



# WEST ACADEMY

ACADEMIA DE IDIOMAS CON ACENTOS  
NATIVOS

**Most Commonly  
Used Idioms in America**

UN MUNDO POR APRENDER

1. **ABOVE BOARD** – legitimate, legal. She knows it shouldn't be kept a secret. She wants to keep everything *above board*.
2. **ACROSS THE BOARD** – including everyone or everything. The company had a successful year. All salaries were increased by 10% *across the board*.
3. **AIR ONE'S DIRTY LAUNDRY IN PUBLIC** – discuss personal problems openly. He is a very private person. If he has a problem in his family he doesn't want to *air his dirty laundry in public*.
4. **ALL ALONG** – all the time. She was accepted into the university, but she knew *all along* that she'd get in.
5. **ALL EARS** – eager to listen. I was excited to hear about her vacation. When she told me about it, I was *all ears*.
6. **ALL THUMBS** – clumsy, unable to fix things. Don't ask me to put that clock back together. I'm *all thumbs*.
7. **AN ARM AND A LEG** – a large amount of money. It cost *an arm and a leg* to fix the stove.
8. **ANTS IN ONE'S PANTS** – nervous, anxious. He wasn't sure if he would be chosen to win the award. He had *ants in his pants*.

9. **APPLE DOESN'T FALL FAR FROM THE TREE, THE** – being similar to a parent or family member. He acts just like his father. You know, *the apple doesn't fall far from the tree*.
10. **APPLE OF ONE'S EYE** – someone special, usually a son or daughter. Although he loves his son, his daughter is the *apple of his eye*.
11. **AT FAULT** – responsible for making errors. He is *at fault* for all the errors on the computer.
12. **AT ODDS** – in disagreement. He is *at odds* with his boss.
13. **AT ONE'S BECK AND CALL** – always ready to do what is ordered. Whenever she calls him, he's always helping her. He is at *her beck and call*.
14. **AT ONE'S WIT'S END** – anxious, frantic. I need to speak with him to finish the report by tomorrow but he's not available. I'm *at my wit's end*!
15. **AT THE END OF ONE'S ROPE** – desperate, with nowhere to turn. I've tried every which way to figure out this problem but I can't. I'm *at the end of my rope*!
16. **BACK ON ONE'S FEET** – financially or physically healthy again. Since sales improved, he is doing better and he's getting *back on his feet*.
17. **BACK OUT OF** – withdraw, end an obligation or promise. I made a deal with my friend to help him at work. When I became too busy, I had to *back out of it*.



18. **BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD** – rethink an idea, need to start over. When my supervisor told me that our idea would not work, we had to go *back to the drawing board* to come up with something else.
19. **BACKBONE** – courage. He has no *backbone* because he was afraid to reprimand her.
20. **BACKSEAT DRIVER** – passenger who tells you how to drive. I'll never drive Joe to the airport again. He kept on wanting me to take another road which I knew was wrong. He is such a *backseat driver*.
21. **BAIL ONE OUT** – help. Thanks for picking me up when my car broke down. You really *bailed me out* of a bad situation.
22. **BALLPARK FIGURE** – approximate amount. When I asked the contractor how much it would be to remodel the kitchen, he gave me a *ballpark figure*.
23. **BANG FOR THE BUCK** – value for the money spent. Newspaper advertising works well for us because we get the best *bang for the buck*.
24. **BANK ON IT – BE SURE OF, COUNT ON.** I'll be there to help you. You can *bank on it*.
25. **BANKER'S HOURS** – short work hours. He loves his job because on Friday, he gets to work *banker's hours*.



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