

# CAMBLY

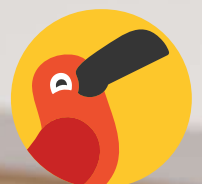
E-BOOK

2023

Break a leg...  
Hang in there...  
Piece of cake...

## IDIOMS THAT WILL LEVEL UP YOUR ENGLISH

In this Ebook, you will find the most common idioms and their meanings in English to level up your conversations. You will also learn how to use them with concrete examples!





# LIFE SAVER IN EVERY CULTURE: IDIOMS

English idioms are widely used in everyday conversations, and they add flavor to the language and help you express your thoughts more effectively. By using commonly used English idioms, you can easily communicate with people and sound more like a native speaker.

Cambly has created this enjoyable booklet with a list of common idioms, their meanings, and real examples of how they are used in sentences to make your learning process easier.

# 20 MOST USEFUL AND COMMON ENGLISH IDIOMS



## 01. Break a leg

Wishing someone good luck

***“I believe that you'll pass the math exam. Break a leg!”***

***“My mother told me to “break a leg” right before I performed at the most important show of my life.”***

## 02. Break the ice

To make people who have not met before feel more relaxed with each other

***“Why don't you talk with each other? Let's break the ice!”***

***“I'm nervous about my interview; I hope the HR specialist will break the ice at the beginning of our interview.”***

## 03. Hang in there

A way of telling someone not to give up in difficult circumstances

***“It's been a long day but the week is almost over. Hang in there!”***

***“Hey, hang in there! Only quit your job once you find a new one.”***





## 04. Piece of cake

Something that is very easy to do

***“This project was a piece of cake for you.”***

***“You shouldn't be concerned about your math exam since you studied hard. It'll be a piece of cake for you!”***

## 05. Better late than never

Said when you think that it is better for someone to arrive or do something late than not to arrive or do it at all

***“After five years, we finally met - better late than never!”***

***“We arrived at the party two hours late, but better late than never. Let's go inside and have fun!”***

## 06. Call it a day

To decide to stop what you are doing because you are tired of it or you think you have done enough

***“Today was so tiring! Come on, turn off your laptop and call it a day.”***

***“I feel so tired, John. Let's call it a day.”***



## 07. That's the last straw

The last in a series of unpleasant events that finally makes you feel that you cannot continue

***“Did you fight with your friends? OK. This is the last straw - Your father and I'll have a serious conversation with you!”***

***“He has always been yelling at everybody, but that was the last straw when he yelled at my children.”***

## 08. Speak of the devil

Something you say when the person you were talking about appears unexpectedly

***“Do you know where John is? Well, speak of the devil, here he is!”***

***“We were talking about his new job when he suddenly walked in. Speak of the devil!”***



## 09. You can say that again

To completely agree with what someone has said

**Aron:** *"This is the best pasta I've ever eaten in my life!"*

**Sabrina:** *"You can say that again!"*

**Jack:** *"Her cousin is so annoying!"*

**John:** *"You can say that again!"*

## 10. Make a long story short

To explain what happened in a few words without giving all the details

*"I love pasta, pizza, and art! To make a long story short, I definitely visit Italy someday!"*

*"They broke up three years ago but long story short they decided to get back together."*

## 11. Make a scene

To behave in a loud, angry way in public

*"He just came here to talk to you. Please, don't make a scene!"*

*"Sorry, my friend was mad but didn't want to make a scene."*





## 12. Spitting image

To look very similar to someone

***“My son is the spitting image of his mother.”***

***“Did you see Jack? He's the spitting image of his father!”***

## 13. Miss the boat

To lose an opportunity to do something by being slow to act

***“I had an extra concert ticket and I'd have invited you if you had picked up my phone. You missed the boat!”***

***“Flight tickets to Bali were available last week at low prices, but she missed the boat by waiting till today. Now she has to pay more!”***

## 14. Elephant in the room

It defines a situation where there is an obvious problem or difficult situation that people do not want to talk about

***“You suddenly decided to move abroad and have nothing to say? It's time to talk about the elephant in the room.”***

***“I don't want to bother you, but we need to talk about the elephant in the room.”***



## **15. Actions speak louder than words**

What someone actually does means more than what they say they will do

***“I'll believe you when you'll come over here. Actions speak louder than words.”***

***“If you really love me, then show me. Remember: Actions speak louder than words!”***

## **16. The ball is in your court**

It is time for someone to make a decision because other people have already done

***“I did my best to convince her to stay with me. The ball's in her court now.”***

***“I've told her everything I know– the ball's in her court now.”***

## **17. It's not rocket science**

Used to describe situations that are not difficult

***“Playing guitar is not rocket science. You just need to practice regularly.”***

***“Come on, don't be afraid! You can quickly learn how to drive. It's not rocket science.”***



## 18. Give (someone) a hand

To help someone

***“Could you give me a hand with the boxes? They're too heavy.”***

***“Please give my father a hand with repairing the car.”***



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## 19. Lost at sea

Be puzzled, confused about something

***“I'm trying to understand you, but I've been lost at sea since you started to talk.”***

***“When the math class starts, I listen to my teacher with all my ears but I'm always lost at sea!”***

## 20. As cool as a cucumber

Very calm

***“She walked into a class as cool as a cucumber, as if nothing had happened an hour ago!”***

***“I was terrified during the hurricane, but he was as cool as a cucumber.”***

# PRACTICE TIME!



## Idiom Challenge

How about training your English using some idioms to express your thoughts?

Write 5 sentences using at least  
1 idiom in each!

