

# ENGLISH IDIOMS

*Sayings & Slang*



MAGNUSON

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Wayne Magnuson  
English Idioms  
Sayings and Slang



Look for idioms by section

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Look for idioms containing a specific word

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Look for idioms explained by a specific word

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

There's more to idioms:

- [Hire the author](#)
- [Another collection \(caviar-flavoured\)](#)
- [The English Teaching Web](#) 

Be interactive:

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

## Idioms: 'at a boy (that a boy) -- 'at a girl (that a girl)

Idiom	Meaning	Example
'at a boy (that a boy)	good work, well done, <a href="#">ataboy</a>	Whenever I win, Don says, " 'at a boy! Good game!"
'at a girl (that a girl)	good work, well done, <a href="#">attagirl</a>	When Judy gets good grades, her mom says, " 'at a girl, Judy!"

[Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a close shave -- a cut-up

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a close shave	very close to serious injury or death	The old man described his fight with the bear as a close shave.
a clutch hitter (baseball)	a batter who hits when runners are on base	Joe's a clutch hitter. He's batting .431 with runners on base.
a common thread	an idea or theme that is similar to others	There's a common thread in most of Berton's stories.
a contract out on	a contract that pays to have someone killed	There's a contract out on Mike. The boss doesn't like him.
a coon's age	many years, <a href="#">a dog's age</a>	We haven't been out to the coast in a coon's age. It's been years.
a crash course	a short course that has the main facts and skills	He took a crash course in cooking and bought a cafe.
a crush on	sudden feeling of love or romance	Judy has a crush on Tim. See the way she looks at him.
a crying shame	a sad event, it is <a href="#">too bad</a>	It's a crying shame that they didn't have fire insurance.
a cut above	superior, better	A scholar's work is a cut above. It's superior to the others.
a cut-up	a joker, a person who tells jokes and has fun	When Marsha goes to a party she's a real cut-up - a lot of fun.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

## Idioms: butter up -- buy time

Idiom	Meaning	Example
butter up	be nice to, <a href="#">suck up to</a>	Butter him up before you ask to borrow his car.
butter wouldn't melt in his mouth	he is very calm and clear, he has an air of innocence, <a href="#">cool</a> , <a href="#">smooth talker</a>	When he's talking to voters, butter wouldn't melt in his mouth.
button your lip	do not tell anyone, <a href="#">on the QT</a>	Button your lip about the speeding ticket. Don't tell Dad.
buttonhole you	stop you and talk to you, <a href="#">corner you</a> and bore you	At the meeting, Al buttonholed me and asked me to vote Reform.
buy a round	buy a drink for everyone at the table, <a href="#">this one is on me</a>	When Gina was born, I bought a round for the team. Every player had a drink to honor our baby.
buy into	believe and support, agree to support, <a href="#">come onside</a>	He will buy into our plan if the money goes to needy children.
buy out	buy a business and all the inventory	We knew his business was in debt, so we offered to buy him out.
buy that	believe that, <a href="#">eat that</a>	He says he went to see his friends at the park. I can buy that.
buy the farm	die, <a href="#">kick the bucket</a> , <a href="#">pass away</a>	"Where's Henry?" "Oh, he bought the farm years ago - died of cancer, eh."
buy time	request time to plan, ask for extra time	If we can just buy a little time, maybe the price will go down.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

## Idioms: buy up -- by and large

Idiom	Meaning	Example
buy up	buy all of a product or all the shares in a company	At closing time, Abe comes in and buys up the last shares.
buyer's market	a time when prices are low, <a href="#">soft market</a>	The price of gold is low. It's a buyer's market in precious metals.
buzz-kill	a person who stops the fun, <a href="#">party-pooper</a>	You buzz-kill! Don't talk about air disasters when I'm flying to Rome.
buzz off	go away, <a href="#">beat it</a> , <a href="#">get lost</a>	Next time he asks to borrow something, tell him to buzz off.
buzzed	slightly intoxicated, <a href="#">tipsy</a>	Jane got buzzed on fermented coconut juice. She was happy!
buzzword	new word or expression, the latest jargon, <a href="#">catch phrase</a>	<i>Internet</i> , <i>zero tolerance</i> - these were buzzwords of the 1990s.
by a country mile	by a long distance, by a wide margin	Black Beauty won the race by a country mile. She was far ahead.
by a long shot	(See <a href="#">not by a long shot</a> )	
by all means	yes, please do it	By all means, come to the Learning Skills Centre.
by and large	mostly, mainly, most of the time	By and large, chocolate is the favorite flavor.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: by any means -- by its very nature

Idiom	Meaning	Example
by any means	any way or method, by doing any job	He survived by any means when he first came to Canada.
by any stretch...	(See <a href="#">not by any stretch of the imagination</a> )	
by cracky	you listen to what I say, this is the truth, <a href="#">by gosh</a> This is serious, by cracky! We're lost and we have no water!	
by dint of	as a result of, because of	By dint of her efforts alone, this family is happy and healthy.
by golly	I am surprised, impressed; <a href="#">by gosh</a>	By golly! She did it. She made a cherry pie!
by gosh	what an experience, this is interesting, <a href="#">by golly</a>	Well, by gosh! This is my first look at Niagara Falls!
by guess or by gosh	any way that is possible, by chance	How did I learn to speak French? By guess or by gosh, that's how.
by heart	memorized every word, <a href="#">down pat</a>	Eva knew the speech by heart. She didn't look at her notes.
by hook or by crook	any way that is possible, <a href="#">by any means</a>	He'll get that car - by hook or by crook! He'll get it somehow.
by its very nature	because of its natural habits, because it is that way	A dog, by its very nature, is dependent on humans.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

## Idioms: by jove -- by word of mouth

Idiom	Meaning	Example
by jove	it happened, it is amazing	By jove! We reached our goal. We sold 15,000 tickets!
by leaps and bounds	by large amounts, by a lot	The population of Calgary has grown by leaps and bounds.
by no means	not in any way, <a href="#">not by any stretch...</a>	By no means is a car a good investment. It will depreciate.
by the by	(See <a href="#">by the way</a> )	
by the same token	judging by the same rule, to be fair to both sides	By the same token, he should help with the housework.
by the seat of your pants	with little money, without planning, <a href="#">a lick and a promise</a>	You can't operate a business by the seat of your pants.
by the short hairs	(See <a href="#">got you by the short hairs</a> )	
by the skin of their teeth	by a little, barely	He won the election by one vote, by the skin of his teeth.
by the way	in addition to what I was saying, incidentally	By the way, I heard that Ed is resigning.
by word of mouth	by one person speaking to another, person to person, <a href="#">through the grapevine</a>	News of his birth traveled by word of mouth. Soon everyone knew that Mary had a baby boy.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

## Idioms: bye -- bye for now

Idiom	Meaning	Example
bye	goodbye	Bye, Mom. I love you.
bye for now	goodbye but I will see you soon	Bye for now. See you tonight at choir practice.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: c'est la vie -- call it a day

Idiom	Meaning	Example
c'est la vie	that is fate, <a href="#">that's life</a>	If you have bad luck some days, it's natural. C'est la vie!
Cabbagetown	a district in Toronto where European immigrants live	Restaurants in Cabbagetown serve European food.
cabin fever	feeling depressed because you have to stay inside	After three weeks of cold weather we all had cabin fever.
cackleberries	eggs, chicken eggs	Look! This hen laid five cackleberries!
call a spade a spade	say it in plain language; <a href="#">the straight goods</a>	Kris will report the facts. She's not afraid to call a spade a spade.
call attention to	ask you to read or notice, <a href="#">draw attention to</a>	I would like to call attention to the student parking problem.
call for	require, ask for	This recipe calls for bee pollen. Where can we get that?
call his bluff	challenge his story, <a href="#">give it to me straight</a> , <a href="#">put up or shut up</a>	When I called his bluff about low profits, he admitted that the company made 11 million.
call into account	consider, factor in, reckon with, <a href="#">account for</a>	If you want to go to Ottawa on the first of July, you have to call holiday traffic into account.
call it a day	not work anymore today, <a href="#">call it quits</a>	I'm feeling very tired. I think I'll call it a day.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

## Idioms: call it quits -- calm down

Idiom	Meaning	Example
call it quits	stop doing something, quit what you are doing	The dust is bothering all of us. I think we should call it quits.
call it square	we do not owe each other, it is <a href="#">a wash</a> , we are <a href="#">even</a>	I bought the pizza; you bought the beer. Let's call it square.
call off	cancel, postpone	They called off the concert because the lead singer is sick.
call off the dogs	tell your friends to stop harassing me	Okay, I'll pay what I owe you. But call off the dogs!
call on	ask, request	I may call on you to speak at the meeting. Will you speak to us?
call tabs	collect money from bar customers	If customers are drunk, you call their tabs and ask them to leave.
call the shots	make the decisions, decide what happens	Mr. Binks may be the president, but Ms. Barker calls the shots.
call up	phone, <a href="#">dingle you</a> , <a href="#">give me a ring</a> ,	Call her up and ask her for a date. Go ahead, phone her.
calm before the storm	(See <a href="#">the calm before the storm</a> )	
calm down	not be so upset, <a href="#">settle down</a>	Please calm down, Mr. Tse. Your daughter is safe.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

## Idioms: camel toes [B] -- can't help

Idiom	Meaning	Example
camel toes [B]	the folds of the vagina revealed by tight jeans	When Betty wears her old jeans you can see her camel toes.
can	(See <a href="#">the can</a> )	
can	dismiss, <a href="#">fire</a> , <a href="#">let go</a>	He was canned for drinking liquor at work. They dismissed him.
can help it	can stop it, can prevent it	Abortion won't become legal if he can help it. He's against it.
can it	stop it, <a href="#">knock it off</a>	Miss Schmidt heard a boy say, "Can it! Here comes the teacher."
can of worms	a controversial issue, an old problem	Gun control - let's not open that can of worms!
can't believe my ears	cannot believe what I hear, it is unbelievable	The cat is babysitting the kids? I can't believe my ears!
can't believe my eyes	cannot believe what I see, it is unbelievable	When you walked into that cafe, I couldn't believe my eyes.
can't have it both ways	you have to choose one or the other; cannot <a href="#">have your cake...</a>	When children are allowed to make choices, they learn that they can't have it both ways.
can't help	cannot prevent, cannot stop	I can't help crying at weddings. They make me feel sad.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

## Idioms: can't hold a candle -- canned

Idiom	Meaning	Example
can't hold a candle	(See <a href="#">hold a candle</a> )	
can't put my finger on it	cannot remember the exact words	I know the answer, but I can't put my finger on it.
can't put my hands on it	cannot remember exactly where it is	Your book is in my office, but I can't put my hands on it now.
can't see for looking	cannot see because I have been looking too long	Will you try to find my glove? I can't see for looking.
can't see the forest for the trees	I am so close that I cannot see the whole picture or <a href="#">the big picture</a>	I'm so involved in teaching that I've lost my view of education. I can't see the forest for the trees.
can't stand	does not like, hate	Don can't stand love songs. He thinks the words are silly.
Canada goose	getting goosed in Canada by a Canadian	"There," he said. "Now you've had your Canada goose."
canary	a person who tells the police, a <a href="#">squealer</a>	Ken - that canary! He tells the boss who comes in late.
candy-ass	a person without courage or confidence	Larry, that candy-ass! He's afraid to play me because he may lose.
canned	prepared, memorized, <a href="#">a pat answer</a>	His answers sound canned, like he memorized them.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

## Idioms: Canuck -- carry on

Idiom	Meaning	Example
Canuck	a Canadian, a citizen of Canada, <a href="#">Johnny Canuck</a>	When we visited Montana, a clerk called us "Canucks."
capture the imagination	cause a person to imagine a scene or character	The story of <i>Jacob Two-Two</i> will capture the kids' imagination.
car buff	a person who loves to repair or restore cars	Colin has been a car buff ever since he bought his first Ford.
card	(See <a href="#">such a card</a> )	
card-carrying member	a regular member, a person on the membership list	Only card-carrying members will be allowed to attend the meeting.
caribouboo	a mistake made by a caribou, <a href="#">make a booboo</a>	"Why did the caribou get lost?" "He made a caribouboo! Ha ha!"
carry a tune	sing well, sing in tune, <a href="#">pipes</a>	Ask June to lead the singing. She can carry a tune.
carry it off	make it happen, <a href="#">pull it off</a>	This project requires planning and skill, but he can carry it off.
carry on	continue, <a href="#">keep on</a>	Carry on with your game. I'll wait until you're finished.
carry on	talk or act silly, not be sensible	They were kissing in church. Imagine carrying on like that!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

## Idioms: a daredevil -- a dog's age

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a daredevil	a daring person, <a href="#">bodacious</a> , <a href="#">take a chance</a>	What a daredevil! She jumped across a ten-foot chasm!
a dead giveaway	a clear signal, an obvious sign	The smile on her face was a dead giveaway that she got the job.
a dead heat	a race that finishes in a tie for first, <a href="#">dead even</a>	A photograph of the finish line proved that it was a dead heat.
a dead loss	a complete loss, a write-off (see <a href="#">write it off</a> )	The spoiled meat was a dead loss. We couldn't eat any of it.
a dead ringer	a very close likeness, like a twin	Chad is a dead ringer for Mel Gibson. They look like twins.
a dickens of a time	a difficult task, a task with problems, <a href="#">a hell of a time</a>	After the car slid in the ditch we had a dickens of a time getting it back on the road.
a different kettle of fish	different, not the same	A cult is not a religion. A cult is a different kettle of fish entirely.
a dildo [B]	a manufactured penis, a vibrator shaped like a penis	"When Ed's away I use a dildo." "Oh. That's interesting."
a dime a dozen	very cheap, low priced, <a href="#">dirt cheap</a>	He can remember when eggs were cheap - a dime a dozen.
a dog's age	a long time, 10-15 years, <a href="#">a coon's age</a>	Mel! I haven't seen you for a dog's age - at least ten years!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

## Idioms: carry out -- case of

Idiom	Meaning	Example
carry out	do, complete, execute	Now that we have the loan we can carry out our plan.
carry the can	be responsible, see that the job gets done	The manager gets a big salary, but Mario carries the can.
carry the conversation	continue the conversation, continue talking to you	Visiting with Sally is easy. She carries the conversation!
carry the day	provide enough energy or support, <a href="#">fill the gap</a>	We need one more volunteer. If you can come it will carry the day.
carry weight	have influence, have power	Nina is a good reference; her name carries a lot of weight.
carry your weight	do your share of the work, do enough work	If you carry your weight, you can work here for the summer.
cart before the horse	(See <a href="#">the cart before the horse</a> )	
cascade (business)	allow information to flow down to the employees	Archie thinks we should control this information, not cascade it.
case in point	an example to support my point or thesis	Social democracy can succeed. Sweden is a case in point.
case of	(See <a href="#">a case of</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: cash and carry -- cat got your tongue

Idiom	Meaning	Example
cash and carry	pay cash and carry it out of the store (no deliveries)	The ad stated the terms of the sale: CASH & CARRY.
cash cow	a source of much money, a profitable resource	Alberta's cash cow - oil - is helping to balance the budget.
cash flow	money spent on the operation of a business	Calculate your weekly business expenses. That's your cash flow.
cash in	receive cash for bonds or poker chips; profit from	You're retired now. It may be time to cash in your bonds.
cash on the barrelhead	pay cash to the owner at the time of purchase; <a href="#">cold, hard cash</a>	The old man said, "To buy my pony you'll have to pay \$300 - cash on the barrelhead."
cash on the line	pay the full price in cash to the seller	I'll pay \$200 for the bike - cash on the line.
cash up/cash out	count all the cash at the end of a business day	After you cash up, put the money in the safe and lock it.
cast a spell	use charm or spiritual power to change people	When Pavarotti sings, he casts a spell on his audience.
cast your vote	vote in an election, mark your ballot	Before you cast your vote, think carefully about the issues.
cat got your tongue	why do you not speak? <a href="#">lose your tongue?</a>	Before I could reply, she said, "Cat got your tongue?"

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

## Idioms: cat's ass -- catch a ride

Idiom	Meaning	Example
cat's ass	(See <a href="#">the cat's ass</a> )	
cat's meow	(See <a href="#">the cat's meow</a> )	
cat's out of the bag	(See <a href="#">the cat's out of the bag</a> )	
catcall	shouting disapproval or insults, heckling	The catcalls from the audience caused the speaker to pause.
catch 22	the cause is the effect and the effect is the cause	It was catch 22. I needed my glasses to find my glasses.
catch a buzz	begin to feel intoxicated, begin to feel <a href="#">natural high</a>	This is strong beer. You catch a buzz from drinking one bottle!
catch a cold (catch cold)	be sick with a cold, <a href="#">come down with</a> a cold	I caught a cold while we were in Vancouver.
catch a glimpse	see for only a second, visible for a brief time	I caught a glimpse of Sue at the mall, but she didn't see me.
catch a plane/bus/train	go to the airport and get on the plane	After the meeting, you can catch the plane to Toronto.
catch a ride	ride with someone who has a vehicle, <a href="#">get a lift</a>	When I go to church, I catch a ride with my neighbor Lila.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: catch as catch can -- catch some z's

Idiom	Meaning	Example
catch as catch can	no order, get what you can	The Clearance Sale was catch as catch can - each one for himself.
catch hell [B]	get a scolding or lecture, <a href="#">get it</a> , <a href="#">get shit</a> [B]	"Did you catch hell for cheating?" "Yes. The teacher lectured me and gave me zero on the exam."
catch it	get a scolding or lecture, <a href="#">catch hell</a> [B]	Did you catch it for coming in late? Was your mom mad?
catch me by surprise	surprise me, not warn me	The snowstorm in May caught us by surprise. We didn't expect it.
catch me doing that	see me doing that, find me doing that	You won't catch me skydiving. It's too dangerous.
catch on	learn how to do, <a href="#">learn the ropes</a>	We need trainees who catch on quickly - people who learn fast.
catch on	get work, get a job, <a href="#">hire on</a>	Maybe you can catch on with a survey crew for the summer.
catch phrase	idiom, popular phrase, <a href="#">buzzword</a>	There's a catch phrase for Newfoundland: <i>The Rock</i> .
catch some rays	have a sun bath, get a sun tan, <a href="#">bag some rays</a>	When we get to Hawaii, you can catch some rays. It's sunny there.
catch some z's	sleep, get some rest, <a href="#">crash</a>	Do you mind if I catch some z's on your couch? I'm sleepy.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

## Idioms: catch the wave -- catch your eye

Idiom	Meaning	Example
catch the wave	join the trend, do what is popular	Condos are popular now. Should we buy one and catch the wave?
catch up	arrive later, <a href="#">join you</a>	You go ahead. I'll catch up with you at the bus stop.
catch-up	(See <a href="#">play catch-up</a> )	
catch up on	do something that you have neglected	Ali can't go to the movie. He has to catch up on his homework.
catch up with	revealed or exposed, <a href="#">come back to haunt you</a>	When your lies catch up with you, it's embarrassing.
catch you at a bad time	visit or call when it is inconvenient	You look very sad. Did I catch you at a bad time?
catch you later	I will talk to you later, I will see you later	I have to leave now. Catch you later.
catch you off guard	surprise you, say what you do not expect	Did my comment about dog poop catch you off guard?
catch your death	become very ill, <a href="#">catch a bad cold</a>	In this terrible weather, put on a coat or you'll catch your death.
catch your eye	cause you to look, <a href="#">get your attention</a>	When I was in Paris, a Peugeot cabriolet caught my eye. Ah!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

## Idioms: caught dead -- caution

Idiom	Meaning	Example
caught dead	(See <a href="#">wouldn't be caught dead</a> )	
caught flatfooted	not ready to respond, <a href="#">mind in neutral</a>	Esposito was caught flatfooted by Lemaire's slapshot - an easy goal!
caught in the act	caught doing a crime, <a href="#">caught with his pants down</a>	Two of the boys were caught in the act of vandalism. They were breaking car windows.
caught looking	be looking when you should have been acting	I was caught looking when he hit the ball. I just watched it.
caught red-handed	caught with evidence, <a href="#">caught in the act</a>	The smuggler was caught red-handed with a kilo of cocaine.
caught up	busy with, involved	Maidra is caught up in church activities. She's very busy.
caught up	be finished, completed the required work	I want to get caught up on my cleaning before we have guests.
caught with his pants down	found doing a bad act, <a href="#">caught in the act</a>	Percy was caught cheating - caught with his pants down.
cauliflower ear	a human ear that looks like a small cauliflower	After years of playing rugby Ron had a cauliflower ear. It had been bumped and injured too many times.
caution	(See <a href="#">a caution</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

## Idioms: cave in -- chances are

Idiom	Meaning	Example
cave in	quit, be unable to cope, <a href="#">fold</a>	One more crisis and I'll cave in. I'm very weary.
cement hands	awkward hands, <a href="#">butter fingers</a>	Joey can't type; he's got cement hands.
chain letter	a letter that is copied and sent to other people	This letter says I will have bad luck if I break the chain.
chain of command	order of those in power, <a href="#">line of authority</a>	If you are a lieutenant, the chain of command goes up and down.
chain reaction	one event causing a sequence of events	Abe sold his shares, causing a chain reaction in the market.
chain smoker	a person who smokes one cigarette after another, <a href="#">smokes like a furnace</a>	"Do all chain smokers die of emphysema?" "No, but most of them do."
chairman of the boards (hockey)	a player who controls play along the boards	In the 1970s Doug was chairman of the boards for the Hawks.
chalk it up to	conclude that it is..., attribute it to...	You tried and you failed. Chalk it up to experience. Learn from it.
chalk one up for you	you have earned a point, you won that point/game	Good shot! I'll chalk one up for you.
chances are	it is quite possible, it may be	Chances are they're lost, and that's why they're late.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

