

Idioms

15 Idioms

An idiom is an expression or phrase whose meaning does not relate to the literal meaning of its words. In other words, “**Idioms mean something different than the individual words.** Only when they are used correctly and in the appropriate contexts, idioms can be an effective language tool.

Sr. No.	Idiom	Meaning	Example
1	Above board	without doubt	Hazrat Muhammad's (ﷺ) honesty is above board .
2	All and sundry	everyone	He invited all and sundry to the party.
3	Apple of discord	cause of quarrel	Kashmir is an apple of discord between India and Pakistan.
4	Apple of one's eye	very dear	My son is an apple of my eye .
5	Apple pie order	in perfect order	Keep everything in apple pie order .
6	Bad blood	bitter feelings	We have no bad blood among ourselves.
7	Bad debt	unlikely to be paid	You cannot get anything from him as it is a bad debt .
8	Bag and baggage	with all things	She threw him out of the house bag and baggage .
9	To bear fruits	getting reward	Your efforts will bear fruits if you are honest.
10	To beat the air	futile effort	Trying to pass the exam without preparation is like to beat the air .
11	Beneath one's dignity	below one's worth	It is below my dignity to cheat others.
12	A bird's eye view	seen from above	He got a bird's eye view of the city from the plane.
13	A bolt from the blue	an expected event	His only son's death was a bolt from the blue .

14	To burn the candle at both ends	work very hard	You will fall ill if you keep burning the candle at both ends .
15	By heart	verbally/ attentively	I have learnt this poem by heart .
16	A close-fisted man	a miserly man	He spends nothing on himself as he is a close-fisted man .
17	Consist of	comprises	Our class consists of 40 boys.
18	Die in harness	to die while still working, before retirement	The Quaid-e-Azam died in harness .
19	A fair weather friend	selfish	A fair weather friend leaves others in the lurch.
20	To find fault with	criticise	Do not find fault with others.
21	To give up the ghost	to die	My dear friend gave up the ghost before my eyes.
22	Heart and soul	completely	I love you heart and soul .
23	In addition to	besides	He earns much in addition to this business.
24	Keep at arm's length	at some distance	Keep selfish friends at arm's length .
25	Leave in the lurch	in crisis	Do not leave anyone in the lurch .
26	Make amends for	to compensate	You will have to make amends for the loss.
27	Make fun of	mock at	Never make fun of others/anyone.
28	Null and void	invalid	This law is now null and void
29	Offhand	extempore	We have done so offhand .
30	Out-and-out	completely	He is an out-and-out fraud.
31	Pay through the nose	suffer a great loss	You will have to pay through the nose if you disobey me.
32	Beat about / around the bush	avoiding talking about	Do not beat about / around the bush but come to the point.
33	Play truant	running away	Being a vagabond, he often plays truant .
34	To poison one's ears	to backbite	He poisoned the ears of his friend against me.

35	Poke one's nose	interfere in	Do not poke your nose into anyone's matter.
36	Cats and dogs	heavily	Nobody can go out if it rains cats and dogs .
37	Run short of	to lose something	We have run short of money these days.
38	Show white feather	show cowardice	The brave never show white feather in the battle field.
39	Stand on ceremony	to behave in a formal way	Eat everything and do not stand on ceremony .
40	Steal a march on someone	gain advantage	Don't let your enemy steal a march on you .
41	To take a fancy to	to begin loving	She has taken a fancy to Chinese food.
42	Tide over	get over	Help me in tidings over my difficulties.
43	Turn a deaf ear to	to ignore	He turned a deaf ear to my advice and failed thus.
44	Turn the tables	to reverse	Sometimes tables are turned on us and we have to lose something.
45	With a view to	with intention	He came here with a view to meeting me.
46	To burn boats	no returning	You will have to burn your boats to get your aim.
47	Break new/fresh ground	doing something new	This government is breaking new ground in many fields.
48	Sell like hot cakes	quickly	Solar energy plates are selling like hot cakes .
49	On cloud nine	very happy	He was on cloud nine after winning the match.
50	Blow hot and cold	between two moods	You cannot succeed anywhere blowing hot and cold .
51	Eat like a horse	eating too much	She eats like a horse but even then she is so slim.
52	Straight from the horse's mouth	direct	You will have to believe me as I have got it straight from the horse's mouth .
53	With a grain of salt	doubtful	We take whatever she says with a grain of salt .

