## English idioms - Idiomy angielskie

Idiom	Meaning of idiom
A basket case	A crazy person
A bull in a china shop	someone who is very clumsy
A grey area	Something unclear
A little birdie told me	Someone told me a secret
A piece of cake	Very easy
A rip off	Too expensive
Be in hot water	Be in trouble
Be in the same boat	Be in the same situation
Be second to none	Be the best
(have) bee in bonnet	Be obsessed with an idea

Birdbrain	Someone who is not very smart	
Put a bug in his ear	Make a suggestion	
Call it a day	Time to quit	
Cat got your tongue?	Why aren't you talking?	
Cross your fingers	For good luck	
Cry crocodile tears	To pretend to be upset	
Curiosity killed the cat	Asking may get you in trouble	
Doggy bag	A bag to take home leftovers from a restaurant	
Draw a blank	Can't remember	
Fish out of water	Being somewhere you don't belong	
For the birds	Something that is not worth anything	
Get a kick out	Enjoy	
Get cold feet	Be nervous	
Get off your high horse	Quit thinking you are better than others	
Get your act together	Behave properly	

Give it a shot	Try
Give someone the cold shoulder	Ignore someone

Idiom	Meaning of idiom	Examples of sentences	Examples of sentences
A basket case	A crazy person Someone who is viewed as emotionally unstable and unable to function in normal situations	My neighbor is <b>a basket case.</b> After that all-day meeting, I was practically <b>a basket case</b>	By the end of the course I was a complete <b>basket case.</b> My weeks of worry were so intense that I was a real <b>basket case</b> afterwards.
A bull in a china shop	someone who is very clumsy If someone is like a bull in a china shop, they are very careless in the way that they move or behave:	My cousin is on the party like <b>a bull in</b> <b>the china shop.</b> <i>I never know what to say at a funeral. I</i> <i>feel like a bull in a china shop,</i> <i>trampling on feelings without even</i> <i>meaning to.</i> Her living room, with its delicate furniture and knickknacks, made him feel like <b>a bull in a china shop</b> .	My son is always like <b>a bull in a china</b> <b>shop</b> , so I'm worried about taking him to the museum. <i>Surrounding him with</i> <i>valuables does not seem like a wise idea</i> ! <i>This is a complex problem, and if you attack</i> <i>it like</i> <b>a bull in a china shop</b> , you will <i>alienate a lot of people.</i>
A grey area	Something unclear a situation that <u>is not clear</u> or where the rules are not known:	Automation is <b>a grey area</b> for me. There are many <b>grey areas</b> in the law affecting stolen animals	There's a large <b>grey area</b> regarding whether the use of the new surveillance technology is lawful. In theory, it should be a cinch to diagnose appendicitis, but in practice it's much more of a grey area.
A little birdie told me	Someone told me a secret said if you know who gave you the information being discussed but do not want to say who it was:	A little birdie told me that she is cheating on her husband. A: "Did you hear that Mark is planning to propose to Sarah soon?" B: "Yes, a little birdie told me."	"How did you know he was leaving?" "Oh, let's just say <b>a little bird told me</b> ."