## Idioms: change for the better -- charity begins at home

Idiom	Meaning	Example
change for the better	improve, become better	My attitude has changed for the better. I'm more positive now.
change hands	change owners, be sold or traded	That condo changed hands three times in one year - three owners!
change horses in mid stream	change plans/methods after you have begun a competition or business	We're in the furniture business, not clothing. We can't change horses in mid stream.
change of heart	change from negative to positive	Now he seems friendly toward us. Has he had a change of heart?
change your mind	choose a different plan, change your decision	Please change your mind about leaving home. Please don't go.
change your tune	change your attitude, <a href="#">change your mind</a>	If the price of a barrel of oil goes down, he'll change his tune.
character assassination	saying things that ruin a person's reputation, <a href="#">muckrake</a>	"What did they say about him?" "It was mainly gossip and character assassination."
character density	number of dense people, number of dummies	If I join your company, the character density will decrease.
charge it	buy or purchase on credit, <a href="#">put it on the bill</a>	The clerk said, "If you don't have cash, you can charge it."
charity begins at home	first help the needy in your own community; then help others	If you want to help the poor, remember that charity begins at home.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

## Idioms: charley horse -- check it out

Idiom	Meaning	Example
charley horse	soreness in a muscle, cramp in a calf muscle, <a href="#">pull a muscle</a>	"Did you hurt your leg playing baseball?" "Yes, I slid into third base and now I have a charley horse."
chaser	a soft drink to follow a hard drink, a weaker drink	The old man drank coffee as a chaser for the Irish whisky.
chasing rainbows	trying to achieve an impossible goal	Many young actors are chasing rainbows - hoping for fame.
chat her up	talk to her about a date, talk romantically to her	If you like Mila, chat her up. Say nice things to her.
cheap	unwilling to spend money, not generous, <a href="#">tight</a>	They refuse to buy the boy a decent suit. They're too cheap.
cheap drunk	(See <a href="#">a cheap drunk</a> )	
cheap like borsch	not expensive, as cheap as vegetable soup <i>borsch</i> may also be spelled <i>borsh</i> , <i>borscht</i> or <i>borshch</i> , showing that we lack an authoritative mapping from the Russian to the English alphabet	I didn't pay much for this jacket. It was cheap like borsch.
cheap skate	a person who does not pay his share, a <a href="#">tight-ass</a>	That cheap skate can keep his money. I'll pay for the tickets.
cheat on	break a marriage promise, be unfaithful	He cheats on his wife. Now he's sleeping with a waitress.
check it out	inquire, <a href="#">find out</a> about	Check it out. It may be a great opportunity.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

## Idioms: check out -- checkup

Idiom	Meaning	Example
check out	<a href="#">find out</a> about, see if it is okay	Let's check out that Subaru we saw at Chong's Used Cars.
check-out	the counter where you pay for your purchases	The shoppers were lined up at the Canadian Tire check-out.
check over	look for errors in a paper, see if there are mistakes	I've written a letter of application. Will you check it over for me?
check that	look at that, <a href="#">get a load of that</a>	When Rick saw the sports car, he said, "Check that!"
check this out	look at this, <a href="#">eyeball this</a> , <a href="#">peep this</a>	Hey! Check this out! Carly's got a boyfriend!
check up on	see if everything is fine or safe	He went to check up on the kids because they were crying.
check up on	supervise, watch to see if it is done correctly	They don't like a manager who is always checking up on them.
check your bags	give your luggage to the ticket agent	I would like to check my bags. Will you put them on the plane?
checkered career	career with failures, history of good and bad	His checkered career may ruin his chance of being elected.
checkup	doctor's examination, medical examination	If you aren't feeling well, go to the doctor for a checkup.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: check out -- checkup

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a dog's breakfast -- a duke's mixture

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a dog's breakfast	a mixture of many things, a hodgepodge	This book is a dog's breakfast. It contains a bit of everything.
a dog's life	a poor life, <a href="#">hard times</a>	Without a job, it's a dog's life.
a doggy bag	a bag or container for food you don't eat at the restaurant or café	If we can't eat all the lobster, ask for a doggy bag and we'll take it home. We can have it for lunch tomorrow.
a double-edged sword	a device that can help you and hurt you	Truth is a double-edged sword. It can imprison me or set me free.
a downer (drug)	a drug that relaxes you, a sedative	Before bedtime he took a downer to help him relax and sleep.
a downer (sadness)	an event or statement that causes sadness	News of the war was a downer. Most of the people dreaded war.
a drag	a boring time, <a href="#">a yawner</a>	Mary's party was a drag. We just sat around and talked.
a dressing down	a scolding, a lecture, <a href="#">a piece of my mind</a>	Mother gave me a dressing down when I said bad words.
a drop in the bucket	a small part, a tiny piece, <a href="#">the tip of the iceberg</a>	This donation is only a drop in the bucket, but it is appreciated.
a duke's mixture	an odd combination of things, a strange mixture of items, <a href="#">a dog's breakfast</a> , <a href="#">Fibber McGee's closet</a>	When Lynn opened the lid of the box she found a duke's mixture - everything from jewelry to birdseed!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: a dog's breakfast -- a duke's mixture

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: cheek -- cherrypicker (hockey)

Idiom	Meaning	Example
cheek	sharp reply, sarcasm, <a href="#">lip</a>	When I called Mom a crab, she said, "No more of your cheek!"
cheek by jowl	beside, alongside, <a href="#">side by side</a>	Jack and James fought cheek by jowl in World War I.
cheeky	rude, impolite, <a href="#">lippy</a> , <a href="#">sassy</a>	Tara is too cheeky. She told her mom to stop flirting with men.
cheerio	goodbye, <a href="#">bye for now</a> , <a href="#">so long</a> , <a href="#">toodle-oo</a>	"Cheerio, dear. See you at lunchtime!"
cheers	a British toast or greeting meaning good health to you or goodbye and good wishes, <a href="#">chimo</a> , <a href="#">ciao</a>	I raise my glass to a great leader: Sir Winston Churchill. Cheers!
cheery-bye	goodbye, <a href="#">bye</a> , <a href="#">cheerio</a>	I'll see you tomorrow. Cheery-bye!
cheesecake	naked flesh, bare skin	The dancer provided lots of cheesecake - lots of bare leg.
cheesed off	upset, annoyed, <a href="#">ticked off</a>	They were cheesed off when I said you wouldn't pay them.
cheesy	poor quality, <a href="#">crappy</a> , <a href="#">shabby</a>	The acting was pretty cheesy. The actors didn't know their lines.
cherrypicker (hockey)	a player who waits at center ice for a pass	Our coach told us about the cherrypicker on the other team.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: cheek -- cherrypicker (hockey)

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: chestnut -- chicken on a June bug

Idiom	Meaning	Example
chestnut	old favorite song, well-known story	Moira played the piano, and we sang old songs - old chestnuts.
chew him out	lecture him, scold him, give him hell (see <a href="#">give you hell</a> ) [B]	My sister chewed me out for taking her car. She gave me hell.
chew the fat/ chew the rag	talk, visit, have <a href="#">a chin wag</a>	I'll go and get the wine while you two relax and chew the fat.
chick	girl, woman	We were waiting for the bus, and this chick says, "Hi, boys."
chick flick	film for women, movie about a woman or women	<i>Steel Magnolias</i> is a chick flick about life in the southern US.
chicken	afraid, scared, <a href="#">yellow</a>	When it comes to heights, I'm chicken. I'm scared.
chicken	a coward, a person who is not brave, <a href="#">wimp</a>	I'm not a fighter, but I'm not a chicken. I just don't believe in violence.
chicken feed	small amount of money, <a href="#">a paltry sum</a> , <a href="#">peanuts</a>	Don't worry about a few dollars for books. It's chicken feed.
chicken in every pot	(See <a href="#">a chicken in every pot</a> )	
chicken on a June bug	(See <a href="#">like a chicken on a June bug</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: chestnut -- chicken on a June bug

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms: chickens come home to roost -- chip off the old block

Idiom	Meaning	Example
chickens come home to roost	we cannot escape the consequences of our actions	We soon discover that lies return to their owner, just as chickens come home to roost.
chickenshit [B]	(See <a href="#">chicken</a> )	
chief cook and bottle washer	manager, supervisor	Hal is the chief cook and bottle washer for our school supper.
chill out	pause to gain control of your emotions, <a href="#">cool off</a>	I think you should chill out before you see the supervisor.
chime in	add a word or phrase to a conversation, <a href="#">two cents' worth</a>	"I want a piece of cake, too," Izzie chimed in. "Please."
chimo	an Inuit expression meaning "Goodbye. It was nice talking to you," <a href="#">bye for now</a> , <a href="#">ciao</a>	"I'm glad we finally met!" "Yes, we had a good visit. Chimo!"
chin wag	(See <a href="#">a chin wag</a> )	
chintzy	unwilling to spend, <a href="#">cheap</a> , <a href="#">tight</a>	Don't be so chintzy with your time. Volunteer to visit seniors.
chip in	each one help to pay for, everybody pay a little	We should chip in and buy Sadie a gift when she moves away.
chip off the old block	(See <a href="#">a chip off the old block</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: chickens come home to roost -- chip off the old block

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: chip on his shoulder -- chops

Idiom	Meaning	Example
chip on his shoulder	in a fighting mood, looking for a fight	Ron has a chip on his shoulder. He's arguing with everybody.
chips are down	(See <a href="#">when the chips are down</a> )	
chock full	very full, full to the top, <a href="#">chockablock</a> , <a href="#">plump full</a>	The truck was chock full of paper to be recycled.
chockablock	tightly packed, crammed in one place, <a href="#">chock full</a>	The square was chockablock with people - all looking at the pope.
choke	be so nervous you cannot perform or do it well	Don't even think about choking when you make your speech.
choked	angry, mad, <a href="#">pissed</a>	She was really choked when you called her a bitch.
chomping at the bit	eager to go, anxious to leave	If you mention camping, the kids will be chomping at the bit.
choose sides	help one side or team, <a href="#">take sides</a>	Some of the students will dislike you if you choose sides.
choose up sides	choose people to play on two or more teams	Let's choose up sides and play a game of volleyball.
chops	lips and teeth, mouth	You need big chops to play the tuba, eh.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:  
[B] bad language

Be interactive:  
[Comment on this idiom](#)  
[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)  
[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:  
 Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson  
 The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books  
 Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email  
[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: chip on his shoulder -- chops

## Idioms: chow -- claim to fame

Idiom	Meaning	Example
chow	food, something to eat	I'm starved. Let's get some chow.
chow down	eat, have a meal	I'm hungry. Let's chow down before we go to the movie.
Christmas graduate	a student who leaves college at Christmas	Among the Christmas graduates last year was Gerard Kutz.
chromedome	bald person, <a href="#">silkhead</a>	Chromedomes can tell you the advantages of being bald.
chuck it	put it in the garbage, <a href="#">junk it</a>	We used to say <i>chuck it</i> , but now we say <i>recycle it</i> .
chunk of change	(See <a href="#">a chunk of change</a> )	
ciao	goodbye, see you later	Ciao, Tony. See you in Rome.
circles around you	much better than you, <a href="#">no contest</a>	Why do you play cards with her? She can play circles around you.
circular file	garbage can or wastebasket, <a href="#">file 13</a>	A lot of memos go in the circular file. They're garbage.
claim to fame	what you have done to cause you to be famous	Besides passing math, what's your claim to fame?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: clam -- clean up

Idiom	Meaning	Example
clam	dollar, <a href="#">buck</a>	He paid a hundred clams for that radio.
clam up	stop talking, become quiet	Why do you clam up when we mention Judy? Why so quiet?
claptrap	nonsense, trivia, <a href="#">bull</a>	I heard what the psychic said. What a lot of claptrap!
class act	a fine person, a lady, a gentleman, <a href="#">first class</a>	Do you know Stephen Lewis? Now there's a class act!
claws are showing	show resentment or envy or jealousy, <a href="#">if looks could kill</a>	When you talked about Carla, your claws were showing. Do you dislike her?
clean bill of health	(See <a href="#">a clean bill of health</a> )	
clean bill of health	(See <a href="#">a clean bill of health</a> )	
clean cut	well groomed, clean, neat	We're looking for clean-cut boys to work as waiters.
clean me out	buy all I have, steal everything I own	The thieves cleaned us out. They took everything in our house.
clean up	pick up garbage, put away clothes or toys, wash	Lorne, please clean up the mess in your bedroom.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: clean up on -- clear up

Idiom	Meaning	Example
clean up on	defeat, beat, <a href="#">whip you</a> , <a href="#">wipe you</a>	Little Chad cleaned up on big Clint. Chad is quite a fighter.
clean up your act	do it better, do it legally, <a href="#">get your act together</a>	I've missed classes, failed tests. I need to clean up my act.
clean up your plate	finish eating all the food on your plate, <a href="#">eat it up</a>	You may leave the table after you've cleaned up your plate.
clear as a bell	easy to hear or understand, clearly audible	We heard him say it. He said <i>no</i> , clear as a bell.
clear as mud	not understandable, confusing	Mr. Lee explained the formula. Then he said, "Clear as mud, eh?"
clear out	leave, go, get out, <a href="#">take off</a>	When the gang arrived, we cleared out. We left in a hurry.
clear out	sell at a low price, sell at a discount	We're clearing out last year's stock at 20% off.
clear sailing	(See <a href="#">smooth sailing</a> )	
clear the air	explain, talk about a problem openly	His statement will clear the air. It will prevent more confusion.
clear up	explain, discuss so everyone understands	Let's clear up the matter of the missing keys. Were they stolen?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: clean up on -- clear up

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: clear your head/mind -- clotheslined (hockey)

Idiom	Meaning	Example
clear your head/mind	relax so you can think clearly	After an argument I need time to clear my head, to become calm.
click in	become aware, realize, <a href="#">dawn on</a> , <a href="#">hit me</a>	It didn't click in that he was hurt until I saw the blood on his shirt.
cliff-hanger	(See <a href="#">a cliff-hanger</a> )	
climb the walls	feel upset or stressed, <a href="#">go bonkers</a> , <a href="#">go crazy</a>	On the first day of school, the teacher was climbing the walls.
close a deal/sale	complete a sale to a customer	Vi knows how to close a sale. She's a good closer.
close call	(See <a href="#">a close call</a> )	
close shave	(See <a href="#">a close shave</a> )	
close to the vest	hidden, covered, not showing your cards	Walter plays close to the vest. He doesn't let me see his cards.
closer	(See <a href="#">wheeler-dealer</a> )	
clotheslined (hockey)	lifted by a bodycheck, hanging over the checker or the boards	Orr was clotheslined just as he crossed the line. What a check!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: clouds on the horizon -- coffee talk

Idiom	Meaning	Example
clouds on the horizon	a problem has appeared, something is wrong, <a href="#">the sky isn't blue</a>	We have achieved our goals, but there are clouds on the horizon. The government is going to cancel our funding.
clued in	aware, <a href="#">in the know</a> , <a href="#">with it</a>	"How do you get clued in?" "You watch and listen, man."
clueless	not informed, ignorant, not <a href="#">with it</a>	When I don't know the answer, I try not to look clueless.
clunker	a car that is in poor condition, a <a href="#">beater</a>	Uncle Blair has bought another clunker - an old Pontiac.
clutch hitter (baseball)	(See <a href="#">a clutch hitter</a> )	
clutz	(See <a href="#">klutz</a> )	
cock and bull [B]	nonsense, <a href="#">bull</a> , <a href="#">BS</a> [B]	Don't believe that cock-and-bull story about Bigfoot.
cocky	proud, <a href="#">smartass</a>	"Why is Len acting so cocky?" "He won the Frisbee contest."
cocoon	stay inside your home to feel comfortable and safe	We don't want to go out tonight. We feel like cocooning.
coffee talk	conversation while having coffee, <a href="#">water-cooler...</a>	I don't believe Sally's pregnant. It's just coffee talk, just gossip.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: clouds on the horizon -- coffee talk

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: coin -- collect my thoughts

Idiom	Meaning	Example
coin	money, loot, <a href="#">dough</a> , <a href="#">serious coin</a>	Wait till I get some coin. Then we can travel.
coin a phrase	(See <a href="#">to coin a phrase</a> )	
cold call	a visit to an employer or customer without an appointment	Sam got a job by making cold calls - by knocking on doors and asking for work.
cold comfort	very little comfort, satisfaction in theory not reality	If Jim dies, having his money is cold comfort for his wife.
cold feet	(See <a href="#">get cold feet</a> )	
cold shoulder	(See <a href="#">give you the cold shoulder</a> )	
cold turkey	abruptly, completely, not gradually	Barb stopped smoking, cold turkey. No plan, no program.
cold, hard cash	actual money, dollar bills; not a check or credit card	No checks - I want cold, hard cash for that car.
coldcock	punch without warning, <a href="#">jump</a>	Buddy coldcocked the pitcher - hit him when he wasn't looking.
collect my thoughts	think calmly and clearly, organize my thoughts	She was glad when the kids left so she could collect her thoughts.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: coin -- collect my thoughts

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a dust-up -- a few bricks short of a full load

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a dust-up	a fight, a skirmish; <a href="#">set-to</a>	The boys argued and had a little dust-up, but no one got hurt.
a fair shake	a fair deal, a just settlement	The insurance company gave us a fair shake - paid all our damages.
a falling out	a disagreement, a break in friendship	Guy and Jean had a falling out. They argued about religion.
a false move	a wrong move, a threatening action	A man with a gun said, "If you make a false move, you're dead."
a far cry	not similar, very different	This is good sherry, but it's a far cry from the amontillado.
a faraway look	the eyes show thoughts of a distant place or friend	When I mention horses, you get a faraway look in your eyes.
a fart in a windstorm	an act that has no effect, an unimportant event	A letter to the editor of a paper is like a fart in a windstorm.
a fat lip	a hit on the lip, an injured lip	Stop bothering her or I'll give you a fat lip. I'll hit you.
a feather in your cap	an honor, a credit to you, <a href="#">chalk one up for you</a>	Because you are Karen's teacher, her award is a feather in your cap.
a few bricks short of a full load	not sensible or logical, <a href="#">not all there</a>	When Moe began eating bugs, we knew he was a few bricks short.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: a dust-up -- a few bricks short of a full load

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: collecting dust -- come back to haunt you

Idiom	Meaning	Example
collecting dust	not used for a long time, idle, <a href="#">gathering dust</a>	"Where's the silver tray?" "On the shelf, collecting dust."
come [B]	have an orgasm, ejaculate	Some women fake an orgasm - they pretend to come, eh.
come across	seem to be, appear to be	You came across as being angry, not just disappointed.
come across	discover, find	I came across an antique basin in the attic. It was in a box.
come across	give, pay, <a href="#">pay up</a>	They came across with \$250 - half the money they owe us.
come across [B]	consent to have sex, <a href="#">get laid</a> , <a href="#">go all the way</a>	You kiss me as though you're going to come across, but then you say no.
come again	what did you say? <a href="#">beg your pardon?</a>	When I asked Grandpa if he liked the soup, he said, "Come again?"
come alive	become lively, cheer, applaud	As the players skated onto the ice, the crowd came alive.
come around	begin to co-operate, believe, <a href="#">come onside</a>	When he reads the report, he'll come around. He'll believe us.
come back to haunt you	cause you to feel guilty or ashamed	Lies will come back to haunt you, remind you of the past.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: collecting dust -- come back to haunt you

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: come by -- come home to roost

Idiom	Meaning	Example
come by	find, get, obtain	How did you come by that vase? Where did you get it?
come clean	tell the truth, admit everything, <a href="#">own up</a>	The police asked him to come clean about the money - to tell them everything he knew.
come down hard	punish hard, <a href="#">throw the book at</a>	The teachers come down hard on cheating. They suspend cheaters.
come down off your high horse	(See <a href="#">get off your high horse</a> )	
come down on like a ton of bricks	reprove, punish harshly	Whenever I make the slightest mistake, my boss comes down on me like a ton of bricks.
come down to earth	be realistic, <a href="#">get your head out of the clouds</a>	If she'd come down to earth, if she'd stop dreaming about fame, she could pass her exams.
come down with	become sick, become ill	Brenda came down with the flu. She's very sick.
come full circle	arrive at the place where you began	"Let's ask the teacher, okay?" "If we do that, we'll have come full circle. Remember?"
come hell or high water	no matter what happens, <a href="#">by any means</a>	I'll buy that ranch, come hell or high water. I'm determined.
come home to roost	(See <a href="#">chickens come home to roost</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: come by -- come home to roost

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: come into -- come on

Idiom	Meaning	Example
come into	inherit, receive as a gift	When her father died, she came into a lot of money.
come into play	affect, influence, be a factor	In sales, all of your skills come into play. You use them all.
come into your own	be your natural best, <a href="#">find your voice</a> , <a href="#">realize your potential</a>	After five years in medicine, he came into his own. He became an excellent doctor.
come naturally	able to learn easily, have natural ability	Playing the piano seemed to come naturally to Susan.
come of	happen, result, develop	Peter liked Mia, but nothing ever came of it - no romance.
come of age	become old enough to vote or go to the bar or fight in a war	On my 18th birthday, Dad said, "Now that you've come of age, here's a set of keys to the car."
come off	happen as planned, succeed	The band wanted to produce a CD, but it didn't come off.
come off it	I do not believe it, <a href="#">you're kidding</a>	You had a date with Cybill Shepherd? Come off it!
come on	cheer, encourage	Come on, Mat, you can do it! You can ride that bull!
come on	do what we ask	Come on, tell us a story. Please?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: come into -- come on

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: come-on -- come to a head

Idiom	Meaning	Example
come-on	invitation to romance, <a href="#">give her the eye</a>	She's giving Rex the come-on, smiling at him "and stuff".
come on strong	do it with more energy, do it with enthusiasm	If you come on too strong, the customer will not buy from you.
come onside	come on our team, be on our side, <a href="#">buy into</a>	We want to persuade Vi to come onside. We want her to join us.
come onto	talk to in a sexual way, <a href="#">make advances</a>	In the car he started coming onto her. He said he wanted her.
come out in the wash	become clear later, <a href="#">when the dust settles</a>	We will soon know who did it. It will all come out in the wash.
come out with	say, tell, <a href="#">blurt out</a>	Then she comes out with a dirty joke and nobody laughed.
come through	complete the task, do what is expected	We're hoping that Ron will come through with high grades.
come to	regain your senses or consciousness	A few minutes after the accident, he came to. He opened his eyes.
come to	involves, includes	When it comes to dessert, I like raisin pie.
come to a head	come to a climax, result in a fight	Things will come to a head when the family discusses the will.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: come-on -- come to a head

