



Move the Mountains

Mastering idioms will be downhill from here

Behtab AbuAli



Why is mastering idioms an important milestone in your life?

A Discuss these questions with your classmates.

1. What idioms have given you trouble in English?
2. Why do you think learning idioms is or isn't important?

B Now, listen to a native speaker to hear about the importance of learning idioms straight from the horse's mouth!

Listen to track 1 on the audio CD.

C Turn to the next page to read more about idioms.

<h1>What are idioms?</h1>	<p><i>How can idioms be used?</i></p>	<p><i>Where will you see or hear idioms?</i></p>
<p><i>Formulaic language</i></p>	<p>Many idioms are quite informal, so they should be used carefully. You need to be able to understand a lot of idioms if you want to read English fiction, newspaper, or magazines, or understand TV shows, films and songs. People also often use idioms for humor or to comment on themselves, other people and situations. You will also sound more natural and fluent if you can use idioms in everyday conversation or informal writing. Be careful not to use too many, though!</p>	<p>You will see and hear idioms in all sorts of speaking and writing. They are particularly common in every day conversation and in particular journalism. For example, they are often found in magazine horoscopes, e.g. You'll spend much of this week licking your wounds [trying to recover from a bad experience], or in problem pages, e.g., Do you think that my relationship has run its course? [come to a natural end]. However idioms are also used in more formal contexts, such as lectures, academic essays and business reports, e.g. it is hoped the regulations will open the door to better management. [let something new start].</p>
<p>Idioms are a type of formulaic language. Formulaic language consists of fixed expressions which you can learn and understand as units rather than as individual words, e.g. sayings, proverbs, phrasal verbs, collocations, etc.</p>	<p>When and how are idioms used?</p>	<p><i>Why are idioms important?</i></p>
<p><i>Idioms</i></p>	<p><i>Idioms and change</i></p>	<p>Idioms are common in English speaking countries daily life and provide a rich source of their culture. They add color to the language, helping language learners to emphasize and make their observations, judgments and explanations interesting. They are very useful tools for communicating a great deal of meaning in just a few words.</p>
<p>Idioms are fixed combination of words whose meaning is often difficult to guess from the meaning of each individual word. For example if somebody says 'I feel green with envy when I see you in your new car'. That person will not really turn green! Sometimes it is difficult to know exactly what the sentence means. It has a non-literal or idiomatic meaning.</p>	<p>Idioms frequently change in English. Although many idioms last for a long time, some disappear very quickly. Therefore, some idioms that were popular fifty years ago may sound very d fashioned and odd today. It is therefore important to be careful if you earn an idiom from say an older novel, as it may sound unnatural if you use it in your own speech or writing.</p>	
<p>The words and word order of idioms are usually fixed and we cannot change tem in any way. For example we cannot say I feel yellow in envy or sound and safe.</p>		

USING REFERENCE RESOURCES

Dictionaries

To help you study idioms, you need a good learner's dictionary, ideally one which focuses on idioms. The Cambridge Idiom Dictionary or Longman American Idioms Dictionary give you examples of how idioms are used, and also give information on their use, e.g. whether they are used humorously, or informally, or in a more literally context. They also highlight the most important idioms to learn. You can access the former online at <http://dictionary.cambridge.org>. The best learner's dictionaries are corpus-based, i.e. they focus on idioms that people actually use and give authentic examples of their use. *Cambridge Idioms Dictionary* is based on the *Cambridge International Corpus*, which is a collection over one billion words of real spoken and written English.

The Internet

You can use the Internet to find out more about the meanings and origins of idioms, and to see more examples of their use.

- ✚ Go to <http://www.phrases.org> to discover the meanings and origins of many idioms. This site also provides examples of how the idioms are used, and you can even discuss the origins of other phrases not listed there.
- ✚ You can access the *British National Corpus* at <http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk/> Type in an idiom and you will be given up to fifty authentic examples of its use.
- ✚ Use a search engine, e.g. <http://www.google.co.uk/>, to find further examples of idioms in use. Type in an idiom in double inverted commas (e.g. "like it or lump it") to get a list of site including that idiom.

Vocabulary notebooks

Always make good, detailed notes about idioms in your vocabulary notebook. Include an example of the idiom in context, as well as its meaning. Add any notes about its usage, e.g. *informal* or *literary*. Doing a quick drawing of an idiom may help you to learn it.





Lose Yourself

EMINEM

A Read the first three lines of this song and discuss the following questions with your partner or in group.

1. Have you ever taken a fairly big risk in your life?
2. Do you think it is better to live life taking some risks, or to always 'play it safe' so that life is stable?
3. What is your answer to the authors' question?

B Listen to the song. Your teacher will re-play it several times. Fill in the gaps with missing words that you hear.

