

Idioms and phrases

1. **A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush**- Having something that is certain is much better than taking a risk for more, because chances are you might losing everything.
2. **A blessing in disguise**- Something good that isn't recognized by first
3. **Bull in china shop**- One who causes damage
4. **A chip on your shoulder**- Being upset for something that happened in the past
5. **A damp squib**- Complete failure
6. **A dime A dozen**- Anything that is common and easy to get
7. **A doubting Thomas**- A skeptic who needs physical or personal evidence in order to believe something
8. **A drop in the bucket**- A very small part of something big or whole
9. **A fool and his money are easily parted**- It's easy for a foolish person to lose his/ her money
10. **A gentleman at large**- An unreliable person
11. **A green horn**- Inexperienced
12. **A house divided against itself cannot stand**- Everyone involved must unify and function together or it will not work out.
13. **A leopard can't change his spots**- You cannot change who you are
14. **A lost cause**- A hopeless case, a person or situation having no hope of positive change.
15. **A man of straw**- A weak person
16. **A mare's nest**- A false invention
17. **A penny saved is a penny earned**- By not spending money, you are saving money (little by little)
18. **A picture paints a thousand words**- A visual presentation is far more descriptive than words
19. **A piece of cake**- A task that can be accomplished very easily
20. **A slap on the wrist**- A very mild punishment
21. **A stalking horse**- Pretence
22. **A steal**- Very inexpensive, a bargain
23. **A taste of your own medicine**- When you are mistreated the same way you mistreat others
24. **A toss-up**- A result hat is still unclear and can go either way
25. **A wolf in sheep's clothing**- A dangerous person pretending harmless
26. **ABC: Very common knowledge about to**- Ready to, just going to
27. **Above all**- Mainly, especially
28. **Above board**- Fair and honest
29. **According to**- In the order of; on the authority of
30. **Actions speak louder than words**- It's better to actually do something than hust talk about it
31. **Add fuel to the fire**- Whenever something is done to make a bad situation even worse than it is
32. **Against the clock**- Rushed and short on time
33. **All (day, week, month, year) long**- The entire day, week, month, year
34. **All along**- All the time, from the beginning (without change)
35. **All and Sundry**- Without making any distinction
36. **All bark and no bite**- When someone is threatening and/ or aggressive but not willing to engage in a fight
37. **All greek to me**- Meaningless and incomprehensible like someone who cannot read, speak, or
38. **All in all**- Considering everything
39. **All in the same boat**- When everyone is facing the same challenges
40. **All of a sudden**- Suddenly, without warning (All at once)
41. **All right**- Acceptable, fine; yes, okay
42. **Alpha and omega**- First and last letter of Greek alphabet, means beginning and end
43. **An arm and a leg**- Very expensive, A large amount of money
44. **An axe to grind**- To have a dispute with someone
45. **An eye wash**- A pretence
46. **An iron hand**- By force
47. **Apple to my eye**- Someone who is cherished above all others
48. **As a matter of fact**- Really, actually (also: as to)
49. **As for**- Regarding, concerning (also: as to)
50. **As high as a kite**- Anything that is high up in the sky
51. **As soon as**- Just after, when
52. **As usual**- as is the general case, as is typical
53. **At all**- To any degree (also: in the least)
54. **At heart**- Basically, fundamentally
55. **At last**- Finally, after a long time
56. **At least**- A minimum of, no fewer (or less) than
57. **At odds**- In dispute
58. **At sixes and seven**- Persons who are having different opinions

59. **At the drop of a hat**- Willing to do something immediately
60. **Back and call**- At the service
61. **Back and forth**- In a backward and forward motion
62. **Back seat driver**- People who criticize from the sidelines, much like someone giving unwanted advice
63. **Back to square one**- Having to start all over again
64. **Back to the drawing board**- When an attempt fails and it's time to start all over
65. **Bag and baggage**- with all goods
66. **Baker's dozen**- Thirteen
67. **Bank on**- Depend on, count on
68. **Barking up the wrong tree**- A mistake made in something you are trying to achieve
69. **Bated breath**- In anxiety, expectancy
70. **Beat a dead horse**- To force an issue that has already ended
71. **Beating around the bush**- Avoiding the main topic, not speaking directly about the issue