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: come to fruition -- come up

Idiom	Meaning	Example
come to fruition	become reality, be completed as planned, <a href="#">see it through</a>	Through your donations, your hard work, and your perseverance you have seen your plans for this church come to fruition.
come to grips with	accept the truth, <a href="#">face facts</a>	I am finally coming to grips with my divorce. I'm accepting it.
come to terms	agree, sign an agreement, <a href="#">settle it</a>	We hope they can come to terms before the court date.
come to terms with	accept that it is true, <a href="#">face facts</a>	She helped the boy come to terms with the death of his father.
come to the point	say what is important, <a href="#">get to the point</a>	When you make a speech, come to the point quickly.
come to think of it	now that I remember it, a thought has just come	Come to think of it, I was the one who suggested marriage.
come true	become real, happen, <a href="#">come to fruition</a>	You must believe in your dream to make it come true.
come undone	lose self-control, disorganized, <a href="#">at loose ends</a> , <a href="#">fall to pieces</a>	When she's near me, I come undone. I can't think or talk!
come unglued	lose control, <a href="#">fall apart</a>	If Tina doesn't stop worrying, she'll come unglued.
come up	happen, occur, <a href="#">crop up</a>	In this job we never know what will come up. One customer wanted to buy an ostrich.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: come to fruition -- come up

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: come up with -- conk out

Idiom	Meaning	Example
come up with	think of, compose	Can you come up with the answer to my question?
comeback kid	an older person who tries to regain his/her former level of success	He's the comeback kid. At 60, he thinks he can skate and play the way he used to.
comeuppance	correction, what you deserve, just desert, <a href="#">get yours</a>	If you've been cruel to people, you'll get your comeuppance.
coming out of our ears	having too many, having too much	Everybody brought salad. We had salad coming out of our ears!
coming out of your yin yang	having far too many, having far too much, <a href="#">tons</a>	If we learn all the idioms in this book, we'll have idioms coming out of our yin yang!
coming up roses	doing very well, succeeding,	Since I met Ty, life is wonderful. Everything's coming up roses!
common sense	the ability to make logical decisions; <a href="#">horse sense</a>	It is because she has common sense that we ask her opinion.
compare notes	compare what we saw and heard	We haven't had a chance to compare notes on Pat's wedding.
comuppins	(See <a href="#">comeuppance</a> )	
conk out	quit, not work any more, sleep, <a href="#">give out</a>	The TV conked out just after the movie started.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: come up with -- conk out

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: consarned -- cool under pressure

Idiom	Meaning	Example
consarned	darn, <a href="#">blasted</a> , <a href="#">dingbusted</a> , <a href="#">friggin</a>	The consarned battery is dead. Rats!
contract out on	(See <a href="#">a contract out on</a> )	
cook	play good jazz, play music with skill and inspiration	The Boss Brass was cookin' last night. What a great band!
cook your goose	finish you, ruin you, <a href="#">goose is cooked</a>	If you borrow too much money, you'll cook your goose.
cool	fine, sophisticated, <a href="#">hip</a> , <a href="#">groovy</a> , <a href="#">neat</a> , <a href="#">together</a> , <a href="#">way cool</a> , <a href="#">with it</a>	"Do you know any cool guys?" "Yes. There's one in my class. Would you like to meet him?"
cool beans	nice, great, wonderful, <a href="#">awesome</a> , <a href="#">cool</a>	"Hey Dad, I got an A on my math test!" "Cool beans, Nicky! I knew you could do it!"
cool cat	(See <a href="#">show-off</a> )	
cool it	stop it, be good, <a href="#">knock it off</a>	The students cool it when the principal walks in.
cool off	control your emotions, <a href="#">chill out</a> , <a href="#">calm down</a>	I better cool off before I talk to the kids. I'm still angry.
cool under pressure	calm during a crisis, able to perform well when you must do it	Jo was very cool under pressure. When the judge asked questions, she answered clearly and calmly.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: consarned -- cool under pressure

## Idioms: cool your heels -- corner you

Idiom	Meaning	Example
cool your heels	wait for a judgement, serve a detention	Chad is cooling his heels in the Remand Centre - the city jail.
cooler heads prevailed	sensible people spoke, violence was avoided	There was nearly a riot, but cooler heads prevailed.
coon's age	(See <a href="#">in a coon's age</a> )	
cop	policeman, <a href="#">fuzz</a> , <a href="#">pig</a>	I know this cop on the Calgary Police Force - he's a nice guy.
cop out	an excuse, not trying, not doing your share	Instead of speaking, he showed a video. What a cop out!
copacetic	agreeable, fine, <a href="#">go along with</a> , <a href="#">okay</a> , <a href="#">OK</a>	Don is copacetic. He agrees with our plans.
copper	(See <a href="#">cop</a> )	
corked	intoxicated, drunk, <a href="#">plastered</a> , <a href="#">sloshed</a>	Grant got corked last night and walked home. He couldn't drive.
corner the market	become the main supplier, have a monopoly	Japanese automakers are trying to corner the luxury car market.
corner you	insist that you listen, <a href="#">buttonhole you</a>	If Helmer corners you, tell him you have to go to the bathroom.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:  
[B] bad language

Be interactive:  
[Comment on this idiom](#)  
[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)  
[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:  
 Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson  
 The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books  
 Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: cool your heels -- corner you

## Idioms: corny -- couldn't believe my ears

Idiom	Meaning	Example
corny	obvious humor, unsophisticated humor	The farmer said his cows are moody today. Now <i>that</i> is corny!
cost a pretty penny	cost a lot of money, had a high price	Elvis bought a new pink Cadillac. I bet that cost a pretty penny.
cost an arm and a leg	cost a lot of money, is very expensive	That fur jacket must have cost her an arm and a leg.
cost you	require much money or emotional stress or time or energy	Caring for a child will cost you - cost you a lot. But it's worth every minute, every tear.
cotton-picking	thieving, <a href="#">doggone</a> , <a href="#">flipping</a> , <a href="#">ruddy</a>	Get your cotton-pickin' fingers off that bike! Don't touch it!
cotton to that	believe in that, do that, <a href="#">relate to that</a>	City folks play cards on Sunday, but we don't cotton to that.
couch potato	a person who watches a lot of TV	If I watch four hours of TV every day, am I a couch potato?
cough up	pay your share, pay a debt, <a href="#">pay up</a>	Come on, Tony. Cough up. You haven't paid anything.
could care less	(See <a href="#">couldn't care less</a> )	
couldn't believe my ears	(See <a href="#">can't believe my ears</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: corny -- couldn't believe my ears

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: couldn't care less -- cover your ass [B]

Idiom	Meaning	Example
couldn't care less	could not care any less, do not care <a href="#">at all</a>	"Brad is seeing Debbie." "I know. And I couldn't care less."
count on	depend on, rely on	We can count on Tanya. She always comes to choir practice.
count your chickens before they hatch	depend heavily on plans, spend money that you have not received	Politicians have learned not to "count their chickens" before the election.
course you can	you can do it, believe it, <a href="#">of course you can</a>	"I don't think I can learn this." "Course you can, son."
courseware	computer program that teaches a course	We sell courseware to schools all over North America.
courtesy of	from, given by, donated by	The doughnuts are courtesy of Harry's Bakery.
cover for me	make an excuse for me, do my work	I may be late for work today. Will you cover for me?
cover up	hide it, <a href="#">sweep under the carpet</a>	He can't cover up his mistake because people know about it.
cover-up	hiding something from the authorities or media	The reporter heard about the cover-up of police brutality.
cover your ass [B]	protect yourself by having documents signed etc.	If you discipline or dismiss an employee, cover your ass.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: couldn't care less -- cover your ass [B]

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms: a fifth wheel -- a fool and his money are soon parted

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a fifth wheel	a useless object, an unnecessary device	The team already had two guards, so I felt like a fifth wheel.
a fighting chance	a fair chance, a good chance	If I can get a job interview, I'll have a fighting chance.
a fill-up	a full tank of gasoline, <a href="#">fill her up</a>	We got a fill-up before we left Winnipeg. The truck needed gas.
a fine line	a close relationship, not much difference	Sometimes there is a fine line between love and lust.
a fine-toothed comb	a careful search, a search for a detail	She read the file carefully - went over it with a fine-toothed comb.
a firm hand	a person who will discipline people	The students in Grade 8 need a teacher with a firm hand.
a flash in the pan	a person who does superior work at first	I'm looking for a steady worker, not a flash in the pan.
a fleeting glance	a very brief look, a quick glance	A fleeting glance from Marilyn would make his heart beat wildly.
a fly on the wall	able to hear and see what a fly would see and hear	I'd like to be a fly on the wall in the Judge's chambers.
a fool and his money are soon parted	a fool will spend all his money quickly; <a href="#">easy come, easy go</a>	After he had spent his fortune, he remembered this saying: <i>A fool and his money are soon parted.</i>

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: a fifth wheel -- a fool and his money are soon parted

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: cow-pie -- crack the line-up

Idiom	Meaning	Example
cow-pie	cow shit [B] cow dung	Watch where you step. There are cow-pies everywhere. Oops!
cowpoke	a cowboy, a man who works on a ranch	Three cowpokes were herding some cattle down the road.
Cowtown	Calgary, Alberta; a town where cows are sold	The Calgary Stampede is the pride of Cowtown. Y'all come!
crack a book	study, read a textbook	Sean passed that exam without cracking a book.
crack a joke	tell a joke, say a funny word or phrase	Please be serious. Don't crack jokes or laugh at us.
crack down on	stop, not permit, not allow	The police began to crack down on speeders in the school zones.
crack me up	make me laugh hard, <a href="#">split a gut</a>	Robin Williams cracks me up when he tells a story.
crack of dawn	(See <a href="#">at the crack of dawn</a> )	
crack shot/salesman etc.	a person who is highly skilled at shooting etc.	Marvin has developed into a crack salesman. He's excellent.
crack the line-up	earn a place on a team, <a href="#">make the team</a>	He's a good basketball player, but can he crack the line-up?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: cow-pie -- crack the line-up

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: crack this case -- crank out

Idiom	Meaning	Example
crack this case	solve a crime, discover who is guilty	David will crack this case; he's a thorough investigator.
crack under the strain	become irrational or hysterical due to strain, <a href="#">around the bend</a>	Mother was a strong person. She never cracked under the strain of raising ten children.
cracked	crazy, <a href="#">nuts</a> , <a href="#">wacko</a>	He must be cracked. He mailed a letter to himself.
crackers	crazy, <a href="#">bonkers</a> , <a href="#">nuts</a>	Don't worry about me. I've been crackers all my life.
crackpot	a person who is strange or weird, <a href="#">wacko</a>	Some crackpot wrote a letter to him threatening his family.
crackup	collision, crash	Drinking and driving causes a lot of crackups.
cramp your style	cause problems for you, cause stress for you	If we can't buy a Corvette, will it cramp your style?
crank issue	a topic that causes anger, <a href="#">can of worms</a>	The Premier raised a crank issue and then went on holidays.
crank it up	turn up the volume, louder please	Hey, Karen, crank up the radio. That's a great song.
crank out	make, write, manufacture	Can you crank out a few jokes for our school newspaper?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: crack this case -- crank out

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: crap -- crazy like a fox

Idiom	Meaning	Example
crap	lies, <a href="#">bull</a> , <a href="#">BS</a>	He told us that history books contain a lot of crap - BS.
crappy	poor quality, junky, <a href="#">shabby</a>	What a crappy camera! Look at these terrible pictures!
crash	go to bed, go to sleep	Sometimes Don crashes on our sofa and sleeps for hours.
crash	fail to operate, not work, <a href="#">break down</a> , <a href="#">kaput</a>	If Netscape crashes, I'll have to use the phone instead of e-mail.
crash a party	go to a party uninvited, <a href="#">horn in</a>	Bo and his friends crashed our party. They came uninvited.
crash course	(See <a href="#">a crash course</a> )	
crawl on my hands and knees over broken glass just to see her photo	do anything to be closer to her, <a href="#">worship the ground she walks on</a>	I'm so in love I'd crawl on my hands and knees over miles of broken glass to see her photo.
crawling with	having many of them, <a href="#">oodles</a> , <a href="#">scads</a>	The hotel was crawling with police. I couldn't count them.
crazy about	like a lot, <a href="#">mad about</a>	Dad's crazy about sports. He really loves baseball.
crazy like a fox	crafty while appearing foolish or dumb, <a href="#">play the fool</a>	In the debate, he was crazy like a fox. He praised his opponent for being clever and ruthless.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: crap -- crazy like a fox

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: cream of the crop -- cross paths

Idiom	Meaning	Example
cream of the crop	best of the group, the finest ones	Only the cream of the crop will be invited to the interviews.
cream you	hit you, knock you down, <a href="#">knock you flat</a>	If Jon discovers you lied to him, he'll cream you. He'll hit you.
creep	strange person, pervert, <a href="#">weirdo</a>	What a creep! He looks like a stray dog!
crock	(See <a href="#">that's a crock</a> )	
crocodile tears	false tears, phony sadness	Her crocodile tears don't fool me. She just wants sympathy.
crop up	happen, occur, <a href="#">come up</a>	I'm planning to go to Montreal unless something crops up - like an airline strike.
cross my heart and hope to die	promise sincerely, <a href="#">honestly</a> , <a href="#">under oath</a>	I'll pay you back on Friday, cross my heart and hope to die.
cross over Jordan	die, <a href="#">buy the farm</a> , <a href="#">pass away</a>	Before dad crossed over, he told us to care for our mother.
cross over to the other side	die, <a href="#">kick the bucket</a> , <a href="#">pass away</a>	Some people cross over to the other side - and return!
cross paths	meet, encounter	We'll cross paths again, I'm sure. Until then, good luck.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: cream of the crop -- cross paths

## Idioms: cross someone -- crux of the matter

Idiom	Meaning	Example
cross someone	go against someone, insult someone	People are afraid to cross Phil because he has a violent temper.
cross that bridge when I come to it	make that decision when it is necessary, do not <a href="#">jump the gun</a>	If interest rates begin to drop, I can buy bonds, but I'll cross that bridge when I come to it.
cross your fingers	(See <a href="#">keep your fingers crossed</a> )	
cruise	drive the streets looking for fun and friends, <a href="#">bomb around</a>	It was Sunday afternoon and we were cruising the streets looking for "chicks".
cruise	drive around in a car, <a href="#">bomb around</a>	On summer nights we cruise the streets looking for fun.
cruising for a bruising	inviting a fight, <a href="#">asking for it</a>	The new kid was cruisin' for a bruising - insulting everybody.
crummy	poor quality, <a href="#">lousy</a> , <a href="#">shabby</a>	We canceled the picnic because of the crummy weather.
crunch	(See <a href="#">the crunch</a> )	
crush on	(See <a href="#">a crush on</a> )	
crux of the matter	(See <a href="#">the crux of the matter</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: cry her heart out -- cup runneth over

Idiom	Meaning	Example
cry her heart out	cry a lot, sob, <a href="#">cry your eyes out</a>	Poor girl! She's crying her heart out because he hasn't called her.
cry in your beer	be sad as you drink beer, regret as you drink beer, <a href="#">cry the blues</a>	Go to college. Get your diploma. Or someday you'll be crying in your beer.
cry me a river	you can cry a lot but you will not get my sympathy, <a href="#">crocodile tears</a>	When he complained about how much he had to pay his chauffeur, I said, "Cry me a river, guy."
cry over spilt milk	cry about small accidents, cry instead of doing	Children drop things and break them. Don't cry over spilt milk.
cry the blues	complain because your friend or lover has gone	Lan is crying the blues because Bing left her for another woman.
cry your eyes out	cry a lot, cry hard, <a href="#">cry her heart out</a>	The little boy was lost and scared, and crying his eyes out.
crying shame	(See <a href="#">a crying shame</a> )	
crystal clear	very clear, well understood, <a href="#">plain as day</a>	After Mr. Tse explained the concept to me, he asked, "Is that clear?" "Crystal clear," I replied.
cup of tea	favorite activity, choice of entertainment	A holiday in the Yukon is not her cup of tea.
cup runneth over	feeling too full of love or joy or happiness	Whenever I listen to Mother Teresa, my cup runneth over.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: cry her heart out -- cup runneth over

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: curiosity killed the cat -- cut above

Idiom	Meaning	Example
curiosity killed the cat	a very curious person may find trouble or danger	Don't ask so many questions. Remember, curiosity killed the cat.
curl up with a good book	sit down in a comfortable place and read a book	On a cold and rainy day she likes to curl up with a good book.
curl your hair	shock you, disgust you	The man described the accident. It was enough to curl your hair!
curtains	the end, the death, <a href="#">the last of</a>	If we clear-cut Canada's forests, it's curtains for the lumber industry.
cushy	soft, luxurious, comfortable	They had a cushy life in their beautiful home beside the ocean.
cuss	curse, say bad words, <a href="#">the air was blue</a>	The little boy had learned to cuss. He said <i>damn</i> and <i>hell</i> a lot.
cut	defined, clearly visible	Neil's muscles are well cut. They ripple when he moves.
cut a fine figure	look very good in your clothes, <a href="#">look sharp</a>	When Dee was in her twenties she cut a fine figure in this fur jacket.
cut a wide swath	do many things - party, play sports, live and love	Tim cut a wide swath in his youth. He lived a full and active life.
cut above	(See <a href="#">a cut above</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: curiosity killed the cat -- cut above

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: cut and dried -- cut me to the quick

Idiom	Meaning	Example
cut and dried	simple, not complex, <a href="#">open and shut</a>	For me, the choice was cut and dried. I chose the Peugeot.
cut corners	use less material, use less than required	If we cut corners, we'll produce a low-quality product.
cut from the same cloth	from the same family, very similar	Ty and Ed are cut from the same cloth - both are serious and quiet.
cut him off [B]	not have sex with him, not <a href="#">make love</a> to him	If he doesn't buy me a car, I'll cut him off - no "nookie"!
cut it	do the job, satisfy, <a href="#">work</a>	Red and brown just don't cut it. They look ugly together.
cut it a little fine	leave very little time, have just enough money	After paying the rent we had only \$60. This is cutting it a little fine.
cut it out	stop it, do not do that, <a href="#">knock it off</a>	When the kids began throwing dirt, we told them to cut it out.
cut losses	quit the project and accept the financial losses	If the stock price goes down, sell them and cut your losses.
cut me some slack	give me more time, give me more freedom	You may be asking too much of your son. Cut him some slack.
cut me to the quick	hurt me, cause me to feel sad	I was hurt when she called me a cow. She cut me to the quick.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: cut and dried -- cut me to the quick

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: cut my teeth on -- cut the mustard

Idiom	Meaning	Example
cut my teeth on	learned as a young person, learned as I grew up	Yes, I can tie a bow knot. I cut my teeth on string and ropes.
cut off	not allowed to do it any more, stopped from doing	We have to cut off beer sales at 12 midnight. No more sales.
cut off	drive in front of, swerve into your lane	That jerk cut me off! He swerved into my lane!
cut off	interrupt, prevent from talking, <a href="#">shut down</a>	The chairman cut me off in the middle of my question. "You're out of order," he said.
cut off your nose to spite your face	make your problem worse, hurt yourself because you dislike yourself	If you abuse drugs to forget a problem, you are cutting off your nose to spite your face.
cut out for	have natural ability for, be suited to	I guess I'm just not cut out for bull riding. I'm not good at it.
cut rate	second class, sold for less than full price	We bought some cut-rate lumber and built a shelter for the boat.
cut the cheese [B]	let off gas, fart, <a href="#">pass wind</a>	Then somebody cut the cheese, and everybody laughed.
cut the crap [B]	stop telling lies, stop doing stupid things, no more <a href="#">bull</a>	Will somebody tell him to cut the crap and give us the facts!
cut the mustard	do the job properly, <a href="#">cut it</a>	If I'm too old to cut the mustard, maybe I should retire, eh.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: cut my teeth on -- cut the mustard

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: cut to the chase -- cutting edge

Idiom	Meaning	Example
cut to the chase	tell the exciting part, <a href="#">get to the point</a>	George, please, cut to the chase. We're tired of the story already.
cut-up	(See <a href="#">a cut-up</a> )	
cut you down to size	make you feel smaller; not as important	The foreman cut him down to size by calling him a laborer.
cut you to ribbons	defeat you in an argument, embarrass you in a contest	That professor will cut you to ribbons if you question his facts.
cut your own throat	hurt yourself, be <a href="#">your own worst enemy</a>	By overspending, you will cut your own throat.
cute as a bug's ear	petite and pretty, adorable	Have you seen her little sister? She's cute as a bug's ear.
cutting edge	the latest technology, <a href="#">state of the art</a>	This picture is the cutting edge - the best in the TV industry.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a foregone conclusion -- a game one

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a foregone conclusion	a certain conclusion, a predictable result	That he'll graduate is a foregone conclusion. He is a good student.
a free-for-all	a fight without rules, <a href="#">Donnybrook</a>	There was a free-for-all after the dance, and Brendan got hurt.
a free hand	complete authority, freedom to control	The President gave Ms. Drake a free hand in choosing the colors.
a freeze on	a stoppage; a decision to stop spending, hiring etc.	Right now there's a freeze on hiring at the plant - no hiring.
a fresh pair of eyes	a different reader, one who has not seen the writing	A fresh pair of eyes may find many errors in this report.
a fresh start	starting again, a new life	In Canada, you will have a fresh start. You can begin a new life.
a full house (cards)	a pair plus three of a kind, e.g., 2 kings and 3 aces	In our last game of poker, you dealt me a full house.
a full plate	a busy schedule, a lot to do	Nancy has a full plate these days. She has two jobs and three kids.
a gaggle of geese	a flock of geese, a bunch of geese	A gaggle of geese met us as we drove into the farmyard.
a game one	a willing player, a <a href="#">rough and ready</a> person	I can see that Bev's a game one. She plays hard and doesn't quit.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: a foregone conclusion -- a game one