Look, if you had, one shot, or one opportunity
To seize everything you ever wanted. In one moment
Would you capture it, or just let it slip?
Yo

His palms are sweaty, _____ weak, arms are _____
There's vomit on his _____ already, mom's spaghetti
He's _____, but on the surface he _____ calm and ready to **drop bombs**,
But he keeps on _____ what he wrote down,
The whole crowd goes so loud
He opens his mouth, but the _____ won't come out
He's choking how, _____ joking now
The clock's run out, time's up, over, blaow!
Snap back to reality. Oh, there goes _____
Oh, there goes Rabbit, he choked
He's so _____, but he won't give up that
Easy, no
He won't have it, he knows his **whole back's to these ropes**
It don't _____, he's dope
He knows that but he's broke
He's so _____ that he knows
When he goes back to his mobile home, that's when it's
Back to the lab again, yo

One shot = One chance
Seize = Take, grab, capture
Capture = Take, detain Let
it slip = Let it go

Surface = Outside, exterior

Choking = Coughing on
something so that you can't
breathe
Run out = finished
Snap back = go back
(Rabbit was Eminem's
name when he was
younger)

He's dope = He's cool

Stagnant = Inactive

Mobile home =
Caravan/trailer

This whole rhapsody
He better go _____ this moment and hope it don't pass him

Rhapsody = happiness

[Hook:]

You better _____ yourself in the music, the moment
You own it, you better never let it go (go)
You only get one shot, do not miss your chance to _____
This opportunity comes once in a lifetime (yo)
You better lose yourself in the music, the moment
You own it, you better never let it go (go)
You only get one shot, do not miss your chance to blow
This opportunity comes once in a _____ (yo)
(You better)

The soul's _____, through this hole that is gaping
This world is mine for the taking
Make me _____, as we move toward a new world order
A normal life is boring, but superstardom's close to postmortem
It only grows harder, homie grows hotter
He _____. It's all over. These hoes is all on him
Coast to coast shows, he's known as the globetrotter
Lonely roads, _____ only knows
He's grown farther from home, he's no _____
He goes home and barely knows his own _____
But hold your _____ 'cause here goes the cold water
His hoes don't want him no more, he's **cold product**
They _____ on to the next schmoe who flows
He **nose dove** and sold nada
So the soap opera is _____ and unfolds
I suppose it's old partner, but the **beat goes on**
Da da dum da dum da da da da

Gaping = Wide open

Superstardom = Fame
Post mortem = After death
or an examination of a dead
body
Hoes = Women (very
impolite)
Globetrotter = Someone
who travels a lot

Schmoe = idiot (Jewish
term)
Nada = Nothing
Soap opera = Television
drama/show

A There are some idioms and common English phrases which are in *bold* and *italics* in the text. With your partner or group, discuss what you think they might mean.

Drop bombs

His back's to the rope

A cold product.....

Nose dove.....

The beat goes on.....

B Discuss this statement in small groups.

“Some people say that Eminem is as great a poet as Shakespeare.”

1. Do you agree?
2. How influential is Eminem?

What is the main importance of idioms?

- A. Read about people's ideas about the importance of learning idioms.
- B. Write a paragraph of your ideas about the importance of idioms
- C. Exchange your writings with your classmates and choose the best answer.

Answers



I feel that idioms make a language more interesting and vibrant. I think mastering idioms means you're using and understanding the language more like a native speaker would. The tough part about mastering idioms is that knowing all the individual words may not help you to understand the meaning of the phrase. For example, knowing the meanings of ace and hole may not help you to understand the meaning of "An ace in the hole" (a hidden strength or advantage). I think the best way to learn idioms is probably to immerse yourself into popular culture to have more exposure to them, and ask a native speaker what they mean.

- [duguup](#)
- Jun 04, 2009



Hello Athena,
Idioms are sayings that reflect accumulated human experiences and are built on frequently occurring situations that demonstrate human behavior, social traits, certain habits or tradition in a country. They almost represent life lessons and are a heritage of those accumulated events that make up the conscious of a nation or humankind in general.

Every country or nation has got their own idioms that are specific to their own culture, while many idioms have synonyms in several countries, what refers to the equal shared human nature in many cultures. Learning the specific idioms related to a certain culture helps you learn more about the history, customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of it.

You can know more idioms through reading: Many books, novels and articles quote many to their context relevant idioms.

You can also purchase books about idioms * I suppose you are looking for English idioms in particular*. Check the following link for English idioms books:

http://www.learn4good.com/languages/evrd_idioms/id-other.htm

There are also several online websites with lots of idioms and their meaning such as:

<http://www.usingenglish.com/reference/idioms/>

<http://www.englishclub.com/vocabulary/idioms.htm>

- [Cherry](#)

- Jun 04, 2009



Be careful,

Looking at lists of idioms can be interesting, but don't try to use them unless you're sure you know how to use them, especially in a test like IELTS.

Ask people about how to use them, before you try, or you might 'put your foot in it'.

Have fun!

- [Lee from England](#)

- Jun 04, 2009



You must do a difference between idioms and expressions. Idioms sometimes get into conversation. Expressions do all the times, because people are used to them and express the feelings or ideas more efficiently in an emotional sense. You can learn idioms and it gives some information about the language history or cultural features, but not totally. The science of idioms is called "phrenology". Expressions should be studied because you are not going to find anywhere anyone who speaks his/her own language like a dictionary. anyway, some time ago i asked here for idioms in different languages but my question was closed, so if you want to interchange some in Indonesian and Spanish and Catalan I will be glad. I have got a collection of idioms in many languages, so maybe we can have a nice talk about it.

- Jun 04, 2009



They witness that language is rich.

- [mike1988](#)

- Jun 10, 2009



What would you do if you were in money?

A Work in groups. Look at the following questions. Can you guess the meaning of used in each question?

1. What would you buy if you were rolling in it?
2. What would you stop buying if you felt strapped for cash?
3. Have you ever paid over the odds for something?
4. Have you ever bought anything that was going for a song?

B Now, Discuss the above questions with your classmates.

C Turn to the next page to read more about money idioms.

Money idioms



A person without any money is referred to as **broke**.

To lose all your money is to **lose your shirt**.



Not to have enough money is to be **caught short**. People who have been cheated out of money have been **taken to the cleaners** or **ripped off**. Such people may be forced to **live from hand to mouth**, meaning that they have only enough to cover their immediate needs, without any savings for the future.

