

200+ IDIOMS FOR BETTER ENGLISH

50+ Object Idioms

Idiom	Meaning
1. Hit the sack	Go to sleep
2. Back against the wall	Stuck in a situation with no options
3. Scrape the barrel	Do everything you can in a situation
4. Burn the bridges	Eliminate any possibility of going back to a previous situation
5. Cry over spilt milk	Worry about something that cannot be undone
6. Have an ace up the sleeve	Have a hidden advantage or secret plan to gain an upper hand in a situation
7. Fall hook, line and sinker	Get completely deceived or taken by a person or situation
8. Lose your marbles	Lose one's sanity or mental faculties
9. On thin ice	Be in a risky or precarious situation
10. Bite the bullet	Face a difficult situation with courage
11. Back to the drawing board	Start over and rework your plans or ideas
12. Ring a bell	Sound familiar or trigger a memory
13. Jump the gun	To act prematurely or before appropriate time
14. Cut no ice	Have no effect or influence on a situation or person
15. Call a spade a spade	Speak plainly or truthfully
16. Play the cards right	To make the best decisions
17. Take a back seat	Have a less prominent or active role or to allow others to take the lead
18. Not your cup of tea	Not to your liking or preference
19. In the same boat	Be in a similar situation or face same challenges or difficulties
20. Miss the bus	Miss an opportunity or chance
21. Die in harness	Be active in duties till the end of life
22. Cook the books	To manipulate financial records or accounts
23. Lock, stock and barrel	Entirety or completeness of something
24. From a frying pan into the fire	To move from a bad or difficult situation to an even worse one
25. Ball in one's court	Have the responsibility to take action or make a decision
26. Bag and baggage	With all one's possessions
27. Below the belt	Use unfair or unethical means to achieve an advantage
28. Rock the boat	To cause trouble by challenging existing conditions
29. To kick the bucket	To die or pass away

30. To keep the ball rolling	To continue or maintain progress or activity in a particular situation
31. Step into dead man's shoes	To take over the responsibilities or role after the death of a person
32. Other side of the coin	Other point of view or other aspects of a situation
33. Blow your own trumpet	Tell about yourself in a praiseworthy way
34. Burn the candle at both ends	Work very hard in a manner which depletes one's energy very quickly
35. The pot calling the kettle black	A situation in which a person with faults is hypocritically criticising the other for his faults
36. Pay someone back in his/her coin	Treat your opponent in the same manner as he or she treats you
37. Handle with kid gloves	Treat someone with extreme tact and care
38. Stick to your guns	Stand firm in the face of opposition
39. Be hand in glove	Work closely with someone in doing something wrong or dishonest
40. Look for a needle in a haystack	An extremely difficult or near impossible task
41. Hit the bottle	To drink alcohol to excess
42. To get someone off the hook	To help someone get out of trouble
43. Hit the nail on the head	Be perfectly right about something
44. Drive a nail in someone's coffin	Hasten the failure of someone or causes irreversible harm
45. Close the door on someone	Ignore a situation or an act
46. Burn the midnight oil	Put in extra hours of effort or lose sleep to complete a task
47. Egg on your face	Be embarrassed or humiliated due to a mistake or blunder one has made
48. To say it in a nutshell	To say it in brief or sum up the points in short
49. Spill the beans	To reveal the secret accidentally or carelessly
50. At the drop of a hat	Suddenly or in an unplanned manner
51. Whole new ball game	A completely different situation, one that is difficult or that one knows little about
52. Put on the thinking cap	To think seriously about something
53. Spin one's wheels	To engage in fruitless activity
54. Jump on the bandwagon	Join others in an activity that has become very popular
55. An axe to grind	To have a private agenda for doing or being involved in something
56. Talk through one's hat	To talk without understanding or to talk foolishly or wildly
57. To bury the hatchet	To agree to end the dispute or disagreement
58. A feather in the cap	An achievement to be proud of

Hat - Cap Idioms

**Talk through
one's hat**



To talk foolishly, wildly or without understanding



**Put on the
thinking cap**

To think seriously about something



**A feather in
the cap**

An achievement to be proud of

**At the drop of
a hat**



Suddenly or in an unplanned manner

50+ Animal Idioms

Eat like a pig: eat in a messy, gluttonous, or unrefined manner. It emphasizes the idea of consuming a large quantity of food without much concern for manners or etiquette.