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: dad-blamed -- daredevil

Idiom	Meaning	Example
dad-blamed	damned, <a href="#">darn</a> , <a href="#">dingbusted</a>	The dad-blamed fishing line is tangled! It's in knots!
damaged goods	abused, in poor condition	One man described prostitutes as <i>damaged goods</i> .
damn it [B]	it is very annoying or frustrating, <a href="#">darn it</a>	Damn it! That cigarette smoke is making me ill.
damn the luck [B]	that is bad luck, that was unlucky, <a href="#">darn my luck</a>	When Marilyn's computer crashed, she said, "Damn the luck!"
damn you [B]	you are bad, you deserve the worst, <a href="#">go to hell</a>	Damn you, dog! Get out of my house with your dirty bum!
damned if you do and damned if you don't	you are blamed if you do it and blamed if you do not, <a href="#">between the devil...</a> , <a href="#">can't have it both ways</a>	If you offer to help, he refuses; if you don't offer, he complains. You're damned if you do, and damned if you don't.
dampen your spirits	reduce your enthusiasm, cause you to lose interest	Losing one game didn't dampen her spirits. She's full of hope.
dance with the one who brought you	be loyal to the person who helped you, don't <a href="#">turn your back on</a> your friends	Don't try to get votes from big business. Stick with the workers - dance with the ones who brought you.
dapper Dan	well-groomed man, classy man	He looks so great in his new suit - a real dapper Dan!
daredevil	(See <a href="#">a daredevil</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: dad-blamed -- daredevil

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: dark horse -- dash off a note/letter

Idiom	Meaning	Example
dark horse	the competitor that could surprise us and win	The dark horse in the World Cup is Ireland. They could win it all.
dark side	bad side of a person, the evil part of our nature	Most people try to hide the dark side of their personality.
darken a church door	attend church, go to a church service	He never darkens a church door except to attend funerals.
darn	damn, <a href="#">ruddy</a>	35° is hot - too darn hot!
darn it	oh no, not again, <a href="#">nuts</a> , <a href="#">rats</a>	Darn it! I locked my keys in the car.
darn my luck	my luck is poor, I am unlucky today	My bread is in the oven and the power goes off. Darn my luck!
darn right	that is right, yes, <a href="#">you betcha</a>	"Do you believe in ghosts?" "Darn right I do! I just saw one!"
darn tooting	that is true, I agree, <a href="#">darn right</a>	"They still talk about the winter of 1907, don't they, Helmer?" "Darn tootin'! It was a <i>cold</i> one!"
dasein	blending into a group, not distinct or unique	How to describe Anna? Dasein - she seems to disappear in a group.
dash off a note/letter	quickly write a note or letter and send it	Josi dashed off a note to her cousin in Toronto - in English.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: dark horse -- dash off a note/letter

## Idioms: date -- dead duck

Idiom	Meaning	Example
date	boy and girl go to a movie etc., <a href="#">go out with</a> , <a href="#">see</a>	Tong has been dating May since they met at Christmas.
dates you	tells your age; when you were born	Knowing that song dates you. It was popular in the 1950s.
dawn on me	cause me to think of, occur to me, <a href="#">hit me</a>	It didn't dawn on me that they're twins until I saw them together.
day in, day out	every day, daily	Day in, day out, she walked to work. I saw her every morning.
day of the family farm	(See <a href="#">the day of the family farm</a> )	
day one	(See <a href="#">from day one</a> )	
dead as a doornail	dead, showing no signs of life, <a href="#">stone dead</a>	It's only a stuffed bear. It's dead as a doornail.
dead-cat bounce	very little recovery after a loss, not coming up again	The broker said, "It was a dead-cat bounce. Stocks remain low."
dead certain	very certain, very sure, <a href="#">positive</a>	He's dead certain that Ming is the man who talked to him.
dead duck	not competitive, not viable, <a href="#">dead in the water</a> , <a href="#">kaput</a>	I don't care how much skill he has. If he can't play under pressure he's a dead duck.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: date -- dead duck

## Idioms: dead even -- dead ringer

Idiom	Meaning	Example
dead even	having the same score, tied, <a href="#">a dead heat</a>	After six events in the decathlon, the two men were dead even.
dead-eye Dick	a person who can shoot accurately	We call him <i>Dead-eye Dick</i> . He can shoot the dot off an <i>i</i> .
dead giveaway	(See <a href="#">a dead giveaway</a> )	
dead heat	(See <a href="#">a dead heat</a> )	
dead in the water	not competitive, not qualified to compete, <a href="#">haven't got a hope</a>	When you're job hunting, if you don't have a resume you're dead in the water.
dead last	the last runner or competitor	It doesn't matter if you come in dead last. Just finish the race.
dead loss	(See <a href="#">a dead loss</a> )	
dead meat	finished, terminated, <a href="#">done for</a>	If you're caught driving drunk in Sweden, you're dead meat.
dead on	accurate, correct, <a href="#">spot on</a>	When you said our sales would double, you were dead on.
dead ringer	(See <a href="#">a dead ringer</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: dead set against -- death warmed over

Idiom	Meaning	Example
dead set against	strongly opposed to, <a href="#">down with</a>	She's dead set against abortion as a means of birth control.
dead tired	very tired, <a href="#">blotto</a> , <a href="#">zonked</a>	After fighting the fire, they were dead tired - exhausted.
dead to the world	sleeping, in a deep sleep, <a href="#">sound asleep</a>	I was dead to the world when the phone rang and woke me.
dead wrong	clearly wrong, mistaken	I was dead wrong about the word: it's <i>prejudice</i> , not <i>prejudism</i> .
deadbeat	a person with no desire to work, <a href="#">good-for-nothing</a>	Lana, are you going to marry that deadbeat? He's no good!
deadhead	a person who has damaged his brain with drugs	It's too bad, really, but Marvin is a deadhead - too much cocaine.
deal me in	deal cards for me, please; I want to play cards	Deal me in, Walter. Deal me a winning hand.
Dear Dad, No mon, no fun, your son! Dear Son, So sad, too bad, your dad!	Letter from a son attending college, and his dad's reply. (contributed by Jes Jr. Henry)	
death row	the prisoners who are to be executed or <a href="#">put to death</a>	The priest wants to visit the prisoners on death row.
death warmed over	(See <a href="#">look like death warmed over</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: dead set against -- death warmed over

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: death wish -- deked out of his jock

Idiom	Meaning	Example
death wish	saying you want to die, inviting death	To challenge the Mafia would be a death wish. It would be suicide.
deathbed	(See <a href="#">on your deathbed</a> )	
deck him	knock him down, <a href="#">cream you</a>	Tony decked him in the first round of the boxing match.
deck out	decorate; attach ornaments, lights, etc.; customize	His truck was all decked out with chrome trim and colored lights.
deep, dark secret	very private information, confidential information, <a href="#">on the QT</a>	I'll tell you about my past, but not my childhood. That's a deep, dark secret.
deep pockets	rich, wealthy, <a href="#">filthy rich</a> , <a href="#">loaded</a>	Jerry can pay your legal fees. He's got deep pockets.
deep six	in a six-foot-deep grave, <a href="#">pushing up daisies</a>	If you overdose on coke, you're deep six, man.
deep sleep	sound sleep, restful sleep, <a href="#">sleep like a log</a>	I was in a deep sleep when the fire started, but I woke up and phoned for help.
deke you	deceive you, fool you, <a href="#">sucker you</a>	He'll try to deke you. He'll fake one way and go the other.
deked out of his jock	tricked out of position, <a href="#">outplay</a> , <a href="#">stickhandle</a>	Mario skated in on the goalie and deked him out of his jock.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: death wish -- deked out of his jock

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: dense -- dickens you say

Idiom	Meaning	Example
dense	not smart, slow at thinking, stupid, not too <a href="#">swift</a>	She knows the answers to these questions. She's just acting dense.
Denver boot	a wheel block that stops a car from moving	Greg was drunk, so the police put a Denver boot on his car.
deserve credit	deserve praise or thanks, <a href="#">give her credit</a>	David deserves credit for finding the lost keys. Thank you, boy.
devil-may-care	carefree, wild, <a href="#">on a lark</a>	Employers won't hire people with a devil-may-care attitude.
devil you say	(See <a href="#">the devil you say</a> )	
dibs	(See <a href="#">first dibs</a> )	
dick [B]	penis, <a href="#">dink</a> , <a href="#">dork</a> , <a href="#">hoo-haw</a>	With all these winter clothes on, I can't find my dick.
dick	nothing, zero, <a href="#">nada</a> , <a href="#">zilch</a>	Don't listen to him. He knows dick about selling!
dickens of a time	(See <a href="#">a dickens of a time</a> )	
dickens you say	(See <a href="#">the dickens you say</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: did good -- dig a little deeper

Idiom	Meaning	Example
did good	did well, did a good job, <a href="#">done good</a>	I watched you ride that horse - you did real good!
did yourself proud	did a good job, did well, <a href="#">did good</a> , <a href="#">done good</a>	That was a great dinner, Nora. You did yourself proud.
diddly-squat	nothing, not a penny, <a href="#">dick</a>	For all that work, he gave me diddly-squat - not even thanks.
didn't have a stitch of clothes on	naked, nude, <a href="#">birthday suit</a> , <a href="#">in the buff</a>	When the kids go swimming they don't have a stitch of clothes on.
die down	gradually stop, diminish, <a href="#">drop off</a>	When the laughter died down, I found my false teeth, put them in my mouth, and said, "Excuse me."
die for	want very much; <a href="#">in the worst way</a>	I'm dying for a cup of coffee! I'll have an Espresso, please.
die hard	change slowly, continue to be strong, <a href="#">you can't teach...</a>	Some men still want to be the head of the family. Old beliefs die hard.
die off	become extinct, all of them die	That type of horse died off before humans appeared.
different strokes for different folks	people have different preferences, <a href="#">to each his own</a>	When Michael heard the story of a man who had a clone of his wife in several cities, he smiled and said, "Different strokes for different folks!"
dig a little deeper	try harder, give a little more	The coach asked the team to dig a little deeper, to give their best.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

Idioms: did good -- dig a little deeper

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: dig deep -- dildo

Idiom	Meaning	Example
dig deep	give more money, <a href="#">dig a little deeper</a>	We'll all have to dig deep if we hope to achieve our goals.
dig in	begin to eat, <a href="#">eat up</a> , <a href="#">help yourself</a>	Dig in, everybody. There's lots of food.
dig in their heels	hold their position, not yield or move	If we discuss money, he digs in his heels. "No raises," he says.
dig it up	dig the garden, dig to uncover a buried object	Remember where you bury the treasure, because some day you may want to dig it up.
dig me	understand, <a href="#">get my drift</a>	"I don't like you to take my car. That's gonna stop, dig me!"
dig your own grave	cause your own failure, <a href="#">cut your own throat</a>	When you criticize the manager, are you digging your own grave?
dig yourself in	make it worse, say or do something that aggravates	When he insulted the policeman, I said, "Don't dig yourself in."
dig/dig it	like, enjoy, relate to	Ole digs the Beatles. His favorite song is <i>Norwegian Wood</i> .
digs	apartment, house, <a href="#">pad</a>	I'm having a party so everybody can see my new digs.
dildo	(See <a href="#">a dildo</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: dig deep -- dildo

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: dilly -- DINKS

Idiom	Meaning	Example
dilly	(See <a href="#">it's a dilly</a> )	
dilly-dally	go very slowly, pause too much	Sarah, you come straight home from school. Don't dilly-dally.
dime a dozen	(See <a href="#">a dime a dozen</a> )	
dimwit	one who is slow to respond or <a href="#">catch on</a>	I felt like a dimwit when I couldn't remember her name.
ding-a-ling	fool, <a href="#">an airhead</a> , <a href="#">jerk</a>	What a ding-a-ling! She expects me to pay for a phone book!
dingbat/ding-dong	strange person, <a href="#">nerd</a> , <a href="#">weirdo</a>	That dingbat wanted me to take off my clothes!
dingbusted	damn, <a href="#">blasted</a> , <a href="#">consarned</a> , <a href="#">darn</a>	I couldn't reach the dingbusted switch to turn on the light.
dingle you	phone you, call you, <a href="#">give me a ring</a>	I'll dingle you when I get back from Chicago.
dink [B]	penis, <a href="#">dork</a> , <a href="#">hoo-haw</a>	Did you wash your hands after you touched your dink?
DINKS	married couples who have Double Income No Kids	Our travel packages are purchased mainly by DINKS.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a ghost of a chance -- a good head

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a ghost of a chance	a poor chance, not likely to happen	That car doesn't have a ghost of a chance. It's too slow!
a glow on	slightly drunk, <a href="#">tipsy</a> , <a href="#">catch a buzz</a>	When Myrna gets a glow on, she likes to dance real close.
a go	(See <a href="#">it's a go</a> )	
a go-getter	an aggressive employee, a hard worker, <a href="#">gung ho</a>	What a go-getter! He finished the course a month before the others.
a going concern,	a busy person, an active enterprise, <a href="#">going great guns</a>	At three years of age she was a going concern - into everything!
a golden opportunity	a good chance to succeed, a good investment	The Royal Hotel is for sale. What a golden opportunity!
a goner	something that is lost or <a href="#">beyond help</a>	I thought he was a goner, but the cat came back. He's home.
a good arm	the ability to throw a baseball or football	Doug is short, but he has a good arm. He's an excellent passer.
a good egg	a good-natured person, <a href="#">a good head</a>	Everybody likes Marsha. She's a good egg.
a good head	friendly, generous person; <a href="#">a good egg</a>	Sean is a good head. He'll help at the food bank.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: a ghost of a chance -- a good head

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: dipstick -- dis/diss

Idiom	Meaning	Example
dipstick	a person who seems to be stupid, <a href="#">dimwit</a>	When Todd is nervous, he acts like a dipstick - like a fool.
dirt cheap	very cheap, not expensive	Cherries are dirt cheap in B.C. during the summer.
dirt file	record of failures and bad actions	Every time we have a fight, you haul out my dirt file.
dirty	(See <a href="#">dirty laundry</a> )	
dirty dog/dirty rat	immoral person, liar, <a href="#">scum</a> , <a href="#">slimebucket</a>	You dirty rat! You stole my truck and used my credit card!
dirty laundry	personal problems, mistakes, scandals	I don't want the public to see my dirty laundry - my worst moves.
dirty money	stolen money, money obtained illegally	We believe the donation from the Mafia is dirty money.
dirty thirties	1930s, when drought caused hardship on the prairie; <a href="#">dirty thirties</a>	During the dirty thirties, soil drifted into the ditches and crops wouldn't grow.
dirty work	unpleasant tasks, difficult work	I do the dirty work - fight for the puck - and he scores the goals.
dis/diss	insult, criticize, disrespect, <a href="#">put down</a>	If you dis me, I won't help you with your math.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: dipstick -- dis/diss

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: discombobulated -- do

Idiom	Meaning	Example
discombobulated	disturbed, bothered, upset	When my dog hears a train whistle, he becomes discombobulated. He barks and howls.
discretion is the better part of valor	be sensible when you are brave; be courageous but not reckless	In all your battles, be brave but not foolish. Discretion is the better part of valor.
dish	(See <a href="#">what a dish</a> )	
dish it out	criticize, complain	Jay can dish it out, but she gets mad if you criticize her.
disk jockey (DJ)	radio announcer who plays recorded music	Clare became a disk jockey with a radio station in Moose Jaw.
ditch him	leave him, <a href="#">lose him</a> , <a href="#">give him the slip</a>	I tried to ditch him at the mall but he held on to my hand.
ditto	repeat it, write or say the same thing, <a href="#">back at ya</a> , <a href="#">same to you</a>	"You jerk!" "Ditto!" "You creep!" "Ditto!" "Ditto!" "Double ditto!" "What!"
ditz	fool, <a href="#">an airhead</a> , <a href="#">jerk</a> , <a href="#">nerd</a> , <a href="#">nut</a>	You ditz! You put ketchup on my ice cream!
do (a speed)	travel at a speed, drive at a speed of	We were only doing 50 km per hour. That's the truth.
do	(See <a href="#">hairdo</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).



## Idioms: do a 180 -- do it the hard way

Idiom	Meaning	Example
do a 180	turn around and go in the opposite direction, <a href="#">U-turn</a>	When the boy on the motorcycle saw the police car, he did a 180 and sped off.
do a dime	be in prison for ten years, <a href="#">do time</a>	If you shoot somebody you'll do a dime, maybe more.
do a favor	help someone who asks, do a task for someone	Ben offered to do me a favor if I ever need help.
do a gig	play music for a dance or concert	Our band is doing a gig at Bijo's tonight. We play from 10 till 2.
do a number on	deceive, fool, <a href="#">taken</a> , <a href="#">taken in</a>	They did a number on us when we bought this car. It's not reliable.
do away with	throw out, dispose of	We want to do away with nuclear weapons - to dispose of them.
do-dad	an object with a name you cannot remember, <a href="#">do-funny</a>	A little do-dad on the back of the carburetor was sticking. That was the problem.
do drugs	use drugs, <a href="#">take drugs</a>	They don't hire people who do drugs. No way.
do-funny	a thing with a funny name, <a href="#">thing-a-ma-bob</a>	You put the do-funny on the lever, and you're finished!
do it the hard way	use a poor method, <a href="#">go against the grain</a>	Don't start a fire with stones. That's doing it the hard way.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: do a 180 -- do it the hard way

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms: do lunch -- do unto others as you would have them do unto you

Idiom	Meaning	Example
do lunch	have lunch together, eat lunch	We'll do lunch tomorrow, OK? Do you like salad?
do me	love me, <a href="#">make love</a> to me	Paul sang, "When she really done me, she done me good!"
do me for/do me until	supply me until, <a href="#">last me</a> , <a href="#">tide me over</a>	"Got lots of shampoo?" "Enough to do me for a week or so."
do me in	kill me, <a href="#">knock me off</a>	I hope no one wants to do me in. I want to live a few more years.
do or die	last chance to win, <a href="#">it's now or never</a>	It's do or die. If we lose this game, we'll be out of the series.
do the honors	do the task for the leader, <a href="#">fill in for</a> the leader	The Mayor can't speak to us, so Mr. Kelly will do the honors.
do the town	celebrate or party all over town	On July 1, we'll do the town. We'll really celebrate.
do the trick	solve the problem, help, <a href="#">that's the ticket</a>	If you need a lubricant, Vaseline will do the trick.
do time	be in prison, be in a penitentiary	He's doing time for sexual assault. He's in for five years.
do unto others as you would have them do unto you	treat people the way you would like to be treated	This is The Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: do lunch -- do unto others as you would have them do unto you

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: do up -- doctor it/doctor it up

Idiom	Meaning	Example
do up	lace, tighten the laces	Do up your skate laces, please. I will help you tie them.
do with	would like, want	I could do with a cold drink. I'm hot and thirsty.
do without	manage without, not have, <a href="#">make do</a>	We did without meat all winter. We became vegetarians.
do you follow	do you understand? do you see how it operates?	Turn the key left to lock, right to unlock. Do you follow?
do you mind	do you care? does it matter?	Do you mind if I sit on your desk? Does it bother you?
do your own thing	do it your own way, do what you feel, <a href="#">let it all hang out</a>	I like managers who let me do my own thing - who respect my way of doing things.
do your part	do your share, do your job	We did our part to help the food bank. We donated cereal.
do your utmost	do as much as you can, do whatever you can	Pat did his utmost to save her, but she fell into the pool.
do yourself proud	do something that you are proud of	You did yourself proud when you helped the refugees.
doctor it/doctor it up	improve it, edit it, <a href="#">spin doctor</a> , <a href="#">touch up</a> , <a href="#">tweak</a>	I wrote the letter but Ted doctored it up - to make it look professional.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: do up -- doctor it/doctor it up

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: dodge a bullet -- dog me

Idiom	Meaning	Example
dodge a bullet	avoid a failure or loss or injury	Kevin dodged a bullet. He got a "D" on the final exam.
dodo	(See <a href="#">go the way of the dodo</a> )	
doesn't add up	is not logical, does not <a href="#">make sense</a>	One shot was fired, but three cows are dead. It doesn't add up.
doesn't mince words	does not say nice words when complaining, <a href="#">call a spade a spade</a> , <a href="#">straight from the shoulder</a>	When Greta is angry she doesn't mince words. She tells you what is bothering her.
doesn't wash	is not believable, is not logical, does not <a href="#">make sense</a>	His explanation doesn't wash. If a millennium begins at year 1, how does he account for the first year?
dog days of summer	the hottest days of summer, midsummer	We like to watch baseball during the dog days of summer.
dog eat dog	vicious competition, everybody for himself	Will education prepare us for the dog-eat-dog world of business?
dog in the manger	a person who will not share something he does not use or need	He's a dog in the manger about his office space. He doesn't use it, but he won't let us have it.
dog it	be lazy, not work	Bill admits he's been dogging it lately. He lacks energy.
dog me	follow me, bother me	His failure in politics dogged him for the rest of his life.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

Idioms: dodge a bullet -- dog me

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: dog tired -- dolled up

Idiom	Meaning	Example
dog tired	very tired, exhausted, <a href="#">all in</a> , <a href="#">done in</a>	Janis was dog tired after the series. She played every game.
dog's age	(See <a href="#">for a dog's age</a> )	
dog's breakfast	(See <a href="#">a dog's breakfast</a> )	
dog's life	(See <a href="#">a dog's life</a> )	
dogan	Catholic, a member of the Roman Catholic Church	I'm a Jew, Walter's a dogan, and Peter's a Buddhist. What a mixture!
doggone	extremely annoying, god-damn, <a href="#">blasted</a>	I can't find the doggone scissors again. This house must eat them!
doggy bag	(See <a href="#">a doggy bag</a> )	
doggy doo	dog <a href="#">poop</a> , dog feces, <a href="#">doo-doo</a>	Here, I brought a plastic bag for Lassie's doggy doo.
dollars to donuts	(See <a href="#">bet you dollars to donuts</a> )	
dolled up	in a party dress, with hair styled, <a href="#">gussied up</a>	When Lisa gets all dolled up, Harry becomes very romantic.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: don't borrow trouble -- don't give me that line/story etc.