When a person quickly goes from poverty to wealth, he or she goes **from rags to riches**.



That person has a lot of money or is **in the money**.



A rich person might live **high on the hog**, in great comfort, and with the best of everything.

We could say that person is **on easy street**.



Money talks means money gives one power and influence to help get things done or get one's own way.



A rich man or woman who refuses to spend money is often called a **cheapskate**.



Kate Robinson was inherited five million dollars from her parents but spent only about \$80 per year. When she died in 1920, her furniture was stuffed with money. Since then, anybody who has money, but will not spend it, has been called Cheap Kate or, in more modern English, a cheapskate.

PEOPLE'S FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Jay: If this business idea is as successful as we think it'll be, we'll **clean up** for a change. [make a lot of money, make a big profit]

Gary: Yes, we'll be **laughing all the way to the bank**. [making a lot of money easily]

Jay: And it'll be so easy too- it really will be money **for old rope**. [money that is easily earned (informal)]

Tom: I'd love to get a job with a decent salary. I'm tired of **living on a shoestring**. [living on very little money]

Betty: Me too. It would be great to **be rolling in it**, wouldn't it? [to have lots of money (informal)]

Mary: Since my husband lost his job, I'm the **breadwinner** in my family. [person who earns the money the family needs]

Pam: Really? Well, I guess I **bring home the bacon** in my family too. [earn the money the family lives on (informal)]

Amy: Could you lend me twenty dollars?

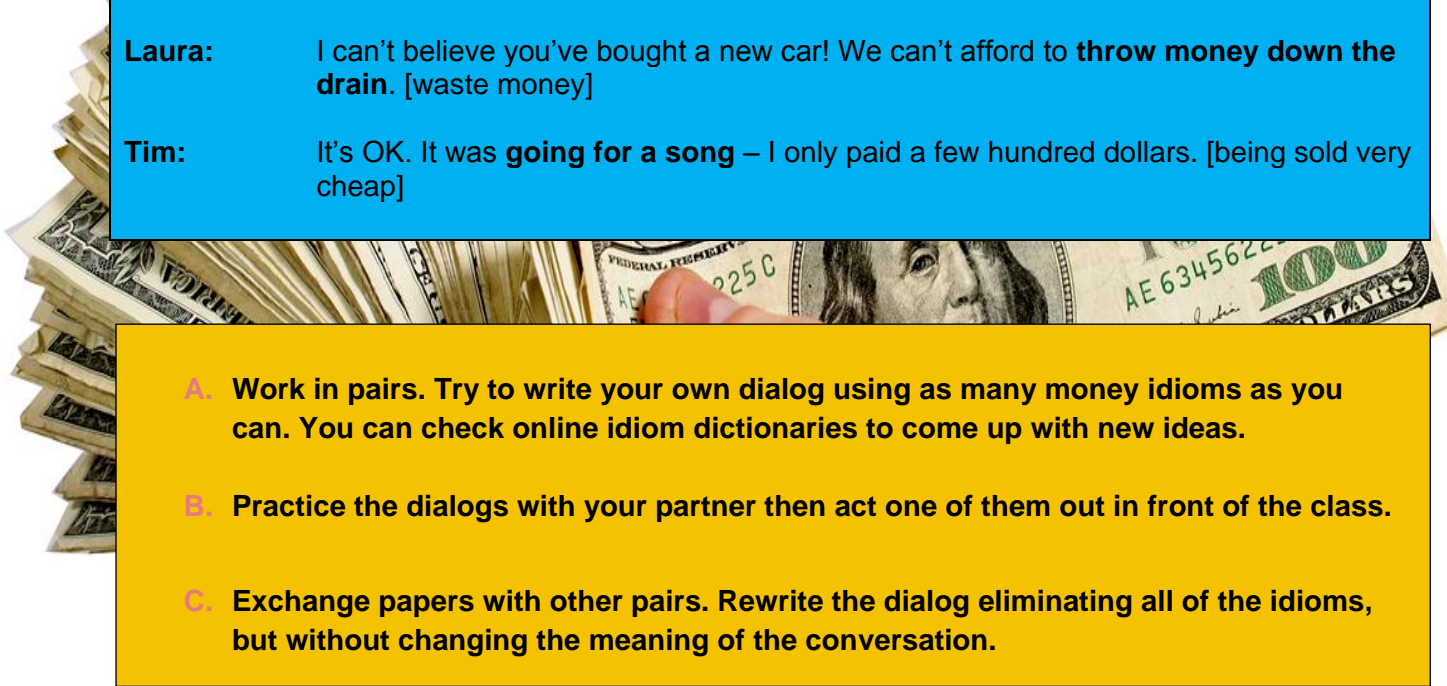
Josh: Sorry, pal, I'm a bit **strapped for cash** at the moment. [not have enough money]

Dave: That singer's ex-wife – you know the one I mean - she **took him to the cleaner's** when they got divorced. He's ruined! [got as much money from him as she could]

Sam: I know- she's so greedy, isn't she? She **would sell her own grandmother**. [would do anything to get money (informal)]

Laura: I can't believe you've bought a new car! We can't afford to **throw money down the drain**. [waste money]

Tim: It's OK. It was **going for a song** – I only paid a few hundred dollars. [being sold very cheap]

- 
- Work in pairs. Try to write your own dialog using as many money idioms as you can. You can check online idiom dictionaries to come up with new ideas.
 - Practice the dialogs with your partner then act one of them out in front of the class.
 - Exchange papers with other pairs. Rewrite the dialog eliminating all of the idioms, but without changing the meaning of the conversation.