A piece of cake	Very easy	This math exercise is a piece of cake for	
	something that is easy to do	<b>me.</b> <i>I thought I was going to fail the test, but</i> <i>it turned out to be <b>a piece of cake</b>!</i>	Her family have 11 children, so looking after 4 will be <b>a piece of cake</b> for her.
A rip off	Too expensive         A bad deal; a fraudulent business or transaction	Rolls-Royce <b>is a rip off</b> for me. I am in hot water I do not have this money.	This car is <b>a rip off</b> for me. What <b>a rip-off!</b> I want my money back.
Be in hot water	Be in trouble         to be in or get into a difficult situation in         which you are in danger of being criticized or         punished:	I must pay 20000 zlotys my neighbor's debts. I <b>am in hot water</b> . I do not have this money. <i>He found himself in <b>hot water</b> over his</i> <i>comments about immigration</i> .	I was in a bit of hot water with Janice last night when she found out I went to the movies instead of cleaning out the garage. <i>The senator is in hot water with</i> <i>constituents over his callous remarks.</i>
Be in the same boat	Be in the same situation to be in the same unpleasant situation as other people	Since we are in the same boat, let us think in the same way! She's always complaining that she doesn't have enough money, but we're all in the same boat.	Environmental problems, in many ways, put us all <b>in the same boat</b> . <i>My sister failed her driver's test, and I'll be</i> <i>in the same boat if I don't practice parallel</i> <i>parking</i> . As hard as it is to live with a disability, remember that you're not alone—a lot of other people <b>are in the same boat</b> .
Be second to none	Be the best To be the best; to have no rival. as good as or better than all others:	I think my colleague <b>is the second to</b> <b>none.</b> Of course my daughter will go to Harvard— <b>it's second to none</b> ! The owner is a famous pastry chef, so the desserts here are truly <b>second to</b> <b>none.</b>	Jabra Motion <b>is second to none</b> in terms of innovative features and future-proof technology. <i>The conditions that these prisoners are kept</i> <i>in are second to none</i> .
(have) bee in bonnet	Be obsessed with an ideaa single idea or a thought that remains in one's mind; an obsessionto keep talking about something again and again because you think it is very important:	She had some <b>bee in her bonnet</b> . She never stops talking about dieting - she's got a real <b>bee in her bonnet</b> about it.	Dad has had a bee in his bonnet about moving to a warmer climate. <i>I have a bee in my bonnet over that cool</i> <i>new car I saw, and I can't stop thinking</i> <i>about it.</i> I got a bee in my bonnet about swimming.

			I just wanted to go swimming all the time.
Birdbrain	Someone who is not very smart a stupid-acting person A person who lacks intelligence or who makes stupid decisions	I think my neighbor is a <b>birdbrain</b> . You're such a <b>bird-brain</b> . I can't believe you got stranded on the highway because you didn't put enough gas in your car!	I'm such a <b>birdbrain</b> . I forgot my driver's license, officer.
Put a bug in his ear	Make a suggestionTo speak to one in order to impart some particular information, suggestion, hint, or warning.Give someone a hint about something	She <b>put a bug in his ear</b> to buy me an expensive earring. <i>I've been <b>putting a bug in his ear</b> for months about what I wanted for my birthday, but he was totally clueless when the day came.</i>	I <b>put a bug in his ear</b> about giving Helen a call. Janet <b>put a bug in her husband's ear</b> about getting the children a dog for Christmas
Call it a day	Time to quit to stop what you are doing because you do not want to do any more or think you have done enough:	I think it is now <b>call it a day</b> , not ask me more. <i>I'm getting a bit tired now - let's <b>call it a</b> <i>day</i>. After 14 years living and working in this country, she thinks it's <b>time to call it a</b> <i>day</i>.</i>	I must say that, if one really looks at the situation, one is almost tempted to <b>call it a</b> <b>day</b> . <i>I'm tired. Let's call it a day</i> . The boss was mad because Tom <b>called it a</b> <b>day</b> at noon and went home.
Cat got your tongue?	Why aren't you talking? A humorous question directed at one who is not speaking very much or at all.	I talk to you, <b>cat got your tongue</b> ? What's the matter — <b>cat got your</b> <b>tongue?</b> Are you surprised to see me? What's the matter, <b>has the cat got your tongue?</b>	"What's wrong, sonny? <b>Cat got your</b> <b>tongue?"</b> "Oh, he's just shy around new people, that's all." <i>What's the matter</i> — <b>cat got your tongue?</b>
Cross your fingers	<b>For good luck</b> to hope very much that something will happen:	Go to the exam, I <b>cross your fingers</b> . I'm just going to cross my fingers and hope it works.	I'm crossing my fingers that I get a bike for my birthday! <i>OK, I'm going to turn on the machine for</i> <i>the first time.</i> Here goes—cross your fingers, everyone!
Cry crocodile tears	<b>To pretend to be upset</b> <i>To display false, insincere, or hypocritical</i>	My friend <b>cried crocodile tears</b> . He was not sincere. Jessica <b>shed crocodile tears</b> over the	The child wasn't really hurt, but she <b>shed</b> <b>crocodile tears</b> anyway. <i>He thought he could get his way if he <b>cried</b></i>

