

Idioms

1. **A blessing in disguise** something good that isn't recognised at first
2. **A hot potato** a controversial or sensitive issue
3. **A penny for your thoughts** used to ask someone what they are thinking about
4. **A piece of cake** something very easy to do
5. **A slap on the wrist** a very mild punishment
6. **Add insult to injury** make a bad situation even worse
7. **Against the clock** having to finish doing something within a limited time
8. **All Greek to me** meaningless and incomprehensible due to either complexity or imprecision
9. **All in the same boat** when everyone is facing the same challenges
10. **An axe to grind** have a dispute with someone
11. **Apple of my eye** someone who is cherished above all others.
12. **At the drop of a hat** willing to do something immediately, on the slightest signal or urging
13. **Back to square one** having to start all over again
14. **Back to the drawing board** when an attempt fails and it's time to start all over
15. **Barking up the wrong tree** a mistake made in something you are trying to achieve
16. **Be sick and tired of** to be angry, bored or annoyed with something
17. **Beat a dead horse** keep on persisting on doing something that is no longer relevant or useful
18. **Beat around the bush** avoid the main topic

19. **Bend over backwards** do whatever it takes to help
20. **Break the ice** break social formality and initiate conversation
21. **Buy a lemon** buy a car that constantly gives problems
22. **Call it a night** stop an activity for the rest of the night
23. **Catch 22** a situation in which a desired outcome is impossible no matter what choice is made
24. **Caught between two stools** when it is difficult to choose between two alternatives
25. **Cock and bull story** an unbelievable tale
26. **Come a long way** make a lot of progress and improvement
27. **Cost an arm and a leg** to be very expensive
28. **Cry for the moon** ask for what is unattainable or impossible
29. **Cry wolf** intentionally raise a false alarm
30. **Cut corners** do something in the fastest or cheapest way
31. **Cut it out** stop doing something bad
32. **Cut to the chase** leave out unnecessary details and just get to the point
33. **Dark horse** one who was previously unknown and is now prominent
34. **Down to the wire** to the very last moment or till the very end
35. **Draw a line in the sand** set a limit
36. **Drink like a fish** drink very heavily
37. **Flash in the pan** something that shows potential or looks promising in the beginning but fails to deliver anything in the end
38. **Feeling a bit under the weather** feeling slightly ill
39. **From the horse's mouth** hear something from the authoritative or dependable source

40. **From rags to riches** from being very poor to being very wealthy
41. **Get the ball rolling** get a process started
42. **Give someone the slip** escape from someone
43. **Go the extra mile** do more than what is needed
44. **Good Samaritan** one who helps others when they are in need, with no thought of a reward
45. **Gut feeling** a personal, intuitive feeling or response, especially when something may not be right
46. **Head over heels** very excited and/or joyful, especially when in love
47. **Hear it on the grapevine** know about something through rumour or gossip
48. **High five** slap each other's palms with the hands raised as a greeting or celebration
49. **Hit the books** study; prepare for class
50. **Hit the nail on the head** do something or say something exactly right
51. **In hot water** in trouble; in difficulties
52. **In the blink of an eye** in an extremely short time
53. **In the heat of the moment** overwhelmed by what is happening in the moment
54. **It's a small world** when you see the same people, events or situations in unexpected places
55. **It takes two to tango** a two-person conflict where both people are at fault
56. **Keep your chin up** remain joyful in a tough situation
57. **Kill two birds with one stone** accomplish two tasks with only one effort
58. **Know the ropes** understand the details
59. **Learn the ropes** learn something new

60. **Lend a hand** give assistance
61. **Let sleeping dogs lie** do not stir up trouble
62. **Let the cat out of the bag** share a secret that isn't supposed to be shared
63. **Look like a million dollars** to be very well dressed; to look great
64. **Lose your head** become upset, confused or overly emotional about something
65. **Miss the boat** to be too late; lose the opportunity; fail to take action
66. **Money talks** money has influence and power
67. **Nest egg** savings set aside for future use
68. **New kid on the block** someone who is new in a place or an organisation
69. **Off the hook** to be free from blame or a problem
70. **On pins and needles** anxious or nervous, especially in anticipation of something
71. **Once in a blue moon** something that happens very rarely
72. **Out of the blue** something that suddenly and unexpectedly occurs
73. **Over my dead body** when you absolutely will not accept or allow something to happen
74. **Over the top** very excessive; outrageously overdone
75. **Pass the buck** avoid responsibility by giving it to someone else
76. **Prick up your ears** listen very carefully
77. **Pull the plug** stop something; bring something to an end
78. **Pull your leg** trick someone as a joke
79. **Rise and shine** time to get out of bed and get ready for work/school
80. **Run out of steam** to be completely out of energy

81. **Saved by the bell** rescued from a difficult situation at the last minute
82. **See eye to eye** to be in agreement
83. **Sit on the fence** undecided about an issue; not able to make a decision
84. **Sleep on it** wait until the next day before making an important decision
85. **Smell something fishy** detect that something is not quite right and there could be a reason behind it
86. **Start from scratch** do something all over again from the beginning
87. **Take it easy** calm down; relax
88. **The ball is in your court** your turn to speak or act next
89. **The best of both worlds** enjoy the benefits and advantages of two different choices or situations
90. **The last straw** the last of a series of setbacks that makes a person feel that he/she has had enough of the problem
91. **The whole nine yards** everything; all of it
92. **Till the cows come home** a long time
93. **Turn a blind eye** ignore something you know is real and pretend you do not see it
94. **Up the creek without a paddle** in trouble and can't do anything about it
95. **Up to the minute** (of something) the most recent
96. **Use your loaf** use your common sense
97. **Wear your heart on your sleeve** express your emotions freely and openly
98. **When pigs fly** something that will never ever happen
99. **Your guess is as good as mine** I am as uncertain as you are
100. **Zero tolerance** no room for errors; not letting any criminal get away