

Idiomatic Expressions and meanings

S/No	Idioms	Meaning
1	A blessing in disguise	a good thing that seemed bad at first
2	A dime a dozen	Something common
3	Beat around the bush	Avoid saying what you mean, usually because it
4	Better late than never	Better to arrive late than not to come at all
5	Bite the bullet	To get something over with because it is
6	Break a leg	Good luck
7	Call it a day	Stop working on something
8	Cut somebody some slack	Don't be so critical
9	Cutting corners	Doing something poorly in order to save time or
10	Easy does it	Slow down
11	Get out of hand	Get out of control
12	Get something out of your system	Do the thing you've been wanting to do so you
13	Get your act together	Work better or leave
14	Give someone the benefit of the doubt	Trust what someone says
15	Go back to the drawing board	Start over
16	Hang in there	Don't give up
17	Hit the sack	Go to sleep
18	It's not rocket science	It's not complicated
19	Let someone off the hook	To not hold someone responsible for something
20	Make a long story short	Tell something briefly
21	Miss the boat	It's too late
22	No pain, no gain	You have to work for what you want
23	On the ball	Doing a good job
24	Pull someone's leg	To joke with someone
25	Pull yourself together	Calm down
26	So far so good	Things are going well so far

27	Speak of the devil	The person we were just talking about showed
28	That's the last straw	My patience has run out
29	The best of both worlds	An ideal situation
30	Time flies when you're having fun	You don't notice how long something lasts when
31	To get bent out of shape	To get upset
32	To make matters worse	Make a problem worse
33	Under the weather	Sick
34	We'll cross that bridge when we come to	Let's not talk about that problem right now
35	Wrap your head around something	Understand something complicated
36	You can say that again	That's true, I agree
37	Your guess is as good as mine	I have no idea
38	A bird in the hand is worth two in the	What you have is worth more than what you might
39	A penny for your thoughts	Tell me what you're thinking
40	A penny saved is a penny earned	Money you save today you can spend later
41	A perfect storm	the worst possible situation
42	A picture is worth 1000 words	Better to show than tell
43	Actions speak louder than words	Believe what people do and not what they say
44	Add insult to injury	To make a bad situation worse
45	Barking up the wrong tree	To be mistaken, to be looking for solutions in
46	Birds of a feather flock together	People who are alike are often friends (usually
47	Bite off more than you can chew	Take on a project that you cannot finish
48	Break the ice	Make people feel more comfortable
49	By the skin of your teeth	Just barely
50	Comparing apples to oranges	Comparing two things that cannot be compared
51	Costs an arm and a leg	Very expensive
52	Do something at the drop of a hat	Do something without having planned beforehand
53	Do unto others as you would have them do	Treat people fairly. Also known as "The Golden
54	Don't count your chickens before they	Don't count on something good happening until
55	Don't cry over spilt milk	There's no reason to complain about something
56	Don't give up your day job	You're not very good at this
57	Don't put all your eggs in one basket	What you're doing is too risky
58	Every cloud has a silver lining	Good things come after bad things
59	Get a taste of your own medicine	Get treated the way you've been treating others

60	Give someone the cold shoulder	Ignore someone
61	Go on a wild goose chase	To do something pointless
62	Good things come to those who wait	Be patient
63	He has bigger fish to fry	He has bigger things to take care of than what
64	He's a chip off the old block	The son is like the father
65	Hit the nail on the head	Get something exactly right
66	Ignorance is bliss	You're better off not knowing
67	It ain't over till the fat lady sings	This isn't over yet
68	It takes one to know one	You're just as bad as I am
69	It's a piece of cake	It's easy
70	It's raining cats and dogs	It's raining hard
71	Kill two birds with one stone	Get two things done with a single action
72	Let the cat out of the bag	Give away a secret
73	Live and learn	I made a mistake
74	Look before you leap	Take only calculated risks
75	On thin ice	On probation. If you make another mistake,
76	Once in a blue moon	Rarely
77	Play devil's advocate	To argue the opposite, just for the sake of
78	Put something on ice	Put a projet on hold
79	Rain on someone's parade	To spoil something
80	Saving for a rainy day	Saving money for later
81	Slow and steady wins the race	Reliability is more important than speed
82	Spill the beans	Give away a secret
83	Take a rain check	Postpone a plan
84	Take it with a grain of salt	Don't take it too seriously
85	The ball is in your court	It's your decision
86	The best thing since sliced bread	A really good invention
87	The devil is in the details	It looks good from a distance, but when you
88	The early bird gets the worm	The first people who arrive will get the best
89	The elephant in the room	The big issue, the problem people are avoiding
90	The whole nine yards	Everything, all the way.
91	There are other fish in the sea	It's ok to miss this opportunity. Others will
92	There's a method to his madness	He seems crazy but actually he's clever

