Easy Idiom Examples

Idiom	Meaning	Usage	Sentence Example
A Piece of Cake	Very easy	Completing the assignment was a piece of cake.	With his experience, fixing the car engine was a piece of cake for him.
All Ears	Eager to listen or hear	She was all ears during the interesting lecture.	Whenever he mentioned travel, she was all ears , ready to hear his adventures.
Back to the Drawing Board	Starting over because of a failed attempt	The project didn't work out, so it's back to the drawing board.	After the prototype failed, they realized it was back to the drawing board for their design.
Barking Up the Wrong Tree	Pursuing the wrong course of action or making a mistaken assumption	Accusing him of stealing was barking up the wrong tree; he was innocent.	The detective realized he had been barking up the wrong tree

			when the real culprit was found.
Best of Both Worlds	Enjoying the benefits of two different opportunities	Working part-time allows her to have the best of both worlds.	Living in the countryside while having access to the city's amenities is like having the best of both worlds .
Bite the Bullet	Face a difficult or unpleasant situation bravely	When the time came to deliver the news, he had to bite the bullet .	He knew he had to bite the bullet and confess his mistake.
Break the Ice	To start a conversation or social interaction in a friendly manner	He tried to break the ice by telling a joke.	At the party, she wanted to break the ice by asking about everyone's hobbies.
Burning the Midnight Oil	Working late into the night	He was burning the midnight oil to finish the report.	The team had been burning the midnight oil to meet the project deadline.
Cross Your Fingers	Hope for good luck or success	Cross your fingers that the weather stays clear for the event.	She crossed her fingers and wished for the job opportunity.

Cry over Spilled Milk	Worrying about something that has already happened and can't be changed	There's no use in crying over spilled milk ; let's find a solution.	After the accident, he realized that crying over spilled milk wouldn't fix the damage.
Cut to the Chase	Get to the point or skip unnecessary details	Instead of a long introduction, let's cut to the chase .	In the meeting, he preferred to cut to the chase and discuss the main issue right away.
Down the Drain	Wasted or lost, often due to poor choices or actions	The money spent on the project went down the drain .	His efforts to repair the antique vase went down the drain when it shattered further.
Drop in the Bucket	A small and insignificant amount	The donation was generous, but it's just a drop in the bucket.	His savings are just a drop in the bucket compared to the cost of buying a house.
Face the Music	Accept the consequences of one's actions	After breaking the rules, he had to face the music .	She knew that if she was caught cheating, she would have to face the music.

Fish out of Water	Feeling uncomfortable or out of place in a new environment	In the bustling city, he felt like a fish out of water.	Being from a small town, she was like a fish out of water in the urban setting.
Hit the Nail on the Head	Describe or identify something exactly right	Her explanation hit the nail on the head.	His analysis hit the nail on the head and accurately pinpointed the issue.
In the Blink of an Eye	Very quickly, almost instantaneously	The thief vanished in the blink of an eye.	The car sped past in the blink of an eye, leaving no time for reaction.
Jump on the Bandwagon	Join a trend or popular activity	Many people jumped on the bandwagon of the latest diet fad.	After the success of the first product, other companies quickly jumped on the bandwagon.
Keep an Eye on the Ball	Pay close attention and stay focused	During the competition, she reminded herself to keep an eye on the ball.	In order to succeed, he knew he had to keep an eye on the ball and not get distracted.

Leave No	Examine	The detective vowed to	To find the lost ring,
Stone	thoroughly and	leave no stone	she decided to leave
Unturned	exhaust all	unturned in the	no stone unturned
	possibilities	investigation.	and search every
			room.
Like a Fish	Very comfortable	In the kitchen, she	With her experience,
in Water	and natural in a	moved around like a	she danced on stage
	particular situation	fish in water.	like a fish in water,
			full of grace.
Make a	Summarize a	To make a long story	After hours of
Long Story	lengthy narrative	short , they decided to	recounting the trip,
Short	quickly	elope.	she finally said, " To
	quieinj	crope.	make a long story
			short , we had a
			fantastic time."
			lantastic time.
Miss the	Miss an	He regretted not	She realized she had
Boat	opportunity	investing earlier, feeling	missed the boat
		he had missed the	when the job posting
		boat.	closed.
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On the	In agreement and	It's important for the	The project succeeded
Same Page	understanding with	team to be on the same	because everyone was
	others	page.	on the same page
			regarding their roles.

