



The World of Languages and Languages of the World



LET'S EXPLORE **IDIOM** AND
HOW THEY ARE USED IN
DIFFERENT LANGUAGES.

What idioms or idiomatic phrases do you know in English?

Idioms are sayings in a language which might not make any sense literally, but still work figuratively. They can't be translated word for word!

It's raining cats and dogs

It cost me an arm and a leg

I did it by the skin of my teeth

Why do these not make sense literally?

What do they mean to you figuratively?

How many others can you think of in one



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Do you understand English idioms?

[CLICK HERE FOR TEN QUESTIONS ON ENGLISH IDIOMS: IDIOMS QUIZ](#)



German Idioms



The idiom: Tomaten auf den Augen haben.

You have tomatoes on your eyes.

What it means: You are not seeing what everyone else can see.

The idiom: Ich verstehe nur Bahnhof.

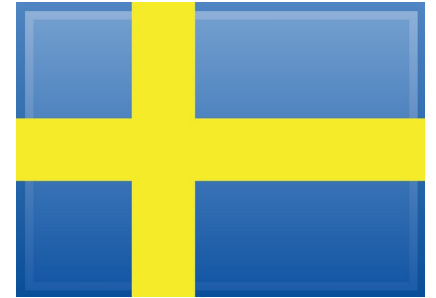
I only understand train station.

What it means: I don't understand a thing



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Swedish Idioms



The idiom: Det är ingen ko på isen

There's no cow on the ice.

What it means: There's no need to worry.

The idiom: Att glida in på en räkmacka

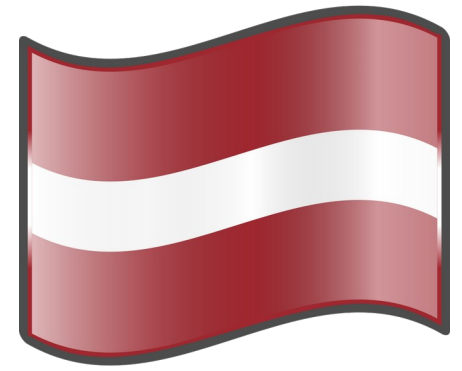
To slide in on a shrimp sandwich.

What it means: You didn't have to work very hard to get where you are.



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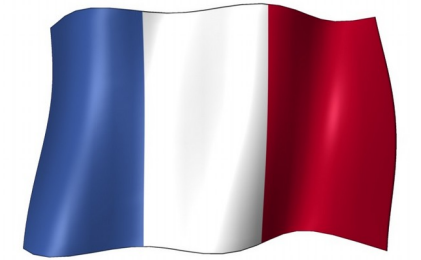
Latvian Idioms



- The idiom: **Pūst pīlītes.**
 - To blow little ducks.
 - What it means: To talk nonsense
-
- The idiom: **Ej bekot.**
 - Pick mushrooms!
 - What it means: Go away



French Idioms



The idiom: Je retourne a mes moutons

I go back to my sheep

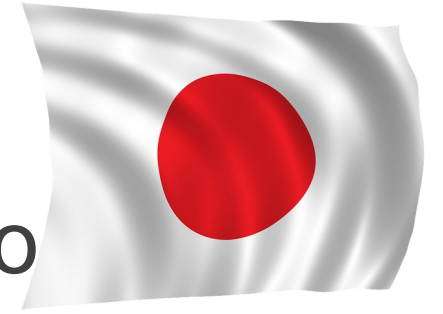
What it means: Get back on topic

The idiom: Les carottes sont cuites!

The carrots are cooked!

What it means: The situation can't be changed.





Japanese Idioms (lots of cats mentioned)

The idiom: 猫の手も借りたい

Willing to borrow a cat's paws.

What it means: You'll accept help from anyone.

The idiom: 猫の額

Cat's forehead.

What it means: A tiny space

The idiom: 猫舌

Cat tongue.

What it means: You need to wait until the hot food cools



Do you know any idioms in other languages?



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What's the English Idiom?

LOOK AT THE WORKSHEET TO FIND THE ENGLISH IDIOM THAT BEST MATCHES THE IDIOMS FROM AROUND THE WORLD!





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Interesting Questions

How are idioms linked to culture?

What problems does this create for translators?

Why do idioms stop being used?

In English we have lots of idioms to do with cricket: "A good innings", "I'm stumped". Would you find cricket idioms in other countries?



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Over to you!

Now it is your turn to create some idioms:

A) In English

B) In a language you are learning or that you know.

Try to make your idioms culturally relevant.



A final thought...

Why are the same ideas represented with different idiomatic phrases in different countries?

Idioms reflect the culture, the thoughts and the national identity of people speaking that language.

What's your favourite idiom from today's lesson?

Gotta go. "J'ai d'autres chats à foutter!" (I