Money, get away
 Get a good job with more pay and you're O.K.
 Money, it's a gas
 Grab that ----- with both hands and make a stash
 New car, caviar, four star -----,
 Think I'll buy me a football team

Money, get back
 I'm all right, Jack, keep your hands off of my -----.
 Money, it's a hit
 Don't give me that do goody good -----
 I'm in the hi-fidelity first class traveling set
 And I think I need a ----- jet

Money, it's a -----
 Share it fairly but don't take a ----- of my pie
 Money, so they say
 Is the root of all ----- today
 But if you ask for a rise it's no surprise that they're
 giving none away

"HuHuh! I was in the right!"
 "Yes, absolutely in the right!"
 "I certainly was in the right!"
 "You was definitely in the right. That ----- was
 cruising for a bruising!"
 "Yeah!"
 "Why does anyone do anything?"
 "I don't know, I was really drunk at the time!"
 "I was just telling him, he couldn't get into
 number 2. He was asking why he wasn't coming
 up on freely, after I was yelling and ----- and
 telling him why he wasn't coming up on freely.
 It came as a heavy -----, but we sorted the
 matter out."

- A. Listen to the CD and fill in the blank space.
- B. How many idioms can you find in the lyrics?
- C. Discuss the meaning of idioms with your classmates.



MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON TREES

Up to now, many people have been ambitious. They always thirst for only one thing: Money. To them, "**money answers all things**"; "**Money makes the mare go**".

Yes, everyone wants to **be in the money**. Everyone wishes they could **get their money's worth**. **Making money** is the best thing. And, money is everything. But, **for my money, money is the root of all devil!** It has been proved clearly for many years!

Some people are too covetous. Their ambition makes them blind. They, **money-grubbers**, seek anything: do anything in order to be rich, irrespective of everything. And in the nowadays society, **money talks**. In addition, money makes people utterly depraved. Some people suddenly inherit big heirloom and then, become **made of money**. They have **money to burn**. They don't care about the fact that "**Money doesn't grow on trees**". Someone **makes money hand over fist**, or they get **easy money, money for jam**. So, they are not careful with money. They lose money hand over fist. They put money into **wasted games** or **throw their money around**. They spend a large amount of **ready money** on gambling. In races, they **put money on horses, dogs**. Even though they lose the game, they continue to **throw good money after bad**. As the result of **spending money like water**, they have nothing.

The power of money even influences the relations between people. Sometimes someone makes friend with another person just because he sees **the color of the latter's money**. Even worse, people may **marry money**. "**Money is not good money**" anymore. What a pity but it's **on the money**. So don't let yourself be ruled by money because **money is a good servant but a bad master!**

A. Match the idioms in column (A) with the proper definition in column (B).

A	B
1. Made of money	a. In my opinion
2. Money makes the mare go	b. cash
3. For my money	c. bet
4. Money grubbing	d. motivator
5. Ready money	e. penny pitcher
6. Careful with money	f. exactly right
7. Put money on	g. wealthy
8. On the money	h. avaricious

B. Answer these questions about the idioms you studied in the reading section.

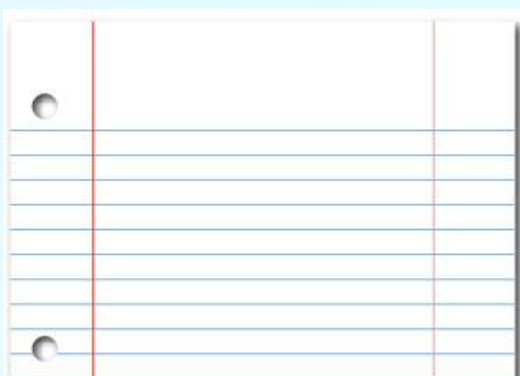
1. Which one do you prefer as your spouse: the one who spends money like water or the one who is careful with money? Why?
2. Do you agree “the one who makes money hand over fist loses money hand over fist”? Can you remember a Persian proverb which might mention the same thing?
3. What is the theme of this reading? Money is a good servant or it is a bad master?

Writing

Right on the money

It is believed that the term “right on the money” or “dead on the money” comes from archery. For prize competitions a coin would be set at the middle of the target and the archer whose arrow landed closest at the middle of the target would take the coin as the prize. Therefore right on the money would mean the center of the target (dead center).

Now, think about the origin of the idiom “on easy street” and write your idea in a paragraph about it.





Have you ever eaten the crow?

A Work in groups. Look at the following questions. Can you guess the meaning of used in each question?

1. Have you ever felt you are the black sheep of the family?
2. To what animal do you think “bright-eyed and bushy-tailed refers”?
3. What kind of things do you think moms might consider monkey business?
4. Describe a time you had butterflies in your stomach?

B Now, Discuss the above questions with your classmates.

A. In this conversation, the second speaker uses an idiom to repeat and sum up what the first speaker says.

1. A: The president's just pretending to be upset about the situation, don't you think?

B: Yes, he's **shedding crocodile tears** to get popular support.

2. A; Thomas was really upset when his team let in an own goal.

B: Yes, he was **sick as a parrot**, wasn't he?

3. A: Ana's hoping that Carlos will stop gambling once they're married, but I doubt he will.

B: No, **a leopard can't change its spots**.

4. A: He complained his business was about to fail so often that no one believed him when it finally did.

B: Yes, he **cried wolf** once too often.

