

Idioms Pdf

A blessing in disguise- Something that seems bad at first but turns out to be good later.

Example- Losing your job might be a blessing in disguise if it leads you to a better career opportunity.

A dime a dozen- Very common or easy to find.

Example- In the city, coffee shops are a dime a dozen.

A piece of cake- Something that is very easy to do.

Example- The exam was a piece of cake, I finished it in 10 minutes.

Actions speak louder than words- What someone does is more important than what they say.

Example- He promised to help, but his actions spoke louder than words when he didn't show up.

All ears- To be very attentive and listen carefully.

Example- I'm all ears, tell me everything you know.

All in the same boat- To be in the same difficult situation.

Example- The pandemic affected everyone, we're all in the same boat.

Apple of my eye- Someone or something that is very precious and loved.

Example- My daughter is the apple of my eye, I love her more than anything in the world.

Back to the drawing board- To start something over because it wasn't successful the first time.

Example- The project failed, so we have to go back to the drawing board and come up with a new plan.

Barking up the wrong tree- To make a mistake in your approach or accusation.

Example- If you think I stole your wallet, you're barking up the wrong tree. I wasn't even there.

Beat around the bush- To avoid talking about something directly.

Example- Stop beating around the bush and tell me what you really think.

Better late than never- It is better to do something late than to never do it at all.

Example- She didn't send her RSVP until the day before the wedding, but I'm still glad she's coming.
Better late than never.

Bite the bullet- To face something difficult or unpleasant.

Example- I don't want to go to the dentist, but I know I have to bite the bullet and make an appointment.

Break a leg- A way to wish someone good luck, especially in a performance.

Example- Before going on stage, the director said, "Break a leg!" to the actors.

Call it a day- To stop working for the day.

Example- We've been working on this project all afternoon. Let's call it a day and continue tomorrow.

Catch someone's eye- To get someone's attention.

Example- The bright colors of the painting caught my eye as I walked by the gallery.

Cut to the chase- To get to the main point without wasting time.

Example- We don't have all day to talk. Can you cut to the chase and tell me what you want?

Devil's advocate- Someone who argues against something to provoke debate or test the strength of an argument.

Example- I know you think we should go with Plan A, but let me play devil's advocate and suggest some reasons why Plan B might be better.

Don't count your chickens before they hatch- Don't assume something will happen before it actually does.

Example- Just because you've applied for the job doesn't mean you'll get it. Don't count your chickens before they hatch.

Down to the wire- To finish something just before the deadline.

Example- We were down to the wire on the project, but we managed to finish it just in time.

Driving me up the wall- To annoy or irritate someone.

Example- His constant tapping on the table is driving me up the wall.

Every cloud has a silver lining- Even in difficult situations, there is always something positive to find.

Example- Losing my job was difficult, but it gave me the opportunity to pursue a career I really love. Every cloud has a silver lining.

Face the music- To accept the consequences of your actions.

Example- You cheated on the exam, and now you have to face the music and accept the punishment.

Fair-weather friend- Someone who is only a friend during good times and abandons you during difficult times.

Example- She's only there for me when everything is going well. She's a fair-weather friend.

Get a taste of your own medicine- To experience the same negative treatment that you have given to others.

Example- He was always gossiping about other people, but when he heard rumors about himself, he finally got a taste of his own medicine.

Get off someone's back- To stop criticizing or bothering someone.

Example- You've been nagging me about my homework all day. Can you please get off my back?

Get the ball rolling- To start something or get it moving.

Example- We need to get the ball rolling on this project if we want to finish it on time.

Give the benefit of the doubt- To believe someone is telling the truth, even if it is difficult to prove.

Example- I don't have any evidence that she didn't steal my wallet, but I'll give her the benefit of the doubt and assume she's innocent until proven guilty.

Go the extra mile- To put in more effort than expected or required.

Example- If you want to impress your boss, you need to go the extra mile and work harder than everyone else.

Hit the nail on the head- To be exactly right about something.

Example- You hit the nail on the head when you said that the project was going to take longer than expected.

In hot water- To be in trouble.

Example- I'm in hot water with my boss because I missed an important deadline.

Jump the gun- To start something before the appropriate time.

Example- We can't announce the new product yet. It's too early, and we don't want to jump the gun.

Keep your chin up- To remain optimistic during difficult times.

Example- I know you're going through a tough time, but keep your chin up. Things will get better.

Kill two birds with one stone- To accomplish two tasks at once.

Example- While we're out shopping, let's also pick up the birthday present for Sarah. That way, we can kill two birds with one stone.

Let sleeping dogs lie- To avoid stirring up trouble or problems.

Example- I know you want to confront your roommate about leaving dirty dishes in the sink, but sometimes it's best to let sleeping dogs lie.

Make a long story short- To summarize a long and detailed story.

Example- To make a long story short, we missed our flight because of a delay, but we were able to book another one for the next day.

Miss the boat- To miss an opportunity.

Example- I wanted to invest in that company, but I missed the boat and now it's too late.

No pain, no gain- You have to work hard and endure difficulties in order to achieve success.

Example- I know training for the marathon is tough, but no pain, no gain.

Off the hook- To be relieved of responsibility or blame.

Example- I thought I was going to get in trouble for breaking the vase, but my sister took the blame and let me off the hook.

On the ball- To be alert, efficient, and quick to respond.

