

Funny Idiom Examples

Idiom	Meaning	Usage	Sentence Example
Cry over spilled milk	To lament over past mistakes	Common	"Stop crying over spilled milk; we can still fix the situation."
Go bananas	To go crazy or wild	Casual	"I'll go bananas if I have to sit in this traffic much longer."
A penny for your thoughts	Asking what someone is thinking	Conversational	"You've been quiet; a penny for your thoughts?"
Piece of cake	Something very easy	Everyday	"The exam was a piece of cake."
Bite the bullet	Face a difficult situation bravely	Formal	"Sometimes you just have to bite the bullet and face the consequences."

Hit the hay	Go to bed	Casual	"It's late; let's hit the hay."
When pigs fly	Something unlikely to happen	Conversational	"He'll clean his room when pigs fly."
Raining cats and dogs	Heavy rainfall	Casual	"I forgot my umbrella, and it's raining cats and dogs outside."
Break the ice	Start a conversation in an awkward situation	Business	"A joke is a good way to break the ice in meetings."
Barking up the wrong tree	Accusing the wrong person	Formal	"If you think I took your book, you're barking up the wrong tree."
Beating around the bush	Avoiding the main topic	Everyday	"Stop beating around the bush and get to the point."
Let the cat out of the bag	Reveal a secret	Casual	"She let the cat out of the bag about the surprise party."
The ball is in your court	Your turn to take action	Business	"I've done my part, now the ball is in your court."

A watched pot never boils	Time seems to slow down when waiting	Casual	"Stop checking your phone; a watched pot never boils."
Birds of a feather flock together	People with similar tastes stick together	Conversational	"You two are always together; birds of a feather flock together."
Don't count your chickens before they hatch	Don't plan for something that isn't certain	Common	"You haven't won yet; don't count your chickens before they hatch."
The early bird catches the worm	Arriving early gives advantages	Everyday	"She always wakes up early because the early bird catches the worm."
In hot water	In trouble	Formal	"He's in hot water with his boss for missing the deadline."
Beat a dead horse	Continue to discuss a resolved matter	Conversational	"You're beating a dead horse; we already solved that issue."
Cast in stone	Unchangeable	Business	"The contract is not cast in stone, so we can still negotiate."

Jump on the bandwagon	Join a popular trend	Casual	"Everyone's playing that game; let's jump on the bandwagon."
Out of the frying pan into the fire	Go from a bad situation to a worse one	Everyday	"She left a boring job and now she's unemployed; out of the frying pan into the fire."
Burn the midnight oil	Work late into the night	Business	"He's burning the midnight oil to meet the deadline."
Up in the air	Uncertain or unresolved	Formal	"Our holiday plans are still up in the air."
Cut corners	Do something in the easiest or cheapest way	Business	"We can't cut corners on this project; quality is key."
To be on cloud nine	To be extremely happy	Conversational	"She was on cloud nine after getting the promotion."
Go the extra mile	Do more than is required	Everyday	"She always goes the extra mile to make guests feel welcome."

Read between the lines	Understand the hidden meaning	Formal	"If you read between the lines, you'll see he's unhappy."
Keep your chin up	Remain optimistic	Conversational	"Times are tough, but keep your chin up."
Take it with a grain of salt	Be skeptical	Everyday	"I'd take that advice with a grain of salt."
Cost an arm and a leg	Very expensive	Casual	"That new car must have cost an arm and a leg."
Off the hook	No longer in trouble	Casual	"He paid the fine, so now he's off the hook."
Add fuel to the fire	Worsen a situation	Everyday	"Arguing simply adds fuel to the fire."
Pull someone's leg	Joke or tease	Conversational	"I'm just pulling your leg; I didn't really win the lottery."
Caught red-handed	Caught in the act of doing something wrong	Formal	"He was caught red-handed stealing the cookies."

Don't judge a book by its cover	Don't judge something by its appearance	Everyday	"He may look tough, but don't judge a book by its cover."
The tip of the iceberg	A small part of a bigger issue	Business	"These problems are just the tip of the iceberg."
Speak of the devil	The person you're talking about appears	Casual	"Speak of the devil, here comes Jane!"
Throw in the towel	To give up	Everyday	"He threw in the towel and quit his job."
Out of the blue	Unexpectedly	Casual	"He called me out of the blue after years of no contact."
Play your cards right	Make good decisions	Everyday	"If you play your cards right, you could be promoted soon."
Give the cold shoulder	Ignore someone	Casual	"He gave me the cold shoulder at the party."
Fit as a fiddle	Very healthy	Everyday	"After his workout regimen, he's fit as a fiddle."