	sadness or remorse. Derived from an ancient notion that a crocodile will weep to lure in its victims, or that it weeps as it eats them	expulsion of her rival, Jacob.	crocodile tears.
Curiosity killed the cat	Asking may get you in trouble Inquisitiveness can be dangerous, especially when it extends to things one does not need to know about	Do not ask me more, because <b>curiosity</b> <b>killed the cat</b> . <i>Bill: Where did you get all that money?</i> <i>Jane: <b>Curiosity killed the cat.</b></i>	'All right, I've been reading it. So what?'— 'Curiosity killed the cat, that's what.' I think you'll offend her by asking such personal questions—curiosity killed the cat, after all. I know curiosity killed the cat, but I can't stop the investigation until I know where the donations are really going.
Doggy bag	A bag to take home leftovers from a restaurant a small bag that a restaurant provides so that you can take home any food you have not finished	Can I get a <b>doggy bag</b> ? We do not have <b>doggie bags</b> , but I can give you a styrofoam box. You must fill it yourself.	The servings here are so huge that I always have to ask for a <b>doggy bag</b> at the end of the night!
Draw a blank	Can't remember to fail to get an answer or a result He asked me for my phone number and I drew a blank - I just couldn't remember it.	I was on a party yesterday. I draw a blank. I'm sorry, I'm drawing a blank—what's your name again? It was a very hard test with just one question to answer, and I drew a blank.	I actually did know the answer to that question, I just <b>drew a blank</b> when the teacher called on me, OK? <i>I tried to remember her telephone number,</i> <i>but I could only draw a blank</i>
Fish out of water	Being somewhere you don't belong someone who is uncomfortable in a specific situation:I felt like a fish out of water at my new school.	I was at the lonely heart meeting and I felt like a <b>fish out of water</b> . On a hiking trail, Nell was a <b>fish out of</b> <b>water</b> . Using a computer for the first time, Carl felt like <b>a fish out of water</b>	When Carla transferred to a new school, she felt like a <b>fish out of water</b> because she didn't know anyone there. <i>Marie was like</i> <b>a fish out of water</b> when she assumed a manger position at the company where she had worked as a clerk for so long.
For the birds	Something that is not worth anything to be stupid or not important	I bought a new electronic gadget but it is for the birds. This conference is for the birds-let's leave now.	Driving is <b>for the birds</b> when you live in a big city—unless you like sitting in traffic! <i>I miss my usual shift—night work is for the birds</i> .

		I don't like this kind of life. It's <b>for the</b> <b>birds</b> .	This journal business is <b>for the birds</b> . It's a waste of time
Get a kick out	<b>Enjoy</b> To get a sense of enjoyment, amusement, or	When I think about a spring I get a kick out.	I get a kick out of watching the children play
Mieć frajdę	excitement from something If you get a kick out of something, you enjoy it very much Even as an adult, I still get a kick out of building sandcastles at the beach.	I get a kick out of studying English. "How did you like the movie?" "I really got a kick out of it." He loves books. He gets a kick out of reading. Most people get a kick out of taking a trip.	I get no kick from champagne Mere alcohol doesn't thrill me at all So tell me why should it be true That I get a kick out of you
Get cold feet	Be nervous	Her son <b>get cold feet.</b> <i>My boyfriend <b>got cold feet</b> about being</i>	I wasn't nervous until the morning of my wedding, but everyone assured me that I
stchórzyć	to suddenly become too frightened to do something you had planned to do, especially something important such as getting married	<i>in a committed relationship.</i> Leaving Ireland wasn't easy and I had <b>cold feet</b> about it a couple of times. <i>Do you still want to do this parachute</i> <i>jump or are you</i> <b>getting cold feet</b> ?	had just <b>gotten cold feet</b> . Good luck getting her out on stage—she always <b>gets cold feet</b> before a performance. If Ted's <b>getting cold feet</b> , this is not the way to get him back.
Get off your high horse	Quit thinking you are better than others	<b>Get off your high horse</b> , take third place.	You're just an intern, so <b>get off your high</b> <b>horse</b> and do this filing, like I asked you to.
	to stop talking as if you were better or more clever than other people: It's time you <u>came down</u> off your high horse and admitted you were wrong.	<i>It's about time that you got down off</i> <i>your high horse.</i> <i>Would you get off your high horse and</i> <i>talk to me?</i>	Holly, get off your high horse, I'm sick of it. So come on, John, get off your high horse.
Get your act together	Behave properly	Remember, always <b>get your act</b>	You need to get your act together and
pozbieraj się zbierz się w sobie weź się w garść	To take action to become well-organized, prepared, or in a better state of life. organize yourself in the manner required in order to achieve something.	<b>together.</b> <i>I had no direction after college and</i> <i>drifted along for several years, until I got</i> <i>my act together in my thirties with a</i> <i>steady job and good relationship.</i> He seems to be getting it together at last.	finish packing so that we can leave for the airport on time tomorrow morning. <i>If Sally got her act together she'd be a</i> <i>great musician.</i> He's been trying to <b>get his life together</b> .
Give it a shot	<b>Try</b> <i>To try something (often for the first time as a</i>	It is not difficult, <b>give it a shot</b> . <i>I don't usually like hot tea, but it's so</i>	A: "Do you want to try driving my car, to see how you like it?"

