Idioms

1.Be a bit much:  **to be a [situation](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/situation" \o "situation), or [type](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/type" \o "type) of [behaviour](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/behaviour" \o "behaviour) that is [unreasonable](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/unreasonable" \o "unreasonable), or more than you can**[**deal**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/deal)**with:**

Example: I thought being asked to miss my lunch was a bit much.

2. a bit of skirt: a sexually atractive woman

Example: *Have you*[*seen*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/seen)*his [latest](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/latest" \o "latest) bit of [skirt](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/skirt" \o "skirt)?*

3. a bit on the side: **a**[**sexual**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/sexual)**[relationship](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/relationship" \o "relationship) with someone who is not [married](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/married" \o "married) to you, or the [person](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/person" \o "person) you have the [relationship](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/relationship" \o "relationship) with**

*We've [thought](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/thought" \o "thought) for a while that he was****having****a bit on the [side](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/side" \o "side).*

4. not a bit of it: **said when a [situation](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/situation" \o "situation) or [event](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/event" \o "event) is very different from what you [expected](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/expected" \o "expected)**

Example: I thought he would be sorry, but not a bit of it.

5. a bit of rough: **a**[**sexual**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/sexual)**[partner](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/partner" \o "partner), usually a man, from a [low](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/low" \o "low)**[**social**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/social)**[class](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/class" \o "class)**

Example: *Jenny's [chatting](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/chat" \o "chatting) up the*[*barman*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/barman)*again. She [likes](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/likes" \o "likes) a bit of*[*rough*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/rough)*.*

6. get the bit between your teeth: **to do what you have [decided](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/decided" \o "decided) to do in a [forceful](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/forceful" \o "forceful) and [energetic](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/energetic" \o "energetic) way**

*She wasn't that [interested](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/interested" \o "interested) at first, but she [loved](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/love" \o "loved) it*[*once*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/once)*she got the bit between her [teeth](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/teeth" \o "teeth).*

7. be in bits: **to be very [upset](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/upset" \o "upset)**

*He was in*[*bits*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/bit)*after her [death](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/death" \o "death).*

8. be living in a dream world: **to have**[**hopes**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/hope)**and**[**ideas**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/idea)**that are not [practical](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/practical" \o "practical) or [possible](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/possible" \o "possible)**

If he thinks I'll forgive him, he's living in a dream world.

9. a mug’s game: **an [activity](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/activity" \o "activity) that will not make you [happy](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/happy" \o "happy) or [successful](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/successful" \o "successful)**

*She [decided](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/decided" \o "decided) that [freelancing](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/freelance" \o "freelancing) was a mug's [game](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/game" \o "game)*

10 in a dream: **not [conscious](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/conscious" \o "conscious) of what is**[**happening**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/happening)**around you because other [thoughts](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/thought" \o "thoughts) are [filling](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/filling" \o "filling) [your](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/your" \o "your) [mind](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/mind" \o "mind)**

*I didn't [hear](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/hear" \o "hear) what you were saying - I was in a dream*

11. never in your wildest dreams: **used to say that something is [better](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/better" \o "better) than anything you could**[**imagine**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/imagine)**or**[**hope**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/hope)**for**

*Never in my [wildest](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/wild" \o "wildest) [dreams](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/dream" \o "dreams) did I*[*imagine*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/imagine)*that one [day](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/day" \o "day) I would*[*run*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/run)*a [marathon](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/marathon" \o "marathon)*

12. wouldn´t dream of doing something: **used to say that you would not do something because you [think](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/think" \o "think) it is [wrong](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/wrong" \o "wrong) or [silly](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/silly" \o "silly)**

*My [father](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/father" \o "father) is very [generous](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/generous" \o "generous), but I wouldn't dream of [actually](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/actually" \o "actually) [asking](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ask" \o "asking) him for [money](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/money" \o "money)!*

13. in your mind´s eye: **in [your](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/your" \o "your) [imagination](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/imagination" \o "imagination) or [memory](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/memory" \o "memory)**

*In my mind's [eye](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/eye" \o "eye), she is still a little [girl](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/girl" \o "girl) of six, [although](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/although" \o "although) she's [actually](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/actually" \o "actually) a [grown](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/grown" \o "grown) woman.*

14. think outside the box: **to think [imaginatively](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/imaginatively" \o "imaginatively) using new**[**ideas**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/idea)**[instead](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/instead" \o "instead) of [traditional](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/traditional" \o "traditional) or [expected](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/expected" \o "expected)**[**ideas**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/idea)

If we're gonna win, we need to **think outside the box**.