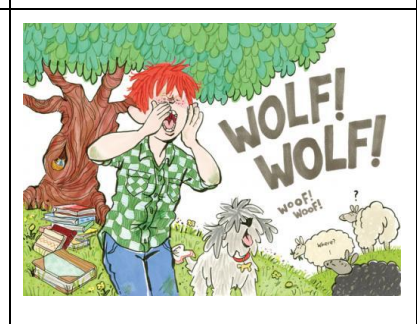
5. A: He looks kind and gentle but he's not like that at all.

B: You're right. He really is **a wolf in sheep's clothing**.

6. A: I'm sure everyone is thinking about the divorce, but no one ever mentions it.

B: That's right. It's certainly **the elephant in the room**.

A. Look at the pictures below. Which idioms do they associate with?



Animal idioms



An **ugly duckling** is a child who is physically unappealing. The phrase is taken from one of Hans Christian Anderson's fairy tales, in which an ugly duckling becomes a beautiful swan. In addition, a **lame duck** is political official who is completing a term after someone else has been elected.

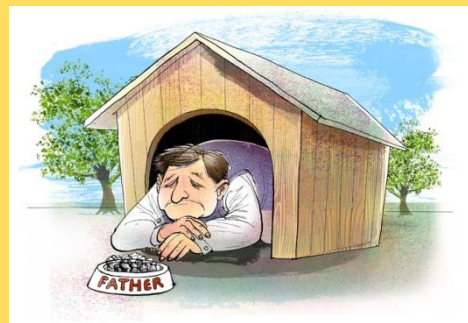


Butterflies are also used in idioms. People who are nervous often **have butterflies in their stomach**, perhaps because of the movement they feel there.



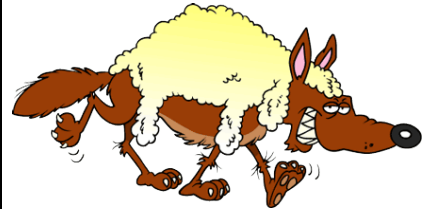
When we tell people to **hold your horses**, we want them to slow down.

Also, "dark" horses in a race are ones little is known about, so they are not expected to win. Thus, an unknown or unfavored political candidate is called a **dark horse**.



Dogs appear in many different idioms. People who are out of favor because they have done something wrong are **in the dog-house**. When a situation gets very bad, we say it has **gone to the dogs**. When we refer to the brutality of our world, we say "It's **a dog-eat-dog world**".

A **wolf in sheep's clothing** pretends to be a good person but is actually bad. To **keep the wolf from the door** is to keep out hunger or starvation.



In the 1890s, cartoonist Francis "Red" Tulane, a radical, wrote a comic strip featuring overworked, exploited mice and a fat, unsympathetic cat who was their boss. Today a rich, unsympathetic person is known as a **fat cat**.





Everything At Once by Lenka

As sly as a _____, as strong as an ox
As _____ as a hare, as brave as a bear
As free as a _____, as neat as a word
As _____ as a mouse, as big as a house
All I wanna be, all I wanna be, oh
All I wanna be is everything
As mean as a _____, as sharp as a tooth
As _____ as a bite, as dark as the night
As sweet as a song, as right as a wrong
As _____ as a road, as _____ as a toad
As _____ as a picture hanging from a fixture
_____ like a family, _____ as I wanna be
Bright as _____, as light as play
As hard as _____, as grand as a whale
All I wanna be oh, all I wanna be, oh
All I wanna be is everything
Everything at once
Everything at once, oh
Everything at once
As warm as _____, as silly as fun
As _____ as a tree, as scary as the _____
As hot as _____, cold as _____
Sweet as _____ and everything nice
As old as _____, as straight as a _____
As _____ as a queen, as buzzed as a bee
As stealth as a tiger, smooth as a glider
Pure as a _____, pure as I wanna be
All I wanna be oh, all I wanna be, oh
All I wanna be is everything
Everything at once.

- A. Listen to the song and fill in the blank spaces.
- B. Lenka is as beautiful as a picture, isn't she?! Can you add some more idioms which follow as... as pattern?



I've been a police detective for 25 years, and in this **dog-eat-dog world**, I thought I had seen it all. Coming from anyone else, you might not believe this story. However, I am going to give it to you **straight from the horse's mouth**.

A couple of years ago, a man had a pet that he thought was the **cat's meow**. It wasn't a cat, though. It wasn't even a dog. It was an alligator. At first he thought it was cool. It was just a baby and only a foot or so long. He kept it **squirreled away** in his backyard. Then, when people would come over, he'd **monkey around** with it and they **hoof it** out of there. He'd just laugh because Alley was **all bark and no bite**.

But, as time passed, Alley grew. Soon he was more than 6 feet long. Now that's **a horse of different color**. The man came to realize that if the police found out that he had Alley, his **goose would be cooked**. It was time to **take the bull by the horns**.

Late one night, the man and his buddy wrapped Alley in a blanket and carried him to the edge of a lake in a nearby neighborhood park and set him loose. They thought he would never be seen again, but he was - and by a lot of people. For a while, Alley seemed to **play cat and mouse** with the officials to avoid being captured. That's where I came in. I didn't catch Alley, but I did catch the guy who put him there. Believe me, when I got to the bottom of this, that guy had to **eat crow**. He was **barking up the wrong tree** with me!

It took a while, but both the criminal and Alley were caught, and both are behind bars - one in jail and the other at the zoo!



Do you ever cry over spilt milk?

A Work in groups. Look at the following questions. Can you guess the meaning of used in each question?

