IDIOMS

A Bird In The Hand Is Worth Two In The Bush:
Having something that is certain is much better than taking a risk for more, because chances are you might lose everything.

A Blessing In Disguise:
Something good that isn't recognized at first.

A Chip On Your Shoulder:
Being upset for something that happened in the past.

A Dime A Dozen:
Anything that is common and easy to get.

A Doubting Thomas:
A skeptic who needs physical or personal evidence in order to believe something.

A Drop in the Bucket:
A very small part of something big or whole.

A Fool And His Money Are Easily Parted:
It's easy for a foolish person to lose his/her money.

A House Divided Against Itself Cannot Stand:
Everyone involved must unify and function together or it will not work out.

A Leopard Can't Change His Spots:
You cannot change who you are.

A Penny Saved Is A Penny Earned:
By not spending money, you are saving money (little by little).

A Picture Paints a Thousand Words:
A visual presentation is far more descriptive than words.

A Piece of Cake:
A task that can be accomplished very easily.

A Slap on the Wrist:
A very mild punishment.

A Taste Of Your Own Medicine:
When you are mistreated the same way you mistreat others.

A Toss-Up:
A result that is still unclear and can go either way.

Actions Speak Louder Than Words:
It's better to actually do something than just talk about it.

Add Fuel To The Fire:
Whenever something is done to make a bad situation even worse than it is.

Against The Clock:
Rushed and short on time.

All Bark And No Bite:
When someone is threatening and/or aggressive but not willing to engage in a fight.

All Greek to me:
Meaningless and incomprehensible like someone who cannot read, speak, or understand any of the Greek language would be.

All In The Same Boat:
When everyone is facing the same challenges.

An Arm And A Leg:
Very expensive. A large amount of money.

An Axe To Grind:
To have a dispute with someone.

Apple of My Eye:
Someone who is cherished above all others.

As High As A Kite:
Anything that is high up in the sky.

At The Drop Of A Hat:
Willing to do something immediately.

B

Back Seat Driver:
People who criticize from the sidelines, much like someone giving unwanted advice from the back seat of a vehicle to the driver.

Back To Square One:
Having to start all over again.

Back To The Drawing Board:
When an attempt fails and it's time to start all over.

Baker's Dozen:
Thirteen.

Barking Up The Wrong Tree:
A mistake made in something you are trying to achieve.

Beat A Dead Horse:
To force an issue that has already ended.

Beating Around The Bush:
Avoiding the main topic. Not speaking directly about the issue.

Bend Over Backwards:
Do whatever it takes to help. Willing to do anything.

Between A Rock And A Hard Place:
Stuck between two very bad options.

Bite Off More Than You Can Chew:
To take on a task that is way too big.

Bite Your Tongue:
To avoid talking.

Blood Is Thicker Than Water:
The family bond is closer than anything else.

Blue Moon:
A rare event or occurrence.

**Break A Leg:**
A superstitious way to say 'good luck' without saying 'good luck', but rather the opposite.

**Buy A Lemon:**
To purchase a vehicle that constantly gives problems or stops running after you drive it away.

**C**

**Can't Cut The Mustard :**
Someone who isn't adequate enough to compete or participate.

**Cast Iron Stomach:**
Someone who has no problems, complications or ill effects with eating anything or drinking anything.

**Charley Horse:**
Stiffness in the leg / A leg cramp.

**Chew someone out:**
Verbally scold someone.

**Chip on his Shoulder:**
Angry today about something that occurred in the past.

**Chow Down:**
To eat.

**Close but no Cigar:**
To be very near and almost accomplish a goal, but fall short.

**Cock and Bull Story:**
An unbelievable tale.

**Come Hell Or High Water:**
Any difficult situation or obstacle.

**Crack Someone Up:**
To make someone laugh.

**Cross Your Fingers:**
To hope that something happens the way you want it to.

**Cry Over Spilt Milk:**
When you complain about a loss from the past.

**Cry Wolf:**
Intentionally raise a false alarm.

**Cup Of Joe:**
A cup of coffee.

**Curiosity Killed The Cat:**
Being Inquisitive can lead you into a dangerous situation.

**Cut to the Chase:**
Leave out all the unnecessary details and just get to the point.
**D**

**Dark Horse:**
One who was previously unknown and is now prominent.

**Dead Ringer:**
100% identical. A duplicate.

**Devil’s Advocate:**
Someone who takes a position for the sake of argument without believing in that particular side of the argument. It can also mean one who presents a counter argument for a position they do believe in, to another debater.

