**A List of the most commonly used English idioms**

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| A hot potato |  | **Caught between two stools** |

When someone finds it difficult to choose between two alternatives.

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| A penny for your thoughts |  | **Costs an arm and a leg** |

A way of asking what someone is thinking This idiom is used when something is very expensive.

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| **Actions speak louder than words** |  | Cross that bridge when you come to it |

People's intentions can be judged better by what they do than what they say. Deal with a problem if and when it becomes necessary, not before.

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| Add insult to injury |  | **Cry over spilt milk** |

To further a loss with mockery or indignity; to worsen an unfavorable situation. When you complain about a loss from the past.

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| An arm and a leg |  | Curiosity killed the cat |

Very expensive or costly. A large amount of money. Being Inquisitive can lead you into an unpleasant situation.

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| **At the drop of a hat** |  | Cut corners |

Meaning: without any hesitation; instantly. When something is done badly to save money.

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| Back to the drawing board |  | Cut the mustard |

When an attempt fails and it's time to start all over. To succeed; to come up to expectations; adequate enough to compete or participate

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| Ball is in your court |  | Devil's Advocate |

It is up to you to make the next decision or step To present a counter argument

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| Barking up the wrong tree |  | Don't count your chickens before the eggs have hatched |

Looking in the wrong place. Accusing the wrong person This idiom is used to express "Don't make plans for something that might not happen".

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| Be glad to see the back of |  | Don't give up the day job |

Be happy when a person leaves. You are not very good at something. You could definitely not do it professionally.

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| Beat around the bush |  | **Don't put all your eggs in one basket** |

Avoiding the main topic. Not speaking directly about the issue. Do not put all your resources in one possibility.

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| Best of both worlds |  | Drastic times call for drastic measures |

Meaning: All the advantages. When you are extremely desperate you need to take drastic actions.

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| **Best thing since sliced bread** |  | Elvis has left the building |

A good invention or innovation. A good idea or plan. The show has come to an end. It's all over.

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| Bite off more than you can chew |  | Every cloud has a silver lining |

To take on a task that is way to big. Be optimistic, even difficult times will lead to better days.

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| Blessing in disguise |  | Far cry from |

Something good that isn't recognized at first. Very different from.

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| **Burn the midnight oil** |  | Feel a bit under the weather |

To work late into the night, alluding to the time before electric lighting. Meaning: Feeling slightly ill.

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| |  | | --- | | **Can't judge a book by its cover** | | |  | | --- | | Give the benefit of the doubt | |

Cannot judge something primarily on appearance. Believe someone's statement, without proof.

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| **Hear it on the grapevine** |  | Off one's rocker |

This idiom means 'to hear rumors' about something or someone. Crazy, demented, out of one's mind, in a confused or befuddled state of mind, senile.

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| **Hit the nail on the head** |  | On the ball |

Do or say something exactly right When someone understands the situation well.

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| **Hit the sack / sheets / hay** |  | Once in a blue moon |

To go to bed. Meaning: Happens very rarely.

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| **In the heat of the moment** |  | **Picture paints a thousand words** |

Overwhelmed by what is happening in the moment. A visual presentation is far more descriptive than words.

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| It takes two to tango |  | Piece of cake |

Actions or communications need more than one person A job, task or other activity that is easy or simple.

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| Jump on the bandwagon |  | Put wool over other people's eyes |

Join a popular trend or activity. This means to deceive someone into thinking well of them.

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| Keep something at bay |  | See eye to eye |

Keep something away. This idiom is used to say that two (or more people) agree on something.

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| Kill two birds with one stone |  | Sit on the fence |

This idiom means, to accomplish two different things at the same time. This is used when someone does not want to choose or make a decision.

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| **Last straw** |  | Speak of the devil! |

The final problem in a series of problems. This expression is used when the person you have just been talking about arrives.

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| **Let sleeping dogs lie** |  | **Steal someone's thunder** |

Do not disturb a situation as it is - since it would result in trouble or complications. To take the credit for something someone else did.

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| **Let the cat out of the bag** |  | **Take with a grain of salt** |

To share information that was previously concealed This means not to take what someone says too seriously.

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| Make a long story short |  | Taste of your own medicine |

Come to the point - leave out details Means that something happens to you, or is done to you, that you have done to someone else

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| Method to my madness |  | To hear something straight from the horse's mouth |

An assertion that, despite one's approach seeming random, there actually is structure to it. To hear something from the authoritative source.

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| Miss the boat |  | Whole nine yards |

This idiom is used to say that someone missed his or her chance Everything. All of it.

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| Not a spark of decency |  | Wouldn't be caught dead |

Meaning: No manners Would never like to do something

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| **Not playing with a full deck** |  | Your guess is as good as mine |

Someone who lacks intelligence. To have no idea, do not know the answer to a question