

Idioms

Idioms are words, phrases, or expressions that have a meaning other than the literal definition of the words. They are fun and used daily, but it is important to understand what they actually mean so you don't get confused.

Idiom	Meaning	Example
A walk in the park	Very easy	The test was a walk in the park.
Don't give up the day job	You're not very good at something	You're a terrible singer. Don't give up the day job.
Up a tree	In a difficult situation	If you miss the bus, you'll be up a tree.
A chip on your shoulder	Upset about something that happened in the past	We argued about that last year but you've still got a chip on your shoulder.
A piece of a cake	Something that can be achieved very easily	The interview was a piece of cake.
All bark and no bite	When someone is very aggressive but not willing to engage in a fight or argument	Despite being upset with the other team, Mark was all bark and no bite.
All in the same boat	Everyone is in the same situation	The entire class did poorly on the test. We're all in the same boat.
Apple of my eye	Someone that is cherished above everyone else	My new baby girl is the apple of my eye.
Excuse my French	Excuse me for cursing or using bad language	You'll have to excuse my French.
Get up on the wrong side of the bed.	Someone is having a terrible day	He is in a bad mood; he must have got up on the wrong side of the bed today.
Go out on a limb.	Take a chance.	He really went out a limb by helping his enemy.
Icing on the cake	When something is already good, but you get something on top of that.	The icing on the cake was when I won \$100 after winning the golf tournament.
In the heat of the moment	Overwhelmed by what is happening	In the heat of the moment, I slammed my coffee cup on the table.
Lend me your ear	To ask for someone's full attention	Julie, I'm feeling upset. Please lend me your ear.
Off the hook	To no longer have to deal with a tough situation	Despite your naughty behaviour, I'm letting you off

		the hook.
On the same page	Everyone is in agreement	The meeting went well; we were all on the same page.
Pass the buck	To avoid responsibility by giving it to somebody else	He is a lazy employee because he always passes the buck.
Pulling your leg	Tricking someone	I wasn't being serious—I was just pulling your leg!
Raining cats and dogs	A very heavy rain storm	The weather is horrible! It is raining cats and dogs.
Run out of steam	Completely out of energy	After that soccer game, I've completely run out of steam.
Smell something fishy	To detect that something isn't right and that there is an explanation for it	Why are the lights turned out? I smell something fishy.
Southpaw	Someone who is left-handed	The pitcher of the baseball team is a southpaw.
The ball is in your court	It is your decision this time	I already spoke to you about this; now the ball is in your court.
Tie the knot	To get married	They are going to Jamaica to tie the knot.
To steal someone's thunder	To take credit for something someone else did	I created a beautiful presentation and then, in front of everyone, he came and stole my thunder.
Til the cows come home	A very long time	He is so boring; we will be sitting here listening to him til the cows come home.
Under the weather	Feeling sick	I am going to stay home today because I feel under the weather.
Water under the bridge	Something that happened in the past that isn't significant anymore	The fight that we had last week is water under the bridge.
When pigs fly	Something that will never happen	I'll die my hair green when pigs fly.
Let the cat out of the bag	To share a secret that wasn't meant to be shared	Pat knows about his surprise birthday party. Who let the cat out of the bag?