression, "we will cross that bridge when we get to it". I agree with you all that this is a saying about not worrying about something before it happens. However "blow up that bridge".) I imagine that Wilhalmina has in mind some trouble she will cause or fuss she will make if Claire and Hartley do try to fire them. Perhaps she thinks she knows how to stop them, or maybe she thinks she can protect herself, but isn't worried about Mark. There are two common sayings: "We'll cross that bridge when we come to it." (We'll deal with that problem when we have to, and not before.) "Don't burn your bridges." (Don't alienate people or cut off opportunities; you might need them later.) A common joke is to combine the two into: "We'll burn that bridge when we come to it." Wilhelmina is just making that a little more violent and dramatic. Definition: Solve that problem when it arises. Origin of Cross That Bridge When You Come to It To understand this idiom, imagine every difficulty you have as a river. To solve the problem, you must cross that river by going over an old bridge in disrepair. And because there are many problems on life's journey, you will have to cross many dangerous bridges at once. It's better to focus on each one as it approaches. In other words, you will deal with a problem (crossing a bridge) once it arises. This idiom first appeared in writing in the work titled The Golden Legend by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The full line was, Don't cross the bridge till you come to it, is a proverb old and of excellent wit. This suggests that the proverb was already known at that time. Examples of Cross That Bridge When You Come to It In this dialogue, a brother and sister are talking about all the problems the brother is experiencing. Maria: What's the matter? You look very concerned. Franco: I feel stressed because my boss hasn't paid me for the past month of work. Maria: That's awful! Did you ask him to pay you? Franco: No, because I don't want him to fire me. And if he refuses, then I don't have the money to pay a lawyer to get my unpaid wages back from him. Maria: Cross that bridge when you come to it. First, remind him to pay you. Deal with that first. There's no sense in worrying about something that may or may not happen. The second example shows two university students who are talking about the worries they have regarding their schedule for the next year. Lorenzo: I wish I could sign up for classes earlier. I'm worried that all my required courses will be full before I have a chance to register. And if that happens, I won't graduate on time. I'll be behind schedule on my life plan! This could disrupt the entire rest of my life! Alba: Cross that bridge when you come to it. First, focus on trying to enroll in as much as you can. If you can't get into every class you need, then you'll find some other solution. However, it won't do you any good to worry about that right now. More Examples The excerpt below is from an article about a coach with cancer. Taylor says he's had general conversations with Myers and has told Snyder, "I hope you coach here as long as you want, and we'll cross that bridge when it comes to it," Spicer said last month. "But the President has been very clear throughout the campaign and consistent that he's under a routine audit." -USA Today Summary The phrase cross that bridge When We Come to it is another way to say deal with one issue at a time. What does the idiom "We'll deal with that problem if and when it comes up For example: "It's possible that we'll need more staff, but we'll cross that bridge when we come to it." Notes: This is a cliché. Something went wrong. Wait a moment and try again. cross the bridge also, cross that bridge when one comes to itMeaning | Synonymsto delay worrying about something that might not happen anywayto deal with a problem only when it arisesdon't try to solve something before it becomes a problem resolve a problem comes up in trying to resolve it in advanceto wait until the problem comes up in trying to resolve it rather than placing solutions for something when the time is right. SentencesWe think that there may be too many people to fit into the hall, but we will cross that bridge when we come to it. The weather station says that it may rain over the weekend but we will have to move to a new city. I am not going to think about it now, I will cross that bridge if I come to it. The student wanted to cross the bridge only when it came to it. It is sad that she is crossing the bridge of ending her marriage but some things are better over than being dragged on. "What will you do if you fail in this exam?" Answer: "I'll cross the bridge when I come to it." Origin Even though the origin of the phrase is not known, this indicates that it has been used since well before the 1800s where the crossing of bridges was quite a literal thing with long travels being done either on foot or horseback. The bridge could not be crossed before it actually came up and moreover, the crossing of bridges was considered a risky matter because the reliability of faraway bridges was not guaranteed. So crossing a bridge related to a huge problem which is, in today's terms used as a synonym of solving problems. Although life is not at stake in the usage of the phrase today, it used to be when people were discussing about actually crossing shaky bridges. The adverb "when" indicates that you are anticipating the event to take place in the future. The phrase is often changed to "cross that bridge if I come to it." The conjunction "if" introduces a conditional clause, indicating that the event is not inevitable. The first recorded use of the idiom can be found in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's The Golden Legend (1851): "Don't cross the bridge till you come to it, is a proverb old and of excellent wit." Assorted, Problem, Time back to square one) on the brink of

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