Spróbować, probować	means of forming an opinion about it)	cold out that I gave it a shot today.	B: "Yeah, sure, I'll give it a shot."
	I fear that it would be very difficult to		
	establish, but let us give it a shot and see what		
	happens.		
Give someone the cold	Ignore someone	This is a bad man, give him the cold	She thinks you started that rumor about
shoulder	to intentionally ignore someone or treat	shoulder	her—that's why she's been giving you the
	someone in an unfriendly way:	Nancy found she was getting the cold	cold shoulder all day.
	This phrase usually refers to the act of	shoulder from a lot of people she'd	I tried to be pleasant to her but she gave me
	ignoring someone.	thought were her friends	the cold shoulder.
	If someone gives you the cold shoulder, they	I must have made him angry with my	I thought she really liked me, but the next
	deliberately stop being friendly to you and	comment. He's been giving me the cold	day she gave me the cold shoulder.
	ignore you.	shoulder ever since I said it.	

Idiom	Meaning of idiom	Przykladowe użycie
Goose is cooked	Now you're in trouble	It's over. His goose is cooked!
po ptakach (przegrana sprawa)	all hope is gone; there is no possibility of success; the period of good fortune is over.	If I get caught, <b>my goose is cooked</b> .
Have a change of heart	Changed your mind	I had a <b>change of heart</b> at the last minute and gave the beggar some money. Since I talked to you last, I have had a <b>change of heart</b> . I
zmiana nastawienia zmiana decyzji	to change one's attitude or decision, usually from a	now approve of your marrying Sam.
lub poglądów	negative to a positive position	What has motivated this <b>change of heart</b> ?
	Have a chance	Do you really think I <b>have a shot</b> at winning this thing?
Have a shot	To have a chance to achieve, attain, or have success in	I <b>had a shot</b> at him this morning, so he already knows I'm unhappy with his proposal.
<u>Mieć szansę</u>	something To criticize someone or something.	
Have mixed feelings	Unsure how you feel have both positive and negative feelings (about	I've got mixed feelings about leaving college — it's great to finish my studies, but I'm rather worried about
Mieć mieszane uczucia	somebody/something) If you have mixed feelings about something or someone, you feel uncertain about them because you can see both good and bad points about them.	finding a job. They <b>had mixed feelings</b> about their new boss. She seemed very pleasant but not very organized. I have mixed feelings about the film.
Have second thoughts	Have doubts	We were going to go to Italy, but we <b>had second</b> <b>thoughts</b> and came here instead. Why are you hesitating? You're not <b>having second</b>
mieć watpliwości	change your opinion about something; have doubts about something	<pre>thoughts, are you? A: "Where's the bride?" B: "I don't know; maybe she had second thoughts."</pre>
Hold your horses	Wait a minute	In other words, <b>hold your horses</b> when you're coming to judge people. Hold your horses, lover boy.
chwileczkę	used to tell someone to stop and consider carefully their decision or opinion about something:	Just hold your horses, Bill! Let's think about this for a moment.
Horse of a different color	Something that is different	I've always found math to be easy, but calculus is a <b>horse of a different color</b> .