72. **Bend over backwards**- Do whatever it takes to help. Willing to do anything
73. **Between a Rock and a Hard place**- Stuck between two very bad options
74. **Between Scylla and Charybdis**- Choice between two unpleasant alternatives
75. **Between the cup and the lips**- On the point of achievement
76. **Bite off more than you can chew**- To take on a task that is a way too big
77. **Bite your tongue**- To avoid talking
78. **Black and white**- In writing
79. **Blood is thicker than water**- The family bond is closer than anything else
80. **Blow hot and cold**- Having no stand, shows favour at one time and unfavour at another
81. **Blue moon**- A rare event or occurrence
82. **Body and soul**- Entirely
83. **Break a leg**- A superstitious way to say 'Good Luck' without saying 'Good Luck',
84. **Buy a lemon**- To purchase a vehicle that constantly gives problems or stops running after you drive it
85. **By & by**- Gradually
86. **By all means**- Certainly, definitely, naturally (also: of course); using any possible way or method
87. **By far**- By a great margin, clearly
88. **By fits and starts**- Irregularly
89. **By heart**- By memorizing
90. **By hook or by crook**- By any means
91. **By leaps and bound**- speedily
92. **By oneself**- Alone, without assistance
93. **By the way**- Incidentally
94. **Call a spade a spade**- Straight talks
95. **Can't cut the mustard**- Someone who isn't adequate enough to compete or participate
96. **Cast iron stomach**- Someone who has no problems, complications or ill effects with eating anything
97. **Cats and bull story**- Untrue story
98. **Cats and dogs**- Heavy rain
99. **Charley horse**- stiffness in the leg/ A leg cramp
100. **Chew someone out**- Verbally scold someone
101. **Chip on his shoulder**- Angry today about something that occurred in the past
102. **Chow down**- To eat
103. **Clear-cut**- Clearly stated, definite, apparent
104. **Close but no cigar**- To be near and almost accomplish a goal, but fall short
105. **Close call**- A situation involving a narrow escape from danger
106. **Cock and bull story**- An unbelievable tale, untrue story
107. **Come hell or high water**- Any difficult situation or obstacle
108. **Crack someone up**- To make someone laugh
109. **Cross your fingers**- To hope that something happens the way you want it to
110. **Cry wolf**- Intentionally raise a false alarm
111. **Cup of Joe**- A cup of coffee
112. **Curtain lecture**- A reproof by wife to her husband
113. **Cut and dried**- Ready made form
114. **Cut to the chase**- Leave out all the unnecessary details and just get to the point
115. **Dark horse**- One who was previously unknown and is now prominent
116. **Day in and day out**- Continuously, constantly
117. **Dead Ringer**- 100 % identical, a duplicate
118. **Devil's advocate**- Someone who takes a position for the sake of argument without believing in that
119. **Dog days of summer**- The hottest day of the summer season
120. **Don't count your chickens before they hatch**- Don't rely on it until you are sure of it
121. **Don't look a gift horse in the mouth**- When someone gives you a gift, don't be ungrateful

122. **Don't pull all your eggs in one basket-** Do not pull all your resources in one possibility
123. **Doozy-** Something outstanding
124. **Down to the wire-** Something that ends at the last minute or last few seconds
125. **Drastic times call for drastic measures-** When you are extremely desperate you need to take extremely desperate actions
126. **Drink like a fish-** To drink very heavily, drinking anything
127. **Dry run-** Rehearsal
128. **Egg on-** To urge somebody
129. **Eighty six-** A certain item is no longer available. Or this idiom can also mean, to throw away
130. **Elvis has left the building-** The show has come to an end. It's all over
131. **Ethnic cleansing-** Killing of a certain ethnic or religious group on a massive scale
132. **Ever and anon-** Now and then
133. **Every cloud has a silver lining-** Be optimistic, even difficult times will lead to better days
134. **Every other (one)-** Every second (one), alternate (ones)
135. **Everything but the kitchen sink-** Almost everything and anything has been included
136. **Excuse my French-** Please forgive me for cussing
137. **Fabian policy-** Policy of delaying decisions
138. **Face-to-face-** Direct, personal; directly, personally (written without hyphens)
139. **Fair and wide-** Equal opportunity to all
140. **Far and wide-** Every where
141. **Few and far between-** Not frequent, unusual, rare
142. **Field day-** An enjoyable day or circumstance
143. **Fifty- fifty-** Divided into two equal parts
144. **Finding your feet-** To become more comfortable in whatever you are doing
145. **Finger licking good-** To become more comfortable in whatever you are doing