93	There's no such thing as a free lunch	Nothing is entirely free
94	Throw caution to the wind	Take a risk
95	You can't have your cake and eat it too	You can't have everything
96	You can't judge a book by its cover	This person or thing may look bad, but it's
97	A little learning is a dangerous thing	People who don't understand something fully are
98	A snowball effect	Events have momentum and build upon each other
99	A snowball's chance in hell	No chance at all
100	A stitch in time saves nine	Fix the problem now because it will get worse
101	A storm in a teacup	A big fuss about a small problem
102	An apple a day keeps the doctor away	Apples are good for you
103	An ounce of prevention is worth a pound	You can prevent a problem with little effort.
104	As right as rain	Perfect
105	Bolt from the blue	Something that happened without warning
106	Burn bridges	Destroy relationships
107	Calm before the storm	Something bad is coming, but right now it's
108	Come rain or shine	No matter what
109	Curiosity killed the cat	Stop asking questions
110	Cut the mustard	Do a good job
111	Don't beat a dead horse	Move on, this subject is over
112	Every dog has his day	Everyone gets a chance at least once
113	Familiarity breeds contempt	The better you know someone the less you like
114	Fit as a fiddle	In good health
115	Fortune favours the bold	Take risks
116	Get a second wind	Have more energy after having been tired
117	Get wind of something	Hear news of something secret
118	Go down in flames	Fail spectacularly
119	Haste makes waste	You'll make mistakes if you rush through
120	Have your head in the clouds	Not be concentrating
121	He who laughs last laughs loudest	I'll get you back for what you did
122	Hear something straight from the horse's	Hear something from the person involved
123	He's not playing with a full deck	He's dumb
124	He's off his rocker	He's crazy
125	He's sitting on the fence	He can't make up his mind

126	It is a poor workman who blames his tools	If you can't do the job, don't blame it on
127	It is always darkest before the dawn	Things are going to get better
128	It takes two to tango	One person alone isn't responsible. Both people
129	Jump on the bandwagon	Follow a trend, do what everyone else is doing
130	Know which way the wind is blowing	Understand the situation (usually negative)
131	Leave no stone unturned	Look everywhere
132	Let sleeping dogs lie	Stop discussing an issue
133	Like riding a bicycle	Something you never forget how to do
134	Like two peas in a pod	They're always together
135	Make hay while the sun shines	Take advantage of a good situation
136	On cloud nine	Very happy
137	Once bitten, twice shy	You're more cautious when you've been hurt
138	Out of the frying pan and into the fire	Things are going from bad to worse
139	Run like the wind	Run fast
140	Shape up or ship out	Work better or leave
141	Snowed under	Busy
142	That ship has sailed	It's too late
143	The pot calling the kettle black	Someone criticizing someone else he is just as
144	There are clouds on the horizon	Trouble is coming
145	Those who live in glass houses shouldn't	People who are morally questionable shouldn't
146	Through thick and thin	In good times and in bad times
147	Time is money	Work quickly
148	Waste not, want not	Don't waste things and you'll always have
149	We see eye to eye	We agree
150	Weather the storm	Go through something difficult
151	Well begun is half done	Getting a good start is important
152	When it rains it pours	Everything is going wrong at once
153	You can catch more flies with honey than	You'll get what you want by being nice
154	You can lead a horse to water, but you	You can't force someone to make the right
155	You can't make an omelet without breaking	There's always a cost to doing something