



100 Idioms

A list of the 100 most frequently used idioms and their meaning

Idiom	Meaning
A load off someone's mind	Weight off someone's mind; something's no longer a worry for someone.
A picture paints a thousand words	a visual presentation is far more descriptive than words
A piece of cake	a job, task or other activity that is easy or simple
A tough cookie	determined and physically or emotionally strong
Above board	legal, open or honest
Actions speak louder than words	someone's intentions can be judged better by what they do than what they say
At odds	when things or people are in conflict, or against each other
At the drop of a hat	without any hesitation; instantly
Back against the wall	stuck in a difficult circumstance with no escape
Back to the drawing board	when an attempt fails and it's time to start all over
Barking up the wrong tree	accusing the wrong person or looking in the wrong place
Be on board with	be willing to go along with it, or to be enthusiastic about it



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Beat around the bush	to avoid talking about what's important
Beat the odds	you succeed at something in an unlikely way
Best thing since sliced bread	a good idea, plan or invention
Better late than never	better to arrive late than not to come at all
Blow hot and cold	alternate inconsistently between moods and actions
Break a leg	good luck
Break fresh/ new ground	doing something that has never been done before
Burn your bridges	Doing something that makes it impossible to go back to the original state.
By the skin of your teeth	By the smallest possible amount of time.
Call it a day/night	stop whatever you're doing, usually at least until the next day
Call someone out	to accuse someone of something, point out why something they did/said is a problem
Call the shots	someone tells people what to do



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Can't judge a book by its cover	you cannot judge something primarily on appearance
Close call	something bad almost happens to you but then it doesn't
Could eat a horse	extremely hungry
Cost an arm and a leg	cost a large amount of money
Cut corners	do something in an easier or least expensive manner
Cut it out	tell someone to stop something they're doing or saying
Cut someone some slack	not judging or criticizing someone too much
Cut someone off	to interrupt someone in the middle of a conversation
Don't put all your eggs in one basket	don't risk everything on the success of one venture
Double down	to put even more effort into an action once it begins to fail
Easy does it	slow down
Eat like a horse	Eating too excessively



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Every cloud has a silver lining	be optimistic, even difficult times will lead to better days
Feel something/ someone out	trying to get a better sense of something or someone
Feel under the weather	feeling sick/ill
Get away with something	you do something that you should get in trouble for, but you don't get in trouble
Get one's feet wet	to start doing something new, usually in a gentle way that's not too difficult
Get your act together	get organized and do things effectively
Go all out	putting a lot of effort or expense into something
Go back to the drawing board	start over
Good things come to those who wait	to be patient
Hang in there	a way of reassuring them that they'll get through a difficult time
Have butterflies in your stomach	to be excited or nervous
Have the upper hand	to have an advantage over someone



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Straight from the horse's mouth	to hear something from the authoritative source
Hit the sack	go to sleep
Hit the nail on the head	do or say something exactly right
In on something	to know about something that is a secret
It's not rocket science	it's not complicated
Jump/leap at the chance	eagerly take the opportunity
Jump down someone's throat	getting mad for something someone does or says, angry for something small
Jump ship	get yourself out of a situation, or abandon a plan
Jump through hoops	do a lot of things to get what you want
Keep an ear to the ground	staying informed and updated about everything
Keep your cool	to stay calm
Kill two birds with one stone	to accomplish two different things at the same time



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Last straw	the final problem in a series of problems
Left out in the cold	being ignored
Let sleeping dogs lie	do not disturb a situation as it is - since it would result in trouble or complications
Let the cat out of the bag	to share information that was previously concealed
Make a long story short	come to the point and leave out the details
Nail down	to establish or figure something out
No pain, no gain	you have to work for what you want
On cloud nine	being very happy
On the ball	alert and efficient
Once in a blue moon	happens very rarely
Out of touch	someone does not have an understanding of current times
Pull someone's leg	to tease someone



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Pull through	to get through some kind of tough situation, like an illness or injury
Run around in circles	put effort into something that does not gain a worthwhile result
Scrape the barrel	making the most of a bad situation or things, as you can't do anything about it
See eye to eye	two, or more, people agree on something
Sell like hot cakes	quickly selling out
Sit on the fence	someone does not want to choose or make a decision
Sleep in	to sleep late
Stand for something	you're in favor of that thing, or you represent it
Stand up to	to refuse to let someone or something overpower or intimidate you
Steal someone's thunder	take the credit for something someone else did
Take a load off	a casual way to invite someone to sit down
Take a stand	stating your belief in an issue, or committing to a cause



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Take one's time	moving at your own pace, even if it's slow
Take something on	to accept a new project or responsibility
Take stock of something	to analyze something, or consider its current state
Take with a grain of salt	not to take what someone says too seriously
Taste of your own medicine	something happens to you, or is done to you, that you have done to someone else
Throw in the towel	giving up or accepting defeat
Touch base	to check in with someone, usually for a particular reason
Touch on something	to bring up
Touch up something	to restore/improve something, to make it look more new
Snowball effect	the aspect of momentum in every event and how they build upon each other
Up in arms	being grumpy or angry about something
Up to something	you might be planning or doing something that you don't want others to know about



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Up to speed	you're up to date or familiar with something
You can't have your cake and eat it too	to have or do two good things at the same time that are impossible to have or do at
Whole nine yards	everything; all of it
Your guess is as good as mine	I do not know