1. What kind of foods would someone with sweet tooth like to eat?
2. Is it good or bad to chew someone out all the time?
3. Does learning idioms provide you with food for thought?
4. What are some good ways to learn idioms as a piece of cake?

B Now, Discuss the above questions with your classmates.

C Turn to the next page to read more about food idioms.

Food idioms



FOOD IDIOMS

Perhaps because of the importance of food to our health, many widely used English idioms contain references to cooking and things we eat.

A sensitive, difficult issue is called a **hot potato**.



When we are in difficulty, we are **in hot water**.



Ideas that are not fully thought out are often called **half-baked**.

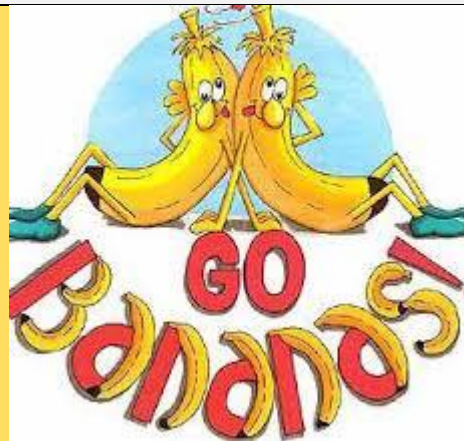


"OK, let's hear it. But I'm warning you, it better not be another one of your half-baked ideas."

People who feel strong and energetic are **feeling their oats**.

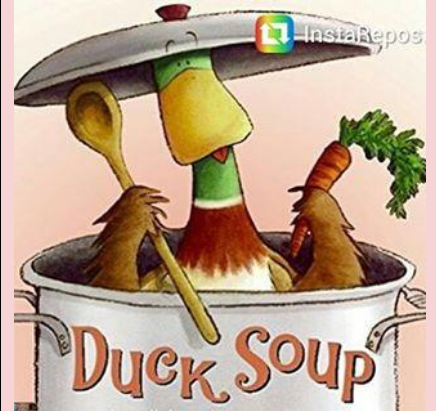


However when we are disgusted with something, we are **fed up** with it, and when we lose our tempers, we **boil over**.



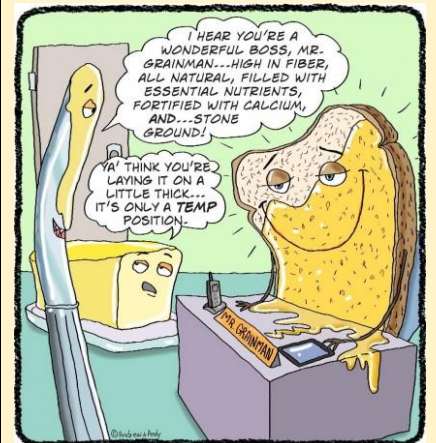
Idioms also refer to fruits and vegetables. To **go bananas** and to **go nuts** both mean to go crazy. One's **salad days** refer to the days of one's youth.

Other expressions refer to birds we eat. To ruin or destroy one's hopes or plans is to **cook one's goose**. **Duck soup** refers to something easily done, and "That test was duck soup" refers to an easy test.



To **take with a grain of salt** means not to take seriously. To **cry over spilt milk** means to complain about something that can no longer be prevented.

The butter of the yak, a relative of the ox, had great value to the people of Tibet. When they wanted to please someone, they presented tubes of the butter as a present. Today, to **butter up** means to flatter.



B. In this conversation, the second speaker uses an idiom to repeat and sum up what the first speaker says.

1. A: All the students became very excited when the principal announced tomorrow would be off.

B: Yes, They all **went banana!**

2. A: Thomas gives very good suggestions for our business.

B: Yes, he gives us **los food for thought.**

3. A: You should not take everything the supervisor says seriously because he likes to exaggerate.

B: No, I take his words **with a grain of salt.**

4. A: He believed our business was about to fail but he had to admit at the end that he was wrong.

B: Yes, eventually he **ate his words.**

5. A: I knew my dad was going to scold me again

B: You're right. He really likes to **chew you out.**

6. A: Presenting the lecture is very easy for him.

B: That's right. It's certainly **a piece of cake for him.**

C. Look at the pictures below. Which idioms do they associate with?





BEASTIE

BOYS

Egg Man...

- A. Listen to the CD and fill in the blank space.
- B. How many idioms can you find in the lyrics?
- C. Discuss the meaning of idioms with your classmates.

I looked out the ---- seen his bald head
Ran to the fridge and pulled out an egg
Scoped him with my -----, he had no
hair
Launched that shot and he was caught
out there
Saw the ----- driving by
I loaded up the -----, let one fly
He went for his to find he didn't have
one
Put him in check, -----, with my egg-gun
The egg, a symbol of life
I go inside your ----- and bust out your
wife
I pulled out the jimmy, he thought it was
a joke
The trigger, I pulled - his face, the yolk
Reached in his -----, took all his cash
Left my man standing with the egg

Yeah, that's right, I'm the Egg Man, ----
around
King of the town (yeah)
Always got my ----- rolled down
Ready to -----
You know, I'm the Egg Man

Once upon a time
Egg Man...

Humpty ----- was a big fat egg
He was playing the wall, then he broke
his leg
----- it out the window, three minutes
hot
Hit the Rastaman, he said, (Bloodclot!)
What came first, the chicken or the
egg?

