

English idioms

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ENGLISH IDIOMS

1. I've locked the door. They're **as safe as houses** (**very safe**).
2. I've **been in seventh heaven** (**extremely happy**) ever since I got engaged!
3. If you have problems, call me **twenty-four seven** (**at any time**); it doesn't matter if I'm sleeping.
4. If you keep asking him about his ex-girlfriend, you'll **be on thin ice** (**in a risky situation**).
5. If you think I'm going to climb that rickety ladder, you're **all wet!** (**completely mistaken**).
6. It'll **be a cold day in July** (**never happen**) when our team wins the championship. We're terrible.
7. It's **been raining cats and dogs** (**rain heavily**) all day. I'm afraid the roof is going to leak.
8. Jeff **smokes like a chimney** (**smoke a lot**). I worry about his health.
9. Jim is a **straight arrow** (**an honest, trustworthy person**).
10. Kevin says he was **completely in the dark** (**unaware**) about the CEO's plans to sell the company.
11. Let me just **put my face on** (**apply cosmetics**), and I'll meet you at the restaurant in 15 minutes.
12. Let's come back soon before the **heavens open!** (**start to rain heavily**).
13. Let's go out and **soak up some sun** (**enjoy the sun**).
14. Maybe you could **take a hike** (**go away**) while we discuss salaries.
15. My colleague was looking a little **green around the gills** (**sick**) when he came to work today.
16. My grandfather was **as pale as a ghost** (**extremely pale**) when he entered the hospital.
17. My grandmother is 92 years old, but she's still **sharp as a tack** (**mentally agile**).
18. My mother is **back on her feet** (**healthy again**) after being sick for two weeks.
19. My uncle is very sick and **has one foot in the grave** (**near death**).
20. **Never in a million years** (**absolutely never**) did I think that I would actually win the lottery!
21. New Year's Eve is **just around the corner** (**occurring soon**). Have you made party plans yet?
22. News of the new president was **music to my ears** (**good to hear**) – she's terrific.
23. **Nine times out of ten** (**almost always**) your first choice turns out to be the right one.
24. **Once in a blue moon** (**very rarely**) you see the Aurora here, but it's not like farther north.
25. Passing this quiz will **be like shooting fish in a barrel** (**very easy**). I've studied a lot.
26. Please come in and **make yourself at home** (**make yourself comfortable**).
27. She said he's out of the **house of correction** (**prison**).
28. She's a **dead ringer** (**similar in appearance**) for her older sister.
29. She's **no spring chicken** (**young**), but she's still very good looking.
30. Sure, come into the office, and we can get the documents you need **chop chop** (**quickly**).

ENGLISH IDIOMS

1. A few years ago Uggs were **all the rage** (**very fashionable**), but now you don't see them so much.
2. A **ballpark figure** (**a rough estimate**) for the cost of the new stadium would be \$150,000,000.
3. After losing his queen, the chess player **threw in the towel** (**give up**) and resigned.
4. After work I drove home **hell for leather** (**very fast**), but I still missed my daughter's birthday party.
5. Can you guys please be quiet? Your **chin music** (**meaningless talk**) is distracting me from my work.
6. Cindy was **on cloud nine** (**extremely happy**) after her boyfriend proposed to her.
7. **Cutting-edge** (**innovative**) musical styles often originate in Britain.
8. Did you have a good vacation? - Not really. I was **sick as a dog** (**extremely ill**) the whole time.
9. Don't lend her money. I trust her about **as far as I can throw** (**only slightly**) her.
10. Francesca **hit it out of the park** (**succeed brilliantly**) with her speech today. It was fabulous.
11. He got home from the party **all in one piece** (**safely**).
12. He never made a will, **to the best of my knowledge** (**as far as you know**).
13. Higher coal prices **put the brakes on** (**slow down**) industrial activities in the second quarter.
14. His diet **went out the window** (**disappear**) during the holidays.
15. I can't drive, I **had one too many** (**drink too much alcohol**).
16. I don't want to live in the city, but I enjoy visiting **once in a while** (**occasionally**).
17. I have been **feeling on top of the world** (**feel very happy**) since I quit my job.
18. I have **a million and one** (**many**) ideas.
19. I heard **through the grapevine** (**via gossip**) that Ivan and Amber are going out. Is it true?
20. I listen to the music every day, **come rain or shine** (**do regularly**).
21. I stayed up all night studying for that exam, and then it turned out to **be a breeze!** (**very easy**).
22. I wouldn't want a **nine-to-five job** (**a routine job**).
23. I **put in my two cents** (**say your opinion**) at the meeting.
24. I'd buy that car **in a New York minute** (**very quickly**) if I had the money.
25. I'd tell you if you were going **around the bend** (**crazy**).
26. I'll be **pushing up daisies** (**dead**) before my daughter decides to get married.
27. I'll call you back in an hour. The speaker is almost finished, and I'm **on deck** (**next**).
28. I'll eat dinner **on the fly** (**while traveling**) and meet you at 8.
29. I'm glad you dropped by! It's been a **month of Sundays** (**a long time**) since I saw you last.
30. I'm late for my best friend's wedding. **Put the pedal to the metal!** (**drive as fast as possible**).