Example- The new employee is really on the ball and has already completed all of his tasks for the day.

Piece of cake- Something that is very easy to do.

Example- Don't worry about the exam. It's a piece of cake if you've studied.

Pull someone's leg- To tease or joke with someone in a playful manner.

Example- I don't really have a pet elephant, I was just pulling your leg.

Put all your eggs in one basket- To put all your resources or efforts into one thing, making it risky.

Example- Instead of investing all your money in one stock, it's better to diversify so you don't put all your eggs in one basket.

Put your foot in your mouth- To say something inappropriate or embarrassing.

Example- I really put my foot in my mouth when I asked my friend about her pregnancy and she told me she wasn't actually pregnant.

Raining cats and dogs- A very heavy rainstorm.

Example- It was raining cats and dogs yesterday, so I stayed inside all day.

Read between the lines- To understand the hidden meaning in a conversation or text.

Example- She didn't explicitly say she was unhappy with her job, but I could read between the lines and tell that she wasn't satisfied.

Rule of thumb- A general principle or guideline.

Example- A good rule of thumb for cooking pasta is to use one quart of water for every four ounces of pasta.

See eye to eye- To have the same opinion or perspective as someone else.

Example- We don't always agree, but on this issue, we see eye to eye.

Shake a leg- To hurry up or move quickly.

Example- We need to leave soon, so shake a leg and finish getting ready.

Speak of the devil- To refer to someone who shows up unexpectedly.

Example- Speak of the devil! We were just talking about you and now here you are.

Steal someone's thunder- To take credit for someone else's idea or accomplishment.

Example- She was really upset when her colleague stole her thunder and presented her idea as his own.

Idioms Examples with Meaning

A blessing in disguise - something that seems bad at first but turns out to be good

A dime a dozen - something that is very common and easy to find

A piece of cake - something that is very easy to do

Actions speak louder than words - what someone does is more important than what they say

Add insult to injury - to make a bad situation worse

All ears - listening carefully and with interest

All thumbs - clumsy, awkward

Apple of my eye - someone who is very precious and dear to you

Barking up the wrong tree - making a mistake or having a misconception

Beat around the bush - avoiding the main topic, being indirect

Bite the bullet - to face a difficult or painful situation with courage

Break a leg - a way to wish someone good luck

Burn the midnight oil - to work late into the night

Butterflies in your stomach - a feeling of nervousness or anxiety

By the skin of your teeth - barely managing to succeed or avoid failure

Cat got your tongue? - why aren't you saying anything?

Caught between a rock and a hard place - faced with a difficult decision

Close but no cigar - almost succeeding, but not quite

Cold feet - feeling nervous or hesitant about doing something

Cut corners - to do something poorly or take shortcuts to save time or money.

Devil's advocate - taking a position or argument that is contrary to common belief or opinion

Don't cry over spilled milk - there's no point in getting upset over something that has already happened and can't be changed

Don't judge a book by its cover - don't judge someone or something based solely on appearance

Don't put all your eggs in one basket - don't risk everything on a single venture

Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater - don't get rid of something good while trying to eliminate something bad

Down to the wire - doing something just in time, right before a deadline or cutoff point

Every cloud has a silver lining - every negative situation has a positive aspect or opportunity

Face the music - to accept the consequences of one's actions

Fish out of water - feeling uncomfortable or out of place in a particular situation

Get a taste of your own medicine - experience the same negative treatment that one has given to others

Give someone the benefit of the doubt - to trust and believe in someone's innocence or good intentions, even when there is some doubt or uncertainty

Go the extra mile - to do more than what is expected or required

Grass is always greener on the other side - the belief that other people or situations are always better than one's own

Haste makes waste - rushing through something can lead to mistakes and ultimately more time and effort spent fixing those mistakes

Hit the nail on the head - to accurately identify or solve a problem

In a nutshell - a summary or brief explanation of something

In hot water - in trouble or facing consequences for something

Jump the gun - to act prematurely or before it is appropriate

Keep your chin up - to remain optimistic and positive in difficult situations

Kill two birds with one stone - to accomplish two tasks with a single effort.

Let sleeping dogs lie - to leave things as they are, even if they may cause problems or conflicts

Like two peas in a pod - very similar or identical

Live and learn - to gain wisdom or knowledge through experience, often through making mistakes

Look before you leap - to consider the consequences of an action before taking it

Make a long story short - to summarize or shorten a long explanation or story

Miss the boat - to miss an opportunity or chance

No pain, no gain - the idea that one must work hard and endure difficulties in order to achieve success or improvement

Off the top of your head - without much thought or preparation

On the ball - being alert, efficient, and competent

Out of the frying pan and into the fire - to escape one problem only to find oneself in a worse situation

Over the moon - extremely happy or delighted

Pay through the nose - to pay a high price for something

Practice makes perfect - by continually practicing something, one can become proficient or skilled at it

Pull someone's leg - to play a joke or tease someone in a playful way

Put all your cards on the table - to be completely honest and open about one's intentions or plans

Put the cart before the horse - doing things in the wrong order or making assumptions without proper preparation or planning

Red herring - something that is misleading or distracting from the main issue or topic

Rule of thumb - a general guideline or principle, based on experience or common sense, rather than on specific rules or laws

See eye to eye - to agree or have the same opinion on something

Spill the beans - to reveal a secret or confidential information.

