A List of the most commonly used English idioms

1. A hot potato

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

2. A penny for your thoughts

A way of asking what someone is thinking

3. Actions speak louder than words

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

4. Add insult to injury

To worsen an unfavorable situation.

5. An arm and a leg

Very expensive or costly. A large amount of money.

6. At the drop of a hat

Without any hesitation; instantly.

7. Back to the drawing board

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

8. Ball is in your court

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

9. Barking up the wrong tree

Looking in the wrong place. Accusing the wrong person

10. Be glad to see the back of

Be happy when a person leaves.

11. Beat around the bush

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

12. Best of both worlds

An ideal situation

13. Best thing since sliced bread

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

14. Bite off more than you can chew

More than it should be.

15. Blessing in disguise

Something good that isn't recognized at first.

16. Burn the midnight oil

To work late into the night

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17. *Can't judge a book by its cover*

Cannot judge something primarily on appearance.

18. *Caught between two stools*

When someone finds it difficult to choose between two alternatives.

19. *Costs an arm and a leg*

This idiom is used when something is very expensive.

20. *Cross that bridge when you come to it*

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

21. *Cry over spilt milk*

When you complain about a loss from the past.

22. *Curiosity killed the cat*

Being Inquisitive can lead you into an unpleasant situation.

23. *Cut corners*

When something is done badly to save money.

24. *Cut the mustard*

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

25. *Devil's Advocate*

To present a counter argument

26. *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".

27. *Don't give up the day job*

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

28. *Don't put all your eggs in one basket*

Do not put all your resources in one possibility.

29. *Drastic times call for drastic measures*

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

30. *Every cloud has a silver lining*

Be optimistic, even difficult times will lead to better days. Far cry from very different from.

31. *Feel a bit under the weather*

Feeling slightly ill.

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32. *Give the benefit of the doubt*

Believe someone's statement, without proof

30. *Go back to the drawing board*

Don't disparate and start over

31. *Hear it on the grapevine*

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

32. *Hit the nail on the head*

Do or say something exactly right

33. *Hit the sack / sheets / hay*

To go to bed.

34. *In the heat of the moment*

Overwhelmed by what is happening in the moment.

35. *It takes two to tango*

Actions or communications need more than one person

36. *Jump on the bandwagon*

Join a popular trend or activity.

37. *Keep something at bay*

Keep something away.

38. *Kill two birds with one stone*

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

39. *Last straw*

The final problem in a series of problems.

40. *Let sleeping dogs lie*

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

41. *Let the cat out of the bag*

To share information that was previously concealed

42. *Make a long story short*

Come to the point - leave out details

43. *Method to my madness*

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

44. *Miss the boat*

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

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45. *Not a spark of decency*

No manners

46. *Not playing with a full deck*

Someone who lacks intelligence.

47. *Off one's rocker*

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

48. *On the ball*

When someone understands the situation well.

49. *Once in a blue moon*

Happens very rarely.

50. *Picture paints a thousand words*

A visual presentation is far more descriptive than words.

51. *Piece of cake*

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

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

This means to deceive someone into thinking well of them.

53. *See eye to eye*

It is used to say that two or more agree on something.

54. *Sit on the fence*

When someone does not want to choose or decide.

55. *Speak of the devil!*

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

56. *Steal someone's thunder*

To take the credit for something someone else did.

57. *Take with a grain of salt*

Take what someone says too seriously.

58. *Taste of your own medicine*

Something happens to you, or is done to you, that you have done to someone else

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

To hear something from the authoritative source.

60. *Turn a blind eye on*

To ignore undesirable information.

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61. Whole nine yards

Everything. All of it.

62. Wouldn't be caught dead

Would never like to do something

63. Your guess is as good as mine

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

64. Bite the bullet

To get something over with because it is inevitable.

65. Break a leg

Good luck

66. It's not rocket science

It's not complicated.

67. Call it a day

Stop working on something.

68. On the tip of my tongue

When sb is trying to remember sth

69. Make a long story short

Provide just the basic facts rather than giving a lengthy explanation for something

70. Face the music

To accept responsibility for something you have done

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