

# Idiom Examples in Songs

Idiom	Meaning	Usage	Sentence Example (Song)
Break a leg	Good luck	Wishing good fortune	"Break a leg tonight" – "Break a Leg" by Foo Fighters
Hit the road	To leave	Saying goodbye	"Hit the road Jack" – "Hit the Road Jack" by Ray Charles
Paint it black	Feeling dark emotions	Describing a sad mood	"I see a red door and I want it painted black" – "Paint It Black" by The Rolling Stones
Ring of fire	Intense emotions	Describing strong feelings	"I fell into a burning ring of fire" – "Ring of Fire" by Johnny Cash

Walk the line	To maintain balance	Being careful and responsible	"Because you're mine, I walk the line" – "I Walk the Line" by Johnny Cash
Blowin' in the wind	Uncertain	Something that is elusive	"The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind" – "Blowin' in the Wind" by Bob Dylan
Light my fire	Ignite enthusiasm or love	Encouraging excitement	"Come on baby, light my fire" – "Light My Fire" by The Doors
Bad moon rising	Trouble is coming	Warning of upcoming issues	"I see a bad moon rising" – "Bad Moon Rising" by Creedence Clearwater Revival
Under the bridge	Feeling lonely or disconnected	Discussing isolation	"Sometimes I feel like I don't have a partner" – "Under the Bridge" by Red Hot Chili Peppers
Twist and shout	To dance and sing loudly	Expressing joy	"Well, shake it up, baby, twist and shout" – "Twist and Shout" by The Beatles

Born to Run	Destined for freedom or adventure	Exploring the idea of fate	"Baby we were born to run" – "Born to Run" by Bruce Springsteen
Stairway to Heaven	Path to paradise	Speaking of a spiritual journey	"And she's buying a stairway to heaven" – "Stairway to Heaven" by Led Zeppelin
Sweet Child o' Mine	Beloved person	Expressing affection	"Sweet child o' mine" – "Sweet Child o' Mine" by Guns N' Roses
Over the Rainbow	Dreaming of a better place	Wishing for happiness	"Somewhere over the rainbow" – "Over the Rainbow" by Judy Garland
House of the Rising Sun	A place of ruin	Talking about a destructive environment	"There is a house in New Orleans" – "House of the Rising Sun" by The Animals
American Pie	Symbol of lost innocence	Reflecting on cultural changes	"Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry" – "American Pie" by Don McLean

Purple Haze	Confusion or euphoria	Describing a disoriented state	"Purple haze all in my brain" – "Purple Haze" by Jimi Hendrix
Let It Be	Accept what you can't change	Offering solace or advice	"Whisper words of wisdom, let it be" – "Let It Be" by The Beatles
Like a Rolling Stone	Feelings of aimlessness	Discussing loss of direction	"How does it feel, to be on your own" – "Like a Rolling Stone" by Bob Dylan
Chasing Pavements	Pursuing something futile	Talking about useless efforts	"Should I give up, or should I just keep chasing pavements?" – "Chasing Pavements" by Adele
Walk This Way	Follow my lead	Giving guidance or advice	"Walk this way, talk this way" – "Walk This Way" by Aerosmith
I Will Survive	I'll overcome challenges	Expressing resilience	"I will survive! Oh, as long as I know how to love" – "I Will Survive" by Gloria Gaynor

Paint It, Black	Cover up emotions or truth	Discussing denial or sorrow	"I see a red door and I want it painted black" – "Paint It, Black" by The Rolling Stones
Hotel California	A place you can never leave	Talking about entrapment	"You can check out any time you like, But you can never leave!" – "Hotel California" by Eagles
Smells Like Teen Spirit	Capture the essence of youth/rebellion	Describing youthful energy or rebellion	"Smells like teen spirit" – "Smells Like Teen Spirit" by Nirvana
Under the Bridge	Feeling isolated or lonely	Talking about solitude or depression	"It's hard to believe that there's nobody out there" – "Under the Bridge" by Red Hot Chili Peppers
Light My Fire	Inspire or ignite passion	Discussing excitement or attraction	"Come on baby, light my fire" – "Light My Fire" by The Doors
(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction	Unfulfilled or discontented	Expressing dissatisfaction	"I can't get no satisfaction" – "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" by The Rolling Stones

Take It Easy	Don't stress	Offering advice to relax	"Take it easy, take it easy" – "Take It Easy" by Eagles
Killing Me Softly	Hurting emotionally in a subtle way	Talking about emotional pain or influence	"Killing me softly with his song" – "Killing Me Softly" by Roberta Flack
Purple Haze	Confusion or delusion	Describing a state of confusion	"Purple haze all in my brain" – "Purple Haze" by Jimi Hendrix
Sweet Child o' Mine	Precious or cherished one	Talking about someone important	"She's got a smile that it seems to me, Reminds me of childhood memories" – "Sweet Child o' Mine" by Guns N' Roses
Eye of the Tiger	Focused determination	Expressing strong will or determination	"It's the eye of the tiger, it's the thrill of the fight" – "Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor
Born to Run	Desire for freedom	Describing a restless spirit	"Baby we were born to run" – "Born to Run" by Bruce Springsteen