15. a reach of the imagination: **the [act](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/act" \o "act) of [trying](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/trying" \o "trying) very hard to**[**imagine**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/imagine)**something**

*It****[takes](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/take" \o "takes)****(*[*quite*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/quite)*) a reach of the [imagination](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/imagination" \o "imagination) to [believe](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/believe" \o "believe) that [story](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/story" \o "story)*

16. work like a dream: **to [work](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/work" \o "work) or go [extremely](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/extremely" \o "extremely) well, without any [problems](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/problem" \o "problems)**

*The [whole](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/whole" \o "whole)*[*plan*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/plan)*[worked](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/work" \o "worked) like a dream*

17. come back down to earth: **to [start](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/start" \o "start) [dealing](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/dealing" \o "dealing) with [life](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/life" \o "life) and [problems](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/problem" \o "problems) again after you have had a very [exciting](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/excite" \o "exciting)**[**time**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/time)**, or to make someone do this**

*The [realization](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/realization" \o "realization) of how little [work](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/work" \o "work) I'd done for the [exams](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/exam" \o "exams) [brought](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/brought" \o "brought) me [abruptly](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/abrupt" \o "abruptly) back down to earth*

18. as it comes: **If someone [asks](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ask" \o "asks) how they should**[**prepare**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/prepare)**[your](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/your" \o "your) [drink](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/drink" \o "drink) and you say as it comes, you**[**mean**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/mean)**that any way will be [acceptable](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/acceptable" \o "acceptable)**

*How do you like [your](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/your" \o "your) [coffee](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/coffee" \o "coffee)?" "Oh, as it comes.*

19. something to shout about: **something that makes you [feel](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/feel" \o "feel) [excited](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/excite" \o "excited) or [pleased](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/pleased" \o "pleased)**

*At last, a 5–0 [victory](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/victory" \o "victory) gives the team's*[*fans*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/fan)*something to shout about*

20. the boy/girl next door: **used to**[**describe**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/describe)**someone who is [completely](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/completely" \o "completely) [ordinary](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ordinary" \o "ordinary), not [rich](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/rich" \o "rich), [famous](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/famous" \o "famous), etc.**

*We couldn't [believe](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/believe" \o "believe) it when he got a [record](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/record" \o "record)*[*deal*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/deal)*. To us, he was just the [boy](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/boy" \o "boy) next [door](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/door" \o "door)*

21. clean up your act: **to**[**start**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/start)**to**[**obey**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/obey)[**certain**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/certain)[**laws**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/law)**or**[**generally**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/generally)[**accepted**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/accepted)[**standards**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/standard)**of**[**behaviour**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/behaviour)

*You're going to have to clean up [your](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/your" \o "your) [act](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/act" \o "act) if you're [serious](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/serious" \o "serious) about [keeping](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/keeping" \o "keeping) [your](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/your" \o "your) [job](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/job" \o "job)*

22. as and when: **at the**[**time**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/time)**that something [happens](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/happen" \o "happens)**

We don't own a car - we just rent one as and when we need it

23. under the wire: **used to mean that someone does something at the last [possible](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/possible" \o "possible) [moment](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/moment" \o "moment)**

*They got in under the wire just before the [entry](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/entry" \o "entry) [requirements](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/requirement" \o "requirements) for the*[*training*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/training)*[program](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/program" \o "program) [changed](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/changed" \o "changed)*

24. about-face: a complete change of opinion or behaviour

This is the senator's second about-face on the issue

25. a new broom sweeps clean: said when someone new takes control of an organization and makes many changes

Jill: That new supervisor is awfully strict. Jane: New brooms sweep clean

26. a mistery to me: something I do not understand

It’s a mystery to me why she married him in the first place!

27. a narrow squeak: a success that was almost a failure

We caught the ferry but it was a narrow squeak

28 a feather in your cap: an achievement to be proud of

It's a real feather in our cap to be playing in the state championship

29. put something to bed: to successfully deal with something or solve a problema

We thought we'd put the issue to bed, but it was brought up again at the next meeting

30. actions speak louder tan words: said to emphasize that what you do is more important, and shows your intentions and feelings more clearly than what you say

Team USA is not expected to win, but they believe actions speak louder than words.

