

To add fuel to the fire (Echar leña al fuego)

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To “**add fuel to the fire**” is an English expression conveying the act of worsening a situation, usually by making conflict or disagreement more intense. It’s like pouring metaphorical fuel on an already burning fire, exacerbating tensions.

Example:

Consider a heated argument between friends. Instead of trying to calm the situation, someone making provocative remarks might be accused of **adding fuel to the fire**. For instance, «Bringing up old grievances during the argument only **added fuel to the fire.**»

Origin:

The origin of this phrase lies in the literal act of adding material to a fire to make it burn more intensely. The metaphorical use emerged over time, emphasising the idea of intensifying a conflict or problem by contributing to its escalation.

Key words:

Exacerbating: *Making worse / aggravating / intensifying*

Metaphorical: *Symbolic / representational / figurative*

Grievances: *Complaints / objections*

Emphasising: *Highlighting*