Piece of the Pie	A share in a larger opportunity or benefit	Everyone should get a piece of the pie in the company's success.	She felt proud to have contributed and earned her piece of the pie in the project.
Read Between the Lines	Understand the hidden or implied meaning	Read between the lines of the contract to uncover any hidden terms.	To understand her true feelings, you have to read between the lines of her words.
See Eye to Eye	Agree with someone	They didn't always see eye to eye on political matters.	Although they had different opinions, they managed to see eye to eye on the project's goals.
Spill the Beans	Reveal a secret or disclose information	She couldn't help but spill the beans about the surprise party.	He promised not to spill the beans about the upcoming product launch.
Take It with a Grain of Salt	Be skeptical about information or advice	When reading online reviews, it's wise to take them with a grain of salt.	He advised her to take it with a grain of salt and consider other opinions before deciding.

Throw in	Give up or	After several failed	Feeling overwhelmed,
the Towel	surrender	attempts, he decided to	she was tempted to
		throw in the towel.	throw in the towel,
			but her determination
			kept her going.
To Each His	Different people	He likes action movies,	In matters of taste, to
Own	have different	and she prefers romantic	each his own;
	preferences	ones; to each his own.	there's no
			one-size-fits-all.
Under the	Not feeling well or	She had to call in sick	He couldn't join the
Weather	slightly ill	because she was feeling	hike as he was under
		under the weather.	the weather and
			needed rest.
Up in the	Uncertain or	The decision is still up	Whether to expand
Air	undecided	in the air, pending	the business is up in
		further discussion.	the air; they need to
			evaluate the risks.
Walking on	Being cautious to	She felt like she was	In sensitive
Eggshells	avoid causing	walking on eggshells	situations, it's best to
	offense or trouble	around her boss.	walk on eggshells
			to maintain harmony.
When Pigs	Something that is	"I'll believe it when pigs	The idea of him
Fly	highly unlikely or	fly!" she exclaimed,	cleaning his room
	improbable	doubting the claim.	willingly is like when

			pigs fly—it won't happen.
You Can't Judge a Book by Its Cover	You can't judge someone or something based on appearance alone	She realized that you can't judge a book by its cover when she got to know him better.	You can't judge a book by its cover, and she discovered the person's hidden talents.
Zip Your Lip	Be quiet or stop talking	She told him to zip his lip during the movie.	The teacher had to remind the class to zip their lips during the test.
All Ears	Eager and ready to listen	When she started telling a story, we were all ears.	The students were all ears as the guest speaker shared her experiences.
Back to the Drawing Board	Back to the beginning or start over	The prototype didn't work, so they had to go back to the drawing board.	After the failed experiment, they decided to go back to the drawing board and revise their approach.
Beat Around the Bush	Avoid addressing a topic directly	Stop beating around the bush and tell me the truth.	Instead of answering the question, he kept beating around the

			bush with vague responses.
Bite the Bullet	Face a difficult or unpleasant situation	She had to bite the bullet and apologize for the mistake.	When the time came, he had to bite the bullet and confront his fear of public speaking.
Break a Leg	Wish someone good luck, especially before a performance	"Break a leg!" they said to the actor before the play.	Before the big presentation, her colleagues encouraged her with a cheerful "Break a leg!"
Burning the Midnight Oil	Working late into the night	He was burning the midnight oil to finish the project.	With the deadline approaching, they were burning the midnight oil to complete the report.
Butter Someone Up	Flatter or compliment someone excessively	She tried to butter him up before asking for a favor.	Hoping for a raise, he started to butter up his boss by praising his leadership.
By the Book	According to established rules and procedures	He always does things by the book to avoid mistakes.	The company's policies required that they handle the

			situation by the book.
Call It a Day	Decide to finish work or an activity for the day	We were tired, so we decided to call it a day .	After hours of painting, they decided to call it a day and continue tomorrow.
Close but No Cigar	Almost successful but not quite	He came in second place; it was close but no cigar.	While he made significant progress, it was close but no cigar in achieving his goal.
Cry Over Spilt Milk	Regret something that has already happened	There's no use crying over spilt milk ; let's find a solution.	He realized that crying over spilt milk wouldn't change the situation, so he focused on the future.
Don't Cry Wolf	Give a false alarm or raise a false alarm	He had a habit of crying wolf about minor issues.	After repeatedly crying wolf, nobody took him seriously when a real problem occurred.
Elephant in the Room	An obvious and significant problem	We need to address the elephant in the room : our budget deficit.	Although it was uncomfortable, they had to discuss the elephant in the

