

IDIOMS EXPRESSIONS

When you first read the word *idioms*, maybe or probably you think about the word *languages* or *idiomas*, for us in Spanish. But let me tell you something, that is not this case. This is a false friend! Even though the words are pretty similar each other, their meaning is totally different. And we'll see why. So in this case, the word *idioms* in English means expressions or proverbs that we frequently use them in Spanish. It is supposed that to learn idioms is quite difficult, but you we'll see that is not this case.

So, to start. What is exactly an idiom? Do you have an idea? An idiom is a series of multi-word in which, ah they are made up of figurative elements that make their meaning not predictable. And this is precisely where we can have some little problems, because what we understand doesn't have a literal meaning. Furthermore, most of them are used in informal contexts but also in academic or business situations. Most of the time, the meaning of an idiom is obtained by the context in which the phrase is found.

What can we do in order to learn idioms?

There are a lot of hacks we can put into practice and today, I'm gonna give some of them, and you can start to use them.

1. Try to look for something similar to our language:

In the expressions or *dichos* that we already know. Teacher, can you give me an example? Yes! Because I'm 100% sure that you know, or you have use them before.

All roads lead to Rome. Todos los caminos llevan a Roma

Cry over spilt milk. Llorar sobre leche derramada.

To kill two birds with the same stone. Matar a dos pájaros con la misma piedra.

Can you understand them?

2. Think about in a meaning like our mother language.

Many times, guys, the idiom is not a literal translation of an expression, but it is close enough.

Cost an arm and a leg: Cuesta un brazo y una pierna/ Cuesta un ojo de la cara.

Picture paints a thousand words: Una imagen pinta mil palabras/Vale más una imagen que mil palabras.

A word is enough to the wise: Una palabra es suficiente para el sabio. A buen entendedor, pocas palabras.

3. Try to understand its meaning through the context.

When the words don't lead you to a specific idiom in our Spanish, or our language. In English we find a lot of idioms in which its meaning reveals by itself. For example:

Barking to the wrong tree: Ladrando al árbol equivocado, if you analyze the phrase it doesn't make any sense, you begin imagining a dog barking to an specific tree. But in this case, it is like you are looking for something in a wrong place. For us in Spanish or in our *costarican* means detrás del palo.

4. Try to understand its meaning through the idiom itself:

Because there are many that are self-explanatory.

Every cloud has a silver lining: The cloud usually appears as a negative sign, the clouds cover the sun, turn off the sun lights. It is supposed that when the dark clouds are coming, bad things happen. By saying that each of those "bad things" has a silver lining (that is, something good and beautiful), you understand that it is an idiom close to what in Spanish would be no hay mal que por bien no venga.

But hey! Listen up! The good news? Once you discover a new idiom in English, it is almost impossible to forget it and not recognize it in a text or conversation.

List of idioms:

1. When pigs fly
2. eat like a horse
3. a little bird told me
4. A cat got your tongue
5. To have a green thumb
6. Hold your horses
7. Add fuel to the fire
8. A storm in a glass of water
9. Cool as a cucumber
10. Innocent by standards.
11. Look at the bright side
12. Don't butter me up
13. Don't count the chicken before they hatch
14. Time heals all wounds
15. It's a can of worms
16. A friend in need is a friend indeed
17. An eye for an eye
18. All that glitter is not gold
19. Take the bull by its horns
20. Smells like a rat!
21. Such a couch potato
22. Spill the beans
23. Home sick
24. Once in a blue moon
25. The Apple of my eye
26. Speaking about the devil
27. The early bird catches the worm
28. Better late than never
29. I'm starving
30. Let's flip a coin

Group #1:

Christopher y Lisbeth
When pigs fly!
Innocent by standards.
A friend in need is a
friend indeed.
Such a couch potato
Speaking about the
devil
Hold your horses.

Group #2:

Joaquín y Nelson
Eat like a horse
Look at the bright side
An eye for an eye
Spill the beans
The early bird catches
the worm
To have a green thumb.

Group #3

Yuliana y Gaby
A little bird told me
Don't butter me up
All that glitter is not gold.
Home sick
Better late than never
A storm in a glass of
water.

Group #4

Alexander Norlan
A cat got your tongue
Don't count the chicken
before they hatch
Take the bull by its horns.
Once in a blue moon.
I'm starving.
Time heals all wounds.

Group #5

Kevin Edwin
The apple of my eye
Let's flip a coin!
Smells like a rat.
It's a can of worms.
Add fuel to the fire
Cool as a cucumber

GROUP 1

Tranquilo, relájese, tenga paz.
Justos por pecadores.
¡Cuando los cerdos vuelen!
Ser flojo, perezoso.
Hablando del rey de Roma.
En la necesidad se conoce al amigo.

GROUP 2

Al que madruga, Dios le ayuda
Véalo por el lado bueno
Tener buena mano para sembrar
Ojo por ojo, diente por diente.
¡Comer como caballo!
Suelte la sopa, escupa la sopa

GROUP 3

Mejor tarde que nunca
Hacer una tormenta en un vaso de agua.
Un pajarito me contó
¡No me lave el coco!
No todo lo que brilla es oro.
Mal de patria

GROUP 4

Estoy partiéndome del hambre.
Tomar el toro por los cuernos.
Le comieron la lengua los ratones.
Allá una vez perdida/ cada muerte de obispo.
El tiempo cura las heridas.
No cuente los pollitos antes de nacer.

GROUP 5

Eso es una bomba de tiempo
Fresco como una lechuga
Lancemos una moneda
Echarle leña al fuego
La niña de mis ojos
Huele a rata

INSTRUCTIONS

You're going to work in pairs and are going to have
6 different idioms in which you have to organize
them. You're going to choose 3 and your classmate
the other 3. You have to put the idiom with its
correct meaning in Spanish.

After that, you're going to look for 3 different objects
in your house that represents the 3 idioms you
have. Then we'll discuss it later. 😊