

# English Idioms Cheat Sheet

## 50 Easy Idioms with Meanings and Examples

Idiom	Meaning	Example
Break the ice	Start a conversation	Let's play a game to break the ice.
A piece of cake	Something very easy	This test was a piece of cake.
Under the weather	Feeling sick	I'm a bit under the weather today.
Better late than never	It's okay to be late than not do it	He finally called me—better late than never.
Practice makes perfect	Practice improves skills	Keep trying, practice makes perfect.
Burn the midnight oil	Work or study late	She was burning the midnight oil for exams.
Long time no see	Haven't seen someone in a while	Hey! Long time no see!
Spill the beans	Reveal a secret	She spilled the beans about the surprise.
Hit the nail on the head	Say something exactly right	You hit the nail on the head with that idea.
Think outside the box	Be creative	We need to think outside the box for this project.
Back to the drawing board	Start again after failure	That plan failed, back to the drawing board.
Get the ball rolling	Start something	Let's get the ball rolling on this project.
A blessing in disguise	Something good that looks bad at first	Losing that job was a blessing in disguise.
At the end of the day	After considering everything	At the end of the day, family is important.
Go the extra mile	Do more than expected	She always goes the extra mile at work.
Once in a blue moon	Something rare	We eat out once in a blue moon.
On cloud nine	Very happy	She was on cloud nine after winning.
In hot water	In trouble	He was in hot water after missing work.
Cat got your tongue?	Why are you silent?	You're so quiet, cat got your tongue?
Kill two birds with one stone	Achieve two goals at once	I killed two birds with one stone by shopping while traveling.
The ball is in your court	It's your decision now	I've done my part, the ball is in your court.
Costs an arm and a leg	Very expensive	That phone costs an arm and a leg.
Hit the books	Study hard	I need to hit the books for exams.

Idiom	Meaning	Example
Hit the sack	Go to sleep	I'm tired, I'll hit the sack now.
Break a leg	Good luck!	Break a leg on your performance tonight!
Cold feet	Nervous before something	He got cold feet before his wedding.
The tip of the iceberg	Small part of a bigger problem	The delays are just the tip of the iceberg.
Call it a day	Stop working	Let's call it a day and relax.
Keep an eye on	Watch carefully	Keep an eye on the kids.
In the same boat	In the same situation	We're all in the same boat during traffic.
Barking up the wrong tree	Looking in the wrong place	If you think I broke it, you're barking up the wrong tree.
Rome wasn't built in a day	Big things take time	Be patient, Rome wasn't built in a day.
Break the bank	Spend too much money	Buying that car will break the bank.
Easier said than done	Hard to actually do	Quitting sugar is easier said than done.
Don't judge a book by its cover	Don't judge by looks	She looks strict, but don't judge a book by its cover.
The early bird catches the worm	Success comes to those who act early	Wake up early, the early bird catches the worm.
Bite the bullet	Face a difficult situation	I had to bite the bullet and do the surgery.
Let the cat out of the bag	Reveal a secret by mistake	He let the cat out of the bag about the party.
It's not rocket science	It's not difficult	Come on, cooking rice is not rocket science.
Add fuel to the fire	Make a bad situation worse	His rude comment added fuel to the fire.
Don't put all your eggs in one basket	Don't depend on one thing	Invest wisely, don't put all your eggs in one basket.
Cry over spilled milk	Be upset about something already done	It's over, don't cry over spilled milk.
A dime a dozen	Very common	Fake watches are a dime a dozen here.
Out of the blue	Suddenly	He called me out of the blue.
Break into a cold sweat	Become very nervous	I broke into a cold sweat before the exam.
In the nick of time	Just in time	He reached in the nick of time to catch the train.
All ears	Fully listening	Tell me, I'm all ears.
Raining cats and dogs	Raining heavily	It's raining cats and dogs outside.
Piece by piece	Slowly, step by step	She built her business piece by piece.
Time flies	Time passes quickly	Time flies when you're having fun.