	that everyone ignores or avoids		room during the meeting.
Fish Out of Water	Feeling uncomfortable or out of place in a new environment	In the bustling city, he felt like a fish out of water.	As a small-town girl in the big city, she often felt like a fish out of water.
From Scratch	Starting something from the beginning, with no prior work	They built the company from scratch.	They decided to create the project from scratch to ensure it met their specific requirements.
Get Cold Feet	Become nervous or have second thoughts about a decision or action	He had cold feet about proposing but went through with it.	Before the big jump, she got cold feet but eventually took the plunge.
Go the Extra Mile	Make additional effort or do more than what is expected	To succeed, you often need to go the extra mile.	The employee's willingness to go the extra mile for clients made the company stand out.
Hit the Nail on the Head	Describe something accurately and precisely	She hit the nail on the head when she identified the problem.	His analysis hit the nail on the head and pinpointed the cause of the issue.

Jump the	Act prematurely or	He jumped the gun by	They decided not to
Gun	start something too	announcing the project	jump the gun and
	soon	before it was confirmed.	wait for official
			confirmation.
Keep an Eye	Stay focused on a	In order to succeed, it's	She reminded her
on the Ball	goal or task	essential to keep an	team to keep an eye
		eye on the ball.	on the ball and not
			get distracted by
			minor details.
Kick the	Euphemism for	Sadly, he kicked the	They remembered the
Bucket	dying or passing	bucket at the age of 90.	remarkable life he
	away		lived when he kicked
			the bucket.
Let the Cat	Reveal a secret or	He let the cat out of	She accidentally let
Out of the	disclose	the bag by revealing the	the cat out of the
Bag	information	surprise party.	bag about the
	prematurely		upcoming project.
Miss the	Miss an	If you don't apply now,	He regretted not
Boat	opportunity or	you might miss the	investing earlier when
	chance	boat for the scholarship.	he realized he had
			missed the boat on
			the stock market.

Needle in a Haystack	Something extremely hard to find	Finding his lost key in the park was like looking for a needle in a haystack.	Searching for the tiny earring in the sand was like searching for a needle in a haystack.
Play It by Ear	Make decisions as you go along, without a fixed plan	We'll play it by ear and decide our vacation activities spontaneously.	With no set schedule, they decided to play it by ear and explore the city freely.
Pull Someone's Leg	Tease or joke with someone in a playful manner	Don't believe him; he's just pulling your leg .	He enjoyed pulling his friend's leg by pretending to believe outrageous stories.
Put All Your Eggs in One Basket	Rely on one single plan or investment	She cautioned him not to put all his eggs in one basket with that risky business venture.	Diversifying investments is often wiser than putting all your eggs in one basket.
Read Between the Lines	Understand a deeper or hidden meaning in what is said	When she said she was "fine," he knew to read between the lines .	His letter was full of clues, and she had to read between the lines to uncover his true feelings.

Rule of	A general or	As a rule of thumb,	The rule of thumb
Thumb	practical guideline	save at least 20% of your income.	in cooking is to measure ingredients with your palm.
See Eye to Eye	Agree with someone or have the same opinion	They didn't see eye to eye on the project's direction.	Despite their differences, they managed to see eye to eye on the important issues.
Set the Ball Rolling	Start an activity or process	She decided to set the ball rolling on the charity event.	His enthusiasm helped set the ball rolling for the new project.
Sink or Swim	Face a challenge with no other option than to succeed	It's a tough job, and you have to sink or swim in this industry.	They were given no choice but to sink or swim when the competition increased.
Spill the Beans	Reveal a secret or confidential information	She accidentally spilled the beans about the surprise party.	He was furious when his friend spilled the beans about his surprise gift.