Get a taste of your own medicine	Receive the same treatment you've given to others	Conversational	"She bullied others, and then got a taste of her own medicine."
A penny for your thoughts	Asking someone what they're thinking	Casual	"You look concerned, a penny for your thoughts?"
A picture is worth a thousand words	Images convey more than text can	Formal	"Rather than describe it, I showed photos because a picture is worth a thousand words."
A leopard can't change its spots	Someone can't change their inherent nature	Everyday	"He lied again; a leopard can't change its spots."
To have the upper hand	To have control over a situation	Business	"With that info, we have the upper hand in negotiations."
To let the cat out of the bag	To reveal a secret	Casual	"Don't let the cat out of the bag about the party."

Walk on eggshells	Be extremely cautious around someone	Everyday	"I'm walking on eggshells around her after our argument."
A watched pot never boils	Time feels longer when waiting	Conversational	"Stop checking your phone; a watched pot never boils."
Actions speak louder than words	What you do is more important than what you say	Formal	"Don't just apologize; actions speak louder than words."
Be a piece of cake	To be very easy	Casual	"The exam was a piece of cake."
Go against the grain	Go against the norm	Everyday	"Her fashion sense really goes against the grain."
Out of left field	Something unexpected	Casual	"His decision to quit came out of left field."
The ball is in your court	It's your decision now	Business	"I've done all I can; the ball is in your court now."
Don't put all your eggs in one basket	Don't risk everything on a single venture	Everyday	"Invest in different stocks; don't put all

			your eggs in one basket."
Get your ducks in a row	Get organized	Business	"Before the meeting, let's get our ducks in a row."
The best of both worlds	All the advantages	Casual	"With remote work, you get the best of both worlds."
Time flies when you're having fun	Time passes quickly when you're enjoying yourself	Conversational	"I can't believe the party is over; time flies when you're having fun."
A stitch in time saves nine	Taking early action prevents bigger problems	Everyday	"Fix the leak now; a stitch in time saves nine."
Better late than never	It's better for something to happen late than not at all	Conversational	"She arrived late, but better late than never."
Biting off more than you can chew	Taking on too much responsibility	Casual	"Don't take on extra projects; you're biting off more than you can chew."

Burn bridges	Destroying relationships or opportunities	Business	"By quitting like that, he really burned bridges."
Cry over spilled milk	Regretting something that can't be undone	Everyday	"Don't cry over spilled milk; move on."
Don't count your chickens before they hatch	Don't make plans based on something uncertain	Formal	"We might win; don't count your chickens before they hatch."
Go with the flow	Accepting things as they come	Casual	"Don't stress; just go with the flow."
Hit the nail on the head	Describe something accurately	Conversational	"You hit the nail on the head with that analysis."
In hot water	In trouble	Everyday	"He's in hot water after missing the deadline."
Let the cat out of the bag	Reveal a secret	Casual	"She let the cat out of the bag about the surprise party."

Paint the town red	Enjoy a lively night out	Casual	"After the exams, we're going to paint the town red."
Sit on the fence	Be undecided	Conversational	"He's sitting on the fence about the job offer."
The ball is in your court	It's your decision now	Business	"I've done all I can; the ball is in your court now."
The straw that broke the camel's back	The final problem that makes a situation unbearable	Everyday	"That was it, the straw that broke the camel's back."
To have your cake and eat it too	Wanting everything your way	Casual	"You can't have your cake and eat it too."
Wear your heart on your sleeve	Show your emotions openly	Casual	"She wears her heart on her sleeve; you always know how she feels."
When it rains, it pours	Bad things happen all at once	Everyday	"First, the car broke down, then I lost my

			keys; when it rains, it pours."
You can't judge a book by its cover	You can't judge someone based on appearance	Conversational	"She may seem shy, but you can't judge a book by its cover."
You can't make an omelette without breaking eggs	Achieving something often requires sacrifices	Formal	"We had to work late, but you can't make an omelette without breaking eggs."
You can't teach an old dog new tricks	It's hard to change habits in old age	Conversational	"He's too set in his ways; you can't teach an old dog new tricks."
You can't win them all	You can't always succeed	Conversational	"I lost the game, but you can't win them all."
Barking up the wrong tree	Pursuing the wrong person or path	Everyday	"You're looking for answers in the wrong place; you're barking up the wrong tree."
Bite the bullet	Face a difficult situation with courage	Casual	"I had to bite the bullet and confront my fear."

