



Idioms

BURY THE HATCHET – make peace. Although we had gotten into a big fight last month, we decided to *bury the hatchet* and become friends again.

BUTT IN – interfere. Please don't *butt in* to our conversation, it's personal.

BUTTER UP – flatter for selfish reasons. I *battered up* my boss before I asked him off for the upcoming holiday.

BY HOOK OR BY CROOK – by any means necessary. Even though we have to fly to get to your wedding, we will be there *by hook or by crook*.

BY THE SKIN OF ONE'S TEETH – by a very small margin. Our team won *by the skin of our teeth*.

CALL IT QUILTS – stop, finish. I have worked all day and am exhausted. I've decided to *call it quits*.

CALL OFF – cancel. The game was *called off* because of rain.

CALL ON THE CARPET – reprimand. He was *called on the carpet* for losing all the financial statements.

CALL SOMEONE'S BLUFF – have someone prove what he says. I don't think Bob knows as much as he says. I think we should *call his bluff*.

CALL THE SHOTS – be in charge, give orders. We knew who the supervisor was because she *called all the shots*.

CAN – fire, dismiss. I was *canned* and no longer am working for the company.

CAN OF WORMS - complex problem or complicated situation. It opened up a large *can of worms* when the company decided to talk about the union contract.

CARRIED AWAY – adversely influenced by strong emotion. He was *carried away* by his effective sales approach and bought the remainder of his products.

CATCH ON – understand, figure out. I am beginning to *catch on* to this algebra.

CATCH SOMEONE RED-HANDED – find one in the act of doing

something wrong. The police came and the bank robber was *caught red handed*

CAUGHT SHORT – I didn't have enough money to pay the bill. I was *caught short*.

CHALK UP – *record, score*. *Chalk up* another one for the team. They won the championship.

CHANGE OF HEART - a change in the way one feels about something. I wasn't planning to spend the holidays with my family, but after speaking with my mother, I had a *change of heart*.

CHICKENFEED – a small amount of money. Taking the whole family on that cruise is certainly not going to be *chickenfeed*.