31. a bird in the hand is worth two in the Bush: **said when you [recognize](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/recognize" \o "recognize) that you should not [risk](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/risk" \o "risk) [losing](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/losing" \o "losing) something you already have by [trying](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/trying" \o "trying) to get something you [think](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/think" \o "think) might be [better](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/better" \o "better)**

32. all things being equal: if everything happens as expected

All things being equal, I'll be at home on Tuesday.

33. be in someone’s shoes: to be in the situation, usually a bad or difficult situation, that another person is in

I wouldn't like to be in Mike's shoes when the boss hears what he's done!

34. It’s a funny old world: said when someone has told you something that is strange or surprising

Stop the World—I Want to Get Off.” Now they are going right back to the dawn of time for a new musical, “It's a Funny Old World We Live In, But the World's Not Entirely to Blame.

35. have the wind at your back: to be in a good situation in which you can succeed

The president has the wind at his back on this issue

36. around robin hood’s barn: going an indirect way to get to your destination, so that it takes a long time

We got so lost that we ended up going around Robin Hood's barn to get to Tom and Diane's new house

37. what’s cooking?: used to ask about what is happening or what someone is planning

Hi there! What's cooking? Are we going out?

38. blessing in disguise: something that seems bad or unlucky at first but causes something good to happen later

Being laid off was a blessing in disguise – within a month I got a much better job.

39. while the cat’s away, the mice Will play: said when the person who is in charge of a place is not there, and the people there behave badly

When the teacher left for a few minutes, the children nearly wrecked the classroom. When the cat's away, the mice will play. Jill: You shouldn't be reading a novel at your desk. Jane: But the boss isn't here. And when the cat's away, the mice will play

40. a chip off the old block: someone who is very similar in character to their father or mother

Same like his brother, he is a chip off the old block, very rude in behavior and stout

41. add fuel to the fire: to make an argument or bad situation worse

The discovery that the government was aware of the cover-up has really added fuel to the fire

42. talk smack: to make critical or insulting comments to someone, especially an opponent

We argue and fight and talk smack to each other

43. be a dime a dozen: to be common and/or of very little value

Books like this are a dime a dozen

44. a friend in need is a friend indeed: This means that a friend who helps you when you really need help is a true friend

He stayed with me throughout the time I was in the hospital, a friend in need is a friend indeed! I always try to work out a way for my friends' problems. A friend in need is a friend in deed

45. a leopard doesn’t change its spots: something you say that means a person's character, especially if it is bad, will not change, even if they pretend that it Will

The teacher tried to be kind to her students, but a leopard can't change its spots, she was still very mean

46. a stitch in time saves nine: said to mean that it is better to act or deal with problems immediately, because if you wait and deal with them later, things will get worse and the problems will take longer to deal with

It seems that something wrong with my car, it's better to get its check-up as a stitch in time saves nine

47. enough is enough: this must stop

The play was dull and I decided enough is enough and left early

48. once in a blue moon: not very often

My sister lives in Alaska, so I only see her once in a blue moon

49. be barking up the wrong tree: to be wrong about the reason for something or the way to achieve something

She thinks it'll solve the problem, but I think she's barking up the wrong tree

50. let the cat out of the bag: to allow a secret to be known, usually without intending to

I was trying to keep the party a secret, but Mel went and let the cat out of the bag

51. all that glitters is not gold: said about something that seems to be good on the surface, but might not be when you look at it more closely

My grandmother advised me to be careful about making new friends, because all that glitters is not gold

52. a penny saved is a penny earned: something you say that means it is wise to save money

I'd advise anyone to put aside a proportion of their earnings - a penny saved is a penny earned

53. a piece of cake: something that is very easy to do

The exam was a piece of cake

54. lipstick on a pig: an unsuccessful attempt to make something ugly look more attractive

Have you ever tried to 'dress up' something unappealing in a vain attempt to make it look better? For instance, that tired old sofa is still looking tired, even though you've put a 'luxury throw' on it, and that ugly concrete yard is still a concrete yard, even though you've adorned it with a couple of pot plants. These attempts to make something unpleasant look more attractive which, despite our best efforts, are decidedly unsuccessful, are classic examples of lipstick on a pig

55. a rolling stone gathers no moss: said to mean that a person who is always travelling and changing jobs has the advantage of having no responsibilities, but also has disadvantages such as having no permanent place to live

Hal was a bit of a rolling stone gathers no moss, before he married and settled down

56. at the drop of a hat: said when someone do something immediately without stopping to think about it

People will file lawsuits at the drop of a hat these days

57. know on which side one’s bread is buttered: know what is convenient for you

She knows on which side her bread is buttered, so she has decided to work