I egged the -----, and then I ate his leg

mustache
Suckers, they come a ----- a dozen
"When I say dozen, you know what I'm
 talkin' about, boy"

Riding the trains, in between cars
When I pull out the -----, You're
 Gonna Get Yours

 Drive-by eggings, plaguing LA
"Yo, you just got my little cousin, ese!"
Sometimes -----, sometimes runny
 (Ray)
 Comes from a chicken, not a -----,
 dummy
 People laugh, it's no joke
My name's "Yauch" and I'm ----- the
 yolk
"Now they got me in a cell," but I don't
 care
 It was then that I got ----- catching
 people out there
Up on the roof, in my car, up all night
I'm going through ----- like Dolemite
 The Mack... Who?
I'm the Egg Man... Taxi driver?
 I'm the Egg Man
 Egg Man, Egg Man

We all ----- in black, we snuck up
 around the back
We began to -----, the eggs did
 crack on Haze's back
Sam I am, down with the program
Green eggs and ham, Yosemite Sam
Come -----, you know I come
 strapped
 I throw it at a sucker... "k-pap"
You made the -----take and judge a
 man by his race
You go through ----- with egg on your
 face
Woke up in the -----, peculiar feeling
Looked up and saw egg dripping from
 the ceiling
 The family, punk rocks, the
 businessman
I'll dog everybody with the egg in my ---
It's not like the ----- that you put in a
 pipe
But crack on your -----; here's a towel,
 now wipe

Egg Man, Egg Man, Egg Man, Egg Man,
Egg Man, Egg Man

Egg Man, Egg Man, Egg Man, Egg Man,
Egg Man, Egg Man

Egg Man, Egg Man, Egg Man, Egg Man,
Egg Man...





Bob works hard to **bring home the bacon**, and put **bread and butter** on his family's table. Every morning, he drags himself to his desk at the bank and faces his tedious 10-hour-a-day job. His boss, Mark, is a **bad egg** but has somehow taken a liking to Bob so he always speaks well of Bob in front of Mr. Davies, the owner and **big cheese** of the company. Mark tells Mr. Davies that Bob's **the cream of the crop** and is one **smart cookie** that **uses his noodles**. Mark likes to **chew the fat** with Bob during coffee break and discusses **half-baked** company plans with him because he trusts Bob and knows that Bob won't **spill the beans** behind his back. On these occasions, Bob tries to avoid any **hot potatoes** and, even if Mark isn't **his cup of tea**, Bob makes an effort to **butter him up** by leading Mark into discussions about electronic gadgets which Mark **is nuts about**. Bob really thinks that Mark is **out to lunch** and **nutty as a fruitcake**, but **in a nutshell**, if he **polishes the apple**, his job could become a **piece of cake** and maybe one day he will find his **gravy train**.

A. Match the idioms in column (A) with the proper definition in column (B).

A	B
1. Bring home the bacon	a. an important person
2. Bread and butter	b. giddy
3. Bad egg	c. to earn money to buy food
4. Big cheese	d. briefly
5. Spill the beans	e. routine work to get an income
6. Piece of cake	f. disclose a secret
7. Out to lunch	g. a repellant person
8. in a nutshell	h. very easy to do

B. Answer these questions about the idioms you studied in the reading section.

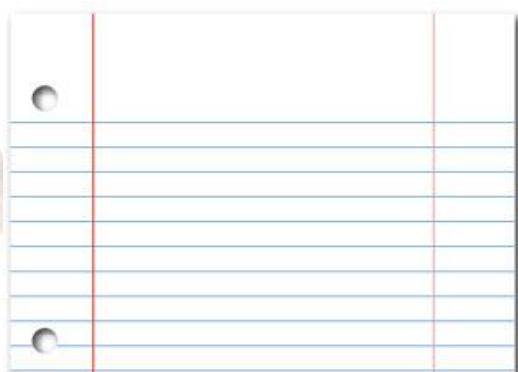
1. Which idiom indicates that a person is very clever?
2. Did Mark tell Mr. Davies that Bob's cream of the crop?
3. What does one's cup of tea mean?

Writing

Take something with a grain of salt

The phrase comes from Pliny the Elder's Naturalist Historian, regarding the discovery of a recipe for an antidote to a poison. In the antidote, one of the ingredients was a grain of salt. Threats involving the poison were thus to be taken "with grain of salt", and therefore less seriously. An alternative account says that the Roman general Pompey believed that he could make himself immune to poison by ingesting small amounts of various poisons, and he took this treatment with a grain of salt to help him swallow the poison. In this version the salt is not the antidote. It was taken merely to assist in swallowing the poison.

Now, think about the origin of the idiom "cream of the crop" and write your idea in a paragraph about it.





Has anyone ever given you the cold shoulder?

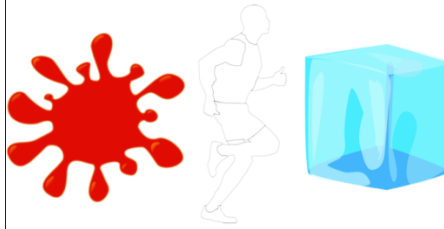
A Work in groups. Look at the following questions. Can you guess the meaning of used in each question?

1. Do you lend ear to your parent's advice?
2. Do you get cold feet before the exams?
3. Have you ever had to put your foot in your mouth?
4. Do you ever bury your head in the sand?

B Now, Discuss the above questions with your classmates.

Body idioms

When a man becomes nervous, something **freezes his blood**, **makes his blood run cold**, or **makes his hair stand on end**.



If you listen to another person, you **lend an ear**. If, on the other hand, you do not listen carefully, information goes **in one ear and out the other**.