ENGLISH IDIOMS

Idiom

- big shot
- bite off more than one can chew
- bite the bullet
- bite the dust
- bite the hand that feeds one
- black sheep
- blow it
- bottom line
- break someone's heart
- break the ice
- break the news (to someone)
- bring home the bacon
- by all means
- by heart
- by hook or by crook
- by oneself (by myself, by himself, etc.)
- by the way
- call a halt to something
- call a spade a spade
- call it a day
- call the shots
- carry weight
- castles in the air
- catch someone's eye
- catch one's breath
- catch someone off guard
- catch someone red-handed
- close call
- come to one's senses
- come true
- cross one's mind
- do one's best
- do one's bit
- do someone good
- do something behind someone's back
- down to earth
- draw the line
- duty calls
- eat one's words
- every now and then
- every other
- fall in love (with)
- fall out of love
- false alarm
- a far cry from something
- feel it in one's bones
- feel like doing something
- few and far between

Definition or Synonym

- important person
- try to do more than one can
- accept painful but necessary action
- be killed; die; suffer defeat
- repay kindness with evil
- a good-for-nothing member of the family
- lose the chance
- main result; main factor
- hurt deeply
- overcome awkwardness or shyness
- tell important news
- earn the living for the family
- definitely, certainly
- by memorizing
- by any possible means
- alone; on one's own
- incidentally
- terminate, stop something
- use plain, direct words
- consider work finished for the day
- give orders; be in control of something
- be important
- daydreaming about success
- attract attention
- stop and rest
- catch someone unprepared
- find someone in the act of doing wrong
- a narrow escape; a bad thing that almost happened
- act normally and reasonably again
- become reality
- occur to someone
- try very hard
- do what's needed
- be good for someone
- do (harmful) things secretly
- practical
- set a limit; impose a restriction
- must fulfill obligations
- take back one's words
- occasionally
- every second one
- begin to love
- stop loving
- untrue signal; untrue rumor
- not nearly as good
- expect something bad to happen
- want to do; be inclined to do something
- rare, scarce

ENGLISH IDIOMS

Idiom

- find fault with someone or something
- first things first
- fly off the handle
- follow in someone's footsteps
- foot the bill
- for good
- for the time being
- frame of mind
- from now on
- from the word go
- get a grip on oneself
- get carried away
- get cold feet
- get even with someone
- get in touch with someone
- get to the bottom of something
- get to the point
- give someone a hand
- go back on one's word
- go from bad to worse
- go to pieces
- go with the flow
- have a ball
- have a bone to pick with someone
- have a sweet tooth
- have a word with someone
- have no business doing something
- have one's hands full
- hit the nail on the head
- hold one's tongue
- ill at ease
- in advance
- in cold blood
- in fact
- in hot water
- in someone's shoes
- in the long run
- in the same boat
- in the clear
- it goes without saying
- jump at the opportunity
- just as soon
- just in case
- keep a straight face
- keep company
- keep in mind
- keep one's word
- keep someone posted

Definition or Synonym

- criticize; complain about
- important things come before others
- get angry
- do the same thing
- pay the bill
- forever
- for now; at this time
- mental state
- now and in the future
- from the very beginning
- take control of one's feelings
- get too excited and enthusiastic about something
- be afraid to do something
- have one's revenge
- contact someone
- know deeply
- speak directly about the subject; come to the point
- help someone
- break a promise
- become much worse
- get very upset; fall apart
- lead a quiet life
- have a good time
- complain or discuss something unpleasant
- love eating sweet things
- talk to someone
- have no right to do something
- be very busy
- say exactly the right thing
- keep silent; refrain from speaking
- uncomfortable
- well before
- mercilessly
- actually; in reality
- in trouble; in a difficult situation
- in another person's position
- in the end
- in the same situation
- free from blame
- should be clear without words
- accept the opportunity eagerly
- prefer; would rather
- to be on the safe side
- try not to laugh
- accompany
- bear in mind; consider; remember
- fulfill a promise
- inform someone