Idiom	Meaning	Example
don't borrow trouble	do not invite their trouble; we have enough trouble	When I said I was going to help my neighbor get a divorce, Pat said, "Don't borrow trouble."
don't count your chickens before they hatch	do not expect all plans to be successful, wait until you get the final results	"Look at the sales I'm going to make this month - over 50!" "Don't count your chickens... ."
don't eat that	do not accept that, do not believe that	After hearing the report, Ben said, "Don't eat that, guys."
don't get mad; get even	do not waste your energy on anger, do get revenge; <a href="#">actions speak louder...</a>	To the victims he said, "Don't get mad. Get even. Report this to the police."
don't get me wrong	do not misunderstand; <a href="#">take it the wrong way</a>	Don't get me wrong; I love literature, but I hate poetry.
don't get smart with me	show more respect, do not <a href="#">talk back</a>	If you ask why, she'll say, "Don't get smart with me."
don't give a crap [B]	do not care at all, do not value it, <a href="#">don't give a damn</a>	Janis doesn't care if he likes other girls. She said she doesn't give a crap.
don't give a damn [B]	do not care, am not interested, <a href="#">give a shit</a> [B]	Jack's late for class every day and I don't give a damn! He's a big boy now and it's his business!
don't give me any of your lip	do not <a href="#">talk back</a> , do not refuse to do what I ask	When the boy swore, she said, "Don't give me any of your lip."
don't give me that line/story etc.	do not tell me that false story	Don't give me that line about a cure for the common cold.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

Idioms: don't borrow trouble -- don't give me that line/story etc.

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms: don't go away mad; just go away -- don't know whether you're coming or going

Idiom	Meaning	Example
don't go away mad; just go away	do not be angry, but leave; you are not welcome here	He said to the heckler, "Don't go away mad; just go away."
don't go there	(See <a href="#">don't want to go there</a> )	
don't hand me that	(See <a href="#">don't give me that</a> )	
don't have a cow	don't become so excited or angry, <a href="#">chill out</a> )	"Do you want a punch in the nose?" "Now, Ralph, don't have a cow."
don't hold your breath	it is not going to happen soon, be prepared to wait	The City will repair the street but don't hold your breath.
don't knock it	don't be negative, it could be worse	"I only got a <i>C</i> for my report." "Don't knock it. I got a <i>D</i> ."
don't know him from Adam	do not know who he is, have never met him	The man says he knows me, but I don't know him from Adam.
don't know the first thing about it	do not know anything about it	I can't fix a transmission. I don't know the first thing about it.
don't know the half of it	do not know all the facts, have not heard all of it	Yes, they got divorced, but you don't know the half of it.
don't know whether you're coming or going	you are confused, you do not understand, <a href="#">go in circles</a>	If you believe the cult leaders, you won't know whether you're coming or going.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: don't go away mad; just go away -- don't know whether you're coming or going

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: don't know which end is up -- don't push your luck

Idiom	Meaning	Example
don't know which end is up	are confused, are <a href="#">mixed up</a>	After talking to four bureaucrats, I didn't know which end was up.
don't know which side your bread is buttered on	do not know what is really important, have not learned much about life	If you refuse the assistance, you don't know which side your bread is buttered on.
don't know your ass from a hole in the ground [B]	you are ignorant, you are mistaken, <a href="#">mixed up</a>	He said one member of the cult was so confused he didn't know his ass from a hole in the ground.
don't look a gift horse in the mouth	do not be critical of a gift; be grateful for a gift	Don't evaluate a gift. Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.
don't make a mountain out of a molehill	do not cause a big fuss about a small problem	So I scratched the car. Don't make a mountain out of a molehill.
don't make me laugh	do not be ridiculous, <a href="#">don't give me that line</a>	When I said I wrote the novel, he said, "Don't make me laugh."
don't make no nevermind	(See <a href="#">it don't make no nevermind</a> )	
don't make waves	do not do anything that will cause problems	Our company has changed a lot. Don't make any more waves.
don't mention it	it was no trouble, <a href="#">no problem</a>	"Thanks for the ride," I said. "Don't mention it," he replied.
don't push your luck	do not try to get too much, do not ask for more	If Mom says <i>maybe</i> , don't push your luck. Be patient.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: don't know which end is up -- don't push your luck

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a good sport -- a hassle

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a good sport	a person who is fair and friendly	What a good sport! You never complain, even when you lose.
a grain of salt	(See <a href="#">take it with a grain of salt</a> )	
a grain of truth	a bit of truth, <a href="#">take it with a grain...</a>	There's not a grain of truth in what Brian says. It's all untrue.
a handful	a child who is difficult to manage	Jason is not easy to manage. He is a real handful for his mother.
a handout	free food or money, <a href="#">freeload</a>	I'm not asking for a handout. I'll pay you back when I find work.
a hard day	a day full of hard work, <a href="#">put in a hard day</a>	You look tired, Dear. Did you have a hard day at the office?
a hard-on [B]	an erect penis, a hard penis	When our dog gets a hard-on, he tries to crawl up my leg.
a hard row to hoe	a difficult task, many problems	A single parent has a hard row to hoe, working day and night.
a hard time	teasing or bugging, <a href="#">a bad time</a>	Ken will give you a hard time about missing that free throw.
a hassle	a problem, a bother	The tax form is a hassle this year. It's difficult to understand.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: a good sport -- a hassle

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: don't put all your eggs in one basket -- done it all

Idiom	Meaning	Example
don't put all your eggs in one basket	do not invest all the money in one company	Balance your investments. Don't put all your eggs in one basket.
don't rock the boat	do not cause a change, do not upset anybody	If the team is winning, don't rock the boat. Don't change anything.
don't sweat it	do not worry about it, you can't <a href="#">saw sawdust</a>	If you did your best but didn't win a medal, don't sweat it.
don't teach your grandmother how to suck eggs	do not tell me what I know, do not say what is obvious	You, a history major, telling me, a war veteran, about war? Don't teach your grandmother how to suck eggs!
don't think so	do not believe it is so, think not	"Do you have dandruff?" "I don't think so."
don't want to go there	do not want to talk about it, it is not a pleasant topic	My divorce? We don't want to go there. It's ugly!
done for	defeated, beaten, hopeless	We were done for until Tim hit a home run and we won the game.
done good	did well, performed well, <a href="#">did good</a>	After watching the race, his dad said, "You done good, Son."
done in	very tired, <a href="#">dead tired</a> , <a href="#">all in</a>	After the roundup, the old-timer was done in - exhausted.
done it all	had a lot of experience, done every activity	We need a manager who's done it all - done all the jobs.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: don't put all your eggs in one basket -- done it all

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: done to a turn -- double or nothing

Idiom	Meaning	Example
done to a turn	cooked or baked until very tasty	The steaks were done to a turn - brown and juicy.
done with it	finished using it, not using it	Just leave the pen on my desk when you're done with it.
Donnybrook	a fight involving many people - especially in a game of hockey	The Flames and the Oilers had another Donnybrook last night - a bench-clearing brawl.
doo-doo	excrement, shit, <a href="#">doggy doo</a> , <a href="#">in deep doo-doo</a> , <a href="#">poop</a>	My shoe really stinks. I must have stepped in some doo-doo!
door to door	going from one house to the next house	We went door to door asking for donations for the team.
dork [B]	penis, <a href="#">dick</a> , <a href="#">hoo-haw</a>	"Does your dork shrink after you've been swimming?" "Ya. That's natural."
dork [B]	foolish person, <a href="#">dipstick</a> , <a href="#">jerk</a> , <a href="#">lamebrain</a>	What a dork! He drove off the road to pass that car!
double-cross	break a promise, <a href="#">cheat on</a> someone	He promised not to tell you, but he did. He double-crossed me.
double-edged sword	(See <a href="#">a double-edged sword</a> )	
double or nothing	double the first bet and if I win, I owe nothing	After losing the first bet, I said, "Double or nothing this time?"

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: done to a turn -- double or nothing

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: double take -- down and out

Idiom	Meaning	Example
double take	look again in disbelief, <a href="#">can't believe my eyes</a>	She did a double take when Clint Eastwood walked into the store.
double-talk	confusing talk, <a href="#">bafflegab</a>	His explanation of the government decision was a lot of double-talk.
double whammy	two events or experiences that happen close together, synchronicity	Talk about a double whammy! My boss tells me I've lost my job, and you tell me I've won the lottery!
dough	money, dollars, <a href="#">moola</a>	Did you get some dough? We need money to buy groceries.
doughhead	someone who does not think before acting	Don't ever call him a doughhead again. He's my boyfriend.
dove	a person who wants peace, pacifist	The doves complained when the US built more nuclear weapons.
down	sad, depressed, <a href="#">low</a>	She's been down ever since her cat died. She misses her cat.
down a peg	(See <a href="#">take him down a peg</a> )	
down and dirty	not polite, rude, vulgar	The next song is down and dirty. It's called <i>Snake's Pad</i> .
down and out	poor and unlucky, bumming and boozing	When he was down and out, he went to the Salvation Army.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: double take -- down and out

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: down for the count -- down the hatch

Idiom	Meaning	Example
down for the count	defeated by an opponent, out of the contest	Chad was down for the count. He couldn't get up.
down home	simple but good, old fashioned	Hey, Ma. I can't wait to taste your down-home cookin'.
down in the dumps	sad, not happy, depressed, <a href="#">down in the mouth</a>	Shelly was down in the dumps until her boyfriend arrived.
down in the mouth	looking sad, having a sad face, <a href="#">a sad sack</a>	You'd be down in the mouth, too, if you'd just lost your job.
down my throat	(See <a href="#">shove down my throat</a> )	
down on his luck	not lucky lately, not happy or positive	With no money and no job, Ragnar was down on his luck.
down pat	memorized, just right	Flora had her speech down pat. She had practised it many times.
down the drain	lost, wasted, squandered	His fortune went down the drain when he began to gamble.
down the garden path	(See <a href="#">lead you down the garden path</a> )	
down the hatch	down the throat and into the stomach	Another pickled egg went down the hatch. Yum!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: down for the count -- down the hatch

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: down the line -- down to the wire

Idiom	Meaning	Example
down the line	in the future, later, <a href="#">down the road</a>	Down the line, we'll meet again and laugh about our disagreement.
down the pike	toward us, at us, <a href="#">what's going down</a>	Management keeps sending complaints down the pike, and we don't send anything back!
down the road	dismissed, <a href="#">fired</a>	Disagree with the boss and you'll soon be down the road.
down the road	in the future, in a few years	We plan to have an office in both cities - but that's down the road.
down the tubes	lost or gone, ruined, <a href="#">up the creek</a>	You have to advertise, or your business will go down the tubes.
down to a T	perfectly, exactly, <a href="#">down pat</a>	Sharon is wonderful in the play. She has her part down to a T.
down to brass tacks	(See <a href="#">get down to brass tacks</a> )	
down to earth	humble, not proud, <a href="#">the salt of the earth</a>	I like Mrs. Wilson because she's so down to earth, so natural.
down to the short strokes	nearly finished a job, almost completed a task	"How's it going? Are you nearly finished?" "We're down to the short strokes - we just have to paint the doors."
down to the wire	to the last minute, near the end	The first two games went down to the wire - very close scores.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: down the line -- down to the wire

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: down under -- drag

Idiom	Meaning	Example
down under	Australia, New Zealand, etc.	Next year I'm going down under for my holidays - New Zealand.
down with	do not support, stop that plan, <a href="#">not</a>	"Down with the sales tax!" they shouted. "Down with the tax!"
downer (drug)	(See <a href="#">a downer</a> )	
downer (sadness)	(See <a href="#">a downer</a> )	
downhearted	sad, unhappy, <a href="#">down</a>	"Are you downhearted, my dear?" "No. Just quiet, my love."
downplay	say it is not important, <a href="#">soft pedal</a>	They tried to downplay the fact that smoking caused the fire.
downside	(See <a href="#">the downside</a> )	
downtime	time needed to repair a machine	When you own a computer, you have to expect some downtime.
draft dodger	a person who runs away from military service	American draft dodgers came to Canada in the 1970s.
drag	(See <a href="#">a drag</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: drag it out -- draw a sober breath

Idiom	Meaning	Example
drag it out	take a long time to finish, speak for a long time	When James tells a ghost story, he drags it out for an hour.
drag on	go for a long time, last for hours or days	The funeral dragged on and on - for three days!
drag queen	man dressed in women's clothing, transvestite	Don's a transvestite. They call him "the drag queen of Fag Street."
drag race	two cars racing from a stop light	"Did you see the drag race?" "Ya. The Corvette won."
drag your feet	work too slow, prevent progress	They're dragging their feet. Tell them to work faster.
dragged through a...	(See <a href="#">look like he was dragged through a knothole</a> )	
drain the swamp	remove what prevents a clear view of the problem	If I were manager, my first step would be to drain the swamp.
drat	oh no, <a href="#">nuts</a> , <a href="#">rats</a> , <a href="#">scrut</a>	Drat! I've lost the key. How can we get into the apartment?
draw a blank	be unable to think of an answer, <a href="#">mind go blank</a>	For some reason, I drew a blank when the professor questioned me.
draw a sober breath	be sober, not be drunk	They say he hasn't drawn a sober breath since his son was killed.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: drag it out -- draw a sober breath

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: draw attention to -- dress down

Idiom	Meaning	Example
draw attention to	ask people to notice; show or display to people	If you wear a short skirt, you draw attention to your legs.
draw first blood	attack first, be first to hit or win	The Jets drew first blood in the series, winning game one 5-4.
draw it to my attention	tell me about it, cause me to be aware of it	Spelling <i>is</i> a problem. Thanks for drawing it to my attention.
draw the line	stop, refuse to do it	When it comes to drugs, he draws the line. He won't touch them.
draw their fire	get attention while a friend moves or escapes	You draw their fire while I move behind them. You distract them.
draw upon	recall and use, remember	At university, I drew upon my knowledge of Russian history.
drawing card	entertainment to attract people, <a href="#">loss leader</a>	The community hired a comedian as a drawing card for the fair.
dream on	you are not being realistic, <a href="#">get your head out...</a>	You expect me to buy you a Corvette? Dream on!
dress clothes	good, expensive clothes	"Why don't you change your dress clothes before you repair the car?"
dress down	(See <a href="#">a dressing down</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: draw attention to -- dress down

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: dress down -- drive a hard bargain

Idiom	Meaning	Example
dress down	dress in casual clothes, dress informally	It's a library party, so dress down. Wear something casual.
dress rehearsal	the last rehearsal before the performance, <a href="#">dry run</a>	All actors must come to the dress rehearsal - our last practice.
dress up	dress in your best clothes, put on <a href="#">glad rags</a>	Everybody got dressed up for the banquet. Roy wore his new suit.
dressed fit to kill	dressed in party clothes, <a href="#">dolled up</a> , <a href="#">dress up</a> , <a href="#">gussied up</a>	In walks Erica, dressed fit to kill. She looked terrific!
dressed to the nines	dressed in high fashion, <a href="#">gussied up</a>	Here I am in jeans. Everybody else is dressed to the nines.
dribs and drabs	(See <a href="#">in dribs and drabs</a> )	
drink like a fish	drink a lot of liquor every day	If Hal is coming to visit, buy lots of beer. He drinks like a fish.
drink up	drink your wine etc., <a href="#">bottoms up</a>	Drink up, my friends. It's Buddy's birthday!
drink you under the table	drink more liquor than you, drink and not <a href="#">pass out</a> , <a href="#">put you away</a>	After three glasses of beer, you're nearly drunk. I bet I can drink you under the table!
drive a hard bargain	pay a low price, negotiate firmly	When buying land, Cal drives a hard bargain. He pays low prices.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: dress down -- drive a hard bargain

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: drive around -- drive you to distraction

Idiom	Meaning	Example
drive around	drive a car up and down the streets, <a href="#">tooling around</a>	At night we drove around town, looking for something to do.
drive it home	make a message clear, say it so they understand	When you talk about safe sex, drive it home. Stress safety.
drive me batty	cause me to be insane, <a href="#">drive me crazy</a>	The noise from that motorcycle is driving me batty!
drive me crazy	cause me to feel crazy, <a href="#">bug me a lot</a>	That TV commercial drives me crazy! It's on every channel!
drive me to the edge	cause me to be nearly mad or insane	When those chipmunks sing, it drives me to the edge!
drive me up the wall	cause me to feel anxious; go <a href="#">around the bend</a>	I won't babysit at the Kaplans. The kids drive me up the wall.
drive standard	shift gears on a car or truck	Can you drive standard? My car has a five-speed transmission.
drive you	hit you, punch you, <a href="#">cream you</a>	If you get pushy, he'll drive you. He's got a bad temper.
drive you nuts	cause you to feel crazy, drive you crazy (see <a href="#">drive me crazy</a> )	Working for Harry will drive you nuts. He's a perfectionist.
drive you to distraction	cause you to lose thoughts, <a href="#">drive me up the wall</a>	Her continual chatter will drive you to distraction.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: drive around -- drive you to distraction

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a head start -- a hit

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a head start	a chance to start ahead of the other runners etc.	Give the smallest runner a head start. He can't run very fast.
a heavy day	a busy day, <a href="#">a hard day</a>	At the end of a heavy day he likes to sit on the patio and read.
a heavy hitter	a person who can hurt you, <a href="#">a heavyweight</a>	Al is a heavy hitter. Don't try to cheat him.
a heavyweight	a person with a lot of power, <a href="#">a heavy hitter</a> , <a href="#">a shogun</a> , <a href="#">VIP</a>	If you're promoted to vice-president, you'll be a heavyweight - a powerful person!
a hell of a time	a difficult task, an awful time, <a href="#">a dickens of a time</a>	When he's drunk I have a hell of a time getting his car keys. He doesn't want to give me his keys.
a hell of a time	a great time, a wonderful event, <a href="#">a blast</a>	"How was the party?" "I wish you had come - we had a hell of a time!"
a helping hand	help with a job or task, <a href="#">lend a hand</a>	May was always ready with a helping hand.
a hill of beans	a small amount, very little	The money he lost doesn't amount to a hill of beans.
a hit	a popular song or movie, an idea everybody likes	Remember the song <i>Michelle</i> ? It was quite a hit.
a hit	a drug dose, drugs from a needle	When she's depressed, she'll do anything for a hit.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: a head start -- a hit

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: drive you to drink -- drop charges

Idiom	Meaning	Example
drive you to drink	cause you to drink alcohol or want to be drunk	His critical attitude will drive you to drink. I had to resign.
drop	stop taking a subject, withdraw, <a href="#">drop out</a>	You wouldn't drop English! It's the key to other subjects.
drop a bundle	lose money by gambling, <a href="#">lose your shirt</a>	I dropped a bundle at the track last night. I lost every bet.
drop a hint	suggest, give a sign	When he was hungry, he'd drop a hint, like point at the fridge.
drop a line	write a letter, send a postcard	Be sure to drop us a line from Paris. Tell us about your trip.
drop a log [B]	have a bowel movement, <a href="#">take a shit</a> [B]	What a smell! Open a window after you drop a log, eh.
drop a name / drop names	pretend you know famous people, <a href="#">name-dropper</a>	He was dropping names at the interview - Klein, Clinton, etc.
drop back	run slower than before, run further behind	Our horse dropped back to fourth place and lost the race.
drop behind	run further behind, <a href="#">lose ground</a>	Our party has dropped behind in the polls. We're in second place.
drop charges	withdraw complaints, not <a href="#">press charges</a>	I realized it was an accident, so I dropped the charges.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: drive you to drink -- drop charges

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: drop dead -- drop off

Idiom	Meaning	Example
drop dead	you are badly mistaken, <a href="#">go to hell</a> [B]	If you think I'm getting on that motorcycle, you can drop dead.
drop her/him	leave her, not date her anymore, tube her (see <a href="#">tube him</a> )	She wouldn't quit smoking, so I dropped her - told her it was off.
drop him like a hot potato	leave him, not associate with him	If she finds out you're not rich, she'll drop you like a hot potato.
drop in	visit, go to see, <a href="#">drop over</a>	When you come to Edmonton, be sure to drop in for a visit.
drop-in	visitor, one who <a href="#">drops in</a>	He was a drop-in at the Seniors' Centre. He liked to go there.
drop in the bucket	(See <a href="#">a drop in the bucket</a> )	
drop it	stop talking about it, do not say any more	When I mentioned his accident, he told me to drop it.
drop like flies	dying in great numbers, falling dead on the floor	When a pox infected the tribe, people were dropping like flies.
drop off	deliver, drive and leave a parcel	I'll drop off the parcel today. What's your address?
drop off	go to sleep, doze, <a href="#">fall asleep</a>	I only dropped off for a second. I was awake for the news.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: drop dead -- drop off

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: drop off -- drugstore cowboy

Idiom	Meaning	Example
drop off	reduce, diminish, <a href="#">slip</a> , <a href="#">slow down</a>	Sales have dropped off recently. Maybe we should advertise.
drop out	quit, stop attending	I have decided not to drop out of school. I'm going to continue.
drop out of sight	disappear, not be seen for awhile	After the scandal, he dropped out of sight. I haven't seen him.
drop over	visit, come and talk	Our friends dropped over last night for a cup of coffee.
drop the ball	fail to do or complete a task, not <a href="#">follow through</a>	Who dropped the ball? I'll tell you who! We dropped the ball - you and I. We need to take responsibility for our lives and our world!
drop the other shoe	(See <a href="#">wait for the other shoe to drop</a> )	
drop your drawers	take your pants down, remove your shorts	Don't you hate it when you have to drop your drawers for a nurse?
drop your gloves (hockey)	remove your gloves to fight with your fists	Don't drop your gloves in this game. There's no fighting.
drown your sorrow	drink until the sadness goes away	Jay drowned her sorrow in wine. Then she had a headache.
drugstore cowboy	a boy or man dressed like a cowboy, a fake cowboy, <a href="#">dude</a>	"Are you a drugstore cowboy?" "No sir. I got Wrangler jeans an' dung on my boots - I chew tobacco an' I c'n spit real good!"