Eat like a horse: Consume a significant amount of food. However, unlike "eat like a pig," it doesn't necessarily imply messy or uncouth eating habits but focuses on the quantity of food consumed.

Idiom	Meaning
1. Every dog has his day	Everyone has a period of success, recognition or good fortune at some point in their life
2. Let sleeping dogs lie	Not stir up old or potentially problematic issues

3. Tail wagging the dog	A situation in which a minor part controls or influences the larger or more important part.
4. Rain cats and dogs	Rain very heavily
5. Bell the cat	To do something that is very risky or dangerous
6. Cat on a hot tin roof	Be restless or agitated
8. Not enough room to swing a cat	A cramped place
9. Let the cat out of the bag	To reveal a secret carelessly
10. Eat like a horse	To consume large quantities of food
11. Flog a dead horse	Do something without any chance of success
12. Hold your horses	Have patience, or show restraint in a situation
13. From the horse's mouth	Directly from the source
14. Be a dark horse	Be a person or competitor whose abilities or intentions are unknown
15. To cry wolf	To raise false alarm or give a false warning
16. Have a bigger fish to fry	Have more important or pressing matters to attend to
17. Feel like a fish out of water	Be uncomfortable or out of place in a particular environment of situation
18. Wild goose chase	A fruitless or futile pursuit of something that is unlikely to be achieved
19. Kill the goose that lays golden eggs	Make a short-sighted decision to destroy a consistent source of income
20. Cash cow	A business, product or investment that consistently generates significant profits or cash flow
22. To smell a rat	To suspect that something is wrong in a situation
23. A cock and bull story	A fanciful or unbelievable tale or explanation that is fabricated or exaggerated
24. As the crow flies	The shortest distance between two points similar to a straight line on a map
25. To eat crow	To admit that one had been wrong or to admit defeat
26. A white elephant	Something that costs a lot to maintain but doesn't serve any useful purpose
27. Elephant in the room	An obvious problem no one wants to discuss
28. Watch like a hawk	Observe very keenly especially to detect any wrong doing
29. Be the black sheep	To behave differently from the rest of the group, often in an unfavourable way
30. Eat like a bird	Eat too little or have a very low appetite
31. Kill two birds with one stone	Accomplish multiple tasks with the same effort that is required to accomplish a single task
32. Cast pearls before a swine	Offer something valuable to someone who does not recognize its value
33. When pigs fly	Happening of impossible things
34. Monkey on one's back	A problem that cannot be easily got rid of or solved

35. Have ducks in a row	To have everything properly organised
36. Play duck and drakes	To handle recklessly, to treat frivolously
37. Stir a hornets' nest	Invite unnecessary or avoidable pain and trouble
38. Make an ass of oneself	Behave in a foolish manner resulting in self-humiliation
39. Be an eager beaver	Be very enthusiastic or eager to participate in an activity or task
40. Birds of a feather	People with similar characteristics, interests or behaviour
41. Take the bull by the horns	To confront or deal with a challenging situation directly and with courage
42. Have butterflies in the stomach	Feel nervous, anxious or excited before an event
43. Chicken feed	Small or insignificant amount of money
44. Crocodile tears	Insincere or fake expression of sorrow or remorse
45. A dog's life	A difficult or miserable life
46. Be a dog in the manger	Prevent others from enjoying or using something which has no use for oneself either
47. Go to the dogs	Deteriorate or decline or become less profitable or successful
48. Fish in troubled waters	To seek opportunities of benefits from a chaotic or unstable situation
49. Sound or smell fishy	Seem suspicious or questionable
50. A lion's share	The largest portion of something being distributed or allocated

