



60 Idioms and Their Meanings





Everyday Idioms

Idiom	Meaning	
hit the nail on the head	to be completely right or accurate	
	a drop in the bucket	barely noticeable when compared to the whole
	get the ball rolling	to take steps to get started
	crack a book	to open a book and study
don't bite off more than you can chew	don't try to do more than you can handle	
don't judge a book by its cover	avoid making judgments based on how something looks	
a dime a dozen	something that is easily obtained; not unique	
on pins and needles	anxious; excited; in suspense	
hang out	to spend time with certain people	
green with envy	jealous; wishing you had what someone else has	
	miss the boat	to miss out on an opportunity; make a mistake
	under the weather	to feel sick
	beat around the bush	to avoid saying what you mean
barking up the wrong tree	to look for a solution in the wrong place	
in the same boat	to be in the same situation as someone else	
in hot water	to be in trouble	
call it a day	to stop what you're doing	
give it a shot	try to do something	
out of the blue	without warning	
the best of both worlds	to have the best characteristics of two options	



Food Idioms

Idiom	Meaning	
(have) a sweet tooth	to love sugary and sweet foods	
in a pickle	to be in a difficult situation	
	smart cookie	an intelligent person
	cry over spilled milk	to get upset over something you cannot change
	full of baloney	full of nonsense
(she's) a peach	a wonderful person	
bring home the bacon	earn an income	
(use your) noodle	think; use your brain	

	bad egg	a bad person; one given to bad behavior
	(it's a) lemon	something that needs a lot of repairs
	butter someone up	flatter someone to get something from them
	the icing on the cake	something that makes a good situation even better
	two peas in a pod	to have a lot in common
	a piece of cake	easy to accomplish





Animal Idioms

	Idiom	Meaning
	let the cat out of the bag	to reveal a secret by mistake
	wild goose chase	an impossible pursuit
	when pigs fly	a way of saying that something will never happen
	white elephant	an unwanted item
	chomping at the bit	eager to do something
	(be a) guinea pig	to be part of an experiment or trial
	it's raining cats and dogs	it is raining heavily
	the elephant in the room	an obvious problem that no one talks about
	the early bird gets the worm	people who are early and prepared are successful
	(his) goose is cooked	to be in big trouble
	ants in his pants	when a person can't sit still
	have a cow	to get upset or angry
	wouldn't hurt a fly	to be a peace-loving, tenderhearted person
	hold your horses	to be patient and willing to wait
	pig-headed	a person who is stubborn and inflexible



Body Part Idioms

	Idiom	Meaning
	get out of hand	to get out of control
	apple of my eye	someone or something that is very precious
	keep an eye on	to watch someone or something closely
	give a hand	to help someone
	cost an arm and a leg	to be very expensive
	play it by ear	to improvise
	(I'm) all ears	to give someone your full attention
	get cold feet	to be nervous about something
	see eye to eye	to agree with someone
	head over heels	to be deeply in love
	twist your arm	to try to persuade someone