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: drop off -- drugstore cowboy

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: drum up -- ducky

Idiom	Meaning	Example
drum up	create interest in, recruit, find some customers	We have a million widgets to sell. Let's drum up some customers.
dry out	stop using alcohol, <a href="#">on the wagon</a>	She's drying out at a treatment centre. It's a four-week program.
dry run	complete rehearsal, <a href="#">walk through</a>	Let's do a dry run of our play so I can add the background music.
dry up	stop talking, be quiet	I wish he'd dry up. He talks too much.
dubs	everyone pays for his own food; <a href="#">Dutch treat</a>	If we go to the cafe, it's dubs. We each pay for our own treat.
duck out	leave, run away, desert, <a href="#">skip out</a> , <a href="#">jam</a>	"Where did you go?" "I ducked out when the gang walked in."
duck soup	easy, quick, <a href="#">a piece of cake</a>	If you know how to move the decimal point, calculating a percentage is easy - it's duck soup!
duck's guts	(See <a href="#">it's the duck's guts</a> )	
ducks in a row (ducks in order)	organized, planned; each person knows his job	I have to get my ducks in a row before the sale on Tuesday.
ducky	great, fine, lovely	"Somebody left the gate open and the horses are gone!" "That's ducky, just ducky!"

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: drum up -- ducky

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: dude -- dump on

Idiom	Meaning	Example
dude	a man who dresses like a cowboy or rancher to impress people, any guy who dresses and acts cool, <a href="#">drugstore cowboy</a>	Hey dude! Got your party clothes on? You look real pretty!
due north	straight north, directly north	Follow the winding road west to the junction; then go due north.
duh	how stupid, do you know anything? <a href="#">go figure</a> , <a href="#">ignorance is bliss</a>	I didn't know how to spell comeuppance. Duh!
duke it out	fight with your fists, punch each other	Gerry wanted to duke it out with the referee - tried to punch him.
duke's mixture	(See <a href="#">a duke's mixture</a> )	
dumb as a sack of hammers	(See <a href="#">as dumb as a sack of hammers</a> )	
dumbbell	one who does not think, <a href="#">an airhead</a> , <a href="#">knucklehead</a>	What a dumbbell I am! I locked the keys in the car.
dumbo	a person who acts stupid, a fool, a <a href="#">dipstick</a>	Hey, dumbo! You're driving on the wrong side of the road!
dump her/him	leave her or him, <a href="#">drop her</a> , tube her (see <a href="#">tube him</a> )	Sid and Marie had a fight, so he dumped her and began seeing me.
dump on	unload the dirty jobs, give what is left over	They dump on Karen too much. They give her the large classes.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

Idioms: dude -- dump on

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: Dumpster diving -- dying seconds

Idiom	Meaning	Example
Dumpster diving	searching in the garbage to find bottles etc.	No. This college does not offer a course in Dumpster diving.
durn	(See <a href="#">darn</a> )	
dust	ruined, dead, <a href="#">done for</a> , <a href="#">toast</a>	If you smuggle drugs into the US, you're dust. You'll go to jail.
dust bunny	ball of dust on the floor, dust that looks like fur	On Saturday morning I vacuum up the dust bunnies before I go out.
dust devil	small whirlwind, twister	Dust devils seemed to follow us as we walked across the field.
dust-up	(See <a href="#">a dust-up</a> )	
Dutch treat	everyone pays for his/her own lunch etc.; <a href="#">dubs</a>	When we go for eats, let's go Dutch. That's fair, eh.
duty calls	it is my duty, I must do a task	"Duty calls," he said, opening a book to begin his homework.
dyed in the wool	confirmed, certain of his beliefs, <a href="#">card-carrying ...</a>	A dyed-in-the-wool democrat - that's me. I believe in democracy.
dying seconds	(See <a href="#">the dying seconds</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms: dying to know -- dying to know

Idiom	Meaning	Example
dying to know	wants to know, is very curious	Amy is dying to know the name of the guy in the leather jacket.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: each to his own -- ears pinned back

Idiom	Meaning	Example
each to his own	(See <a href="#">to each his own</a> )	
eager beaver	a person who wants to work	Joan is the eager beaver in this class. She likes to work.
eagle eyes	a person who can see details or errors	We call him <i>Eagle Eyes</i> because he finds so many lost golf balls.
ear candy	music that is pleasant, beautiful music	The theme music in the movie <i>Out of Africa</i> is ear candy.
ear to the ground	(See <a href="#">keep your ear to the ground</a> )	
earful	(See <a href="#">an earful</a> )	
early bird	(See <a href="#">the early bird gets the worm</a> )	
ears are burning	the "ears" in your mind hear people talking about you	"How did you know we were talking about you?" "Because my ears were burning!"
ears lowered	(See <a href="#">have my ears lowered</a> )	
ears pinned back	told to behave, disciplined	The rowdy kid needs his ears pinned back. Tell him to behave.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: ease up -- eat humble pie

Idiom	Meaning	Example
ease up	work or play slower, <a href="#">take it easy</a> on	Ease up on the younger players, eh. Don't work them too hard.
ease up	not push as much, reduce the pressure, <a href="#">let up</a>	You can ease up on the gas pedal when we reach 100 km per hour.
easy as pie	very easy to do, <a href="#">a piece of cake</a>	That math problem is easy as pie. I'll show you how to do it.
easy come, easy go	if we get things free we do not worry when we lose them	As Ming was spending his lottery money, he said, "Easy come, easy go."
easy pickings	an easy task or job, <a href="#">a piece of cake</a>	It was a multiple-choice test - easy pickings if you studied.
easy street	an easy life, a life with lots of money to spend	Win five million dollars and we'll be on easy street.
easy time of it	not much work to do, an easy life	While living with his wealthy aunt, he had an easy time of it.
eat crow	admit you were wrong, take back what you said (see <a href="#">take it back</a> )	When I lost the bet, I had to eat crow - admit I was wrong.
eat high off the hog	(See <a href="#">high on the hog</a> )	
eat humble pie	admit I did not play well, feel humble after defeat	Ben had to eat humble pie after he finished fourth in the race.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: ease up -- eat humble pie

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: eat it up -- eat you out of house and home

Idiom	Meaning	Example
eat it up	finish eating some food, eat all of the food	That's a good boy. Eat it up and then you can go out to play.
eat it up	believe a story, <a href="#">eat out of the palm...</a>	The children were eating it up - every word the teacher said.
eat like a horse	eat a lot, <a href="#">pig out</a>	Barney eats like a horse. He has a monstrous appetite.
eat my hat/shirt	be very surprised or shocked if it is true	If the Vancouver Canucks win the Cup, I'll eat my hat!
eat out	eat at a restaurant, eat at a cafe	On Friday evenings we eat out, usually at a Greek restaurant.
eat out of the palm of your hand	do whatever you ask, obey you, <a href="#">win the hearts</a>	If you tell the children a story, you'll have them eating out of the palm of your hand.
eat that	believe that, <a href="#">buy that</a> , <a href="#">swallow that</a>	After listening to the UFO scientist, my uncle said, "Are we supposed to eat that?"
eat up	begin to eat, continue to eat, <a href="#">dig in</a>	Eat up, folks. We have lots of pancakes.
eat you for breakfast	defeat you easily, <a href="#">have you for breakfast</a>	In a game of racquetball he'll eat you for breakfast. He's quick.
eat you out of house and home	eat all your food, <a href="#">pig out</a>	Our son's team came to dinner and ate us out of house and home!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: eat it up -- eat you out of house and home

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a hollow leg -- a hotdog

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a hollow leg	space for a lot of drink, room for a lot of beer	Parl drank six bottles of beer. He must have a hollow leg!
a holy pile	a lot, very much, <a href="#">tons</a>	To feed 20 people, you need a holy pile of spaghetti.
a hoot	a time of laughter, a good time, <a href="#">a riot</a>	Last night we went to Maude's party. It was a hoot.
a horse of a different color	a different matter, a separate issue	If he wants to <i>buy</i> the land, that's a horse of a different color.
a horse's ass [B]	a fool, a <a href="#">jerk</a>	After three drinks he was acting like a horse's ass.
a hot hand	lucky in card games or at gambling	Walter's got a hot hand tonight. He's won four games of poker.
a hot number	a couple (or topic) that everyone is talking about	Paul and Rita are a hot number now. They're in love.
a hot ticket	a popular item, a product that people want	Anything with James Dean's picture on it is a hot ticket.
a hot topic	popular topic, <a href="#">the talk of the town</a>	Sex is a hot topic. Sex will get their attention.
a hotdog	one who plays only for the crowd, a <a href="#">show-off</a>	Eddie was a hotdog - always trying to excite the crowd.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: a hollow leg -- a hotdog

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: eat your fill -- eh

Idiom	Meaning	Example
eat your fill	eat until you are satisfied, eat as much as you can	Eat your fill. You won't have another meal till we get home.
eat your heart out	envy my prize, wish that you had one	When Kurt won the Porsche, he said, "Eat your heart out, guys."
eat your words	regret what you said, admit you were wrong	He told me the answer, and I had to eat my words. I was wrong.
eating you	(See <a href="#">what's eating you</a> )	
edgy	nervous, cranky, <a href="#">touchy</a>	You're kind of edgy today. Did you sleep well last night?
eff 'im [B]	fuck him, tell him to <a href="#">fuck off</a> , <a href="#">the F-word</a>	I've had enough of his lack of responsibility! Eff 'im!
egg me on	encourage me, tell me to do it	I didn't want to steal the exam, but they egged me on.
egg on my face	embarrassed, outsmarted	I made a deal with Jake and ended up with egg on my face.
ego trip	feeling of self importance, feeling superior	If you tell him he played well, he'll go on an ego trip.
eh	you understand, you know what I am taking about	There were three boys but only two girls, eh.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: eat your fill -- eh

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: eighty-six it -- even a blind pig can find an acorn

Idiom	Meaning	Example
eighty-six it	take it off the list, it is one too many, <a href="#">smithwright it</a>	Our menu has too many entrees. Let's eighty-six the beef stroganoff.
eke out a living	earn or grow enough to survive	On the small farm we were able to eke out a living.
elbow room	room to move among people, space in a crowd	On the streets of Hong Kong there wasn't much elbow room.
electronic superhighway	a computer network, <a href="#">Internet</a>	We can find more information on the electronic superhighway.
end justifies the means	(See <a href="#">the end justifies the means</a> )	
end of the line	(See <a href="#">the end of the line</a> )	
end up	where you stop or finish, the end of a journey	We often end up sleeping at Ty's house. His mom doesn't mind.
enough is enough	it is time to stop, enough already	"Enough is enough!" she said after my sixth piece of pie.
even	we do not owe each other, <a href="#">a wash</a> , <a href="#">call it square</a>	I owe you \$20, but I gave you a haircut, so we're even.
even a blind pig can find an acorn	if you keep looking and trying you may succeed	"Hey, Bill. Think you'll ever get that car started?" "Maybe. Even a blind pig can find an acorn."

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: eighty-six it -- even a blind pig can find an acorn

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: even keel -- everything old is new again

Idiom	Meaning	Example
even keel	(See <a href="#">keep an even keel</a> )	
even so	regardless, no matter	"He doesn't need the money." "Even so, I must repay the loan."
even-steven	equal work or achievement, evenly matched	After one lap, Karim and I were even-steven. We were tied.
even up	equal parts, equal pieces for each person	They split the profits even up - 50% to each partner.
every cloud has a silver lining	every bad thing has its perks, bad luck is never entirely bad	Mark missed his bus, but when he came in late he found that the class had written a math test.
every trick in the book	every method or device, every way of doing it	If you want to find boys, Keiko knows every trick in the book.
every walk of life	every occupation, all lifestyles	People from every walk of life attend our church.
everything but the kitchen sink	almost everything, <a href="#">the whole works</a>	We put everything in his truck, everything but the kitchen sink!
everything from soup to nuts	a lot of food or things, a variety of groceries	His shopping cart was full. He had everything from soup to nuts.
everything old is new again	fashions and trends are repeated or revived	Hey, if miniskirts are back, everything old is new again!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: even keel -- everything old is new again

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: ex -- eyes glaze over

Idiom	Meaning	Example
ex	former wife or husband; girlfriend or boyfriend	His ex got the Mercedes; he got the truck.
exit stage left	departure, <a href="#">gonzo</a> , <a href="#">out of here</a> ( <a href="#">outa here</a> )	When that bull got loose, I did an exit stage left!
expand your horizons	experience or discover new ideas or goals or cultures	Travel, read, discuss - expand your horizons!
eye candy	something that is nice to look at, a beautiful object	She was eye candy. I've never seen a more beautiful car!
eye for an eye	(See <a href="#">an eye for an eye</a> )	
eye of a needle	(See <a href="#">the eye of a needle</a> )	
eye of the storm	(See <a href="#">the eye of the storm</a> )	
eye to eye	(See <a href="#">see eye to eye</a> )	
eyeball this	look at this, <a href="#">check this out</a> , <a href="#">peep this</a>	Eyeball this, guys! My hair is curly!
eyes glaze over	eyes express disbelief or "I've heard this before"	When I told him I'd pay the rent <i>next</i> week, his eyes glazed over.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: eyes peeled -- eyes peeled

Idiom	Meaning	Example
eyes peeled	(See <a href="#">keep your eyes peeled</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: F-word -- fair to middling

Idiom	Meaning	Example
F-word	(See <a href="#">the F-word</a> )	
face facts	accept the truth, deal with reality, <a href="#">come to grips</a>	If we face facts, we can see that one salary is not enough.
face the music	face the results of our actions, be responsible	If you damage the car, you must face the music - pay for repairs.
face up	admit that you did it, <a href="#">own up</a>	If Karl caused the problem, he'll face up. He'll admit it.
fag/faggot	gay or homosexual man	Sean is a fag; he admits it.
faint of heart	timid, not courageous, <a href="#">chicken</a> , <a href="#">lily-livered</a>	Sky diving is not for people who are faint of heart.
fair game	legal to hunt or shoot or criticize, <a href="#">open season</a>	An elected politician is fair game for criticism.
fair-haired boy	favorite boy, favorite man	He's the fair-haired boy in this office. They think he's perfect.
fair shake	(See <a href="#">a fair shake</a> )	
fair to middling	moderately good, about average, <a href="#">so-so</a>	"How's the barley crop this year?" "Oh, fair to middling. Could use a good rain."

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: fair-weather friend -- fall for

Idiom	Meaning	Example
fair-weather friend	a friend who leaves when I have problems, one who does not <a href="#">stand by me</a>	Simon is looking for a loyal friend, not a fair-weather friend.
fake it	create the parts you forget, <a href="#">fudge it</a> , <a href="#">make up</a>	If he forgets the words, he fakes it. He thinks of new words.
folderol	(See <a href="#">a lot of folderol</a> )	
fall apart (at the seams)	be unable to cope or manage, <a href="#">come unglued</a>	After his wife died, he fell apart. He lost interest in everything.
fall asleep	begin to sleep, <a href="#">drop off</a>	Don't fall asleep while we're in church. It's embarrassing.
fall behind	be unable to run as fast, <a href="#">drop behind</a>	You will fall behind in your work if you miss a week of school.
fall between the cracks	(See <a href="#">fall through the cracks</a> )	
fall between two stools	not clearly one type or the other, <a href="#">neither fish nor fowl</a>	This vehicle is part bike and part car. It falls between two stools.
fall flat on my face	fail completely, embarrass myself, <a href="#">blow it</a> , <a href="#">make a mistake</a>	If I tried to speak Polish, I would fall flat on my face! You would laugh at my poor Polish!
fall for	begin to love, <a href="#">fall in love</a> with	When I was in Grade 8, I fell for Miss Kramer. She was beautiful.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: fair-weather friend -- fall for

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: fall for that -- fall on your sword

Idiom	Meaning	Example
fall for that	believe that, <a href="#">eat that</a>	Surely you're not going to fall for that story. It's nonsense.
fall head over heels	(See <a href="#">head over heels</a> )	
fall ill	to become sick or infected, <a href="#">come down with</a>	Just before the concert, Wolfgang fell ill and was unable to play his last composition.
fall in line	do as others are doing, obey orders	Although Barry doesn't like the new rules, he'll fall in line.
fall in love	begin to love, feel romantic about, <a href="#">head over heels</a>	Michael and Rose have fallen in love. They're very happy.
fall into a trap	be tricked, be deceived	When the lawyer asks questions, don't fall into a trap.
fall into my lap	find without looking, receive without asking	Reg got another job offer today. Things seem to fall into his lap.
fall off the wagon	become drunk again, return to a bad habit	The old man fell off the wagon. He got drunk last night.
fall on deaf ears	talk to people who will not listen, <a href="#">really deaf</a>	If you talk to the workers about management's problems, your message will fall on deaf ears.
fall on your sword	quit, resign, <a href="#">pull the pin</a>	I know I caused the problem, but I won't fall on my sword. They'll have to fire me.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: fall for that -- fall on your sword

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: fall-out -- familiarity breeds contempt

Idiom	Meaning	Example
fall-out	harmful effects, continuing effects	We still feel the fall-out from his negative speech on abortion.
fall short	not able to do as well as planned	I'm falling short of my career goals because I've been ill.
fall through	not happen, not succeed, not <a href="#">come off</a> , not <a href="#">pan out</a>	His plans to write a novel fell through because he didn't get a government grant.
fall through the cracks	not be included, be overlooked, <a href="#">leave out</a>	These children fell through the cracks. They didn't learn to read.
fall to pieces	be unable to talk or reply, be overwhelmed	When I see Mario, I just fall to pieces. He's so handsome!
fallen woman	prostitute, <a href="#">hooker</a>	The priest was trying to save the fallen women in his parish.
falling in love	beginning to feel love, being in love	They say that falling in love is wonderful - marvelous!
falling out	(See <a href="#">a falling out</a> )	
false move	(See <a href="#">a false move</a> )	
familiarity breeds contempt	a friend may dislike you if you do not respect his or her privacy	Don't call Margaret <i>Maggie</i> . Remember, familiarity breeds contempt.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: fall-out -- familiarity breeds contempt

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: family jewels -- fast lane

Idiom	Meaning	Example
family jewels	(See <a href="#">the family jewels</a> )	
family tree	chart of ancestors, record of parents' forefathers	Bo is helping me to research my family tree - my ancestors.
famous last words	a prediction that is false - the opposite happens, <a href="#">twist of fate</a>	"We don't need a spare tire. We never have flat tires on this car." "Sure. Famous last words!"
fancy footwork	neat maneuvers, clever moves	You did some fancy footwork to answer their questions. Bravo!
far cry	(See <a href="#">a far cry</a> )	
far out	unbelievable, fantastic, <a href="#">wow</a>	When I wear my bikini, he says, "Far out!"
fart around [B]	play instead of work, <a href="#">goof off</a> , <a href="#">hang out</a>	When we were kids we used to fart around at my uncle's store.
fart in a windstorm [B]	(See <a href="#">a fart in a windstorm</a> )	
fast friends	close friends, permanent friends	Sue and I became fast friends when we were in Grade 4.
fast lane	(See <a href="#">life in the fast lane</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: 'fraid so -- 'fraid so

Idiom	Meaning	Example
'fraid so	(See <a href="#">afraid so</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a hothead -- a kept woman

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a hothead	a person who gets angry easily; <a href="#">hot tempered</a>	Phil, don't be such a hothead. Try to control your anger.
a hotshot	a person who displays; <a href="#">show-off</a> , <a href="#">showboat</a>	What a hotshot he is - showing everybody his new car.
a household name	a name everyone knows; name of a famous person	Mario Lemieux, the hockey star, soon became a household name.
a howling blizzard	a very bad snowstorm, a winter storm	A howling blizzard delayed us. It was snowing and blowing.
a humdinger	a beautiful car etc. a well-designed product	Dad, you should see this coupe. It's a humdinger!
a into g	(See <a href="#">ass into gear</a> )	
a jim dandy	a fine piece of work, a beautiful object	Mom, you should just see this saddle. It's a jim dandy!
a.k.a. (aka)	also known as, alias, <a href="#">go by the name of</a>	William O'Connor - a.k.a. Wil, Willie, Billy Boy - was born in Ireland.
a keeper	something you want to keep for a long time	"Do you like my leather jacket?" "Ya, man. It's a keeper!"
a kept woman	a woman who is paid to live with a man	I'm tired of being a kept woman. I want to be free of him.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: a hothead -- a kept woman

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: fast track -- faze me out

Idiom	Meaning	Example
fast track	the quickest route or path, <a href="#">short cut</a>	There is no fast track to success in the field of photography.
faster than a minnow can swim a dipper	very fast, <a href="#">faster than a speeding bullet</a> , <a href="#">quicker than you can say Jack Robinson</a>	It hovered for a minute or so, then disappeared - faster than a minnow can swim a dipper!
faster than a speeding bullet	very fast, <a href="#">lightning fast</a> , <a href="#">greased lightning</a>	Who changes clothes in a phone booth and flies faster than a speeding bullet?
fastball	a baseball pitched at top speed (other pitches: slider, sinker, changeup, etc.)	Judd's fastball travels at about 95 miles per hour.
fat cat	rich or wealthy person, <a href="#">rolling in it</a>	They're the fat cats in our town. They've got tons of money.
fat chance	very little chance, not likely	Me? Type 100 words per minute? Fat chance!
fat lip	a hit on the lip, an injured lip	Where'd you get the fat lip? Did somebody hit you?
fate is sealed	destiny was known, fate was determined	When you said you loved me, that's when your fate was sealed.
faze me	bother me, affect me, not <a href="#">take it in stride</a>	When the announcer said that Rajesh had won the lottery, it didn't faze him. He just smiled and said, "That's nice."
faze me out	confuse me, surprise me, <a href="#">throw me for a loop</a>	The new expressions fazed me out. They confused me.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: fast track -- faze me out

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: feast or famine -- feel for

Idiom	Meaning	Example
feast or famine	we either have too little or too much, <a href="#">boom or bust</a>	When we were in business we'd have years of profit followed by years of loss. It was feast or famine.
feast your eyes on	enjoy looking at, <a href="#">get a load of</a>	I opened a box of diamonds and said, "Feast your eyes on these!"
feather a pass (hockey)	pass a puck accurately but softly	Nilsson could feather a pass better than the other players.
feather in your cap	(See <a href="#">a feather in your cap</a> )	
feather your nest	make a comfortable place, prepare your future place, <a href="#">nest egg</a>	Charles became a professor and began to feather his nest at the University of Manitoba.
fed up	tired of, disgusted with, <a href="#">had enough</a>	He's fed up with their laziness. I think he's angry with them.
feedback	reply, response, reaction to a plan, <a href="#">splashback</a>	"What is the feedback on our plan to cut education funds?" "Negative. People disapprove."
feel a draft	feel the air from someone who is talking too much	When Jake talks too much, Pete asks, "Does anyone feel a draft?"
feel blue	feel sad, <a href="#">down</a> , <a href="#">low</a>	When Mara goes away, Don feels blue. He's lonely and sad.
feel for	feel sympathy or pity for someone	I feel for kids who are homeless. I want to help them.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: feast or famine -- feel for