146. **Fire and brimstone-** A very tasty food or meal
147. **Fire and fury-** Fearful penalties
148. **First and foremost-** Extreme enthusiasm
149. **Fishy; doubtful-** Highest priority
150. **Fixed in your ways-** Not willing or wanting to change from your normal way of doing something
151. **Flash in the pan-** Something that shows potential or looks promising in the beginning but fails to deliver
152. **Flea market-** A swap meet. A place where people gather to buy and sell inexpensive goods
153. **Flesh and blood-** This idiom can mean living material of which people are made of, or it can refer to human nature
154. **Flip the bird-** To raise your middle finger at someone
155. **Foam at the mouth-** To be enraged and show it
156. **Fools' Gold-** Iron pyrites, a worthless rock that resembles real gold
157. **Foot the bill-** Bear expenses
158. **For good-** Permanently, forever
159. **For once-** This one time, for only one time
160. **For sure-** Without doubt (also: for certain)
161. **For the time being-** Temporarily (also: for now)
162. **Free and easy-** Natural and simple
163. **French kiss-** An open mouth kiss where tongues touch
164. **From now on-** From this time into the future
165. **From rags to riches-** To go from very poor to being very wealthy
166. **Fuddy- duddy-** An old-fashioned and foolish type of person
167. **Full monty-** This idiom can mean either, "The whole thing" or "Completely nude"
168. **Funny farm-** A mental institutional facility
169. **Gall and wormwood-** Source of irritation
170. **Get down to brass tacks-** To become serious about something
171. **Get over it-** To move beyond something that is bothering you
172. **Get up on the wrong side of the bed-** Someone who is having a horrible day
173. **Get your walking papers-** Get fired from the job
174. **Gird up the loins-** To be ready
175. **Give and take-** Compromise, cooperation between people
176. **Give him the slip-** To get away from, to escape
177. **Give in-** Surrender
178. **Go down like a lead balloon-** To be received badly by an audience
179. **Go for broke-** To gamble everything you have
180. **Go out on a limb-** Put yourself in a tough position in order to support someone/ something
181. **Go the extra mile-** Going above and beyond whatever is required for the task at hand
182. **Good Samaritan-** Someone who helps others when they are in need, with no discussion for

183. **Graveyard shift**- Working hours from about 12:00 am to 8.00
184. **Great minds think alike**- Intelligent people think like each other
185. **Green room**- The waiting room, especially for those who are about to go on a TV or radio show
186. **Gut feeling**- A personal intuition you get, especially when feel something may not be right
187. **Had better**- Should, ought to, be advisable to
188. **Hand a gloves**- Very intimate friends
189. **Hard and fast**- Certain
190. **Hard of hearing**- Partially deaf, not able to hear well
191. **Haste makes waste**- Quickly doing things results in a poor ending
192. **Hat Trick**- When one player scores three goals in the same hockey game.
193. **Haughty and naughty**- Arrogant and naughty
194. **Have an axe to grind**- To have a dispute with someone
195. **Have got**- To have, to possess
196. **Have got to**- Must (also: have to)
197. **He lost his head**- Angry and overcome by emotions
198. **Head and shoulder**- Superior
199. **Head over heels**- Very excited and/ or joyful, especially when in love
200. **Heart and soul**- With full devotion
201. **Hell in a hand basket**- Deteriorating and headed for complete disaster
202. **Helter Shelter**-Here and there
203. **Herculean task**- A tedious job
204. **High five**- Slapping palms above each others heads as celebration gesture
205. **High on the Hog**- Living in luxury
206. **Hit below the belt**- Contrary the principles of fairness
207. **Hit the books**- To study, especially for a test or exam
208. **Hit the hay**- Go to bed or go to sleep
209. **Hit the nail on the head**- Do something exactly right or say something exactly right
210. **Hit the sack**- Go to bed or go to sleep
211. **Hither and thither**- Here and there
212. **Hocus Pocus**- In general, a term used in magic or trickery
213. **Hold your horses**- Be patient
214. **Hole and corner policy**- A secret policy for an evil purpose
215. **Hornet's nest**- Raise controversy
216. **Hue and cry**- Great noise
217. **Hush money**- A bribe
218. **Icing on the cake**- When you already have it good and get something on top of what you already have
219. **Idle hands are the devil's tools**- You are more likely to get in trouble if you have nothing to do
220. **If it's not one thing, it's another**- When one thing goes wrong, then another, and another...
