



## A List of the most commonly used English idioms

### A hot potato

Speak of an issue which many people are talking about and which is usually disputed

### A penny for your thoughts

A way of asking what someone is thinking

### Actions speak louder than words

People's intentions can be judged better by what they do than what they say.

### Add insult to injury

To further a loss with mockery or indignity; to worsen an unfavorable situation.

### An arm and a leg

Very expensive or costly. A large amount of money.

### At the drop of a hat

Meaning: without any hesitation; instantly.

### Back to the drawing board

When an attempt fails and it's time to start all over.

### Ball is in your court

It is up to you to make the next decision or step

### Barking up the wrong tree

Looking in the wrong place. Accusing the wrong person

### Be glad to see the back of

Be happy when a person leaves.

### Beat around the bush

Avoiding the main topic. Not speaking directly about the issue.

### Best of both worlds

Meaning: All the advantages.

### Best thing since sliced bread

A good invention or innovation. A good idea or plan.

### Bite off more than you can chew

To take on a task that is way to big.

### Blessing in disguise

Something good that isn't recognized at first.

### Burn the midnight oil

To work late into the night, alluding to the time before electric lighting.

### Can't judge a book by its cover

Cannot judge something primarily on appearance.

### Hear it on the grapevine

This idiom means 'to hear rumors' about something or someone.

### Caught between two stools

When someone finds it difficult to choose between two alternatives.

### Costs an arm and a leg

This idiom is used when something is very expensive.

### Cross that bridge when you come to it

Deal with a problem if and when it becomes necessary, not before.

### Cry over spilt milk

When you complain about a loss from the past.

### Curiosity killed the cat

Being Inquisitive can lead you into an unpleasant situation.

### Cut corners

When something is done badly to save money.

### Cut the mustard

To succeed; to come up to expectations; adequate enough to compete or participate

### Devil's Advocate

To present a counter argument

### Don't count your chickens before the eggs have hatched

This idiom is used to express "Don't make plans for something that might not happen".

### Don't give up the day job

You are not very good at something. You could definitely not do it professionally.

### Don't put all your eggs in one basket

Do not put all your resources in one possibility.

### Drastic times call for drastic measures

When you are extremely desperate you need to take drastic actions.

### Elvis has left the building

The show has come to an end. It's all over.

### Every cloud has a silver lining

Be optimistic, even difficult times will lead to better days.

### Far cry from

Very different from.

### Feel a bit under the weather

Meaning: Feeling slightly ill.

### Give the benefit of the doubt

Believe someone's statement, without proof.

### Off one's rocker

Crazy, demented, out of one's mind, in a confused or befuddled state of mind, senile.

**Hit the nail on the head**

Do or say something exactly right

**Hit the sack / sheets / hay**

To go to bed.

**In the heat of the moment**

Overwhelmed by what is happening in the moment.

**It takes two to tango**

Actions or communications need more than one person

**Jump on the bandwagon**

Join a popular trend or activity.

**Keep something at bay**

Keep something away.

**Kill two birds with one stone**

This idiom means, to accomplish two different things at the same time.

**Last straw**

The final problem in a series of problems.

**Let sleeping dogs lie**

Do not disturb a situation as it is - since it would result in trouble or complications.

**Let the cat out of the bag**

To share information that was previously concealed

**Make a long story short**

Come to the point - leave out details

**Method to my madness**

An assertion that, despite one's approach seeming random, there actually is structure to it.

**Miss the boat**

This idiom is used to say that someone missed his or her chance

**Not a spark of decency**

Meaning: No manners

**Not playing with a full deck**

Someone who lacks intelligence.

**On the ball**

When someone understands the situation well.

**Once in a blue moon**

Meaning: Happens very rarely.

**Picture paints a thousand words**

A visual presentation is far more descriptive than words.

**Piece of cake**

A job, task or other activity that is easy or simple.

**Put wool over other people's eyes**

This means to deceive someone into thinking well of them.

**See eye to eye**

This idiom is used to say that two (or more people) agree on something.

**Sit on the fence**

This is used when someone does not want to choose or make a decision.

**Speak of the devil!**

This expression is used when the person you have just been talking about arrives.

**Steal someone's thunder**

To take the credit for something someone else did.

**Take with a grain of salt**

This means not to take what someone says too seriously.

**Taste of your own medicine**

Means that something happens to you, or is done to you, that you have done to someone else

**To hear something straight from the horse's mouth**

To hear something from the authoritative source.

**Whole nine yards**

Everything. All of it.

**Wouldn't be caught dead**

Would never like to do something

**Your guess is as good as mine**

To have no idea, do not know the answer to a question

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