

50 Common Idioms in English for Daily Conversation

● Idiom	● Meaning	● Example Sentence
● Break the ice	● Start a conversation comfortably	● He told a joke to break the ice at the meeting.
● Under the weather	● Feeling slightly sick	● I'm staying home today, I feel under the weather.
● Cost an arm and a leg	● Very expensive	● That laptop costs an arm and a leg.
● Bite the bullet	● Force yourself to do something hard	● I hate the dentist, but I have to bite the bullet.
● The ball is in your court	● It's your turn to decide	● I've said my part, the ball is in your court now.
● Spill the beans	● Reveal a secret	● Come on, spill the beans about the surprise party.
● Pull someone's leg	● Joke with someone	● Relax, I was only pulling your leg.
● Take it with a pinch of salt	● Don't fully believe it	● He exaggerates a lot, take it with a pinch of salt.
● You can say that again	● Strong agreement	● "This traffic is awful." "You can say that again."
● See eye to eye	● Agree with someone	● My sister and I don't always see eye to eye.
● Beat around the bush	● Avoid the main point	● Stop beating around the bush and tell me the news.
● Miss the boat	● Miss a chance or opportunity	● I waited too long and missed the boat on that deal.
● By the skin of your teeth	● Barely succeed	● We passed the exam by the skin of our teeth.
● Piece of cake	● Something very easy	● Don't worry, this test is a piece of cake.

• Hit the nail on the head	• Say exactly the right thing	• You hit the nail on the head with that comment.
• Once in a blue moon	• Very rarely	• We only meet once in a blue moon these days.
• Let the cat out of the bag	• Accidentally reveal a secret	• She let the cat out of the bag about the trip.
• Hang in there	• Stay patient during a hard time	• I know it's tough, just hang in there.
• Better late than never	• Doing something late is better than not doing it	• He finally called me back, better late than never.
• A blessing in disguise	• Something good that seemed bad at first	• Losing that job was a blessing in disguise.
• Get the ball rolling	• Start something	• Let's get the ball rolling on this project.
• On the same page	• Have the same understanding	• Let's make sure we're all on the same page.
• Speak of the devil	• Someone appears right after being mentioned	• Speak of the devil, here comes Ali now.
• Back to square one	• Start over from the beginning	• The plan failed, so we're back to square one.
• Cut corners	• Do something poorly to save time or money	• Don't cut corners on safety checks.
• Give someone the benefit of the doubt	• Trust someone without full proof	• I'll give him the benefit of the doubt this time.
• Go the extra mile	• Do more than expected	• She always goes the extra mile for her students.
• Hit the sack	• Go to sleep	• I'm tired, I'm going to hit the sack.
• In hot water	• In trouble	• He's in hot water after missing the deadline.
• It's not rocket science	• Something isn't difficult to understand	• Just follow the steps, it's not rocket science.

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| • Keep your chin up | • Stay positive | • I know it's hard, keep your chin up. |
| • Kill two birds with one stone | • Achieve two things with one action | • Going to the bank and the store together kills two birds with one stone. |
| • Let sleeping dogs lie | • Don't bring up old problems | • Let's not argue about that again, let sleeping dogs lie. |
| • Make a long story short | • Summarize quickly | • To make a long story short, we got the job done. |
| • No pain, no gain | • Hard work leads to results | • I know the training is tough, but no pain no gain. |
| • Off the top of my head | • Without checking details | • Off the top of my head, I'd say it's around 200. |
| • On thin ice | • In a risky or dangerous position | • He's on thin ice after being late three times. |
| • Piece of the pie | • A share of something | • Everyone wants a piece of the pie in this business. |
| • Rain check | • Postpone a plan for later | • Can I take a rain check on dinner tonight? |
| • Read between the lines | • Understand the hidden meaning | • You need to read between the lines of what she said. |
| • Sit on the fence | • Avoid making a decision | • Stop sitting on the fence and pick a side. |
| • Speak your mind | • Say what you really think | • Don't be afraid to speak your mind in the meeting. |
| • Steal someone's thunder | • Take credit for someone else's idea | • He stole my thunder by announcing my idea first. |
| • Straight from the horse's mouth | • Directly from a reliable source | • I heard it straight from the horse's mouth. |
| • Take a rain check | • Postpone an invitation | • I can't come today, can I take a rain check? |

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| • The best of both worlds | • Enjoy two good things at once | • Working from home gives her the best of both worlds. |
| • The last straw | • The final problem that causes a reaction | • His constant lateness was the last straw. |
| • Through thick and thin | • In good times and bad times | • They stayed friends through thick and thin. |
| • Time flies | • Time passes quickly | • I can't believe it's evening already, time flies. |
| • Turn a blind eye | • Ignore something on purpose | • The manager turned a blind eye to the mistake. |
| • Wrap your head around something | • Understand something difficult | • I still can't wrap my head around this math problem. |