**Dog Days of Summer:**
The hottest days of the summer season.

**Don’t count your chickens before they hatch:**
Don’t rely on it until you’re sure of it.

**Don’t Look A Gift Horse In The Mouth:**
When someone gives you a gift, don’t be ungrateful.

**Don’t Put All Your Eggs In One Basket:**
Do not put all your resources in one possibility.

**Doozy:**
Something outstanding.

**Down To The Wire:**
Something that ends at the last minute or last few seconds.

**Drastic Times Call For Drastic Measures:**
When you are extremely desperate you need to take extremely desperate actions.

**Drink like a fish:**
To drink very heavily.

**Drive someone up the wall:**
To irritate and/or annoy very much.

**Dropping Like Flies:**
A large number of people either falling ill or dying.

**Dry Run:**
Rehearsal.

**E**

**Eighty Six:**
A certain item is no longer available. Or this idiom can also mean, to throw away.

**Elvis has left the building:**
The show has come to an end. It's all over.

**Ethnic Cleansing:**
Killing of a certain ethnic or religious group on a massive scale.

**Every Cloud Has A Silver Lining:**
Be optimistic, even difficult times will lead to better days.

**Everything But The Kitchen Sink:**
Almost everything and anything has been included.

**Excuse my French:**
Please forgive me for cussing.

**Cock and Bull Story:**
An unbelievable tale.

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An unbelievable tale.

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**F**

**Feeding Frenzy:**
An aggressive attack on someone by a group.

**Field Day:**
An enjoyable day or circumstance.

**Finding Your Feet:**
To become more comfortable in whatever you are doing.

**Finger lickin’ good:**
A very tasty food or meal.

**Fixed In Your Ways:**
Not willing or wanting to change from your normal way of doing something.

**Flash In The Pan:**
Something that shows potential or looks promising in the beginning but fails to deliver anything in the end.

**Flea Market:**
A swap meet. A place where people gather to buy and sell inexpensive goods.

**Flesh and Blood:**
This idiom can mean living material of which people are made of, or it can refer to someone’s family.

**Flip The Bird:**
To raise your middle finger at someone.

**Foam at the Mouth:**
To be enraged and show it.

**Fools’ Gold:**
Iron pyrites, a worthless rock that resembles real gold.

**French Kiss:**
An open mouth kiss where tongues touch.

**From Rags To Riches:**
To go from being very poor to being very wealthy.

**Fuddy-duddy:**
An old-fashioned and foolish type of person.
**Full Monty:**
This idiom can mean either, "the whole thing" or "completely nude".

**Funny Farm:**
A mental institutional facility.

**G**

**Get Down to Brass Tacks:**
To become serious about something.

**Get Over It:**
To move beyond something that is bothering you.

**Get Up On The Wrong Side Of The Bed:**
Someone who is having a horrible day.

**Get Your Walking Papers:**
Get fired from a job.

**Give Him The Slip:**
To get away from. To escape.

**Go Down Like A Lead Balloon:**
To be received badly by an audience.

**Go For Broke:**
To gamble everything you have.

**Go Out On A Limb:**
Put yourself in a tough position in order to support someone/something.

**Go The Extra Mile:**
Going above and beyond whatever is required for the task at hand.

**Good Samaritan:**
Someone who helps others when they are in need, with no discussion for compensation, and no thought of a reward.

**Graveyard Shift:**
Working hours from about 12:00 am to 8:00 am. The time of the day when most other people are sleeping.

**Great Minds Think Alike:**
Intelligent people think like each other.

**Green Room:**
The waiting room, especially for those who are about to go on a tv or radio show.

**Gut Feeling:**
A personal intuition you get, especially when feel something may not be right.

**H**

**Haste Makes Waste:**
Quickly doing things results in a poor ending.
**Hat Trick:**
When one player scores three goals in the same hockey game. This idiom can also mean three scores in any other sport, such as 3 home runs, 3 touchdowns, 3 soccer goals, etc.