Stairway to Heaven	Path to enlightenment or paradise	Discussing a spiritual or emotional journey	"There's a sign on the wall, but she wants to be sure" – "Stairway to Heaven" by Led Zeppelin
Like a Rolling Stone	Feeling aimless or lost	Describing a period of confusion or aimlessness	"How does it feel, To be on your own" – "Like a Rolling Stone" by Bob Dylan
Highway to Hell	A destructive or dangerous path	Talking about a risky behavior or lifestyle	"I'm on the highway to hell" – "Highway to Hell" by AC/DC
Let It Be	Accept and move on	Offering advice to find peace	"When I find myself in times of trouble, Mother Mary comes to me, Speaking words of wisdom, let it be" – "Let It Be" by The Beatles
Knockin' on Heaven's Door	Approaching death or end	Discussing an ending or change	"Knock, knock, knockin' on heaven's door" – "Knockin' on Heaven's Door" by Bob Dylan
Back in Black	Return stronger than before	Celebrating a comeback or return	"Back in black, I hit the sack" – "Back in Black" by AC/DC

Chasing Cars	Pursuing impractical dreams	Talking about unrealistic desires	"If I lay here, If I just lay here, Would you lie with me and just forget the world?" - "Chasing Cars" by Snow Patrol
Paint It Black	Covering up emotions	Describing someone who is hiding feelings	"I see a red door and I want it painted black" - "Paint It Black" by The Rolling Stones
Candle in the Wind	Someone fragile or sensitive	Discussing a delicate situation or individual	"You candle burned out long before, Your legend ever did" - "Candle in the Wind" by Elton John
Take It Easy	Relax or be patient	Giving advice to slow down	"Take it easy, take it easy" - "Take It Easy" by Eagles
Sweet Caroline	A cherished person	Discussing a precious individual	"Sweet Caroline, good times never seemed so good" - "Sweet Caroline" by Neil Diamond
Sweet Dreams	Ideal aspirations	Talking about hopes or goals	"Sweet dreams are made of this" - "Sweet Dreams" by Eurythmics



American Pie	Loss of innocence	Reflecting on a bygone era	"Bye, bye, Miss American Pie" - "American Pie" by Don McLean
Man in the Mirror	Inner self	Encouraging self-reflection	"I'm starting with the man in the mirror" - "Man in the Mirror" by Michael Jackson
Smells Like Teen Spirit	Youthful rebelliousness	Discussing young angst	"With the lights out, it's less dangerous" - "Smells Like Teen Spirit" by Nirvana
Diamonds Are Forever	Something that lasts indefinitely	Talking about enduring qualities	"Diamonds are forever, forever, forever" - "Diamonds Are Forever" by Shirley Bassey
Every Rose Has Its Thorn	Good things have drawbacks	Discussing a situation with pros and cons	"Every rose has its thorn" - "Every Rose Has Its Thorn" by Poison
Born to Run	Destined for freedom or escape	Talking about a yearning for liberty	"Baby, we were born to run" - "Born to Run" by Bruce Springsteen

Living on a Prayer	Surviving through hope or faith	Describing a difficult situation	"Whoa, we're half-way there, Whoa, livin' on a prayer" - Bon Jovi
Eye of the Tiger	Focused, determined state	Describing someone who is ready to face challenges	"It's the eye of the tiger, it's the thrill of the fight" - Survivor
Stairway to Heaven	Path to paradise or happiness	Talking about spiritual or emotional elevation	"And she's buying a stairway to heaven" - Led Zeppelin
Like a Rolling Stone	Feeling lost or aimless	Describing someone who is confused	"How does it feel to be on your own, like a rolling stone?" - Bob Dylan
Hound Dog	Persistent or annoying person	Talking about someone who won't leave you alone	"You ain't nothin' but a hound dog" - Elvis Presley
Hotel California	Inescapable situation	Discussing a tricky or complex situation	"You can check out any time you like, But you can never leave!" - Eagles

Purple Haze	Confusion or disorientation	Talking about feeling lost or bewildered	"Purple haze all around" - Jimi Hendrix
Killing Me Softly	Emotional vulnerability	Discussing feeling exposed emotionally	"Killing me softly with his song" - Roberta Flack
Sweet Child o' Mine	Cherished person	Referring to someone dearly loved	"Sweet child o' mine" - Guns N' Roses
Smooth Criminal	Sly, deceptive person	Discussing someone who gets away with wrongdoing	"Are you okay, Annie? You've been hit by a smooth criminal" - Michael Jackson
Paint It Black	Mood of despair	Talking about feeling hopeless	"I see a red door and I want it painted black" - Rolling Stones
Under Pressure	Stressed	Discussing a stressful situation	"Under pressure" - Queen and David Bowie
Comfortably Numb	Detached from reality	Describing feeling indifferent	"I have become comfortably numb" - Pink Floyd