Straight	Information	I heard it straight	He trusted the news
from the	received directly	from the horse's	because it came
Horse's	from the original	mouth – the boss is	straight from the
Mouth	source	promoting you.	horse's mouth -
			the CEO himself.
Take the	Confront a difficult	She decided to take the	Instead of avoiding it,
Bull by the	or challenging	bull by the horns and	he chose to take the
Horns	situation directly	address the issue	bull by the horns
		head-on.	and tackle the
			problem.
Taste of	Experience	He finally got a taste of	After years of teasing,
Your Own	something negative	his own medicine	he got a taste of his
Medicine	that you previously	when he had to wait for	own medicine when
	inflicted on others	hours.	his friends played a
			prank on him.
The Ball Is	It's your turn to	He handed over the	After receiving the
in Your	take action or make	project, saying, "Now,	proposal, she knew
Court	a decision	the ball is in your	that the ball was in
		court."	her court to make a
			decision.
The Best of	Enjoy the benefits	Morling part time	With a view of the
Both Worlds	Enjoy the benefits of two different	Working part-time allows her to have the	mountains and the
Dom Worlds	situations	best of both worlds:	beach, their vacation
	simultaneously	job and family.	offered the best of
	Simultaneously	Job and family.	both worlds.
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Throw in the Towel	Give up on a task or activity due to frustration or exhaustion	After hours of searching, they decided to throw in the towel.	Despite their efforts, they were forced to throw in the towel and admit defeat.
Turn a Blind Eye	Deliberately ignore or pretend not to notice something	The manager chose to turn a blind eye to minor rule violations.	She couldn't turn a blind eye to the injustice she witnessed and reported it.
Turn Over a New Leaf	Begin anew or make a fresh start	After the divorce, he decided to turn over a new leaf and focus on his career.	She resolved to turn over a new leaf by adopting a healthier lifestyle.
Under the Weather	Not feeling well or slightly sick	She didn't go to school because she was under the weather.	He felt under the weather and took a sick day to rest at home.
Up in the Air	Uncertain or unresolved, still being decided or discussed	The future of the project is up in the air until the board decides.	The date for the event is up in the air ; they haven't finalized it yet.
Wake Up on the Wrong	Start the day in a bad mood	He seemed to have woken up on the	She didn't want to talk to anyone because she had woken up on the

Side of the Bed		wrong side of the bed; he was so grumpy.	wrong side of the bed.
Wear Your Heart on Your Sleeve	Show your emotions openly	She wears her heart on her sleeve; you can always tell how she feels.	Unlike him, she's not afraid to wear her heart on her sleeve and express her feelings.
When Pigs Fly	Express extreme skepticism or doubt about something happening	"You'll finish your homework early today." "Yeah, right, when pigs fly."	He promised to clean his room, but it will happen only when pigs fly.
Wild Goose Chase	Fruitless or futile pursuit, chasing something unattainable	Searching for the lost key became a wild goose chase as it was never found.	His quest for the legendary treasure turned out to be a wild goose chase.
You Can't Have Your Cake and Eat It Too	You can't have everything, especially if it contradicts	She wanted to retire early and travel, but she also wanted to save money – you can't have your cake and eat it too.	He wished for both good grades and never studying – he soon realized you can't have your cake and eat it too.
Your Guess Is as Good as Mine	I don't know, and I have no more	"When will they arrive?" "Honestly, your guess is as good as mine."	He asked about the outcome of the match, and she replied, your

	information than you do		guess is as good as mine.
Zip Your Lip	Be silent or stop talking	The teacher told the noisy students to zip their lips.	During the movie, everyone was asked to zip their lips to avoid disturbing others.
Turn Over a New Leaf	Begin anew or make a fresh start	After the divorce, he decided to turn over a new leaf and focus on his career.	She resolved to turn over a new leaf by adopting a healthier lifestyle.
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Wake Up on the Wrong Side of the Bed	Start the day in a bad mood	He seemed to have woken up on the wrong side of the bed; he was so grumpy.	She didn't want to talk to anyone because she had woken up on the

			wrong side of the bed.
Wear Your Heart on Your Sleeve	Show your emotions openly	She wears her heart on her sleeve; you can always tell how she feels.	Unlike him, she's not afraid to wear her heart on her sleeve and express her feelings.
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Your Guess Is as Good as Mine	I don't know, and I have no more	"When will they arrive?" "Honestly, your guess is as good as mine."	He asked about the outcome of the match, and she replied, your