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: feel free -- fender bender

Idiom	Meaning	Example
feel free	feel that you may do it, <a href="#">by all means</a>	Feel free to use the library. You can read and study there.
feel myself	(See <a href="#">not feeling myself</a> )	
feel the pinch	feel a little bit poorer, feel there is less money	Now that we have only one income, we feel the pinch.
feeling bum	feeling lazy or negative, lacking energy	I'm feeling kind of bum today. I didn't sleep well last night.
feeling good	a little bit drunk, <a href="#">buzzed</a> , <a href="#">had a few</a>	After drinking a few beers Pat was feeling good.
feeling his oats	feeling energetic, feeling strong	Look at that cowboy dance! He's feeling his oats tonight.
feeling no pain	half drunk, <a href="#">half-corked</a>	After three drinks of rum, Alex was feeling no pain.
fence sitter	a person who supports both sides in an argument, <a href="#">middle ground</a>	Many politicians become fence sitters because they want to please everyone.
fend for yourself	be independent, care for yourself	Soon you'll know the city, and you can fend for yourself.
fender bender	minor car accident, collision	I had a little fender bender with your car, Dad - just a scratch.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: feel free -- fender bender

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: fever breaks -- fifth wheel

Idiom	Meaning	Example
fever breaks	fever stops, fever begins to go down	His fever broke last night. He's going to be alright.
few and far between	very few, rare, <a href="#">the odd one</a>	Canada still has timber wolves, but they are few and far between.
fib	small lie, <a href="#">white lie</a>	"What's a fib, Dad?" "It's a lie. It's the same as a lie."
Fibber McGee's closet	a closet or cupboard so full of stuff that some of it falls out when the door is opened, <a href="#">everything but the kitchen sink</a>	My brain is like Fibber McGee's closet. If you ask me a question, a whole bunch of stuff comes tumbling out!
fickle finger of fate	(See <a href="#">the fickle finger of fate</a> )	
fiddlesticks	oh no, <a href="#">darn</a> , <a href="#">nuts</a> , <a href="#">rats</a> , <a href="#">shucks</a>	Fiddlesticks! I forgot to get the mail!
fido	effort, drive, <a href="#">get the lead out</a>	I wouldn't say he's lazy, but he needs more fido!
fifth business	an unimportant player, an extra member	You are fifth business, Dunny. Anyone can play your part.
fifth column	an inside group of supporters of an outside force, possibly traitors; <a href="#">the fifth column</a> definition provided by Claudia Crowley	Our children prevented our divorce. They knew who was causing our breakup - they were like a fifth column!
fifth wheel	(See <a href="#">a fifth wheel</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: fever breaks -- fifth wheel

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: fight fire with fire -- fill in for me

Idiom	Meaning	Example
fight fire with fire	fight with the same weapon the enemy uses	If he uses statistics, you use statistics. Fight fire with fire!
fight tooth and nail	fight hard, fight like an animal	Canadian women fought tooth and nail for the right to vote.
fighting chance	(See <a href="#">a fighting chance</a> )	
figure out	analyse and understand, discover why	Can you figure out why the car stalled? Is the gas tank empty?
figurehead	a person who calculates but does not control	Shamir is just a figurehead; if you want a decision, see Ali.
file 13	the garbage can or wastebasket	This letter goes in file 13 - in the can in the corner.
fill her up	fill the tank with gasoline, <a href="#">a fill-up</a>	He drove up to the gas pumps and said, "Fill 'er up, please."
fill his shoes	do his work as well as he does	If Mia leaves, it won't be easy to fill her shoes. She does two jobs.
fill in	complete by writing, write in the spaces	Fill in the blanks, please. Then give the form to Ms. Kiraly.
fill in for me	do my job, do my work	Will you fill in for me while I'm away? Just answer my phone.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: fight fire with fire -- fill in for me

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: fill me in -- find a way around

Idiom	Meaning	Example
fill me in	tell me the details, tell me more	Fill me in when I get home. I'd like to hear what happened.
fill out	complete by writing, <a href="#">fill in</a>	Fill out the application, sign it, and mail it to the college.
fill the bill	do the job, <a href="#">fill the gap</a> , <a href="#">serve the purpose</a>	If we need an extra cashier for the sale, Bert will fill the bill.
fill the gap	fill an empty space, help where there is work to do	Pam filled the gap when I got injured. She played in my place.
fill up	fill to the top	You fill up the salt shaker, okay?
fill-up	(See <a href="#">a fill-up</a> )	
fill your face	eat, put a lot food in your mouth, <a href="#">pig out</a>	Imagine yourself in a chocolate factory, filling your face!
filthy lucre	money, dollars	Filthy lucre - that's what people want - cash, moola, lettuce.
filthy rich	very rich, wealthy, <a href="#">rolling in it</a>	She was filthy rich after she got married. She was a millionaire.
find a way around	find a way not to pay, avoid a rule, <a href="#">get around</a>	If you want to find a way around a tax law, talk to Sammy.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: fill me in -- find a way around

## Idioms: find fault -- finger

Idiom	Meaning	Example
find fault	look for faults and mistakes, criticize	I don't want to be around a guy who is always finding fault.
find my tongue	think of something to say, think of a reply	When she told me she had AIDS, I couldn't find my tongue.
find out	discover, learn	We found out he was a member of a cult. His sister told us.
find your voice	discover your personal style	Write, write, write until you find your voice - your own style.
find your way	find the correct path or road	A bus driver will help you find your way. Ask for directions.
find yourself	be surprised by what happens to you	If I don't brush my teeth, I may find myself without friends.
fine-feathered friend	nice-looking friend, dear friend, old acquaintance	Now, my fine-feathered friend, tell me the story of your escape.
fine-toothed comb	(See <a href="#">a fine-toothed comb</a> )	
fine-tune	cause it to work very well, cause it to run smoothly	Sandro fine-tuned my Peugeot. Now it purrs like a kitten.
finger	accuse, blame	He was fingered for the crime, but he didn't steal anything.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: find fault -- finger

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: fingers the size of bananas -- firm hand

Idiom	Meaning	Example
fingers the size of bananas	very large fingers, giant fingers, <a href="#">humongous</a>	This guy was huge! He had fingers the size of bananas!
finish off	eat the remaining amount, eat the last piece	The kids finished off the cake when they got home.
finish off	kill, strike the final blow	The spider finished off the fly and began to eat it.
finishing touch	the final move, the act that completes the task	As a finishing touch, the baker added a maraschino cherry.
fink	fool, <a href="#">jerk</a> , <a href="#">nerd</a>	You fink! You sat on my pizza!
fink	tattle, <a href="#">snitch</a> , <a href="#">tell on</a>	You're the only one who knows I did it. Don't fink!
fire	dismiss from a job, terminate employment	"What happened to Larry?" "He got fired for stealing funds."
fire away	ask questions, comment, criticize, <a href="#">shoot</a>	After speaking in favor of gun control, he invited the men to fire away.
fired up	enthusiastic, motivated, <a href="#">gung ho</a>	The boys are fired up and ready to play. They're really excited.
firm hand	(See <a href="#">a firm hand</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:  
[B] bad language

Be interactive:  
[Comment on this idiom](#)  
[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)  
[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:  
 Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson  
 The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books  
 Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: fingers the size of bananas -- firm hand

## Idioms: firm market -- first off

Idiom	Meaning	Example
firm market	strong market, <a href="#">seller's market</a>	A firm market in the automotive industry is good for the American economy.
first and foremost	first and most important, firstly	The speaker began by saying, "First and foremost... ."
first class	high quality, excellent	Pam's meals are first class. She's an excellent cook.
first come, first served	whoever comes first gets served first	If tickets are selling on a first-come basis, let's buy ours now.
first crack at	first turn, first chance to do it	I want first crack at solving the problem. I want to try first.
first dibs	first person to use it, first chance to use it	When we get to the motel, I get first dibs on the shower.
first down/first and ten	first try to gain ten yards (in football)	The Lions have a first down on their own 35-yard line.
first hand	being there to see or hear it, <a href="#">in person</a>	I want to see the Pantheon first hand. I want to see its dome.
first light	(See <a href="#">at first light</a> )	
first off	first on the list, the first thing to do	First off, we should define the problem. Then we can solve it.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: firm market -- first off

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](https://www.chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms: first pancake is always spoiled -- five o'clock shadow

Idiom	Meaning	Example
first pancake is always spoiled	(See <a href="#">the first pancake is always spoiled</a> )	
first up	first on the list, the first thing to do	On our list of things to do, the broken copier is first up.
fish and company stink after three days	fish should be eaten while it is fresh, and guests should not stay too long	Grandfather had this sign on the wall of his garage: <i>Fish and company stink after three days!</i>
fish for a compliment	hint that he wants a compliment	If Al mentions cars, he's fishing for a compliment on his Jaguar.
fish or cut bait	do it instead of talking about it, less talk and more action, <a href="#">shit or get off the pot</a>	You've been bragging about what a great cook you are, so <i>you</i> make dinner. It's time to fish or cut bait!
fishy	not right, not fair, <a href="#">something smells</a>	"Why don't you like this deal?" "Because it's fishy. Nobody sells a Mercedes for such a low price."
fit as a fiddle	very fit, in good physical condition	Uncle Doug is fit as a fiddle. He does aerobic exercises.
fit to be tied	very angry, mad, <a href="#">see red</a>	He was fit to be tied when you said the accident was his fault.
fits and starts	moving unevenly, stop and go	The new crew worked in fits and starts, not at a steady pace.
five o'clock shadow	visible whisker growth toward the end of the day	"If we're going out tonight I better shave my five o'clock shadow." "Don't bother, honey. You look good showing some beard."

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Idioms: first pancake is always spoiled -- five o'clock shadow

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a lady-killer -- a little steep

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a lady-killer	handsome man; a man who charms the ladies; <a href="#">hunk</a>	"Liam Neeson! He's gorgeous!" she said. "What a lady-killer!"
a leg up	a start, a beginning, <a href="#">the first leg</a>	If I take a night class, I'll have a leg up on my diploma.
a level playing field	a place where everyone has an equal chance, <a href="#">level the playing field</a>	A level playing field includes equal pay for equal work for all men and women.
a lick and a promise	a hasty plan, a quick cleanup, <a href="#">give it the once-over</a>	We don't have time to do a thorough cleaning. We'll just give it a lick and a promise.
a lift	energy, a positive feeling, <a href="#">a shot in the arm</a>	When I need a lift, I watch <i>Oprah</i> . She makes me feel good.
a little bird told me	someone told me, one of your friends told me	"How did you know that I play chess?" "Oh, a little bird told me."
a little hair off the dog	(See <a href="#">hair off the dog</a> )	
a little off	not quite sane, a bit crazy, <a href="#">one brick short...</a>	When Clem started eating grass, we knew he was a little off.
a little off	not quite centered, not level	The picture above the table is a little off. Let's straighten it.
a little steep	a little high in price, too much money to pay	I'd like to buy that leather coat but the price is a little steep.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: a lady-killer -- a little steep

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: fix you -- flat

Idiom	Meaning	Example
fix you	punish you, <a href="#">get back at</a>	"I'll fix you," he shouted at us. "I'll build a fence to keep you off my property!"
fix your wagon	hurt you, <a href="#">get back at</a> , <a href="#">get revenge</a>	If you make him angry, he'll fix your wagon. He'll get revenge.
fixing to	preparing to, getting ready to	Andy's fixing to cut some logs for the fireplace.
flag a cab	wave at a cab driver to come, <a href="#">hail a cab</a>	The bus was late, so we flagged a taxi that was going by.
flake	phony, not real	The salesman was a flake. What he said was phony.
flake out	lie down and sleep, <a href="#">conk out</a>	Grant flaked out on the couch after lunch. He was really tired.
flap your gums	talk, speak, <a href="#">gab</a>	Don't just stand there flapping your gums. Help with supper.
flash a smile	smile at someone for only a second	Andy flashed a smile at me when the teacher asked to see his work.
flash in the pan	(See <a href="#">a flash in the pan</a> )	
flat	not motivated, lacking energy, not <a href="#">up for it</a>	In the second game, the team was flat. They lacked energy.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: fix you -- flat

## Idioms: flat broke -- flew the coop

Idiom	Meaning	Example
flat broke	having no money, <a href="#">out of</a> cash	By the end of my first term at university, I was flat broke.
flat out	as fast as possible, pedal to the metal	Scott was driving flat out most of the way - over 180 km per hour.
flatfoot	policeman, a constable who walks the streets	Ted is a flatfoot in Regina. He works for Regina City Police.
flatfooted	(See <a href="#">caught flatfooted</a> )	
flatliner	a person whose emotions do not change	The doctor is a flatliner. His face shows no joy, no sorrow.
flattery will get you nowhere	saying nice things will not help you, <a href="#">kiss the blarney stone</a>	When I complimented Anna on her hair, she said, "Thanks, but flattery will get you nowhere."
fleeting glance	(See <a href="#">a fleeting glance</a> )	
flesh out	add information, make complete	Here's the outline, Pat. You can flesh it out later.
Fletcherize your food	chew your food many times, chew your food until it is easy to digest	"Here, Fletcherize this." "Yuk, your pancakes are as tough as leather!"
flew the coop	departed, left home	Brian flew the coop last night. He packed a suitcase and left.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: flat broke -- flew the coop

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: flip -- Florida green

Idiom	Meaning	Example
flip	be surprised, <a href="#">freak out</a>	Mom nearly flipped when I told her we got married.
flip-flop	change of opinion, move to the other side	We often see politicians do a flip-flop after they're elected.
flip you for it	flip a coin to decide who pays	When our food check arrived, Al said to me, "I'll flip you for it."
flip your lid	become angry, <a href="#">blow your stack</a>	If you get another speeding ticket, Dad will flip his lid.
flipping	<a href="#">consarned</a> , <a href="#">darn</a> , <a href="#">friggin</a> ,	If you don't like the flippin' rules, you don't have to play.
float your boat	arouse you, interest you, <a href="#">to each his own</a> , <a href="#">turn you on</a>	Personally, I'm not into athletic girls, but whatever floats your boat.
flog a dead horse	(See <a href="#">beat a dead horse</a> )	
floor it	push the gas pedal down, <a href="#">pedal to the metal</a>	Buddy floors it from every stoplight. He drives too fast.
floor you	surprise you, shock you, bowl you over (see <a href="#">bowl me over</a> )	The odor from a turkey farm is enough to floor you.
Florida green	yellow traffic light, amber warning light	Oops! I just drove through a Florida green. Any cops around?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: flip -- Florida green

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: flunk out -- fold

Idiom	Meaning	Example
flunk out	fail a school program, fail a course	If you flunk out of college, you will have to find a job.
fly-by-night	bad, dishonest, not to be trusted	He put his money in a fly-by-night company and lost it all.
fly by the seat of your...	(See <a href="#">by the seat of your pants</a> )	
fly in the face of	contradict, be opposite to	These errors fly in the face of our reputation for accuracy.
fly in the ointment	small problem, troublesome detail	The fly in the ointment is that a boy saw you kissing Lola.
fly low	drive a vehicle very fast, drive so fast you nearly fly	On the freeway I was flying low - going over 200 km per hour.
fly off the handle	become angry suddenly, <a href="#">lose your temper</a>	After Charlie flew off the handle he apologized for his temper.
fly on the wall	(See <a href="#">a fly on the wall</a> )	
foggiest	(See <a href="#">haven't the foggiest</a> )	
fold	quit, stop operating	The store folded during the recession - went bankrupt.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: follow me -- footloose and fancy free

Idiom	Meaning	Example
follow me	understand what I am saying, understand my meaning, <a href="#">get my drift</a>	"Do you follow me?" "Yes, except for the idioms."
follow the rules	read the rules and do what they say, <a href="#">toe the line</a>	If everybody follows the rules, we'll have fewer accidents.
follow through	do what you promise, <a href="#">see it through</a>	If you promise to help, try to follow through.
food for thought	ideas worth considering, interesting suggestions	Your comments on Quebec have given me food for thought.
fool and his money...	(See <a href="#">a fool and his money are soon parted</a> )	
fool around	play, play around, <a href="#">goof off</a> , <a href="#">horse around</a>	We don't fool around in her class. She's very strict.
fool around	have sex with someone who is not your spouse, <a href="#">have an affair</a>	Rita asked Jon for a divorce. She knows he's been fooling around.
fool you	trick you, deceive you	Paul was fooling you. He owns a Ford, not a Ferrari.
foot the bill	pay all of the expenses, <a href="#">pay the shot</a>	It's not right for Dad to foot the bill for your trip to Vegas.
footloose and fancy free	carefree, not committed, <a href="#">devil-may-care</a>	When the kids moved out, we were footloose and fancy free!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: follow me -- footloose and fancy free

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: for a dog's age -- for gosh sake

Idiom	Meaning	Example
for a dog's age	a long time, 10-15 years, <a href="#">in a coon's age</a>	We haven't seen Aunt Sophie for a dog's age - for years.
for a song	for a little money, for a low price	Look at this sweater. I got it for a song at a second-hand store.
for all the tea in China	(See <a href="#">not for all the tea in China</a> )	
for better or worse	during good times and bad times, <a href="#">through thick and thin</a>	When you marry someone for better or worse, you hope for better but prepare for worse.
for crying out loud	before I start crying, <a href="#">for gosh sake</a>	For cryin' out loud will you stop playing those drums!
for dear life	to save your life, because a life is in danger	When the bear stood up on its hind legs, we ran for dear life.
for good	forever, permanently	Remember, a tattoo stays on your skin for good - forever.
for good measure	adding enough or a bit more than required	For good measure, we added a bottle of wine to the punch.
for goodness sake	for the good of everyone, please	For goodness sake, don't drive so fast! The roads are icy.
for gosh sake	for god's sake <a href="#">for goodness sake</a>	For gosh sake! Where did you get that monstrous hat?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: for a dog's age -- for gosh sake

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: for heaven's sake -- for the fun of it

Idiom	Meaning	Example
for heaven's sake	for the sake of everyone, <a href="#">for goodness sake</a>	For heaven's sake, don't give her a teapot. She has four!
for kicks	for fun, for enjoyment	"What do you guys do for kicks?" "I play computer games."
for laughs	for fun, for amusement	For laughs, we watch old movies.
for long	for a long time, for many minutes or days	She wasn't in the water for very long - just a couple of minutes.
for love nor money	not for any reason, never, <a href="#">no way</a>	I won't skydive for love nor money. It's too dangerous.
for openers	as a first activity, to begin	For openers, let's discuss the budget. It's very important.
for Pete's sake	for the good of "Pete" and everybody, please	For Pete's sake, don't talk when your mouth is full of food!
for sure	yes, certainly, <a href="#">no doubt</a>	I'll pay you back tomorrow for sure. I promise.
for the birds	poor quality, <a href="#">crummy</a> , <a href="#">the pits</a>	It was a beautiful wedding, but the food was for the birds.
for the fun of it	for fun, for a good time, <a href="#">for laughs</a>	"Why did you take my bike?" "Just for the fun of it."