	Something completely different or separate, especially in comparison to something else Another matter entirely, something else	I thought that was her boyfriend but it turned out to be her brother-that's <b>a horse of a different color</b>
Hot dog	A person doing athletic stunts that are dangerousTo perform daring, showy, often dangerous stunts so as	He spent the afternoon <b>hot dogging</b> on his jet ski in front of the ladies on the beach. <i>There are always a <b>few hot dogs</b> at this park showing off</i>
	to impress other people A person who performs such daring stunts. An exclamation of excitement or pleasant surprise. Primarily heard in US	on their skateboards. Hot dog! I can't wait to try out my new motorbike! Our application was approved? Well, hot dog!
I'm all ears	You have my undivided attention	Bob: Look, old pal. I want to talk to you about
I'm listening zamieniam się w słuch	You have my attention, so you should talk	something. Tom: I'm listening. Bill: I guess I owe you an apology. Jane: I'm all ears.
It cost an arm and a leg	It was expensive	Well, we know that it is going <b>to cost us an arm and a</b>
kosztować majątek kosztować krocie	To cost lot of money be extremely expensive	leg When I first started out in my business, I advertised small too and it didn't cost me an arm and a leg.
It's in the bag masz to jak w banku	It's a certainty	
A different kettle of fish inna para kaloszy	Something is completely different to be completely different from something or someone else that has been talked about:	Having knowledge is one thing but being able to communicate it to others is <b>another kettle of fish</b> .
Let the cat out of the bag	Tell a secret	I was trying to keep the party a secret, but Mel went and let the cat out of the bag.
wygadać się puścić farbę puścić parę z ust	to allow a secret to be known, usually without intending to:	for the cut out of the Sug
Make a mountain out of a molehill Robić z igły widły	Make something that is not important into a big deal	You're <b>making a mountain out of a molehill</b> . You wrote one bad essay - it doesn't mean you're going to
(Robić górę z kretowiska)	to make a slight difficulty seem like a serious problem:	fail.
Out of the blue	With no warning	One day, <b>out of the blue</b> , she announced that she was leaving.

Nagle, znienacka, jak grom z jasnego nieba	If something happens out of the blue, it is completely unexpected	The EHEC situation has thrust local vegetable growers into an existential crisis completely <b>out of the blue</b> and through no fault of their own.
Pig out	To eat a lot	We <b>pigged out</b> on all the delicious cakes and pastries.
Obżerać się	to eat a lot or too much:	
Play it by ear	Improvise	We can't make a decision yet. Let's just <b>play it by ear</b> .
wymyślić coś na poczekaniu	to decide how to deal with a situation as it develops, rather than acting according to plans made earlier:	
<b>Raining cats and dogs</b> <i>Leje jak z cebra</i>	It is raining very hard something that you say when it is raining heavily	A minute ago it was gorgeous and now it's raining cats and dogs.
Read between the lines czytać między wierszami	<i>Find the hidden meaning</i> to try to understand someone's real feelings or intentions from what they say or write:	<b>Reading between the lines</b> , I'd say he isn't happy with the situation.
See eye to eye	Jrom what they say of write.	My sisters <b>don't see eye to eye</b> with me about the
	Agree	arrangements.
zgadzać się z kimś,		
mieć takie same poglądy	If two people see eye to eye, they agree with each other:	
Slipped my mind	I forgot	I'm sorry, it slipped my mind.
wypadło mi to z głowy		I would've told you, but it slipped my mind.
zapomniało mi się Speak your mind	Say what you really feel	He's certainly not afraid <b>to speak his mind.</b>
Speak your minu	to say what you think about something very directly:	He's certainly not an aid to speak his hind.
The icing on the cake	Something additional that turns good into great	I was just content to see my daughter in such a stable relationship but a grandchild, that really was <b>the icing on</b>
wisienka na torcie, bonus	something that makes a good situation even better:	the cake.
Wolf in sheep's clothing	A person who pretends to be nice but is not	My grandfather was a <b>wolf in sheep's clothing</b> – he
wilk w owczej skórze	a person with a pleasant and friendly appearance that hides the fact that they are evil	looked like a sweet old man, but he was really mean.

	someone or something that seems to be good but is actually not good at all:	
You can't teach an old dog new tricks	It's harder for older people to learn new things	They say you can't teach an old dog new tricks.
nie przesadza się starych drzew		

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