

### 30 useful idioms

| idioms                     | meaning | Example                                                                            |
|----------------------------|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Break the ice              |         | At the party, John told a joke to break the ice, and everyone started laughing.    |
| A blessing in disguise     |         | Losing that job was a blessing in disguise because I found something better.       |
| Hit the nail on the head   |         | Sarah hit the nail on the head when she said the company needed more organization. |
| Let the cat out of the bag |         | We were going to keep the surprise a secret, but Tom let the cat out of the bag.   |
| Spill the beans            |         | I didn't mean to spill the beans about the surprise party!                         |
| Piece of cake              |         | The exam was a piece of cake; I finished it in 5 minutes.                          |
| Under the weather          |         | I'm feeling a bit under the weather today, so I'll stay home and rest.             |
| Once in a blue moon        |         | We go out to a fancy restaurant once in a blue moon, maybe once a year.            |
| Burn the midnight oil      |         | I had to burn the midnight oil to finish the report before the deadline.           |
| The ball is in your court  |         | I've made my decision, now the ball is in your court.                              |
| Bite the bullet            |         | I hate going to the dentist, but I guess I'll just have to bite the bullet.        |
| Cut corners                |         | The builders cut corners to save money, and now the house has many problems.       |
| Hit the sack               |         | I'm so tired after work, I'm going to hit the sack early tonight.                  |
| Beat around the bush       |         | Stop beating around the bush and just tell me what's going on!                     |
| Take with a grain of salt  |         | I heard that rumor too, but I'm taking it with a grain of salt.                    |

| idioms                            | meaning | Example                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| When pigs fly                     |         | Sure, I'll start cooking dinner every night...when pigs fly!                                      |
| Cry over spilled milk             |         | What's done is done, there's no use crying over spilled milk.                                     |
| By the skin of your teeth         |         | I passed the test by the skin of my teeth; it was really close.                                   |
| Don't judge a book by its cover   |         | She may look shy, but don't judge a book by its cover, she's very outgoing.                       |
| Kill two birds with one stone     |         | I can kill two birds with one stone by visiting my parents and doing some shopping in their town. |
| Cost an arm and a leg             |         | That new car costs an arm and a leg! I could never afford it.                                     |
| Go the extra mile                 |         | Our teacher always goes the extra mile to help us understand difficult concepts.                  |
| Out of the blue                   |         | He called me out of the blue after not talking for years.                                         |
| Raining cats and dogs             |         | We canceled the picnic because it's raining cats and dogs outside.                                |
| A dime a dozen                    |         | These plastic toys are a dime a dozen; you can find them in every store.                          |
| Keep your chin up                 |         | Even though you didn't win, keep your chin up, there's always next time.                          |
| Jump on the bandwagon             |         | Now that it's popular, everyone's jumping on the bandwagon and buying the new phone.              |
| Let sleeping dogs lie             |         | I didn't bring up the argument we had last week; I think it's better to let sleeping dogs lie.    |
| Miss the boat                     |         | I waited too long to decide, and now I've missed the boat on buying those concert tickets.        |
| Time flies when you're having fun |         | I didn't realize how late it was! Time flies when you're having fun.                              |