221. **Ill at ease**- Uncomfortable or worried in a situation
222. **In a hurry**- Hurried, rushed (also: in a rush)
223. **In case**- In order to be prepared if the meaning is in order to be prepared if something happens
224. **In hand**- Under firm control, well managed
225. **In like Flynn**- To be easily successful, especially when sexual or romantic
226. **In no time**- Very quickly, rapidly
227. **In the bag**- To have something secured
228. **In the buff**- Nude
229. **In the heat of the moment**- Overwhelmed by what is happening in the moment
230. **In the long run**- Eventually, after a long period of time
231. **In the worst way**- Very much, greatly
232. **In time to**- Before the time necessary to do something
233. **In touch**- Having contact
234. **In vain**- Useless, without the desired result
235. **In your face**- An aggressive and bold confrontation
236. **Ins and outs**- Full detail
237. **Inside out**- With the inside facing the outside
238. **Intents and purposes**- Practically
239. **It figures**- It seems likely, reasonable, or typical
240. **It takes two to tango**- A two person conflict where both people are at fault
241. **It's a small world**- You frequently see the same people in different places
242. **It anyone's call**- A competition where the outcome is difficult to judge or predict
243. **Ivory tower**- Imaginary world
244. **Ivy league**- Since 1954 the Ivy league has been the following universities: Columbia, Brown, Cornell
245. **Jaywalk**- Crossing the street (from the middle) without using the crosswalk

- 246. **Joshing me**- Tricking me
- 247. **Keep an eye on him**- You should carefully watch him. Keep an eye on
- 248. **Keep body** and soul together- To earn a sufficient amount of money in order to keep yourself alive
- 249. **Keep your chin up- To remain joyful in a tough situation**
- 250. **Kick the bucket**- Die
- 251. **Kith and kin**- Blood relatives
- 252. **Kitty-corner**- Diagonally across. Sometimes called Catty- Corner as well
- 253. **Knock on Wood**- Knuckle tapping on wood in order to avoid some bad luck
- 254. **Know the ropes**- To understand the details
- 255. **Last but not least**- An introduction phrase to let the audience know that the last person mentioned is also very important
- 256. **Last straw**- The final event in a series of unacceptable actions
- 257. **Latin and Greek**- Unable to understand
- 258. **Leave no stone unturned**- Make all possible efforts
- 259. **Lend me your ear**- To politely ask for someone's full attention
- 260. **Length and breadth**- All over
- 261. **Let along**- and certainly not (also: not to mention, to say nothing of)
- 262. **Let the cat out of the bag**- To share a secret that wasn't suppose to be shared
- 263. **Level playing field**- A fair competition where no side has an advantage
- 264. **Life and soul**- Main support
- 265. **Like a chicken and its head cut off**- To act in a frenzied manner
- 266. **Liquor someone up**- To get someone drunk
- 267. **Little by little**- Gradually, slowly (also: step by step)
- 268. **Live-wire**- Energetic
- 269. **Loaves and fish**- Material interests
- 270. **Lock and key**- In safe place
- 271. **Long in the tooth**- Old people (or horses)
- 272. **Loose cannon**- Someone who is unpredictable and can cause damage if not kept in check
- 273. **Make no bones about**- To state a fact so there are no doubts or objections
- 274. **Method to my madness**- Strange or crazy actions that appear meaningless but in the end are done for a good reason
- 275. **Might and main**- With all enthusiasm
- 276. **Milk and water**- Weak
- 277. **More or less**- Approximately, almost, somewhat, to a certain degree
- 278. **Mumbo Jumbo**- Nonsense or meaningless speech
- 279. **Mum's the word**- To keep quiet, To say nothing
- 280. **Narrow-minded**- Not willing to accept the ideas of others