100 Important Idioms

English (Precis & Composition)



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100 Important Idioms

IDIOMS MEANINGS

- 1. To add insult to injury; To intensify a person
- 2. To be born with a silver To be born in a rich family Spoon in one's mouth;
- 3. A bolt from the blue; An expected disaster
- 4. To blow one's own trumpet; To boast
- 5. A bone of contention; Cause of quarrel
- 6. To burn one's fingers; To suffer
- 7. To beat black & blue; To beat mercilessly
- 8. To cast an aspersion; To bring discredit
- 9. To cry over spilt milk; To feel sorry for what has happened
- 10. To cut a sorry figure; To make a poor impression
- 11. To die in harness; To die while doing one's duty
- 12. To end in smoke; To fail
- 13. To go to the dogs; To be ruined
- 14. To hang in the balance; To remain undecided
- 15. To hit the nail on the head; To do the right thing at the right time
- 16. To hold water; To sound logical
- 17. To live no stone unturned; To try one's level best
- 18. To live from hand to mouth; To live with great difficulty
- 19. To make up one's mind; To decide
- 20. To see eye to eye with; Agree
- 21. To play ducks and drakes; Waste
- 22. To put the cart before the hors; To do a thing in a wrong way
- 23. To have too many irons in the fire; To have too many things in hand
- 24. To read b/w the lines; To try to understand the hidden meaning





- 25. To turn over a new leaf; To change for the better
- 26. To take the bull by horns; To face difficulties boldly
- 27. To win laurels; To distinguish oneself
- 28. At daggers drawn; At enmity or fighting
- 29. Blake and white; Written
- 30. By leaps and bounds; Very fast
- 31. In cold blood; deliberately
- 32. Laid up with; Confined to bed
- 33. Ins and outs; Full details
- 34. A black sheep; Scoundrel; a bad person
- 35. A cock and bull story; An absurd tale
- 36. A gala day; A day of festivity; a holiday with rejoicing
- 37. A hard nut to crack; A difficult person or problem to deal with
- 38. A turn coat; One who changes one's opinion or party
- 39. A fool's paradise; In a state of happiness founded on vain hopes
- 40. Beat a retreat; To retire before the enemy
- 41. To be on the horns of a dilemma; To have a choice b/w two equal evils
- 42. To beat about the bush; Approach a subject in a round about method
- 43. Bury the hatchet; To make peace
- 44. By fits and starts; Irregularly
- 45. Capital punishment; Death sentence
- 46. By hook or by crook; By fair or foul means
- 47. Eat humble pie; To face humiliation
- 48. Hit below the belt; To act unfairly
- 49. In apple pie order; In perfect order
- 50. Leave one in lurch; To desert in difficulty
- 51. To make a clean breast of; To confess fully one's faults
- 52. To nip the evil in the bud; To destroy an evil in early stage





- 53. Pick holes in another's coat; To find fault with another
- 54. Scot free ; To go unpunished
- 55. Smell a rat; To have a reason to suspect
- 56. Through thick and thin; Through every difficulty
- 57. True to one's salt; Faithful to one's master
- 58. To turn the corner; To begin to improve
- 59. With a grain of salt; To accept a statement with doubt as to its complete true
- 60. Worship the rising sun; To respect one rising in power
- 61. A Herculean task; An extremely difficult or dangerous task
- 62. A fish out of water; In a wrong place
- 63. A leap in the dark; An act of which we can't force consequences
- 64. A thorn in one's side; A constant source of annoyance
- 65. To be at one's beck and call; Under one's absolute control
- 66. Bread and Butter; Means of subsistence
- 67. Burn one's fingers; To get into trouble
- 68. Burn the candle at both ends; Use up too much energy
- 69. To cut the Gordian knot; To solve the difficulty
- 70. Cut and dried; Ready-made
- 71. Feather one's own nest; To make money by unfair means
- 72. To fish in troubled water; To do something under very unpromising circumstance
- 73. To give oneself airs; Affected manners
- 74. To give the devil his due; To allow even a bad man the credit due
- 75. To hang by thread; To be in a critical condition
- 76. A henpecked husband; A man habitually snubbed by his wife
- 77. Hush money; Money given as a bribe to hush or make one keep silent
- 78. Kick up a row; Make a great noise
- 79. To let the cat out of the bag; To reveal a secret





- 80. Null and void; Not valid; of no effect
- 81. On the spur of the moment; At once
- 82. Pay one back in one's own coin; To treat in the same way as one has been treated
- 83. Put in cold storage; To forget or neglect something
- 84. Pull wires; To manage the show by secret Influence
- 85. Read b/w the lines; To hit at the real meaning
- 86. Sit on the fence; To avoid taking sides; to remain neutral
- 87. A square deal; Justice
- 88. Sword of Damocles; Treating danger
- 89. To take up the gauntlet; To accept the challenge
- 90. To eat one's heart out; To suffer silently, bitterly
- 91. B/t the devil and the deep sea; B/w two dangers equally harmful
- 92. A sweet tooth; A liking for sweetmeat
- 93. A dark horse; An unknown person
- 94. A bottleneck; Anything that cause delays
- 95. To put one's foot down; To show determination
- 96. A wet blanket; A grumbling, depressing person
- 97. To throw up the sponge; To acknowledge defeat
- 98. A feather in one's cap; Something to be proud of
- 99. A red letter day; An auspicious day
- 100. Bag and baggage; With all one's belongings