	information than you do		guess is as good as mine.
Zip Your Lip	Be silent or stop talking	The teacher told the noisy students to zip their lips .	During the movie, everyone was asked to zip their lips to avoid disturbing others.
In the Doghouse	In trouble or disfavored with someone	After forgetting their anniversary, he found himself in the doghouse with his wife.	He broke his friend's favorite toy and was in the doghouse for weeks.
Keep Your Chin Up	Stay positive and hopeful, even in difficult situations	She told him to keep his chin up despite the setbacks in his business.	Even during tough times, she always kept her chin up and encouraged others.
A Piece of Cake	Something very easy or simple to do	The math test was a piece of cake for him; he got a perfect score.	Cooking dinner for her was a piece of cake , and she enjoyed it.
Bite the Bullet	Face a difficult or unpleasant situation head-on	He had to bite the bullet and apologize for his mistake.	She decided to bite the bullet and confront her fear of public speaking.

Break a Leg	Wish someone good luck, especially before a performance	"Break a leg!" the director said to the actor before the play.	She texted her friend, "You'll do great on your exam – break a leg!"
Butterflies in My Stomach	Feeling nervous or anxious, often before an important event	Before the interview, she had butterflies in her stomach.	He confessed that he always had butterflies in his stomach before public speaking.
Cross Your Fingers	Hope for good luck or success	"I hope I win the lottery," she said while crossing her fingers.	He was crossing his fingers for good weather on the day of his outdoor event.
Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk	Don't worry about something that can't be changed	She spilled her coffee but decided not to cry over spilled milk .	He reminded her not to cry over spilled milk when her phone broke; it was an accident.
Down the Drain	Wasted or lost, often referring to time, effort, or money	All their hard work went down the drain when the project was canceled.	He realized that his investment had gone down the drain as the company went bankrupt.

Get Cold Feet	Become nervous or anxious before a significant event	He got cold feet on the morning of his wedding and almost didn't go through with it.	Before the big presentation, she admitted to getting cold feet and asked for support.
Hit the Hay	Go to bed or go to sleep	After a long day at work, he was ready to hit the hay.	She told her children it was time to hit the hay and get some rest.
In Hot Water	In trouble or facing consequences	He found himself in hot water after the misunderstanding with his boss.	She got in hot water for forgetting her friend's birthday.
It Takes Two to Tango	Both parties are responsible for a situation or problem	She argued that it takes two to tango and they both contributed to the disagreement.	He acknowledged that it takes two to tango and they needed to work together to resolve the issue.
Jump on the Bandwagon	Join a popular trend or activity	Many companies jumped on the bandwagon of sustainability initiatives.	She decided to jump on the bandwagon and start her own podcast after seeing their success.

Keep Your Fingers Crossed	Hope for a positive outcome, often in a situation of uncertainty	"I hope I get the job," he said while keeping his fingers crossed .	She was keeping her fingers crossed for good news about her scholarship application.
Let the Cat Out of the Bag	Reveal a secret or disclose information that was supposed to be confidential	He accidentally let the cat out of the bag about the surprise party.	She promised not to let the cat out of the bag about the upcoming project until the official
Let the Chips Fall Where They May	Allow events to unfold naturally, without interference	He decided to let the chips fall where they may and see what would happen.	She chose not to meddle and decided to let the chips fall where they may.
Make a Long Story Short	Summarize or get to the point quickly	He began to make a long story short and explained the key details.	Instead of a lengthy explanation, she decided to make a long story short.
Miss the Boat	Miss an opportunity or fail to take advantage of something	He didn't invest in the stock market, and he felt like he missed the boat.	She realized she had missed the boat on the sale when all the items were sold out.

No Pain, No Gain	Achieving success requires hard work and effort	She believed in the motto no pain , no gain and trained diligently.	He reminded himself that no pain , no gain applied to achieving his fitness goals.
On Cloud Nine	Extremely happy or joyful	After receiving the good news, she was on cloud nine all day.	Winning the championship left them on cloud nine with excitement.
Once in a Blue Moon	Something that happens very rarely or infrequently	They met up for dinner once in a blue moon due to their busy schedules.	Seeing a shooting star is a once in a blue moon event; it's quite rare.
Play It by Ear	Make decisions or plans as you go, without a fixed schedule	They decided to play it by ear and explore the city without a strict plan.	Instead of having a detailed itinerary, they chose to play it by ear during their trip.
Pull Someone's Leg	Tease or joke with someone, often in a playful manner	He was just pulling her leg when he said he won the lottery.	She knew he was pulling her leg with his exaggerated stories.

