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.

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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.

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