



IDIOMS FIXED EXPRESSIONS – GENERAL PRAGMATIC COMPETENCE IN USING ENGLISH IDIOMS AND PHRASES IN DIALOGUE

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Annotation: *This article analyzes American English idioms and phrases, everyone will learning about idioms and phrases words, texts in English language. At the same time, all people will also learn about their meaning.*

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Every language has its own **idioms** and **expressions** and the English language has plenty of phrases that is useful to learn. Idioms are words or phrases that are not meant to be taken literally and usually have a culture meaning behind them. Most of the English idioms you hear are offering advice's but also contain some underlying principles and values. You have probably heard some of them, especially in TV- shows and movies, wondered why you can not understand these idioms even though you fully understand the words. To learn English idioms and expression it can take some time but there are some of them that are more popular than others that will come handy if you know them. When you learn English idioms and phrases you will sound more confident especially when you speak with native English speakers. If you can not understand idioms you will not be able to understand the context. That is why we have gathered some of the most common English idioms and phrases so you will understand the true meaning of them. Idioms are fixed expressions with meanings that are usually not clear or obvious. The individual words often give you no help in deciding the meaning. The expression to feel under the weather , which means “ to feel unwell” is a typical idioms. The word do not tell us what it means, but the context usually helps.

Tips for dealing with idioms > Think of idioms as being just like single words; always record the whole phrase in your notebook, along with information on grammar and collocation. This tip – opener has seen better days. (it is rather old and broken down, usually of things, always perfect tenses form) Idioms are usually rather informal and include an element of personal comment on the situation. They are sometimes humorous or ironic. As with any informal “commenting” single word , be careful how you use them. Never use them. Never use them just to sound “fluent” or “good at English”. In a formal situation with a person you do not know, do not say.



Here are the most common **English idioms** and phrases that will enrich (improve) your **English vocabulary** and make you sound like a native speaker. Now with even more idioms and phrases added!

1. **'The best of both worlds'** – means you can enjoy two different opportunities at the same time.

“By working time part-time and looking after her kids two days a week she managed to get the best of both worlds.”

2. **'Speak of the devil'** – this means that the person you are just talking about actually appears at that moment.

“Hi Tom, speak of the devil, I was just telling Sara about your new car.”

3. **'See eye to eye'** – this means agreeing with someone.

“They finally saw eye to eye on the business deal.”

4. **'Once in a blue moon'** – an event that happens infrequently.

I only go to the cinema once in a blue moon.”

5. **'When pigs fly'** – something that will never happen.

“When pigs fly she will tidy up her room.”

6. **'To cost an arm and a leg'** – something is very expensive.

“Fuel these days costs and arm and a leg.”

7. **'A piece of cake'** – something is very easy.

“The English test was a piece of cake.”

8. **'Let the cat out of the bag'** – to accidentally reveal a secret

“I let the cat out of the bag about their wedding plans.”

9. **'To feel under the weather'** – to not feel well.

“I am really feeling under the weather today;
have a terrible cold.”

10. **'To kill two birds with one stone'** – to solve two problems at once.

“By taking my dad on holiday, I killed two birds with one stone. I got to go away but also spend time with him.”

11. **'To cut corners'** – to do something badly or cheaply.

“They really cut corners when they built this bathroom; the shower is leaking,”

12. **'To add insult to injury'** – to make a situation worse.

“To add insult to injury the car drove off without stopping after knocking me off my bike.”

13. **'You can not judge a book by its cover'** – to not judge someone or something based solely on appearance.

“I thought this no-brand bread would be horrible; turns out you can not judge a book by its cover.”

14. **'Break a leg'** – means 'good luck' (often said to actors before they go on stage).
“Break a leg Sam, I am sure your performance will be great.”



15. **'To hit the nail on the head'** - to describe exactly what is causing a situation or problem.
"He hit the nail on the head when he said this company needs more HR support."
16. **'A blessing in disguise'** - An misfortune that eventually results in something good happening later on.
17. **'Call it a day'** - stop working on something.
18. **'Let someone off the hook'** - To allow someone, who have been caught, to not be punished.
19. **'No pain no gain'** - You have to work hard for something you want.
20. **'Bite the bullet'** - Decide to do something unpleasant that you have avoiding doing.
21. **'Getting a taste of your own medicine'** - Being treated the same unpleasant way you have treated others.
22. **'Giving someone the cold shoulder'** - To ignore someone.
23. **'The last straw'** - The final source of irritation for someone to finally lose patience.
24. **'The elephant in the room'** - A matter or problem that is obvious of great importance but that is not discussed openly.
25. **'Stealing someones thunder'** - Taking credit for someone else achievements.

Grammatical

Get the wrong end of the stick > means (misunderstand)

Pull a fast one > means (trick/deceive somebody)

Poke your nose into > means (interfere)

Be over the moon > means (extremely happy/elated)

Feel down in the dumps > means (depressed/low)

Be in the red > means (have a negative bank balance)

"By meaning" e.g. idioms describing peopl's character/intellect

For example:

He is as daft as a brush > means (very stupid / silly)

He takes the biscuit > means (is the extreme / the worst of all)

You are a pain in the neck. > means (a nuisance / difficult person)

By verb or other key word e.g. idioms with make

I do not see why you have to make a meal out of everything

(exaggerate the importance of everything)

I think we should make a move. It is gone ten o'clock. (go/leave)

Most politicians are on the make. I don't trust any of them.

(wanting money / power for oneself)

Grammar of idioms

It is important when using idioms to know just how flexible their grammar is. Some are more fixed than others. For instance, barking up the wrong tree(be mistaken



) is always used in continuous, not simple form, e.g. I think you are barking up the wrong tree.

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