**Have an Axe to Grind:**
To have a dispute with someone.

**He Lost His Head:**
Angry and overcome by emotions.

**Head Over Heels:**
Very excited and/or joyful, especially when in love.

**Hell in a Handbasket:**
Deteriorating and headed for complete disaster.

**High Five:**
Slapping palms above each others heads as celebration gesture.

**High on the Hog:**
Living in Luxury.

**Hit The Books:**
To study, especially for a test or exam.

**Hit The Hay:**
Go to bed or go to sleep.

**Hit The Nail on the Head:**
Do something exactly right or say something exactly right.

**Hit The Sack:**
Go to bed or go to sleep.

**Hocus Pocus:**
In general, a term used in magic or trickery.

**Hold Your Horses:**
Be patient.

**Icing On The Cake:**
When you already have it good and get something on top of what you already have.

**Idle Hands Are The Devil's Tools:**
You are more likely to get in trouble if you have nothing to do.

**If It's Not One Thing, It's Another:**
When one thing goes wrong, then another, and another...

**In Like Flynn:**
To be easily successful, especially when sexual or romantic.

**In The Bag:**
To have something secured.

**In The Buff:**
Nude.
**In The Heat Of The Moment:**
Overwhelmed by what is happening in the moment.

**In Your Face:**
An aggressive and bold confrontation.

**It Takes Two To Tango:**
A two person conflict where both people are at fault.

**It's A Small World:**
You frequently see the same people in different places.

**Its Anyone's Call:**
A competition where the outcome is difficult to judge or predict.

**Ivy League:**
Since 1954 the Ivy League has been the following universities: Columbia, Brown, Cornell, Dartmouth, Yale, Pennsylvania, Princeton, and Harvard.

**J**

**Jaywalk:**
Crossing the street (from the middle) without using the crosswalk.

**Joshing Me:**
Tricking me.

**K**

**Keep An Eye On Him:**
You should carefully watch him.

**Keep body and soul together:**
To earn a sufficient amount of money in order to keep yourself alive.

**Keep your chin up:**
To remain joyful in a tough situation.

**Kick The Bucket:**
Die.

**Kitty-corner:**
Diagonally across. Sometimes called Catty-Corner as well.

**Knee Jerk Reaction:**
A quick and automatic response.

**Knock On Wood:**
Knuckle tapping on wood in order to avoid some bad luck.

**Know the Ropes:**
To understand the details.
Last but not least:
An introduction phrase to let the audience know that the last person mentioned is no less important than those introduced before him/her.

Lend Me Your Ear:
To politely ask for someone's full attention.

Let Bygones Be Bygones:
To forget about a disagreement or argument.

Let Sleeping Dogs Lie:
To avoid restarting a conflict.

Let The Cat Out Of The Bag:
To share a secret that wasn't suppose to be shared.

Level playing field:
A fair competition where no side has an advantage.

Like a chicken with its head cut off:
To act in a frenzied manner.

Liquor someone up:
To get someone drunk.

Long in the Tooth:
Old people (or horses).

Loose Cannon:
Someone who is unpredictable and can cause damage if not kept in check.

M

Make No Bones About:
To state a fact so there are no doubts or objections.

Method To My Madness:
Strange or crazy actions that appear meaningless but in the end are done for a good reason.

Mumbo Jumbo:
Nonsense or meaningless speech.

Mum's the word:
To keep quiet. To say nothing.

N

Nest Egg:
Savings set aside for future use.

Never Bite The Hand That Feeds You:
Don't hurt anyone that helps you.

New kid on the block:
Someone new to the group or area.
**New York Minute:**
A minute that seems to go by quickly, especially in a fast paced environment.

