

### Some Useful Idioms for IELTS Speaking

Idiom	Meaning	Sentence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To Bite the Bullet</li></ul>	To force yourself to do something unpleasant or difficult, or to be brave in a difficult situation.	I didn't want to go to the dentist, but I had to bite the bullet and make an appointment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A Piece of Cake</li></ul>	If you think something is very easy to do.	The math test was a piece of cake for her since she had studied so well.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Kill Two Birds With One Stone</li></ul>	To achieve two things by doing a single action.	By picking up groceries on his way home from work, Tom managed to kill two birds with one stone.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Let the Cat Out of the Bag</li></ul>	To disclose a secret, often by mistake.	She accidentally let the cat out of the bag about the surprise party while talking to him.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Don't Put All Your Eggs in One Basket</li></ul>	To avoid concentrating all your resources or efforts in one area, as a way to minimize risk.	It's wise to invest in different stocks and not put all your eggs in one basket.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Once in a Blue Moon</li></ul>	Happens very rarely.	I only see my cousins once in a blue moon since they live so far away.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Burn the Midnight Oil</li> </ul>	<p>To work late into the night or to work hard on something.</p>	<p>During finals week, I had to burn the midnight oil to finish all my studying.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Burn the Candle at Both Ends</li> </ul>	<p>To exhaust oneself by working too much, going to bed late and getting up early.</p>	<p>She's been burning the candle at both ends, working two jobs and studying full-time.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● At the Drop of a Hat</li> </ul>	<p>To do something immediately and without hesitation.</p>	<p>He would travel at the drop of a hat if it meant going on an adventure with his friends.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cry Over Spilt Milk</li> </ul>	<p>To waste time feeling upset about something that has already happened and cannot be changed.</p>	<p>After losing the game, I realized it was pointless to cry over spilt milk and decided to focus on improving for next time.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● You Can't Judge a Book by its Cover</li> </ul>	<p>You should not judge people or things based on their appearance.</p>	<p>Just because the restaurant looks small from the outside doesn't mean the food isn't amazing; you can't judge a book by its cover.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Don't Count Your Chickens Before They Hatch</li> </ul>	<p>Don't assume that something will happen or be successful before it actually occurs.</p>	<p>She was excited about her job interview, but her friend reminded her not to count her chickens before they hatch.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Go the Extra Mile</li> </ul>	<p>To make more effort than is expected or required.</p>	<p>The teacher always goes the extra mile to help her students understand the material.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Raining Cats and Dogs</li> </ul>	Raining very heavily.	We had to cancel the picnic because it was raining cats and dogs all afternoon.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Throw in the Towel</li> </ul>	To admit defeat or give up.	After several failed attempts to fix the car, he finally decided to throw in the towel and call a mechanic.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cross That Bridge When You Come To It</li> </ul>	Deal with a problem or situation when it actually happens, rather than worrying about it beforehand.	I'm not worried about the exam; I'll just cross that bridge when I come to it.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rome Wasn't Built in a Day</li> </ul>	Important work takes time and should not be rushed.	Learning a new language takes time; remember, Rome wasn't built in a day.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Water Under The Bridge</li> </ul>	Past things that are not important anymore	I had some problems with my friends. But, those are water under bridges now.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An Arm and A Leg</li> </ul>	Very costly	BMW and all is an arm and a leg for me.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over the Moon</li> </ul>	Extreme happiness	I was over the moon when I got selected for a job.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Between a rock and a hard place</li> </ul>	Two equally bad choices	I don't like my partner. If I leave her, she could hurt herself. I am between a rock and a hard place.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It's Not One Thing, It's the Other</li> </ul>	Problems are happening simultaneously	I got rejected from a job. Now, I broke my legs. If it's not one thing, it's the other.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pulling your Leg</li> </ul>	Teasing or Joking around	Don't take it personally. I am just pulling your leg
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Break a leg</li> </ul>	Good luck	Today, you are going to take a major exam, right? Break a leg.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take a rain check</li> </ul>	Rejecting an invitation now. But, when you would like to do it later.	I can't come to the party now. I have to take a rain check.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The heat of the moment</li> </ul>	Doing or saying something suddenly without thinking about it.	Sorry for what I have said. I said in the heat of the moment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jumping the Gun</li> </ul>	Starting or Initiating something too early	He was jumping the gun by assuming he'd get the promotion before the interviews even started.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut to the chase</li> </ul>	Getting to the point and leaving out all the non-essential information	Please cut to the chase. We don't want to listen to all your stories.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep an eye on him</li> </ul>	Watching someone in a careful manner	He seems a little suspicious. So, keep an eye on him
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work against the clock</li> </ul>	Not having sufficient time to do something	We have to work against the clock to complete this project.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cloud has a silver lining</li> </ul>	Seeing the positive side in a negative situation	Don't worry about that. Every cloud has a silver lining.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Let the sleeping dogs lie</li> </ul>	Avoiding a conflict or problem	I don't want to discuss it with him anymore. It's better to let the sleeping dogs lie.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spitting Image</li> </ul>	Looking exactly the same thing	He's a spitting image of her brother.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold your horses</li> </ul>	Telling someone to be patient	Hold your horses, you're behaving so idiotically
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sitting on the fence</li> </ul>	Not able to make firm and strong decisions	I don't know which career he is going to choose. He is sitting on the fence.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A drop in the ocean</li> </ul>	A minute part of a bigger thing.	He has a lot of wisdom. What he just said is a drop in the ocean.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blessing in disguise</li> </ul>	At first, it seems like the wrong thing but it turns out to be good.	I failed the previous exam which was a blessing in disguise. Now, I got higher marks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under the Weather</li> </ul>	Unwell	He is not talking with us. I guess he is under the weather.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actions speak louder than words</li> </ul>	<p>Actions have a better impact than speaking</p>	<p>We have to act instead of thinking too much about that. Actions speak louder than words.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It's a small world</li> </ul>	<p>Meeting someone who is close in an unexpected context.</p>	<p>I met George in the supermarket. It's a small world.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Got up on the wrong side of the bed this morning</li> </ul>	<p>Being in a bad mood</p>	<p>I guess he got up on the wrong side of the bed this morning. That's why he is in a terrible state of mind.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fresh as a daisy</li> </ul>	<p>Someone who is active, lively, and jovial</p>	<p>Though my mother aged, she is still as fresh as a daisy.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Couch potato</li> </ul>	<p>A lazy person or someone who is watching TV without doing any work.</p>	<p>My friend is a couch potato. He is watching TV programmes though he has a lot of work.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bad egg</li> </ul>	A person who is not trustworthy.	I think you should not tell your secrets to mohan. He is such a bad egg.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Down to earth</li> </ul>	A person who is practical and realistic	George is such a down to earth person. He can offer practical solutions to problems rather than confusing us.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Out of the blue</li> </ul>	Something occurred in an unexpected way	I was shocked since he surprised me, out of the blue.