**American Idioms and Phrases**

* A dime a dozen: Very common.

e*x: "Girls like her are a dime a dozen" (There are lots of girls like her)*

* All: Used to mean "very" in phrases such as "He was all nervous"
* Ballpark figure: Rough estimate *e*

*ex: "Can you give me a ball-park figure of what the final cost will be?"*

* Break: Stroke of luck.

*ex: "We got a big break in the case today!"*

* Every so often: Once in a while.

*ex: "Every so often I like to go for a long walk.“*

* Get a kick out of (something): To enjoy (something)

ex: "Why does he get such a kick out of watching her suffer?"

* Hang in there!: This basically means "don't give up!"
* No sweat: No problem.
* Piece of cake: Very easy.

ex: "That test was a piece of cake."

* You bet: 1) Of course.

ex: "P1: Hey you wanna come to the beach with us? P2: You bet!";

2) No problem. ex: "P1: Thanks for all your help! P2: You bet!"

* You can say that again!: Phrase meaning "I agree with you completely."
* Big deal! - So what? That doesn't really matter.
* (to) blow things out of proportion - to exaggerate; to make more of something than one should
* (to) do the trick - to achieve the desired results
* (to) give someone the cold shoulder - to be cold to someone on purpose; to snub someone
* (to) get the ball rolling - to get started
* (to) go back to the drawing board - to start a task over because the last try failed; to start again from the beginning
* (to) have a heart of gold - to be very kind and giving
* (to) hit the nail on the head - to be right
* (to) learn the ropes - to learn the basics
* (to) lose one's touch - to no longer be able to do something well

* (to) twist someone's arm - to persuade someone; to convince someone
* (to) tell someone off - to scold; to tell someone in strong words what one really thinks
* (to) stab someone in the back - to betray someone
* (to) sit tight - to wait patiently
* Smell a rat – Feel that something is wrong
* Go to the dogs – Flopped, run-down
* Fishy – Strange and suspicious
* Take the bull by the horns – Take decisive action in a difficult situation
* For the birds – Uninteresting and meaningless
* Straight from the horse’s mouth – From a reliable source
* Catch one's eye – Attract one's attention/interest
* Hit the books – Study
* Be all ears – To be listening attentively or eagerly
* Beat one’s brains out – Try very hard to understand or do something.
* Bent out of shape – Needlessly worried about something
* Break a leg – Good luck
* Burn the midnight oil – Study/work all night or until very, very late at night
* Couch potato – Someone who spends too much time watching TV
* Drop someone a line – Write to someone
* Have one’s hands full – Be extremely busy
* Hit the sack – Go to bed