Most Common English Idioms Ranked by Everyday Use

1. **Piece of cake** = something very easy
2. **Under the weather** = feeling sick
3. **Break the ice** = start a conversation
4. **Hit the sack** = go to sleep
5. **Cost an arm and a leg** = very expensive
6. **On the same page** = same understanding
7. **Once in a blue moon** = rarely
8. **Better late than never** = late is still okay
9. **Speak your mind** = say what you think
10. **Time flies** = time passes fast

Famous Idioms in English Everyone Should Know

- **Idiom**

- When pigs fly
- The elephant in the room
- Actions speak louder than words
- Don't judge a book by its cover
- Every cloud has a silver lining
- The apple doesn't fall far from the tree
- Barking up the wrong tree
- Curiosity killed the cat
- A picture is worth a thousand words
- Practice makes perfect

- **Meaning**

- Something that will never happen
- An obvious problem nobody wants to discuss
- What you do matters more than what you say
- Don't judge someone based on appearance
- Something good comes from bad situations
- Children resemble their parents
- Pursuing a mistaken idea
- Being too curious can get you into trouble
- An image explains more than words can
- Repeated effort leads to skill

Idioms for Hard Work and Effort

● Idiom	● Meaning	● Example
● Burn the midnight oil	● Work late into the night	● She burned the midnight oil to finish the report.
● Put your back into it	● Work hard physically or mentally	● If you want to win, put your back into it.
● Work your fingers to the bone	● Work extremely hard	● He worked his fingers to the bone to support his family.
● Blood, sweat, and tears	● Great effort and sacrifice	● This business took blood, sweat, and tears to build.
● Give it your all	● Try your absolute best	● Give it your all in tomorrow's match.
● Roll up your sleeves	● Prepare to work hard	● It's time to roll up our sleeves and finish this project.
● No stone unturned	● Try every possible option	● We left no stone unturned looking for a solution.
● Elbow grease	● Physical effort	● This floor needs some elbow grease to get clean.

Idioms for Work and Professional Life

• Idiom	• Meaning	• Example
• Think outside the box	• Be creative	• We need to think outside the box for this campaign.
• Get the ball rolling	• Start a task	• Let's get the ball rolling on the new project.
• Touch base	• Make brief contact	• I'll touch base with you after lunch.
• On the same page	• Shared understanding	• Let's get on the same page before the meeting.
• Back to the drawing board	• Start over after a failure	• The client rejected it, so it's back to the drawing board.
• Raise the bar	• Increase standards	• Her work really raised the bar for the whole team.
• In the loop	• Kept informed	• Please keep me in the loop about the changes.
• Learning curve	• The process of learning something new	• There's a steep learning curve with this new software.

Idioms About Money

• Idiom	• Meaning	• Example
• Break the bank	• Spend too much money	• This vacation won't break the bank if we plan well.
• Tighten your belt	• Spend less money	• We need to tighten our belt this month.
• Money doesn't grow on trees	• Money is not easy to get	• I can't buy that, money doesn't grow on trees.
• Cost a fortune	• Very expensive	• That watch cost a fortune.
• Cash cow	• A reliable source of income	• That product is the company's biggest cash cow.
• Bring home the bacon	• Earn money for the family	• Both parents work to bring home the bacon.
• Nest egg	• Savings for the future	• They've built a nice nest egg for retirement.
• Penny-pincher	• Someone who is very careful with money	• My uncle is a real penny-pincher.

Idioms for Emotions and Feelings

• Idiom	• Meaning	• Example
• On cloud nine	• Extremely happy	• She's been on cloud nine since the wedding.
• Down in the dumps	• Feeling sad	• He's been down in the dumps since he lost his job.
• Butterflies in my stomach	• Feeling nervous	• I get butterflies in my stomach before every interview.
• Over the moon	• Very pleased	• We were over the moon when we heard the news.
• Cry your eyes out	• Cry intensely	• She cried her eyes out after the movie.
• Jump for joy	• Be extremely happy	• I could jump for joy right now.
• Have a heart of gold	• Be very kind	• My grandmother has a heart of gold.
• Get cold feet	• Become nervous before doing something	• He got cold feet right before the wedding.

Complete Idioms List in English with Meaning

• Category	• Total Idioms Covered
• Daily conversation	• 50
• Famous idioms	• 10
• Hard work idioms	• 8
• Work idioms	• 8
• Money idioms	• 8
• Emotion idioms	• 8
• Total Idioms in English with meaning	• 92+