70+ Body Part Idioms

Idiom	Meaning
1. Up in the arms	Be upset or angry about something
2. Twist someone's arms	To apply pressure or persuasions to get someone to do something which he or she may not wish to do
3. To take up arms	To prepare or engage in an armed conflict
4. At an arm's length	Not get too close personally or emotionally.
5. Cost an arm and a leg	Be very expensive or unaffordable
6. Change hands	Change in ownership
7. Have one's hands full	Be too occupied with existing work to take up additional work
8. Throw up one's hands	To express frustration, exasperation or surrender.
9. Get out of hand	Go out of control
10. A left-handed compliment	To disguise an insult or criticism as a praise
11. To wash one's hands of something	To refuse to take responsibility, stop being involved in something
12. To pull someone's leg	To make fun of someone

13. Shoot oneself in the foot	Cause harm to one's own interests or goals
14. Drag one's feet	Go slow on a task deliberately
15. Get cold feet	To feel scared to do something just before the moment
16. Break a leg	Say good luck especially before a performance
17. Cool your heels	To have patience or calm down and not be in a hurry
18. To take to one's heels	To run away from the situation or place
19. To put one's foot down	To use one's authority to stop something
20. Toe the line	To behave according to the rules, even if you do not agree to them
21. Have an ear to the ground	Stay informed or be aware of the latest developments
22. Play by the ear	To handle a situation without specific plan, improvising as circumstances develop
23. Turn a deaf ear	To ignore or disregard something intentionally
24. Not see eye to eye	Have differing opinions or disagree on a particular matter
25. To catch one's eye	Grab the attention or stand out in some way
26. Shut one's eyes to/ To turn a blind eye	Ignore a situation or an act
27. Apple of one's eye	Someone very dear or very loved
28. To raise eyebrows	To cause surprise or shock
29. Stab in the back	An act of betrayal or treachery by someone trustworthy
30. Behind one's back	Secretly or without the knowledge of anyone
31. To have no backbone/spine	To lack courage or strength to stand up for one's beliefs
32. To have sticky fingers	To have a tendency to steal or take things that do not belong
33. Keep one's fingers crossed	Express hope for good luck or a positive outcome
34. Point finger at	To blame or accuse someone of an act
35. Under the thumb	Under someone's control or influence
36. Pour out one's heart	To express one's deepest emotions, thoughts or feelings
37. Heart in your mouth	Be extremely nervous or anxious about a situation
38. Wear your heart on your sleeve	To openly and visibly display one's emotions or feelings.
39. Break someone's heart	Hurt someone or to cause disappointment usually romantically
40. Follow your heart	To do what one believes is right
41. From the bottom of one's heart	Say or do something sincerely or whole-heartedly.
42. Get at the heart of the matter	To address the central or most important part of an issue, problem, or situation
43. Have a change of heart	Change one's opinion about someone or something
44. Have a heart of gold	To be very kind or generous
45. Have a heart of stone	To be very unkind or cruel
46. Have heart-to-heart talk	Have an open and honest discussion with someone
47. Know something or learn	To know or learn perfectly so as to be able to reproduce

