

A List of Common English Idioms

What is an idiom? An idiom is a phrase or expression that has a figurative meaning different from the literal meaning of the words themselves.

1. Break a leg

- **Meaning:** Good luck! (Often said to performers before they go on stage).
- **Example:** "You have your piano exam? Break a leg!"

2. A piece of cake

- **Meaning:** Something that is very easy to do.
- **Example:** "That math test was a piece of cake."

3. Hit the sack

- **Meaning:** To go to bed.
- **Example:** "I'm exhausted. I'm going to hit the sack."

4. Bite the bullet

- **Meaning:** To force yourself to do something difficult or unpleasant.
- **Example:** "I don't want to clean the garage, but I'll just have to bite the bullet and do it."

5. When pigs fly

- **Meaning:** Something that will never happen.
- **Example:** "He'll clean his room when pigs fly!"

6. Spill the beans

- **Meaning:** To reveal a secret.
- **Example:** "We were planning a surprise party, but Sarah spilled the beans."

7. The ball is in your court

- **Meaning:** It is your turn to make a decision or take action.
- **Example:** "I've made my offer; now the ball is in your court."

8. On the ball

- **Meaning:** To be alert, competent, and aware of what is happening.
- **Example:** "The new manager is really on the ball; she fixed the problem immediately."

9. Under the weather

- **Meaning:** To feel slightly ill or sick.
- **Example:** "I'm feeling a bit under the weather, so I won't come to the party."

10. Kill two birds with one stone

- **Meaning:** To accomplish two things at the same time with a single action.
- **Example:** "By going to the supermarket on my way home, I kill two birds with one stone."

11. Once in a blue moon

- **Meaning:** Very rarely.
- **Example:** "He only visits his hometown once in a blue moon."

12. The last straw

- **Meaning:** The final problem in a series of problems that makes someone lose their patience.
- **Example:** "When he was late for the third time, it was the last straw. She broke up with him."

13. Cost an arm and a leg

- **Meaning:** To be extremely expensive.
- **Example:** "Fixing the car cost me an arm and a leg."

14. See eye to eye

- **Meaning:** To agree with someone.
- **Example:** "My brother and I don't always see eye to eye on politics."

15. Hang in there

- **Meaning:** Don't give up; be patient and persistent.
- **Example:** "I know your job is tough right now, but just hang in there."

16. Out of the blue

- **Meaning:** Suddenly and unexpectedly.
- **Example:** "After ten years, she called me out of the blue."

17. A blessing in disguise

- **Meaning:** Something that seems bad at first but results in something good.
- **Example:** "Losing that job was a blessing in disguise; it led me to a much better career."

18. Hit the nail on the head

- **Meaning:** To describe exactly what is causing a situation or problem.
- **Example:** "You hit the nail on the head when you said we need better communication."

19. Let the cat out of the bag

- **Meaning:** To accidentally reveal a secret.
- **Example:** "I let the cat out of the bag about their wedding plans."

20. A dime a dozen

- **Meaning:** Something very common and not special.
- **Example:** "Those little souvenirs are a dime a dozen at the beach."

21. Beat around the bush

- **Meaning:** To avoid talking about what is important; to delay or avoid the main point.
- **Example:** "Stop beating around the bush and tell me what you really think."

22. Cut corners

- **Meaning:** To do something in the easiest or cheapest way, often resulting in lower quality.
- **Example:** "They cut corners building this house, and now we have problems."

23. Get out of hand

- **Meaning:** To become chaotic and difficult to control.
- **Example:** "The party got a little out of hand after midnight."

24. A storm in a teacup

- **Meaning:** Great outrage or excitement about a trivial matter.
- **Example:** "Their argument was just a storm in a teacup; they made up an hour later."

25. Through thick and thin

- **Meaning:** Through good times and bad times; consistently.
- **Example:** "My best friend has supported me through thick and thin."