

50 Common English Idioms With Meaning

Sr No.	Idiom	Meaning	Example Sentences
1	A penny for your thoughts	Asking someone what they are thinking	You seem lost in thought. A penny for your thoughts?
2	Actions speak louder than words	What a person does is more important than what they say	Don't just say you're sorry; actions speak louder than words.
3	Back to the drawing board	Starting over because the previous attempt failed	Our plan didn't work. It's back to the drawing board.
4	Barking up the wrong tree	Accusing the wrong person or pursuing the wrong course of action	If you think I stole your wallet, you're barking up the wrong tree.
5	Beat around the bush	Avoiding the main topic or not getting to the point	Stop beating around the bush and tell me what you want.
6	Bite the bullet	To face a difficult or unpleasant situation bravely	I don't want to get a shot, but I'll have to bite the bullet and do it.
7	Break a leg	Good luck! (typically used in theater)	Break a leg on your performance tonight!
8	Burn the midnight oil	Working late into the night	I have a deadline tomorrow, so I'll be burning the midnight oil.
9	Caught between a rock and a hard place	In a difficult situation with limited options	I'm caught between a rock and a hard place - if I quit my job, I won't have money, but I hate it here.
10	Cross that bridge when you come to it	Deal with a problem or worry about it later	We'll cross that bridge when we come to it. Let's focus on the current issue.
11	Cry over spilled milk	Worrying about something that has already happened and cannot be changed	You made a mistake, but there's no use crying over spilled milk now.
12	Curiosity killed the cat	Being too curious can lead to trouble or unpleasant consequences	Don't snoop around their personal belongings. Remember, curiosity killed the cat.
13	Cut to the chase	Get to the point without wasting time or being indirect	Let's cut to the chase - do you agree with the proposal or not?
14	Don't put all your eggs in one basket	Don't risk everything on a single opportunity	Invest your money wisely and diversify your investments. Don't put all your eggs in one basket.
15	Easy as pie	Very easy	Don't worry, the exam is easy as pie.
16	Every cloud has a silver lining	There is something positive in every negative situation	Losing my job was tough, but every cloud has a silver lining - I started my own business.
17	Fish out of water	Feeling uncomfortable or out of place in a new environment	Being at a formal dinner without knowing anyone made me feel like a fish out of water.
18	Hit the nail on the head	Accurately or precisely address or solve a problem	Sarah hit the nail on the head with her analysis of the situation.
19	In hot water	In trouble or facing difficulties	I'm in hot water for missing the deadline.
20	It's raining cats and dogs	It's raining heavily	We can't go outside; it's raining cats and dogs.
21	Keep your chin up	Stay positive and optimistic	I know things are tough, but keep your chin up. It will get better.
22	Kill two birds with one stone	Accomplish two tasks with a single action	By studying during my commute, I can kill two birds with one stone.
23	Let the cat out of the bag	Reveal a secret or confidential information	Please don't let the cat out of the bag about the surprise party.
24	Miss the boat	Miss an opportunity or be too late	I missed the boat on investing in that company, and now their stocks have soared.
25	On the same page	Having a shared understanding or agreement	We need to be on the same page if we want this project to succeed.

50 Common English Idioms With Meaning

Sr No.	Idiom	Meaning	Example Sentences
26	Piece of cake	Very easy	Don't worry about the test; it'll be a piece of cake.
27	Put all your cards on the table	Be open and honest about your intentions or information	To resolve this issue, let's put all our cards on the table and discuss everything openly.
28	Raining buckets	Raining heavily	Bring an umbrella; it's raining buckets outside.
29	Saved by the bell	Rescued from a difficult or embarrassing situation	I was about to fall off the bike, but I was saved by the bell when the traffic light turned red.
30	See eye to eye	Agree or have the same opinion	We don't always see eye to eye, but we respect each other's perspectives.
31	Spill the beans	Reveal a secret or confidential information	Don't spill the beans about the surprise party; it's supposed to be a secret.
32	Take it with a grain of salt	Not fully believe or trust something	He tends to exaggerate, so take what he says with a grain of salt.
33	The ball is in your court	It's your turn to make a decision or take action	I've presented my proposal. Now, the ball is in your court.
34	Throw in the towel	Give up or surrender	After struggling for hours, I decided to throw in the towel and admit defeat.
35	Under the weather	Feeling unwell or sick	I won't be able to come to the party; I'm feeling under the weather.
36	Up in the air	Uncertain or undecided	The project's future is still up in the air; we haven't made a decision yet.
37	When pigs fly	Something that is highly unlikely or impossible	Sure, I'll clean my room when pigs fly.
38	You can't judge a book by its cover	You can't judge something by its appearance alone	Don't dismiss her based on her quiet demeanor. You can't judge a book by its cover.
39	Your guess is as good as mine	I have no more information or knowledge than you	I'm not sure when the package will arrive. Your guess is as good as mine.
40	Zip your lip	Be quiet or stop talking	I can't concentrate with all the noise. Zip your lip, please.
41	All ears	Paying full attention or eager to listen	I'm all ears. Tell me what happened.
42	An arm and a leg	Very expensive or costly	Buying a luxury car will cost you an arm and a leg.
43	Better late than never	It's better to do something late than not at all	I finally apologized to her for my mistake. Well, better late than never.
44	Break the ice	Overcome initial social awkwardness or tension	To break the ice, I told a funny joke.
45	Call it a day	Decide to finish or stop working for the day	We've been working for hours. Let's call it a day and continue tomorrow.
46	Don't cry over spilt milk	Don't worry about something that has already happened and cannot be changed	Yes, we made a mistake, but let's not cry over spilt milk. Let's find a solution instead.
47	Elbow grease	Hard work or physical effort	Cleaning this room will require some elbow grease.
48	Feel under the weather	Feel sick or unwell	I won't be able to attend the meeting; I'm feeling under the weather.
49	Get a taste of your own medicine	Experience the same negative treatment that you have given to others	After constantly criticizing others, he finally got a taste of his own medicine.
50	Go the extra mile	Put in extra effort or do more than expected	If you want to succeed, you have to go the extra mile.