ENGLISH IDIOMS

1. I bought a ring, and I'm ready to **pop the question** (**propose marriage**) to Sophia.
2. They hadn't planned to get married, but Sophia found out she was **up the duff** (**pregnant**).
3. OK, I'll tell you the secret about Cynthia, but **zip your lip about it!** (**be quiet**).
4. The presentation will begin at 8 **on the nose** (**precisely**). Don't miss it.
5. The team was **all eyes and ears** (**attentive**) as the coach explained the challenges ahead.
6. I don't **see eye to eye** (**agree**) with Sophia on the workflow, but she's the boss.
7. I know John is bad for me, but when I get a look at his **baby blues** (**blue eyes**) I can't resist him.
8. Why did you delete the file I was working on? I'm **all ears** (**listening willingly**).
9. **Lend an ear** (**Listen**), and I'll tell you what people said at the meeting yesterday.
10. I like to keep my vocabulary **at hand** (**nearby**).
11. Are there enough people **on hand** (**available**) to hold a meeting?
12. Employee absenteeism has gotten **out of hand** (**out of control**).
13. Could you **lend me a hand** (**help**) with this piano?
14. Tom was **hands-down** (**obviously**) the best student at the university.
15. The exam's at two. Will you **keep your fingers crossed** (**wish for good luck**) for me?
16. We agreed we'd meet at the mall at 3. But you left me **cooling my heels** (**wait**) for two whole hours.
17. Don't trust Jack around your expensive glassware – he's **all thumbs** (**clumsy**).
18. It really pleased me that the boss gave me a **thumbs-up** (**approval**) on my presentation.
19. There I was, in my **birthday suit** (**nakedness**), when the doorbell rang.
20. Jennifer's presentation was **on point** (**well done**) – concise, relevant, and accurate.
21. The election is **up for grabs** (**available**). Everything is still very chancy.
22. I've been **out of work** (**unemployed**) since December. Hope I find a new job soon!
23. Sure, you can invest a little money, but don't **get carried away** (**overly enthusiastic**) – people lose lots of money on the stock market.
24. You may say you're in love with your boyfriend, but you'll be **singing a different tune** (**change your opinion**) when you find out what he's been up to.
25. When Samantha was in her teens she looked ordinary, but in her early 20s she turned into a real **knockout!** (**an extremely beautiful woman**).
26. Yoga pants are **all the rage** (**very much in fashion**) in North America right now, but in two years probably nobody will be wearing them.

ENGLISH IDIOMS

MONEY IDIOMS

COST AN ARM AND A LEG

cost a lot of money



HAVE DEEP POCKETS

have a lot of money



IN THE RED

to owe money to somebody or to another organisation

ON A SHOESTRING

with very little money

A SMALL FORTUNE

a large amount of money

ON THE BREADLINE

very poor



OUT OF POCKET

you lose money after an event or an activity



TIGHTEN YOUR BELT

make an effort to spend less money

MONEY FOR OLD ROPE

money earned with little effort

Commonly Used Idioms

IDIOMS	MEANINGS	PHRASES
✓ Bread and butter	Income	He works hard to earn his bread and butter
✓ Break out	Blow up	War broke out between India and China.
✓ Bring to book	Take to task	The criminal must be brought to book.
✓ Bring to light	Reveal	His crimes were brought to light
✓ Burn the midnight oil	Great hard work	He burnt the midnight oil and got success.
✓ Burn the candle at both ends	Consume uselessly	He burnt the candle at both ends and soon came to grief.
✓ Bury the hatchet	End up fight	Let us bury the hatchet and be friends again.
✓ By and by	Slowly slowly	By and by, she will recover.
✓ By and large	Totally	By and large, he is going well.
✓ Capital punishment	Sentence of death	The terrorist was given capital punishment.