Superstition	Belief in supernatural	Discussing irrational beliefs	"When you believe in things that you don't understand" - Stevie Wonder
Sound of Silence	Lack of communication	Describing a situation where no one is talking	"Hello darkness, my old friend" - Simon & Garfunkel
Heart-Shaped Box	Emotional entanglement	Talking about being emotionally involved	"I've been locked inside your heart-shaped box" - Nirvana
Imagine	Dreaming of peace	Encouraging someone to envision a better world	"Imagine all the people living life in peace" - John Lennon
Light My Fire	Inspire or excite	Asking for motivation or stimulation	"Come on baby, light my fire" - The Doors
Basket Case	A person who is unable to cope	Discussing emotional instability	"Do you have the time to listen to me whine?" - Green Day

Hotel California	Inescapable situation	Describing a situation you can't get out of	"You can check out any time you like, but you can never leave" - Eagles
Eye of the Tiger	A focused, determined mindset	Discussing determination and focus	"It's the eye of the tiger, it's the thrill of the fight" - Survivor
Born to Run	Desire for freedom and a fresh start	Talking about wanting to escape	"Baby we were born to run" - Bruce Springsteen
Rolling in the Deep	Experiencing deep emotions	Discussing emotional depth	"We could have had it all, rolling in the deep" - Adele
Yellow Submarine	Escaping reality	Referring to isolation or escapism	"We all live in a yellow submarine" - The Beatles
American Pie	A loss of innocence	Talking about a significant, usually negative, change	"The day the music died" - Don McLean
Chasing Pavements	Pursuing something futile	Discussing a useless pursuit	"Should I give up, or should I just keep chasing pavements?" - Adele

Paradise City	An ideal place	Talking about a dream location	"Take me down to the paradise city" - Guns N' Roses
Black Dog	Depression or a bad omen	Describing a pessimistic outlook	"Hey, hey, mama, said the way you move" - Led Zeppelin
Sweet Child o' Mine	Innocent love	Discussing pure affection	"She's got a smile that it seems to me" - Guns N' Roses
Smells Like Teen Spirit	Disoriented and angsty feeling	Describing youthful rebellion	"Here we are now, entertain us" - Nirvana
Paint It Black	Depression, sadness	Discussing a low mood or hopelessness	"I see a red door and I want it painted black" - Rolling Stones
Bohemian Rhapsody	Unconventional lifestyle	Talking about being different	"Is this the real life? Is this just fantasy?" - Queen
Let It Be	Accept and move on	Advising to let go of problems	"When I find myself in times of trouble" - The Beatles

Hound Dog	A relentless pursuer	Describing someone who won't give up	"You ain't nothing but a hound dog" - Elvis Presley
Highway to Hell	Path to self-destruction	Talking about dangerous or negative behavior	"I'm on the highway to hell" - AC/DC
Killing Me Softly	Deep emotional pain	Discussing emotional suffering	"Killing me softly with his song" - Roberta Flack
Walk This Way	Follow my example	Advising to follow a particular course of action	"Walk this way, talk this way" - Aerosmith
Landslide	Major life changes	Discussing major transitions or decisions	"Well, I've been afraid of changing" - Fleetwood Mac
Purple Haze	Confusion, disorientation	Describing a chaotic state of mind	"Purple haze all in my brain" - Jimi Hendrix
Born to Run	Desire for freedom	Expressing a need to escape	"Baby we were born to run" - Bruce Springsteen

Hotel California	Inescapable situation	Talking about being stuck in a complicated situation	"You can check out any time you like, but you can never leave" - Eagles
Stairway to Heaven	Path to enlightenment or peace	Discussing spiritual or emotional ascendance	"And it's whispered that soon, If we all call the tune" - Led Zeppelin
Like a Rolling Stone	Lost and directionless	Describing feelings of aimlessness	"How does it feel, to be on your own" - Bob Dylan
American Pie	Loss of innocence	Talking about significant cultural change	"Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry" - Don McLean
Ring of Fire	Intense emotion or difficulty	Discussing a challenging emotional experience	"I fell into a burning ring of fire" - Johnny Cash
Imagine	Dream of a better world	Encouraging positive thinking	"Imagine all the people living life in peace" - John Lennon



Every Breath You Take	Constant vigilance or attention	Describing attentiveness, sometimes with a sinister edge	"Every breath you take, every move you make" - The Police
The Times They Are A-Changin'	Call for adaptation	Urging to accept or prepare for new circumstances	"The times they are a-changin'" - Bob Dylan