**No Dice:**
To not agree. To not accept a proposition.

**No Room to Swing a Cat:**
An unusually small or confined space.

**Not Playing With a Full Deck:**
Someone who lacks intelligence.

**Off On The Wrong Foot:**
Getting a bad start on a relationship or task.

**Off The Hook:**
No longer have to deal with a tough situation.

**Off the Record:**
Something said in confidence that the one speaking doesn't want attributed to him/her.

**On Pins And Needles:**
Anxious or nervous, especially in anticipation of something.

**On The Fence:**
Undecided.

**On The Same Page:**
When multiple people all agree on the same thing.

**Out Of The Blue:**
Something that suddenly and unexpectedly occurs.

**Out On A Limb:**
When someone puts themself in a risky situation.

**Out On The Town:**
To enjoy yourself by going out.

**Over My Dead Body:**
When you absolutely will not allow something to happen.

**Over the Top:**
Very excessive.

**Pass The Buck:**
Avoid responsibility by giving it to someone else.

**Pedal to the metal:**
To go full speed, especially while driving a vehicle.

**Peeping Tom:**
Someone who observes people in the nude or sexually active people, mainly for his own
gratification.

**Pick up your ears:**
To listen very carefully.

**Pig In A Poke:**
A deal that is made without first examining it.

**Pig Out:**
To eat a lot and eat it quickly.

**Pipe Down:**
To shut-up or be quiet.

**Practice Makes Perfect:**
By constantly practicing, you will become better.

**Pull the plug:**
To stop something. To bring something to an end.

**Pulling Your Leg:**
Tricking someone as a joke.

**Put a sock in it:**
To tell noisy person or a group to be quiet.

**Q**

**Queer the pitch:**
Destroy or ruin a plan.

**R**

**Raincheck:**
An offer or deal that is declined right now but willing to accept later.

**Raining Cats and Dogs:**
A very loud and noisy rain storm.

**Ring Fencing:**
Separated usual judgement to guarantee protection, especially project funds.

**Rise and Shine:**
Time to get out of bed and get ready for work/school.

**Rome Was Not Built In One Day:**
If you want something to be completely properly, then it's going to take time.

**Rule Of Thumb:**
A rough estimate.

**Run out of steam:**
To be completely out of energy.
S

**Saved By The Bell:**
Saved at the last possible moment.

**Scapegoat:**
Someone else who takes the blame.

**Scot-free:**
To escape and not have to pay.

**Sick As A Dog:**
To be very sick (with the flu or a cold).

**Sitting Shotgun:**
Riding in the front passenger seat of a car.

**Sixth Sense:**
A paranormal sense that allows you to communicate with the dead.

**Skid Row:**
The rundown area of a city where the homeless and drug users live.

**Smell A Rat:**
To detect someone in the group is betraying the others.

**Smell Something Fishy:**
Detecting that something isn't right and there might be a reason for it.

**Son of a Gun:**
A scamp.

**Southpaw:**
Someone who is left-handed.

**Spitting Image:**
The exact likeness or kind.

**Start From Scratch:**
To do it all over again from the beginning.

T

**The Ball Is In Your Court:**
It is your decision this time.

**The Best Of Both Worlds:**
There are two choices and you have them both.

**The Bigger They Are The Harder They Fall:**
While the bigger and stronger opponent might be alot more difficult to beat, when you do they suffer a much bigger loss.

**The Last Straw:**
When one small burden after another creates an unbearable situation, the last straw is the last small burden that one can take.

**The Whole Nine Yards:**
Everything. All of it.
Third times a charm:
After no success the first two times, the third try is a lucky one.

Tie the knot:
To get married.

Til the cows come home:
A long time.

To Make A Long Story Short:
Something someone would say during a long and boring story in order to keep his/her audience from losing attention. Usually the story isn't shortened.

To Steal Someone's Thunder:
To take the credit for something someone else did.

Tongue And Cheek:
humor, not to be taken serious.

Turn A Blind Eye:
Refuse to acknowledge something you know is real or legit.

Twenty three skidoo:
To be turned away.

Under the weather:
Feeling ill or sick.

Up a blind alley:
Going down a course of action that leads to a bad outcome.

Use Your Loaf:
Use your head. Think smart.

Van Gogh's ear for music:
Tone deaf.

Variety Is The Spice Of Life:
The more experiences you try the more exciting life can be.

Wag the Dog:
A diversion away from something of greater importance.

Water Under The Bridge:
Anything from the past that isn't significant or important anymore.

Wear Your Heart On Your Sleeve:
To openly and freely express your emotions.

When It Rains, It Pours:
Since it rarely rains, when it does it will be a huge storm.

When Pigs Fly:
Something that will never ever happen.

Wild and Woolly:
Uncultured and without laws.

Wine and Dine:
When somebody is treated to an expensive meal.

Without A Doubt:
For certain.

X

X marks the spot:
A phrase that is said when someone finds something he/she has been looking for.

Y

You Are What You Eat:
In order to stay healthy you must eat healthy foods.

You Can't Judge A Book By Its Cover:
Decisions shouldn't be made primarily on appearance.

You Can't Take it With You:
Enjoy what you have and not what you don't have, since when you die you cannot take things (such as money) with you.

Your Guess Is As Good As Mine:
I have no idea.

Z

Zero Tolerance:
No crime or law breaking big or small will be overlooked.