

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

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.

32. *Give the benefit of the doubt*

Believe someone's statement, without proof

30. *Go back to the drawing board*

Don't disparte 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

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.

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