something by heart	word by word
48. Have the heart in the right place	To have the right intentions, be kind and generous
49. Take heart	Have courage and not be disappointed by failure
50. Miss or skip a heart beat	Be completely surprised
51. Half-hearted	Without any interest or enthusiasm
52. Flesh and blood	Referring to someone in the family or human nature
53. To cause bad blood	To create or exacerbate feelings of animosity, hostility or ill will between people
54. In cold blood	In a deliberate, premeditated and emotionless manner
55. Make one's blood boil	Cause someone to get angry
56. By the skin of your teeth	Narrowly escape a difficult or dangerous situation
57. Armed to the teeth	Fully or overly prepared for a situation
58. To fight tooth and nail	To fight very fiercely or to try hard to accomplish something
59. To cut one's own throat	To cause harm to oneself
60. A slap on the wrist	A mild or lenient punishment for a wrongdoing
61. Knee jerk reaction	Impulsive or immediate response to a situation
62. Shoot from the hip	To act hastily and without much forethought
63. Egg on your face	Be embarrassed or humiliated due to a mistake or blunder one has made
64. A thorn in the flesh	A person or thing that constantly irritates or troubles you.
65. Pay through the nose	Pay excessively or pay too much for something
66. To follow one's nose	To follow one's instincts rather than rules or other people's opinions
67. Come to a head	To reach a point of crisis or a point when it can no longer be ignored
68. Let one's hair down	To be relaxed and behave informally
69. Hold your tongue	Show restraint while speaking
70. Say tongue-in-cheek	Say something in a jesting or non-serious manner
71. A pain in the neck	An annoying person
72. Word of mouth	To convey something orally
73. To jump out of skin	To be completely surprised or startled
74. Give a cold shoulder	Be rude, indifferent or unfriendly to someone

HEART IDIOMS



Break someone's heart

To cause someone to feel great sadness or sorrow



Have a heart of gold

To be kind-hearted and generous



Have a heart of stone

To be very unkind and cruel



Have a heart-to-heart talk

Have an open and honest discussion



Half-hearted effort

An effort without any interest or enthusiasm



Pour out one's heart

To express one's deepest emotions or feelings



Wear one's heart on sleeves

To openly display one's feelings



One's heart sinks

One feels very unhappy or despondent



Follow one's heart

To do what one believes is right or morally correct

Water, Ocean, Tide Idioms

Idiom	Meaning
1. Test the waters	to try something out or investigate to see if it is feasible or acceptable before committing fully
2. Pour cold water on	To discourage or dampen the enthusiasm or excitement about an idea or plan
3. Hold water	Be logical, reasonable or valid
4. Water under the bridge	Past events or issues that are no longer relevant or significant
5. In hot water	In trouble or facing difficulties
6. Come hell or high water	No matter what the obstacles or difficulties are
7. Swim against the tide	To go against the prevailing opinions or trends
8. A sea change	Significant transformation or positive shift

9. Be oceans apart	Be very different from the other
10. Boil the ocean	Do something that is overly ambitious, impractical or impossible to accomplish
11. Turn the tide	To reverse a situation, typically a difficult one into a favourable one
12. Cry me a river	Complain excessively, often used sarcastically
13. Come rain or shine	No matter if one has to face a difficult or an easy path
14. As right as the rain	To be Perfectly fine, healthy or in excellent condition
15. Be on cloud nine	Be extremely happy or in a state of great joy
16. Head in the clouds	To day dream, or not pay attention or be lost in one's thoughts
17. Under a cloud	Be in a state of suspicion or disfavour
18. Dark clouds on the horizon	Potential problems or challenges that are looming in the future
19. Sell down the river	To betray or deceive someone by taking advantage of their trust
20. A drop in the ocean	A small amount in relation to the total

God, Devil, Heaven, Hell Idioms

Idiom	Meaning
1. Heaven on earth	A place that is perfect, delightful or idyllic
2. Heaven help (someone)	Hope or request for some divine assistance
3. Move heaven and earth	To make an extraordinary effort to achieve a goal
4. A match made in heaven	A perfect or harmonious pairing of people
5. To be in the seventh heaven	To be extremely happy
6. Go through hell	To experience extremely difficult or trying times
7. Come hell or high water	No matter what the obstacles or difficulties are
8. Devil's advocate	Someone who takes a contrary position for the sake of debate and not necessarily because of his or her belief
9. Speak of the devil	When a person who is being talked about makes an appearance
10. The devil is in the details	Something may seem simple, but in fact the details are complicated and likely to cause problems
11. Between the devil and deep sea	Be in a difficult situation with two equally undesirable choices