

Idioms & Phrases

Idiom- Idiom is a group of words in a fixed order that have a particular meaning that is different from the meanings of each word on its own. We can see that “**An apple of one’s eye**” is a group of words whose meaning has nothing to do with that of the individual words i.e. apple & eye.

“An apple of one’s eye means loving person viz. her child for mother.

An idiomatic language is always better equipped to communicate as it lends charm and expression to the routine language. However excessive use of idioms is not advisable as it makes the language showy and may give an impression that the speaker wants to impress the listener. As English contains many idioms, nonnative English speakers have difficulties making logical sense of idioms and idiomatic expressions.

Example- “To have bitten off more than you can chew” is an idiom that means you have tried to do something which is too difficult for you.

Phrase- A phrase is a short group of words which acts as a single unit and have in particular meaning.

Examples of idioms & phrases

- **A bull in a China shop** - an awkward person
- **A red letter day** - an important day
- **Nine days wonder** - pleasure for a short time
- **Break the ice** - to break the silence
- **Between the devil and deep blue sea** - a type of situation where you must choose between two equally unpleasant situations
- **Be in seventh heaven** - extremely happy
- **Back to the salt mines** - back to something that you don’t want to do
- **Ball of fire** - active and energetic

phrases & idioms

- **Beat one's head against the wall-** to try to do something that is hopeless
- **Bark up the wrong tree-** to make a wrong assumption
- **Behind closed doors-** done in secret
- **Bitter pill to swallow-** an unpleasant fact that must be accepted
- **Black sheep of the family-** worst member
- **Blind leading the blind-** someone who does not understand something but tries to explain it to other
- **Blow one's own horn-** to praise one
- **Blow someone's mind-** excite someone
- **Dances to the tune-** to always do what someone tells you to do
- **Dog in the manger-** If someone acts like a dog in the manger, they don't want other people to have or enjoy things that are useless to them
- **Donkey work-** Donkey work is any hard, boring work or task.
- **Don't throw bricks when you live in a glass house-** Don't call others out on actions that you, yourself do. Don't be a hypocrite.
- **End in smoke-** to bear no result
- **Feather in one's cap-** something that you achieve and proud of.
- **French leave-** absent without permission, to take French leave is to leave a gathering without saying goodbye or without permission.
- **Grease monkey-** A grease monkey is an idiomatic term for a mechanic
- **Graveyard shift-** If you have to work very late at night, it is the graveyard shift
- **Jack-of-all-trades-** A jack-of-all-trades is someone that can do many different jobs.
- **Jekyll and Hyde -** Someone who has a Jekyll and Hyde personality has a pleasant and a very unpleasant side to the character.
- **Make castles in the air-** plans or hopes that have very little chances of happening.
- **Man of his word-** A man of his word is a person who does what he says and keeps his Promises