

Common Idioms Used in English

Idiom	Meaning
a blessing in disguise	some good that may come from an otherwise bad event
bark up the wrong tree	addressing the wrong issue or pursuing the wrong course of action
beat around the bush	talking but not addressing the main issue or question
bend over backward for someone	to go to extraordinary lengths to accommodate someone
bite the bullet	do something difficult that you have been avoiding but know needs doing
break the ice	put people at ease after a tense moment
call it a day	stop after a period of work often expecting to start again the next day
cut corners	miss out steps for quickness when doing a task, hoping their absence won't matter.
don't burn any bridges	avoid destroying a relationship with the future in mind
don't judge a book by its cover	something or someone may be quite different from initial observation after a closer look.
fit as a fiddle	very healthy
get a taste of your own medicine	suffer the same consequences as you have created for others
give someone the cold shoulder	ignore someone on purpose
go back to the drawing board	stop, rethink, and restart from the beginning
having bigger fish to fry	having things that are more important or rewarding than what is being discussed

Idiom	Meaning
kill two birds with one stone	achieve two outcomes with a single action
let the cat out of the bag	tell a secret, perhaps inadvertently
like a fish out of the water	uncomfortable and performing poorly
live and learn	make a mistake but learn from it
miss the boat	be late for something that is now beyond you
on thin ice	a risky or perilous position
play devil's advocate	argue the opposite case, either to examine it closer or just to have an argument
rain on someone's parade	do or say something that diminishes another's achievement
save for a rainy day	keep something for use later when it might be more needed
straight from the horse's mouth	to hear from whoever witnessed or participated in the event
the ball is in your court	you need to respond before the matter progresses
the devil is in the details	something may look good but, until specific details are known, may not be
to be as right as rain	to feel very well and healthy
under the weather	to feel unwell or sick (but not very)
wouldn't hurt a fly	someone who is gentle and never aggressive