54	Bite off more than you chew	take on a difficult work	We will have to bite off more than you chew to get it done.
55	At the eleventh hour	the last moment	He changed his programme at the eleventh hour .
56	To bury the hatchet	ending quarrels	Let's bury the hatchet and become friends again.
57	To bell the cat	to face a risk	We will have to bell the cat as none will do so.
58	At sea	confused	I am at sea and cannot decide it now.
59	Stab one in the back	to betray	His own servant stabbed him in the back to get money.
60	Face the music	to confront the consequences of one's actions	You will have to face the music as you have done so.
61	Wear one's heart on sleeves	expressing openly	Akram always wears his heart on his sleeves .
62	Through thick and thin	at good and bad times	I will stand by you through thick and thin .
63	Cry for the moon	asking for something difficult	Do not cry for the moon if you cannot do so.
64	Read between lines	following the real message	She will come to know his evil designs if she reads between lines .
65	To black out	to faint	The patient blacked out on the road.
66	In cold blood	violently	She was killed in cold blood .
67	To sow wild oats	to avail oneself of immoral chances	Good people never sow wild oats .
68	Spick and span	neat and clean	She keeps herself spick and span .
69	Split hairs	to criticize unduly	It is mostly women who split hairs .
70	Give a false colouring	misinterpret	Do not give a false colouring to what I have said.
71	A narrow escape	avoid danger	She had a narrow escape in the roadside accident.
72	High time	right time	It is high time that we went abroad.

73	A house of cards	likely to fall	This world itself is a house of cards .
74	Ins and outs	all details	I know all the ins and outs of this problem.
75	Keep the body and soul together	to survive	It is very difficult to keep the body and soul together these days.
76	Keep one's temper	not showing anger	Keep your temper and do not do so instantly.
77	Lock stock and barrel	completely	He shifted to a new house lock stock and barrel .
78	To lose heart	disappointed	Do not lose heart .
79	Of one's own accord	with own intention	She married a cripple of her own accord .
80	To be taken aback	surprised/ shocked	She was taken aback seeing me before herself.
81	Without fail	certainly	I will help you without fail .
82	Up to the mark	standard	His assignment was quite up to the mark .
83	Up-to-date	latest	He published an up-to-date book.
84	Vain of	proud	She is vain of her beauty.
85	With an iron hand	sternly	You will have to finish this evil with an iron hand .
86	With open arms	in a friendly way	He received me with open arms .
87	Work wonders	in a surprising way	He worked wonders and won the game.
88	All in all	on the whole	All in all the party was praiseworthy.
89	To the backbone	completely	He is honest to the backbone .
90	By dint of	by means of	He succeeded by dint of hard work.
91	To and fro	backwards & forward	He kept walking to and fro waiting for me.
92	Tooth and nail	with full force	We will fight tooth and nail to defend Pakistan.
93	A turncoat	traitor	Do not trust him as he is a turncoat .
94	Turn turtle	turn upside down	The boat turned turtle into the river.

95	Lose one's temper	show anger	He lost his temper and slapped him.
96	At length	after a long time	At length , we won the match.
97	In high spirits	excited	We started our journey in high spirits .
98	Keep one's temper	to remain calm	He could not keep his temper and abused her.
99	Play ducks and drakes	spend lavishly	He played ducks and drakes with the money his father had left.
100	Chip off the old block	a person who is similar in behaviour or actions to his parents	When grandmother saw her grandson collecting coins like her son used to do, she knew he was a chip off the old block .

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Grammar Exercise –8

1. Write down the meanings of the following idioms and use them in sentences of your own.

	Idiom	Meaning	Sentence
1	Beat around the bush		
2	Get your act together		
3	Burn your boats		
4	Break fresh/ new ground		
5	Sell like hot cakes		
6	Run around		
7	On cloud nine		
8	Left out in the cold		
9	Blow hot and cold		
10	Cut corners		
11	Apple of one's eye		
12	Heart and soul		
13	Make fun of		
14	With a grain of salt		
15	Give a false colouring		
16	A house of cards		
17	Play ducks and drakes		
18	Keep one's temper		