Many idioms dealing with human body use the concept of cold. For example, **give people the cold shoulder** means to ignore them.



When people are made to wait they **cool their heels**.



When a person is embarrassed or shamed by a failure, that person **loses face**.

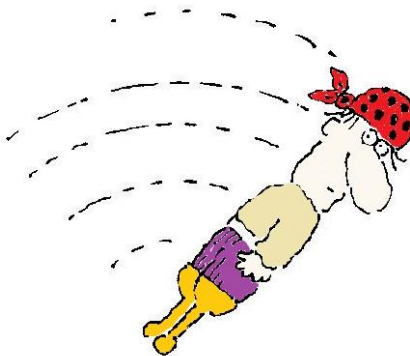
Long ago in China, the emperor was considered a god. To mention his body or health in any way was forbidden, since it implied that he was human.



When people get **cold feet**, they become nervous, and just before they plan to do something, they may refuse to do it, or **back out**.



People, who put forth an opinion that is completely wrong, or not supported by evidence, **don't have a leg to stand on**.



To **raise eyebrows** is to shock people.



People who made this mistake had their feet pulled upward and forced into their mouths, remaining in this position for several hours. Today, to **put your foot in your mouth** means to say something that should not be said.

A. Look at these newspaper headlines. Each one has an idiom based on a part of the human body. What do you think they mean? Choose the correct answer.

UNIVERSITY GOES **CAP IN HAND** TO FINANCE MINISTER

1. A university a) apologizes to the minister b) asks the minister for financial help c) awards the minister a great honor.

AIRLINE **FOOTS THE BILL** FOR DALAYS AND CANCELLATIONS

2. An airline a) has refused to pay the costs b) sends the bill to someone else c) will pay the costs.

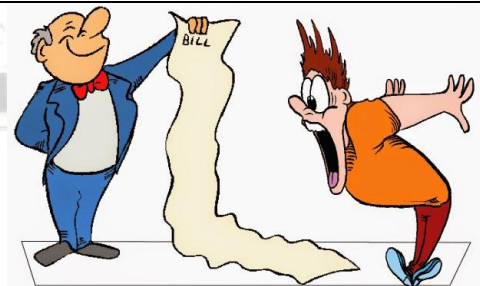
RITA SORAZ IS **THE APPLE OF THE HOLLEYWOOD EYE**

3. Rita Sorez is a) loved by every one in Hollywood b) hated by everyone in Hollywood c) missed by everyone in Hollywood

GOVERNMENT IS **BURYING ITS HEAD IN THE SAND**, SAYS OPPOSITION LEADER

4. The government is a) refusing to face a difficult situation b) about to resign c) making unpopular plans

B. Look at the pictures below. Which idioms do they associate with?



Dokken



Desperate living, driving me mad
Writings on the wall
Crushed all our hopes and the dreams we once
had
Just to watch them fall
Tearing it up in the daytime
Burning it down at night
How long does it take
To break the spell
Straight to the top
Tooth and Nail
Last generation, reckless and free
Up against the odds
Thoughts of revenge are going through me
Fate lies in the cards

Tearing it up in the daytime
Burning it down at night
How long does it take
To break the spell
Straight to the top
Tooth and Nail
Desperate living, trying to see
Breaking all the rules
Only the strong are gonna be free
From a world of fools
Tooth and nail
Tooth and nail
Straight to the top
Tooth and nail



Our fourth grade class went on a field trip to the museum of Natural History. Let's just say that our trip **got off on the wrong foot**.

We were lined up waiting for the bus to pick us up. Bobby started making elephant jokes in line. Miss Feeny already had her **nose out of joint**, but we couldn't stop giggling. She made us **do an about face** and march back to the classroom. After giving us a **tongue-lashing**, she had us all in line up again. The bus had already arrived, so we had to **shake a leg**.

On the bus Bobby sat next to me. He started poking me in the ribs, and I had to **fight tooth and nail** to keep from laughing. I didn't want Miss Feeny breathing down my neck the whole day. I told Bobby to cut it out, but it went **in one ear and out the other**. I even tried giving him the cold shoulder, but he wouldn't stop being **a pain in the neck**. However, no matter what I did, Bobby kept it up, and I lost it. I started laughing, and that's when things **got out of hand**.

Miss Feeny made Bobby and me sit on the bus with Mrs. Rose while the other kids were in the museum. I guess I could have said that it was all Bobby's fault, but I knew I didn't **have a leg to stand on**.

A. Match the idioms in column (A) with the proper definition in column (B).

A	B
1. A leg to stand on	a. be insulted
2. Get off on the wrong foot	b. hurry
3. nose out of joint	c. become out of control
4. Do an about face	d. a severe scolding
5. Shake a leg	e. support, justification
6. Get out of hand	f. ignore
7. Tongue-lashing	g. start something poorly
8. Give the cold shoulder	h. change opinion

B. Answer these questions about what you studied in the reading section.

1. Did the field trip start off well or poorly? Explain.
2. Was Miss Feeny in a good mood or a bad one?
3. Do you think both students should have been punished? Explain.

Writing

Get off on the wrong foot

It is suggested that in ancient Greece it was recognized unlucky to put the left foot on to the floor, or into one's shoe, first. Brewer records this in his Dictionary of Phrase and Fable, 1898.

It was thought unlucky to enter a house or to leave one's chamber left foot foremost. Pythagoras taught that it was necessary to put the shoe on the right foot first. "When stretching forth your feet to have your sandals put on, first extend your right foot".

Now, think about the origin of the idiom "pain in the neck" and write your idea in a paragraph about it.

