

B. N. N.

Idiomatic Expressions

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| 1. A bed of roses | - a comfortable situation. |
| 2. A sleeping partner | - one who does not work. |
| 3. A man of straw | - worthless person. |
| 4. A hard nut to crack | - a difficult problem. |
| 5. A mare's nest | - something illusory. |
| 6. A fish out of water | - being in a position which is disagreeable. |
| 7. A black sheep | - a scoundrel. |
| 8. A labour of love | - work done only for love. |
| 9. A man of word | - a trustworthy man. |
| 10. A man of parts | - a man of superior ability. |
| 11. A Herculean task | - work which requires extraordinary strength to accomplish it. |
| 12. A hornet's nest | - unpleasant situation |
| 13. A bolt from the blue | - a sudden complete surprise. |
| 14. At the snail's pace | - very slowly. |
| 15. At the daggers drawn | - at enmity. |
| 16. At one's beck and call | - at one's disposal . |
| 17. At the bottom of | - secret cause of. |
| 18. At the eleventh hour | - at the last minute. |
| 19. At one's wit's end | - quite at a loss . |
| 20. At arm's length | - at a distance. |
| 21. At the mercy of | - wholly in the power. |
| 22. By hook or by crook | - somehow or the other. |

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| 23. Blow over | - pass off. |
| 24. Between the devil and the deep sea | - between two dangers equally harmful. |
| 25. To beat black and blue | - to beat too much. |
| 26. Bad blood | - ill will. |
| 27. By the sweat of one's brow | - hard labour. |
| 28. Below the mark | - not of right standard. |
| 29. Bear the palm | - to be victorious. |
| 30. Burn the candle at both ends | - use up too much energy. |
| 31. Bag and baggage | - with all one's belongings. |
| 32. Crocodile tears | - insincere sorrow. |
| 33. Chicken- hearted | - coward. |
| 34. Cheek - by - jowl | - side by side. |
| 35. Chips of the same block | - people of the same nature. |
| 36. Child's play | - easy task. |
| 37. Cut and dried | - ready- made. |
| 38. Cut the Gordian knot | - to solve a difficulty. |
| 39. Cry in the wilderness | - cry in vain. |
| 40. Col blooded - murder | - murder done deliberately. |
| 41. Docks and drakes | - to spend lavishly. |
| 42. Day in and day out | - always. |
| 43. Die in harness | - to die whilst working. |
| 44. To take to heart | - to lose courage. |
| 45. To bear in mind | - to remember. |
| 46. To be wool gathering | - to be in a dreamy state. |
| 47. To rack one's brain | - to think too much. |

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| 48. To pay in the same coin | - tit for tat. |
| 49. To beat about the bush | - to approach indirectly. |
| 50. To have too many irons in fire | - to be engaged in too many things. |
| 51. To take up the gauntlet | - to accept a challenge. |
| 52. To strike the iron while it is in hot | - to make the best of an opportunity when it comes. |
| 53. Under the nose | - in close vicinity. |
| 54. Wash one's hands of | - to refuse to have any thing more to do with. |
| 55. Wash one's dirty linen in public | - discuss unpleasant domestic affairs in public. |
| 56. With flying colors | - to be successful |
| 57. To throw dust in one's eyes | - to deceive another person |
| 58. To clip one's wings | - to lessen one's power |
| 59. To put the shoulder to the wheel | - to start working without expecting help from others |
| 60. To make one's mouth water | - to have a strong desire for |
| 61. To breath one's last | - to die |
| 62. To break the ice | - to overcome the first reserve |
| 63. To end in smoke | - to come to nothing |
| 64. To put in black and white | - to write down on paper |
| 65. A bird of passage | - a foreigner |
| 66. In the long run | - after a long period |
| 67. Blood is thicker than water | - Kinship is stronger than friendship |
| 68. A golden mean | - a middle course |
| 69. To talk shop | - to talk exclusively about one's business or professional affairs |
| 70. A feather in one's cap | - an achievement to be proud of |
| 71. To send round the hat | - to take up a contribution |
| 72. To bear the cross | - to offer oneself to bear suffering |

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| 73. To keep the ball rolling | - to keep the conversation going |
| 74. A leap in the dark | - a rash experiment |
| 75. To eat one's hat | - to be surprised |
| 76. To turn a deaf ear | - to disregard |
| 77. To put a spoke in one's wheel | - to obstruct one in one's work |
| 78. To get into hot water | - to be in trouble |
| 79. To cry over spilt milk | - to regret uselessly |
| 80. Burn one's fingers | - to get oneself into trouble |
| 81. Eye to eye with | - agree completely |
| 82. First and foremost | - before anything else |
| 83. Feather one's own nest | - to make money by unfair means |
| 84. Face the music | - face consequences of one's action |
| 85. Flesh and blood | - human nature |
| 86. From hand to mouth | - to spend what all is earned |
| 87. Far and near | - in all directions |
| 88. Give and take | - mutual concessions |
| 89. Got into the good books of | - earned the good will of |
| 90. Give oneself airs | - affected manners |
| 91. Go the whole hog | - do thoroughly |
| 92. Go through fire and water | - to be prepared to face any difficulty |
| 93. Goods and chattels | - movable possession |
| 94. Hard and fast | - strict, rigid & fixed |
| 95. Hit the nail on the head | - do exactly the right thing |
| 96. In the prime of the life | - best part of life |
| 97. Kick up a row | - make a great noise |

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| 98. Jack of all trades | - one who has a little knowledge of
Everything but not proficient in any one field |
| 99. Leave no stone unturned | - to try every possible means |
| 100. Maiden speech | - first speech |
| 101. Nip in the bud | - stop at the out set |
| 102. Nine day wonder | - enjoyment for a few days |
| 103. On the eve of | - just before |
| 104. Once for all | - finally |
| 105. On the brink of | - very near |
| 106. On the verge of | - at the end of / be very close to complete |
| 107. Out of gear | - out of order |
| 108. Of the first order | - perfect |
| 109. Pros and cons | - points for and against |
| 110. Put the cart before the horse | - to reverse the natural order |
| 111. Pour oil on troubled waters | - to calm down anger |
| 112. Put in cold storage | - neglect something |
| 113. Put in the same coin | - tit for tat |