Commonly Used Idioms

IDIOMS	MEANINGS	PHRASES
✓ Bag and baggage	With everything they have	He left the city bag and baggage.
✓ Bear out	Confirm	He will bear out my honesty.
✓ Beat about the bush	Rubbish talking	Do not beat about the bush come to the point.
✓ Better half	Wife	Salma is my better half.
✓ Bird of passage	Vagabond	He does not stop at one place, he is a bird of passage.
✓ Birds of features	Same thoughts	Birds of feature flick together.
✓ Black sheep	Fake actors	Get rid of black sheep if you want to succeed.
✓ Bluestocking	Women fond of studying	She is a bluestocking lady in our family.
✓ Bone of contention	Reason of Conflict	This land is a bone of contention among them.
✓ Bosom Friend	True friend	Aslam is my bosom friend.

COMMON IDIOMS



- **Down in the dumps** = Depressed, sad
- **On your high horse** = Superior or arrogant position
- **Cool as a cucumber** = Very calm, not nervous
- **Crocodile tears** = Fake tears or false sadness
- **Smart cookie** = A person who is very intelligent
- **On cloud nine** = Blissfully happy
- **Green with envy** = Very jealous

- **Goody two shoes** = Someone who tries to be perfect
- **Dog days of summer** = The hottest, most humid days of summer
- **Dressed to the nines** = Dressed fashionably
- **Top banana** = A boss
- **Barrel of laugh** = Someone who is very funny
- **Oddball** = A weirdo or a strange person
- **Over the hill/ Old as the hill** = Someone who is very old



- **Nutty as a fruit cake** = Someone who is a bit crazy
- **Like a dog with two tails** = Extremely happy
- **Cry one's eyes out** = Cry a lot and for a long time
- **Face like a wet week-end** = Look sad and miserable
- **Your heart sinks** = Feel very unhappy and despondent
- **As fit as a fiddle** = To be healthy and physically fit
- **Green thumb** = Grow lush without trying

- **In the same boat** = Same unpleasant or difficult situation
- **Paddle one's own canoe** = To be able to act independently
- **Hit the road** = To leave
- **Fight like cat and dog** = Continually arguing with each other
- **Fat cat** = A negative description of a rich and powerful person
- **Curiosity killed the cat** = Being too curious can get you into trouble
- **No room to swing a cat** = Very small, not big enough



- **A cat nap** = A short sleep during the day
- **Rain cats and dogs** = Rain very heavily
- **Cat on a hot tin roof** = Be extremely nervous
- **Out of sorts** = Slightly ill, not feeling well
- **Off one's rocker** = Crazy, nuts, insane
- **Take it easy** = Don't hurry, relax, don't get angry
- **A closed book** = To be difficult to know or understand



Idioms

Blind date: A date where the two people have never met before

Get along with: To have a good relationship with someone

Kick The Bucket: Die

Oddball: a weirdo or a strange person

Knee Jerk Reaction: A quick and automatic response

Hang in there: Don't give up

Pull yourself together: Calm down

So far so good: Things are going well so far

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9 Elvis has left the building: The show has come to an end It's all over

2 Last straw: The final problem in a series of problems

Joined at the hip: to be exceptionally close to someone

Elbow grease: hard physical effort

Forty winks: a short nap

Barrel of laugh: someone who is very funny

Old as the hills: some who is very old

In the doghouse: To have some unhappy with you

Up for grabs: Available for anyone

Split hairs: Argue or worry about small details

Round the bend: Crazy, insane

See eye to eye: To concur, agree

Break a leg: Good luck

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.

Be glad to see the back of: Be happy when a person leaves.

Against The Clock: Rushed and short on time.

Don't judge a book by its cover: Don't judge something primarily by its appearance.

Thanks to: Due to



IDIOMS

FOR DAILY USE

1 - An egghead (a very intelligent person)

Jamil didn't make very good grades in school, but his sister was a real egghead.

2 - Every other (alternately, omitting the second one in each group of two)

In your essays, please write on every other line.

3 - Far-fetched (difficult to accept, difficult to believe)

That story is so far-fetched that nobody can believe it.

4 - Feel blue (feel sad and depressed)

I'm feeling blue because I haven't had any mail except utility bills.

5 - Fire someone (dismiss someone from a job because of poor performance)

If you continue to be late for work, the company will fire you.

6 - Feel puny (feel unwell, ill)

Tariq was feeling puny yesterday, so he decided not to go to work.

7 - Get on one's nerves (irritate someone, make someone upset)

I know you like that song, but it has started getting on my nerves now.

8 - Give someone a hand (help someone)

I can't do this alone. Can you give me a hand?

9 - Give some a hand (applaud, to show respect)

Moeen has done a wonderful job in the stage show. Let's give him a hand.