Put All Your Eggs in One Basket	Rely on one single plan or option, which can be risky	Investing all his savings in a single stock was like putting all his eggs in one basket.	She advised her friend not to put all his eggs in one basket and diversify his investments.
Put in Your Two Cents	Offer your opinion or give input, often unsolicited	She couldn't resist putting in her two cents about the new project.	He always had to put in his two cents during meetings, even if no one asked.
Rain on Someone's Parade	Spoil someone's plans or joy	She didn't want to rain on his parade , so she didn't mention the bad news.	His negative comments seemed to rain on their parade of excitement.
Read Between the Lines	Understand a hidden or implied meaning in something	She asked him to read between the lines of the cryptic message.	It's important to read between the lines of contracts to grasp the finer details.
See Eye to Eye	Agree or have the same viewpoint	They often disagreed, but on this issue, they finally saw eye to eye .	Finding common ground allowed them to see eye to eye and work together.

Shoot	Act in a way that	By refusing the job offer,	Her impulsive
Yourself in	harms your own	he felt like he shot	decision seemed to
the Foot	interests or goals	himself in the foot.	shoot herself in
			the foot when it
			came to her career.
Sick as a	Very ill or sick	After catching the flu, he	She felt sick as a
Dog		was sick as a dog and	dog after eating
		couldn't get out of bed.	spoiled food, and it
			ruined her weekend
			plans.
Sock It to	Give it to me, do it	She told the stylist, "Just	He asked his friend to
Me	to me, or provide a	sock it to me; I trust	sock it to him with
	surprise or	your judgment."	an honest critique of
	punishment		his performance.
Spill the	Reveal a secret or	She accidentally spilled	He promised not to
Beans	disclose	the beans about the	spill the beans
	confidential	surprise party to the	about the confidential
	information	birthday girl.	project until it was
			officially announced.
Take It with	Be skeptical about	When he heard the	She told her friend to
a Grain of	something, not	rumor, he decided to	take it with a grain
Salt	entirely believe it	take it with a grain of	of salt because
		salt until he had more	gossip could be
		information.	exaggerated.

The Ball Is	It's your turn to	She passed the project to	He reminded her that
in Your	make a decision or	him and said, "Now, the	the ball is in her
Court	take action	ball is in your court."	court and it was her
		,	choice to make.
The Best of	Enjoy the benefits	Living in a quiet town	Their vacation
Both Worlds	of two different	near nature while having	destination provided
	things	a job in the city offers	the best of both
	simultaneously	the best of both	worlds – relaxation
		worlds.	and adventure.
The Last	The final,	Her lateness was the	His failure to
Straw	intolerable event or	last straw, and he	complete the project
	situation that	decided to end their	on time was the last
	causes a reaction	partnership.	straw for his boss.
The Writing	Clear indications or	The declining sales were	She ignored the
on the Wall	signs of a future	the writing on the	writing on the wall
	event or outcome	wall that changes were	about the company's
		needed.	financial troubles.
Throw in	Give up or quit,	After hours of trying, he	She urged him not to
the Towel	especially in the	decided to throw in the	throw in the towel
	face of difficulty	towel and admit defeat.	and keep pursuing his
			dream.
Under One's	Accomplishments	After years of working in	She was proud of all
Belt	or experiences one	various countries, he had	the knowledge and
	has accumulated		skills under her belt

		many achievements under his belt.	after completing multiple courses.
Up to Your Ears	Deeply involved or overwhelmed with something	With all the work deadlines, he was up to his ears in tasks.	She found herself up to her ears in preparations for the big event.
Walking on Air	Feeling elated, joyful, or extremely happy	After the promotion, he was walking on air for days.	Winning the championship left her walking on air with pride.
You Can't Judge a Book by Its Cover	Don't judge someone or something based on appearances alone	Although he looked unfriendly, she knew that you can't judge a book by its cover.	The worn-out book had a beautiful story inside, proving you can't judge a book by its cover.

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