Break a leg	Wish someone good luck	Casual	"Before the performance, break a leg!"
Don't cry wolf	Don't make false alarms	Everyday	"Stop exaggerating; don't cry wolf."
Elephant in the room	An obvious problem everyone ignores	Conversational	"His anger was the elephant in the room, but no one mentioned it."
Every cloud has a silver lining	Even in difficult situations, there's a positive aspect	Casual	"The project failed, but every cloud has a silver lining; we learned a lot."
Fly by the seat of your pants	Make decisions without a plan	Casual	"I had to fly by the seat of my pants when my schedule changed."
Get down to brass tacks	Focus on the essentials	Business	"Let's get down to brass tacks and discuss the budget."
Hit the ground running	Start something quickly and energetically	Business	"On her first day, she hit the ground running."

In the same boat	In the same situation	Everyday	"We're all struggling; we're in the same boat."
Jumping on the bandwagon	Joining a trend or activity because it's popular	Casual	"Everyone is doing it; I'm just jumping on the bandwagon."
Keep your chin up	Stay positive in tough times	Casual	"Things will get better; keep your chin up."
Like a fish out of water	Feeling uncomfortable in unfamiliar surroundings	Everyday	"At the new school, he felt like a fish out of water."
Pulling someone's leg	Teasing or joking with someone	Conversational	"I was just pulling your leg; I didn't mean it seriously."
Put all your eggs in one basket	Risk everything on a single venture	Everyday	"Don't invest everything in one company; you'll put all your eggs in one basket."
The proof is in the pudding	The results will show the true value	Casual	"We'll see if it works; the proof is in the pudding."

Throw in the towel	Give up or surrender	Everyday	"After hours of trying, I threw in the towel."
Two heads are better than one	Collaborative thinking is more effective	Formal	"Let's work together; two heads are better than one."
You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours	Mutual help or cooperation	Casual	"If you help me, I'll help you; it's you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours."
The devil is in the details	The most important information is often hidden in the finer points	Formal	"Don't overlook the details; the devil is in the details."
When pigs fly	Something that's impossible or highly unlikely	Casual	"I'll believe it when pigs fly."
You reap what you sow	The consequences of your actions will come back to you	Everyday	"If you're kind to others, you'll reap what you sow in goodwill."
A penny for your thoughts	Asking someone what they are thinking	Casual	"You seem lost in thought; a penny for your thoughts?"

Actions speak louder than words	What you do is more important than what you say	Everyday	"Don't promise; show me. Actions speak louder than words."
All bark and no bite	All talk, no action	Conversational	"He threatened, but he's all bark and no bite."
All ears	Listening carefully	Casual	"I'm all ears; tell me what happened."
Back to the drawing board	Starting over because a plan failed	Everyday	"The project didn't work; it's back to the drawing board."
Beggars can't be choosers	When you need something, you can't be too picky	Casual	"I'll eat whatever they serve; beggars can't be choosers."
Don't bite the hand that feeds you	Don't harm those who help you	Casual	"Be grateful for their support; don't bite the hand that feeds you."
Don't put all your eggs in one basket	Don't risk everything on a single venture	Everyday	"Spread your investments; don't put all your eggs in one basket."

Easy as pie	Very easy	Casual	"Cooking this recipe is easy as pie."
It's a piece of cake	Very easy	Casual	"The test was a piece of cake."
Make a long story short	Summarize something quickly	Conversational	"To make a long story short, we missed the train."
The apple doesn't fall far from the tree	Children often resemble their parents	Everyday	"She's so talented, just like her mom; the apple doesn't fall far from the tree."
The early bird catches the worm	Being early or prepared is advantageous	Everyday	"He arrived first; the early bird catches the worm."
There's no smoke without fire	Rumors often have a basis in truth	Everyday	"People are talking about it; there's no smoke without fire."
Throw caution to the wind	Take a risk without worrying about consequences	Everyday	"He decided to throw caution to the wind and travel the world."

To each his own	Everyone has their own preferences	Casual	"You like action movies, and I prefer comedies; to each his own."
You can't have your cake and eat it too	You can't have everything you want	Casual	"You want a promotion and a shorter workweek; you can't have your cake and eat it too."