10 - A go-getter (ambitious, hardworking person)

I'm not surprised that Tahir finishes before anyone else. He's is a real go-getter.

11 - Go with the flow (take things as they come)

There is no need to worry. Everything will be OK if you just go with the flow.

12 - Had better (be obliged to)

You'd better leave soon. If you don't, you'll miss your bus.

13 - In the black (profitable, not showing a financial loss)

Our company has been in the black this year.

14 - In the red (unprofitable, showing a financial loss)

Alas! Our company has been in the red this year.

15 - Jump to conclusions (decide something too quickly and without thinking about it)

You should not have jumped to conclusions without first consulting your colleagues.

You can view the complete list of idioms by visiting
<https://englishgrammarsoft.com/>



FOOD IDIOMS

WITH MEANING & EXAMPLES



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Sr.#	FOOD IDIOM	MEANING
1	In a pickle	Meaning: Someone in a difficult situation Example: If you're ever in a pickle and looking for ideas, thesaurus, go to thesaurus.com .
2	Best thing since sliced bread	Meaning: The best thing since a particular time Example: I would describe my new laptop as the best thing since sliced bread!
3	A piece of cake	Meaning: something that is easy to do Example: I should find this task an absolute piece of cake.
4	That's the icing on the cake	Meaning: that makes it even better or this means the conclusion or last step in something, giving it the touch up Example: I've taken a nice cup of coffee - it's really great icing on the cake.
5	Fit for a king!	Meaning: is used to say that the subject is something special. Example: That meal was fit for a king!
6	Easy as pie	Meaning: Something that is easy to do. Example: After I learned how to use the software, it was easy as pie.
7	You can't have your cake and eat it too	Meaning: You can't have both things that you want, you must choose one or the other. Example: I wanted to buy a new car and a new house, but I realized that I couldn't have my cake and eat it too.
8	I'm stuffed!	Meaning: I've eaten too much! Example: We just finished an enormous Thanksgiving dinner, and I'm stuffed!
9	You are what you eat	Meaning: The kind of food you eat affects your health and appearance. Example: After eating nothing but junk food for a week, I realized that you are what you eat.
10	Finger-licking good	Meaning: Something tastes so good that you want to lick your fingers. Example: This chicken is finger-licking good!



IDIOMS

Related to Animals



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1. Barking up the wrong tree

Wrongly accusing someone of something; looking for something where it isn't. Dogs chase their tails when frustrated, which give this expression its meaning.

2. Cat got your tongue

If you say that someone has the cat got your tongue, you mean that they are being uncommunicative or are unable to speak because they are shy or afraid.

3. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush

The idiom "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush" means that something you already have is better than something that may or may not happen.

4. A bull in a China shop

The idiom "a bull in a China shop" refers to someone who makes a mess by doing things too quickly and without thought for others around them.

5. Cock-a-doodle-doo!

This phrase is used to describe the call made by roosters during the morning hours (usually around sunrise).

6. Crocodile Tears

Fake tears shed by someone who is insincere or pretending to be sad about something that doesn't really upset them at all.

7. There's more than one way to skin a cat

It means there's more than one way to do something. For example, if someone asks how to solve a math problem, you might say "There's more than one way to skin a cat."

8. A wolf in sheep's clothing

Someone who appears friendly and helpful but is actually dangerous and deceptive. This expression refers to the fact that wolves often hide among sheep in order to catch their prey more easily.

9. Don't count your chickens before they hatch

Don't assume something will happen until it actually does. For example, I know you're excited about your new job, but don't count your chickens before they hatch.



10. Kill two birds with one stone

To accomplish two tasks at the same time.



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100 Idioms with Meanings

Bed of roses

Comfortable condition

Put something on ice

To put something on hold.

To be in the doldrums

To be in a low spirit

At Sea

Confused

You can say that again

That's absolutely true.

In the fast lane

A life filled with excitement.

Lion's share

Major part

Fish out of water

To be out of your comfort zone.

Black sheep

A person of bad character

Cats and dogs

Heavily

At random

Without any aim

At a stretch

Without a break

By fits and starts

Irregularly

Hold water

Be effective

Heart and soul

With all energy

By no means

In no way

Far and wide

Everywhere

Gala day

Holiday

Step up your game

To start performing better

Snug as a bug in a rug

Warm and cosy.

Play by the ear

To improvise.

Like a cakewalk

So easy task.

Break the bank

To be very expensive

Face the music

Face the reality

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