

100 Important Phrases & Idioms (English Grammar)



- Cry for the moon - Ask for the impossible
- Be in a tight corner - In a very difficult situation
- Cock and bull story - Made up story that one should not believe
- Cat and dog life - Life full of quarrels
- Like a cat on hot bricks - Very nervous
- Have a card up one's sleeve - Have a secret plan in reserve
- Tell against - To prove adverse to; to go against
- Run through - to squander or waste
- Run over - to drive over
- Alive and kicking - Active and healthy
- To burn one's fingers - To lose on account of foolish behaviour
- At sea - Confused or lost
- Behind one's back - In the absence of
- To call a spade a spade - To be frank and truthful
- To break the ice - To break the silence

- To bell the cat - To face the risk
- A cat and dog life - To lead a life full of quarrels
- A cold fish - A person devoid of emotions
- To cross the Rubicon -To take a decisive step
- Double-dealing - Deceiving
- To die hard - Change with great difficulty
- To eat humble pie - To apologise in a humble manner
- To fight a losing battle - Struggle without hope of success
- A deadlock - A position when no progress can be made
- A daredevil - A person who does not care for any consequences
- Once in a blue moon - Very rarely
- At a premium - Difficult to get or obtain
- To play the game - To act honestly
- To die in harness - To work till the last day of one's life
- To plough a lonely furrow - To work without help or support
- ◀ • Lock, stock and barrel - Completely
- The long and the short - The main point
- Bring to light - Disclose

- The bottom line - The final criteria
- A cock and bull story - An improbable excuse
- To kick one's heels - To wait with nothing to do
- Rain cats and dogs - Rain heavily
- A hard nut to crack - A difficult problem
- In high spirits - Very happy
- Like a fish out of water - In a strange situation
- Smell a rat - Suspect something foul
- Read between the lines - Understand the hidden meaning
- Tooth and nail ---With all one's power
- Spread like wild fire - Spread quickly
- Hit the nail on the head - Do or say the exact thing
- Burn the midnight oil - Work or study hard
- Under his thumb - Under his control
- With a high hand - Oppressively
- ◀ • Gain ground - Become popular
- By leaps and bounds - Rapidly
- Make off with - to run away with

- Pass away - to die
- To cry for the moon - Ask for the impossible
- To make a pig of oneself - To over-eat
- Donkey's years - A very long time
- To pull one's leg - to joke; tease someone
- To keep one's fingers crossed - To hope fervently
- To call in question - To disprove or doubt
- To talk through one's hat -To talk ignorantly
- To make up one's mind -To decide
- Hard and fast rules - Rigid rules
- To make one's mouth water - To stimulate one's appetite
- By word of mouth - By spoken message
- To get the better of someone -To take advantage of someone
- To rub shoulders - To come into close contact
- A snake in the grass - A hidden enemy
- ◀ • Between the devil and the deep blue sea - Between two dangers
- Chew the cud - To discuss matters in a ponderous manner, especially reminiscing

- To kill two birds with one stone - To achieve two results with one effort
- A close shave - A narrow escape
- Chip off the old block - As good as one's father
- To pull a long face - To look sad
- Above board - Open and honest
- To turn a deaf ear - To ignore
- To turn the tables - To reverse the situation
- To call someone names - To abuse someone
- Above board - Honest and open
- At arms length - To keep at a distance
- At the eleventh hour - At the last moment
- An apple of discord - A cause of quarrel
- To burn one's boats - Go back on a decision
- To build castles in the air - Make imaginary schemes
- A burning question -
- ◀ • An important topic
- A brown study - Dreaming
- Sitting on the fence - Hesitate between two decisions

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