

English Idioms Commonly Used In Daily Language

Common Idioms	Meaning	Example
A blessing in disguise	seems bad, but is actually good	Accidentally registering for the wrong class was actually a blessing in disguise.
Actions speak louder than words	actions are more important than words	You say you love me but actions speak louder than words.
A piece of cake	easy	That test was a piece of cake.
Beating around the bush	not discussing what is important/procrastinating	I needed to study, but I kept beating around the bush.
Big task on your hand	having something important to finish	My teacher gave me a new assignment, so I have a big task on my hands.
Break a leg	wishing someone to do well/ good luck	You will do fine on your presentation. Go break a leg out there.
Can't stand (something)	to dislike something	I can't stand having to do homework on a Sunday.
Check out that	give that a look	Check out that very cool looking car.
Close but no cigar	close but failed at the end	You got a 79% on the test. Almost a B...close but no cigar.
Don't sweat it	don't worry about it	You accidentally scratched my car but I don't care. Don't sweat it.
Driving me bananas	making me feel crazy	My very loud neighbors are driving me bananas.
Easier said than done	easy to say, but hard to actually do	Changing the world is easier said than done.
Get out of town	I don't believe you	You got an A in your Finance class? Get out of town!
Get over it	forget about the past	He broke up with his girlfriend but he needs to get over it.
Gone off track	forgot about your future goal	My friend really got off track because he failed three classes this semester.
Hands down	for certain the right answer	America is hands down the best place to study abroad.
Hang on a second	wait for a moment	Hang on a second...I am waiting for my laundry to finish.
Hang out	spend time with a friend	Joe and I hang out after class every week.
Have stumbled upon	to accidentally discover something	I stumbled upon a new restaurant while walking around downtown.
Hold your horses	wait/calm down	Hold your horses. I am still eating my lunch.
How's it going?	How are you?	How's it going today Bobby?
I made a key decision	make an important decision	I made a key decision to finish college.
Inside scoop	the details	Hey give me the inside scoop on how you met John.
In the bag	will definitely happen	My baseball team will win the game. It is in the bag.
I was knocked on my heels	I was surprised	I was knocked on my heels when I realized I got the job.

I'll toss it around	to casually suggest an idea to people	I am tossing around the idea of having a party this weekend.
I'm feeling blue	to feel sad	I failed my test today, I'm really feeling blue.
I'm out	I'm leaving	I have to go to a meeting, I'm out!
In the nick of time	when something happens at the last possible moment	The firefighter saved the baby from the burning building in the nick of time.
It's all flooding back to me	beginning to remember something you once forgot	When I saw my childhood bicycle memories all came flooding back to me.
Kick the bucket	to die/no longer work	Yesterday my phone kicked the bucket.
Kill two birds with one stone	accomplish two things at once	You can kill two birds with one stone by checking email and study at the library.
Laid back	relaxed	Jason is not very excited, he is laid back.
Last shot	Last chance	The final exam is my last shot to get an A in the class.
Leading someone on	having someone believe something that isn't true	Why do you keep telling Amy you like her, you are just leading her on.
Lend a hand	help someone out	I see those grocery bags are very heavy, can I lend you a hand?
Let it ride	to allow something to remain as it is	I don't like my schedule for next semester, but I'm going to let it ride.
Let's boogie on out	let's all leave together	The bar is closing, let's boogie on out.
Let's bounce	to leave	The football game is over, let's bounce.
Low down	to receive the full story	Hey give me the low down on what happened last Saturday night.
Take a chill pill	a way of telling someone to calm down	I don't think the test will be too hard, take a chill pill.
Hit the books	to study	I can't go to the party tonight, I have to hit the books.
To touch base	to contact someone	I need to touch base with Jeremy about the new office reports.
Locked in	to give full concentration too	I'm really locked in to this new television series.
No big deal	no need to worry	If you can't make it to my birthday dinner it's no big deal.
Get on the ball	to get focused on the goal	If you haven't started your research project yet, you need to get on the ball.
Out of nowhere	unexpected	That surprise quiz came out of nowhere.
Out of the blue	unexpected	We were walking to the store when Mike appeared out of the blue.
Pull the plug	to end something/someone	After Bob quit, we may just have to pull the plug on the whole operation.
Put a sock in it	be quiet	My loud neighbors really need to put a sock in it.
Rally the troops	to gather friends together	We're going to rally the troops then head to the basketball game.
Since day one	for a long time	I've been playing basketball since day one.

Something's fishy	something's strange	All the lights are off in the house and door is open, something's fishy.
Speak of the Devil	when you see someone/something happens unexpectedly while talking about them	Speak of the devil Jenny! We were just talking about your new car.
Spill the beans	to tell the secret	I told Jessica my biggest secret, she then spilled the beans to the whole class.
Spur of the moment	to make a random decision	I decided to drive to Colorado on the spur of the moment.
Stay on track	to stay focused on the goal	I shouldn't watch TV right now. I need to stay on track and study.
Stick with your goal/stick with it	to continue doing something	You should really stick with soccer because you are very good at it.
Take him out of the picture	remove him from the situation	Mike isn't the best group partner, we should take him out of the picture.
Take it easy	calm down	You only failed the first test. You will have many more. Take it easy.
That's tight	that's awesome	This new song is tight.
The stars have aligned	the moment is right	The stars have aligned because it's his birthday and he won the lottery.
Draw the line	the point where you decide not to do something	I draw the line at \$10 for a hamburger.
The last straw	the last thing that causes everything to fail	My recent sprained ankle was the last straw; I need to get surgery now.
Throw an idea around	casually suggest an idea	I want to throw an idea around for tomorrow's event.
Tight	a sporting event having a close score	75 to 75 with one minute left! This is a really tight game.
Time flies	time passes by fast	I can't believe the weekend is already over, time flies!
Up a creek without a paddle	in a bad situation	Yesterday my car ran out of gas and then my phone ran out of battery, I was up a creek without a paddle.
Fill in the blanks	figure out the rest on your own	Did we win? We were losing by 40 points at halftime, fill in the blanks.
On the same page	having similar thoughts	I'm glad we are on the same page with our ideas for this project.
What's up?	How are you?	Hey John what's up?
You pulled a fast one	to trick someone	You pretended you knew his name when really you did not, you pulled a fast one.

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