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: for heaven's sake -- for the fun of it

## Idioms: for the life of me -- four-letter words

Idiom	Meaning	Example
for the life of me	it is a mystery to me, <a href="#">why in the world</a>	For the life of me, I don't know why she stays with him.
force of habit	from habit, because of a habit	She still cooks enough food for five people. It's force of habit.
foregone conclusion	(See <a href="#">a foregone conclusion</a> )	
forever and a day	for a long time, for an eternity	This treaty will last forever - forever and a day.
forget it	do not continue, stop it, I do not want it, <a href="#">drop it</a>	I'm not interested in joining the club. Forget it.
forget your manners	forget to be polite, forget to say <i>please</i> etc.	When I reached in front of Mac, he said, "Forget your manners?"
fork over	pay, <a href="#">pay up</a>	They said, "Fork over, man. Pay your share of the bill."
found money	money found on the street, money saved by nature	Wind power is like found money. I save what I paid for electricity.
found out	discovered, caught	If you cheat on the exam, you'll be found out. They'll see you.
four-letter words	bad words, profanity: damn, hell, shit etc. [B]	He gave a good speech, but he used a lot of four-letter words.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: for the life of me -- four-letter words

## Idioms: fraidy cat -- freeze wages

Idiom	Meaning	Example
fraidy cat	a child who is afraid to jump etc., <a href="#">chicken</a>	"Fraidy cat, fraidy cat!" the boys shouted. "Ali's afraid to jump!"
frame	cause you to look guilty, <a href="#">set you up</a>	He framed you. He lent you his car, then reported it as stolen.
frame of mind	mood, mental attitude, <a href="#">state of mind</a>	I'm not in the right frame of mind to listen to your poem.
frazzled	having tired nerves, <a href="#">going in circles</a>	I'm frazzled! Gift shopping takes all my nervous energy.
freak/freak out	show surprise or disbelief, <a href="#">flip</a> , <a href="#">go ballistic</a>	Mom will freak when I tell her we're married.
free-for-all	(See <a href="#">a free-for-all</a> )	
freebie	a free ticket etc., a sample	Some drug companies advertise through freebies - free pills.
freeload	receive free food or rent, <a href="#">a handout</a>	Do social programs encourage freeloading? It's a good question.
freeze-up	when the lakes and ground freeze (November)	We want to dig the hole for the basement before freeze-up.
freeze wages	keep wages the same, not increase wages, <a href="#">dig in their heels</a>	To control spending, the board is going to freeze our wages - no salary increases for one year.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: fraidy cat -- freeze wages

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: fresh -- from day one

Idiom	Meaning	Example
fresh	(See <a href="#">get fresh</a> )	
fresh legs	players who are rested, players who are not tired	"We need fresh legs out there!" the coach yelled. "They're tired!"
fresh out	do not have any, all <a href="#">used up</a>	I wish I could lend you some rice, but I'm fresh out.
fresh pair of eyes	(See <a href="#">a fresh pair of eyes</a> )	
fresh start	(See <a href="#">a fresh start</a> )	
freshen up	wash your hands etc., use the washroom	If you want to freshen up, you can use our bathroom.
friends with	a friend of, a good friend	"Are you friends with Carla?" "Yes. She's my best friend."
friggin	damn, <a href="#">cotton-picking</a> , <a href="#">darn</a> , <a href="#">flipping</a>	Then the friggin string broke and the friggin marbles fell all over the friggin floor!
frightened to death	very afraid, <a href="#">scared spitless</a> , <a href="#">scared stiff</a>	She said she was frightened to death when she heard the shot.
from day one	from the beginning, from the first day	From day one, Carol has been a good employee.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a little thick -- a lucky break

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a little thick	too much praise, too many nice statements, <a href="#">kiss the blarney stone</a> , <a href="#">over the top</a>	His praise for the governor was a little thick, a bit too much, I think.
a long shot	a poor chance of winning, <a href="#">a slim chance</a>	The Leafs winning the Stanley Cup - now that's a long shot.
a loose cannon	unpredictable employee, one who may embarrass	The President is sensible, but the Vice President is a loose cannon.
a losing streak	losing several times in succession	The Leafs are on a losing streak. They've lost seven games!
a lost cause	a goal or project that is not worth working for	That video store is a lost cause. It has never made a profit.
a lot of bunk	a lot of lies, a lot of <a href="#">bull</a> , <a href="#">a pack of lies</a>	The President's speech was a lot of bunk. It contained no facts.
a lot of folderol	a lot of foolish talk, <a href="#">a lot of bunk</a>	When you hear me speak Latin, you'll think it's a lot of folderol.
a lot on the ball	intelligent, smart	Melvin may not look intelligent, but he's got a lot on the ball.
a love tap	a gentle hit with the hand, a light push or bump	I didn't hit you very hard. It was just a love tap.
a lucky break	good luck, good fortune, <a href="#">stroke of good luck</a>	Finding that money was a lucky break. It was our good fortune.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: a little thick -- a lucky break

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms: from hand to mouth -- from the frying pan into the fire

Idiom	Meaning	Example
from hand to mouth	poor, spending every cent on necessities	They lived from hand to mouth, never enjoying luxury or travel.
from hunger	poor quality, poor taste, <a href="#">the pits</a>	Tanya can sing, but her hair style is strictly from hunger.
from pillar to post	from one problem to another	After getting fired, he went from pillar to post - more bad luck.
from rags to riches	from poverty to wealth, from bum to millionaire	She went from rags to riches when she gambled in Vegas.
from scratch	(See <a href="#">start from scratch</a> )	
from soup to nuts	(See <a href="#">everything from soup to nuts</a> )	
from square one	(See <a href="#">back to square one</a> )	
from stem to stern	from top to bottom, from head to tail	The '64 250 GTO was Enzo's masterpiece: Ferrari from stem to stern!
from the bottom of my heart	sincerely, with deep feeling	For your kindness, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.
from the frying pan into the fire	from bad to worse	I went from farming to fishing - from the frying pan into the fire!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: from hand to mouth -- from the frying pan into the fire

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: from the get-go -- fuck off [B]

Idiom	Meaning	Example
from the get-go	from the beginning, <a href="#">from day one</a>	First, a dog has to learn who's boss - right from the get-go.
from the horse's mouth	(See <a href="#">straight from the horse's mouth</a> )	
from the word go	from the beginning, from the start	You knew I worked for the KGB. You knew it from the word go.
from time to time	once in awhile, occasionally	They visit us from time to time - every year or two.
front man	one who performs before the star goes on stage	Mic is the front man for Dolly. He sings before she does her act.
front me	lend me money for now, <a href="#">put up the money</a>	If you will front me, I can buy the car and then repay you.
front runner	leader, one of the best	With this new model, Nissan will be a front runner again.
frosty Friday	(See <a href="#">that'll be the frosty Friday</a> )	
fuck all	nothing, zero, <a href="#">diddly</a> , <a href="#">zip</a>	You know what I get for helping him? Fuck all - that's what. I just do it because I want to.
fuck off [B]	go, get out of here, <a href="#">get lost</a> , <a href="#">take off</a>	When I asked him to move his truck, he told me to fuck off.
	Some say fuck is an acronym for found under carnal knowledge, but I believe this is an urban myth. The <a href="#">American Heritage Dictionary</a> has more on the use and the etymology of this obscenity.	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: from the get-go -- fuck off [B]

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: fuck that noise [B] -- full of herself

Idiom	Meaning	Example
fuck that noise [B]	that is not a good idea, <a href="#">down with</a> that plan	"Let's return the TVs we stole." "Fuck that noise. Let's sell 'em."
fuck up [B]	cause a mistake, <a href="#">make a booboo</a> , <a href="#">screw up</a>	If you fuck up, don't worry - but learn from your mistakes.
fucked by the fickle finger of fate [B]	feel that luck is against you; cheated by fate	A flood ruined my business. I was fucked by the fickle finger of fate.
fuddle duddle*	<a href="#">fiddlesticks</a> , <a href="#">friggin</a> , <a href="#">nuts</a> , <a href="#">phooey</a>	I did not use the F-word. I said, "Oh, fuddle duddle!" (* This expression is attributed to former Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau speaking in the Canadian House of Commons.)
fudge it	create, <a href="#">fake it</a> , <a href="#">make up</a>	If you can't remember a name, fudge it. Answer every question.
full as a tick	very full, bloated, <a href="#">plump full</a>	Oh, I drank too much water! I'm full as a tick!
full blast	as loud as possible, <a href="#">pull out all the stops</a>	When we got home, the kids had the stereo on full blast.
full blown	all the symptoms, every sign	It often takes years for the virus to develop into full-blown AIDS.
full Monty	fully nude, completely naked, <a href="#">birthday suit</a> , <a href="#">strip</a>	"Should I take off <i>all</i> my clothes?" "Yes, we want the full Monty!"
full of herself	impressed with her own work, too proud of herself	The actor was proud - too full of himself - during the interview.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: fuck that noise [B] -- full of herself

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: full of it [B] -- fun and games

Idiom	Meaning	Example
full of it [B]	full of lies, full of shit, full of <a href="#">BS</a>	You're full of it if you think I took that watch. I am not a thief.
full of piss and vinegar [B]	lively, full of energy	That little kid is full of piss and vinegar. He won't sit still.
full out	as fast as you can go, <a href="#">flat out</a> , <a href="#">full tilt</a>	He was skating full out, but he couldn't catch Messier.
full plate	(See <a href="#">a full plate</a> )	
full steam ahead	as much power as we have, <a href="#">full throttle</a>	I told the Captain about the ice, but he said, "Full steam ahead!"
full strength	not weakened or diluted, <a href="#">straight up</a>	Did John Wayne drink bourbon full strength? Without water?
full throttle	gas pedal to the floor, <a href="#">pedal to the metal</a>	He drove the Mercedes at full throttle on the freeway.
full tilt	as fast as possible, <a href="#">flat out</a>	Were you going full tilt when you passed us - as fast as it would go?
full up	full, no more room	This bus is full up. We'll have to wait for the next one.
fun and games	a good time, a lot of fun	"How was the office party?" "Oh, fun and games!"

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: full of it [B] -- fun and games

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: funny in the head -- fuzz

Idiom	Meaning	Example
funny in the head	a little crazy, not rational, <a href="#">a little off</a> , <a href="#">spinny</a>	Poor Mike. He's been funny in the head since his horse died.
funny money	counterfeit money, fake money	Don't accept any funny money. We can't spend it.
funny stuff	tricks, pranks, <a href="#">monkey business</a>	"No more funny stuff," the principal said as we left his office.
fuss over	care for too much, <a href="#">pay much attention</a> to	Bertha's always fussing over her cats. She even warms their milk.
future looks bright	future looks good, success will come to you	Vi was promoted to Department Head. Her future looks bright.
fuzz	policemen, <a href="#">cops</a> , <a href="#">pigs</a>	The boys ran away when the fuzz drove up in a patrol car.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: gab -- gash

Idiom	Meaning	Example
gab	talk, visit, <a href="#">flap your gums</a>	Mom and Maria were gabbing as they played cribbage.
gadzooks	amazing, <a href="#">holy Moses</a> , <a href="#">wow</a>	"Bev had triplets!" "Gadzooks! How did that happen?"
game for anything	ready to try anything, <a href="#">a game one</a> , <a href="#">gung ho</a>	If you're going to the moon, I'll go. I'm game for anything.
game one	(See <a href="#">a game one</a> )	
game over	finished, complete; the chance is gone	If you've signed the contract, it's game over. You can't change it.
Gang of Four	any group of four people that causes trouble or intimidates citizens	A member of the Gang of Four just phoned to complain about the English signs in our town.
	Political phrase originating in China: Jiang Qing, Zhang Chunqiao, Wang Hongwen and Yao Wenyuan were prominent members of the Communist party and leading forces in the Cultural Revolution (1965-1976). After Mao's death in 1976, the Gang of Four was tried and sentenced to death. The sentence was subsequently reduced to 20 years in prison.	
gang up on	several go against one, many fight one	Three boys ganged up on Willie and knocked him down.
garage kept	in good condition, kept in a garage when not in use	This car has been garage kept. The body's excellent.
gas	a lot of fun, a great party or show, <a href="#">have a blast</a>	We had a great time at Ollen's party. It was a gas!
gash	girls, <a href="#">broads</a> , <a href="#">chicks</a> , <a href="#">lovelies</a>	We can't have a party without gash. Let's phone some girls.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

Idioms: gab -- gash

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: gathering dust -- Generation X

Idiom	Meaning	Example
gathering dust	not being used, sitting on a shelf, <a href="#">collecting dust</a>	That old coffee tray has been gathering dust for years.
gear up	prepare, get ready, find equipment and supplies	After we print this manual we have to gear up for a novel.
gee	oh, well, <a href="#">gosh</a> , <a href="#">wow</a>	Gee! What happened to your hair? Did you cut it yourself?
gee willickers	oh, <a href="#">golly</a> , <a href="#">gosh</a>	"Gee willickers!" Linda said, legs crossed and eyes bulging, "Are you still in the bathroom!?"
gee whiz	<a href="#">golly gee</a> , <a href="#">gosh darn</a> , aw <a href="#">shucks</a>	Gee whiz, Miss Julie. I'd never do anything to hurt you.
geek	strange person, scholar, <a href="#">book worm</a> , <a href="#">nerd</a>	Allan reads a lot and stays by himself. He's kind of a geek.
geez	<a href="#">darn</a> , <a href="#">gee whiz</a> , <a href="#">gosh</a>	Geez, I hate mosquitoes!
geezer	old man, old person, <a href="#">old coot</a>	On one street there was an old geezer begging for money.
geezer gap	the differences between people aged 60 and 80	The word <i>senior</i> includes everyone in the geezer gap.
Generation X	people born in the 1970s; a generation that wanted to change the <a href="#">work ethic</a>	Generation X said that the jobs disappeared as they graduated from high school and university.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: get a bang out of -- get a laugh

Idiom	Meaning	Example
get a bang out of	enjoy, have fun, <a href="#">get a kick out of</a>	Ms. Lau gets a bang out of playing bingo. She loves bingo.
get a charge out of	enjoy, is amused by	Ming gets a charge out of Pam's memos. They're humorous.
get a fix	use some drugs; <a href="#">a hit</a>	He'll shake until he gets a fix. He's addicted to heroin.
get a fix on	calculate, determine, <a href="#">figure out</a>	We should get a fix on the office expenses - the total per month.
get a grip	be realistic, be serious, <a href="#">get serious</a>	You expect to get A's without studying? Get a grip!
get a grip on yourself	control yourself, do not be so emotional	When he cried, she said, "Get a grip on yourself, Dear."
get a handle on	understand, <a href="#">find out</a> about	We have to get a handle on the parking problem - get the facts.
get a hold of	talk to, phone	I tried to get a hold of Pierre when I was in Montreal.
get a kick out of	get some enjoyment, laugh, <a href="#">get a bang out of</a>	I get a kick out of the way he skates. He's fun to watch.
get a laugh	cause people to laugh	Your jokes always get a laugh.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: get a bang out of -- get a laugh

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: get a life -- get ahead

Idiom	Meaning	Example
get a life	change your lifestyle, <a href="#">get it together</a> , <a href="#">get with it</a>	He never goes out - just stays at home and watches TV. I wish he would get a life!
get a lift	get a ride, <a href="#">catch a ride</a>	I can get a lift with Brian. He's driving to Moncton.
get a load of that	look at that, <a href="#">check that out</a> , <a href="#">feast your eyes</a>	When Marilyn stepped out of the taxi, he said, "Get a load of that!"
get a move on	go quickly, <a href="#">vamoose</a>	We're late! Let's get a move on!
get a rise	get an answer, get a response	Can you get a rise out of him? He doesn't answer me.
get a shot	get a needle from a doctor	You are sick. Maybe you should get a shot of penicillin.
get a shot at	shoot at, see the target you want to shoot at	The buck was partly hidden. I couldn't get a shot at it.
get a ticket	receive a note stating you parked or drove illegally	If you park your car on the sidewalk, you'll get a ticket.
get after	scold, lecture, <a href="#">give you hell</a> [B]	Mom got after us for smoking. She told us it was a bad habit.
get ahead	make progress, succeed	Do you want to get ahead in this world? Do you want to succeed?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: get a life -- get ahead

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: get along -- get axed

Idiom	Meaning	Example
get along	co-operate, <a href="#">give and take</a>	Joey gets along with everybody. He is very co-operative.
get along	cope, live, manage	I don't know how I'll get along without you. How will I manage?
get along	go, do not stay here	Get along now. Go home, please.
get around	visit friends and places, socialize	With a full-time job and three kids, I don't get around much.
get around it	avoid rules or laws, <a href="#">find a way around</a>	You must obtain a business license. You can't get around it.
get around to	do, work at, complete	I haven't got around to calling him yet. I haven't had time.
get at	suggest, imply	When you said I was slow, what were you getting at?
get at it	do it, <a href="#">get busy</a> , <a href="#">get to it</a>	Well, this work has to be done. Let's get at it.
get away with	not obey the rules, not <a href="#">get caught</a>	He gets away with speeding, but the police will soon catch him.
get axed	be fired, be dismissed	He got axed for stealing funds.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a lucky streak -- a must

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a lucky streak	winning several times in succession	Whenever I wear this ring, I have a lucky streak. I win every game!
a major	a poor credit rating from a major credit card company	The bank won't approve your loan if you have a major.
a man of few words	a man who says little; who uses few words	Chung is a man of few words, but when he speaks, people listen.
a man of the cloth	a minister, a priest, a clergyman	Being a man of the cloth, he has studied the Bible.
a man's home is his castle	a man can relax and please himself in his own home	I let Ron think he's king when he comes home from work. He believes a man's home is his castle.
a marked man	a person known for political beliefs or criminal acts	When they discovered I had been a Nazi, I was a marked man.
a matter of life and death	(See <a href="#">it's a matter of life and death</a> )	
a mental block	a problem with learning a subject or concept	I have a mental block when I try to do algebra. I can't think.
a month of Sundays	a very long time, many days	It will take a month of Sundays to phone all the students in our school.
a must	a necessary experience, a required item	If you like words, you need a dictionary. It's a must!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: a lucky streak -- a must

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: get back at -- get cold feet

Idiom	Meaning	Example
get back at	return an insult, <a href="#">get revenge</a>	If you don't apologize, he'll get back at you. He's quite angry.
get bageled	lose without scoring, get <a href="#">skunked</a> , be <a href="#">shutout</a>	We got bageled. They beat us 11-0!
get blood from a stone	do an impossible task, <a href="#">beat your head against...</a>	You'll get blood from a stone before you get money from Ed.
get burned	be caught, get blamed, <a href="#">get into trouble</a>	I got burned for helping Bev with her divorce. They blamed me.
get busy	begin to work, start to do, <a href="#">get at it</a>	Get busy and cut the grass before your father comes home.
get by/scrape by	have just enough money, <a href="#">make do</a>	I can get by on very little money, if necessary. I can be frugal.
get carried away	become too emotional, <a href="#">go overboard</a> , <a href="#">go too far</a>	When the kids play hockey, their parents get carried away, yelling at the referees and fighters.
get caught	found doing something, <a href="#">caught in the act</a>	Did Vi get caught driving without a license? Did she "get a ticket"?
get caught up	do unfinished work, learn what you missed	I have to get caught up on my studies. I missed two classes.
get cold feet	cancel a plan, renege, <a href="#">back out</a> , <a href="#">jam</a>	They'll be married next week; that is, if Jack doesn't get cold feet.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: get back at -- get cold feet

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: get down to brass tacks -- get her way

Idiom	Meaning	Example
get down to brass tacks	become serious about it, <a href="#">knuckle down</a>	As soon as I'm feeling better I'll get down to brass tacks.
get down to business	work seriously, not waste time or effort	"Let's get down to business," he said. "We have much to do."
get even	do the same thing to someone, <a href="#">get back at</a>	When he loses a game, he wants to get even. He wants to win.
get fingered	be accused, be blamed	He got fingered for taking the money because he had the key.
get fresh	act in a sexual way, <a href="#">come onto</a> her	When he's had a few drinks, he tries to get fresh with me.
get-go	(See <a href="#">from the get-go</a> )	
get going	go, start moving, <a href="#">get lost</a>	When I stopped to rest, he said, "Get going. Get out of here."
get good wood on	shoot the puck hard, hit the ball squarely	Clark got good wood on that shot, but he missed the net.
get hell [B]	receive a scolding, <a href="#">catch hell</a> [B], <a href="#">get it</a>	He got hell for breaking a glass. Mrs. Fisk told him he was bad.
get her way	get her choice, have her opinion rule, <a href="#">get your way</a>	If she got her way as a child, she'll try to do whatever she wants as your wife.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: get down to brass tacks -- get her way

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: get high -- get into her pants [B]

Idiom	Meaning	Example
get high	feel good, have a special feeling	I get a natural high from jogging. I feel happy and free.
get him back	get revenge, <a href="#">get back at</a>	Lyle wants to get me back for seeing Betty. He's jealous.
get home	arrive at home, come home	I'm going to bed when I get home. I'm sleepy.
get in deeper	cause you more trouble, <a href="#">dig yourself in</a>	Telling another lie will only get you in deeper - make it worse.
get in my face	confront me, stand in front of me	When I try to talk to Jodi, her boyfriend gets in my face.
get in on it	benefit from it, <a href="#">take advantage of</a> it	Baymart is having a half-price sale, and I want to get in on it.
get in on the ground floor	be there at the start, be one of the first people to invest or be hired	If I get in on the ground floor at MING'S, I'll advance quickly.
get in shape	exercise until you are physically fit, <a href="#">work out</a>	If you want to play soccer this year, you better get in shape.
get in your hair	(See <a href="#">in your hair</a> )	
get into her pants [B]	have sex with her, <a href="#">lay</a> her[B]	He wants to get into her pants, but she won't let him.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: get high -- get into her pants [B]

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: get into trouble -- get laid [B]

Idiom	Meaning	Example
get into trouble	do bad things, <a href="#">break the law</a>	When he's with the Subway Gang he gets into trouble. He's bad.
get it	understand, know what is funny	"Get it? Do you get the joke?" "Yes. Ha ha. Ha ha ha."
get it	be scolded or punished, <a href="#">get hell</a> [B]	I really got it for taking my brother's car. He was furious.
get it off your chest	talk about a problem, complain	He can get it off his chest at the meeting. He can complain there.
get it on	kiss and hug in a sexual way, <a href="#">make out</a>	The phone rang just when they were getting it on.
get it over with	do it quickly, finish it before it becomes worse	"If you want a divorce," he said, "let's get it over with."
get it straight	understand it, <a href="#">catch on</a> , <a href="#">figure out</a>	She doesn't know the difference between boys and girls. I hope she soon gets it straight.
get it together	become organized, be effective	I'll get it together this term. I'll improve my grades.
get it together	get a well-balanced life; become happy, successful	She's getting it together. She's trying to live a meaningful life.
get laid [B]	have sex, get her/him into bed	Most guys take you out expecting to get laid, right?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: get into trouble -- get laid [B]

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: get lost -- get off on

Idiom	Meaning	Example
get lost	go, leave, <a href="#">beat it</a>	They told me to get lost, to go home to Mommy.
get mad	become angry or cross, <a href="#">lose your cool</a>	When she gets mad, I leave the house. She has a bad temper.
get me down	cause me to feel negative; to feel <a href="#">down</a>	What gets me down is the way government wastes our money.
get my drift	understand my meaning, <a href="#">dig me</a>	I don't think of you as a sister, if you get my drift.
get my kicks	get my enjoyment, have my fun	I get my kicks from coaching kids' teams. I enjoy doing that.
get off	not have to pay, not be convicted, <a href="#">get out of</a>	If he's guilty, how did he get off? Why isn't he in prison?
get off a few good ones	tell a few jokes, say a few funny lines	When Rob spoke at our wedding he got off a few good ones.
get off my back	stop criticizing me, <a href="#">get off my case</a>	If he criticizes you again, tell him to get off your back.
get off my case	stop criticizing me, <a href="#">check up on</a>	I told the manager to get off my case - to stop criticizing me.
get off on	like to do, enjoy	He gets off on bowling. He loves to knock over those pins.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: get lost -- get off on

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: get off the ground -- get on your horse

Idiom	Meaning	Example
get off the ground	succeed at first, begin successfully	For a new product to get off the ground, you need about \$5000.
get off to a good start	begin with success, start with confidence	In Math 201, it's important to get off to a good start.
get off your high horse	do not act like you are better than everyone else	Colin acts so superior! Tell him to get off his high horse.
get off your soap box	stop preaching to us, don't be such a crusader	When Todd made a presentation on corporate charity, one of his co-workers said, "Get off your soap box, Todd!"
get on in years	getting older, <a href="#">over the hill</a>	When Mother broke her hip, she was 77 - getting on in years.
get on it	do it now, <a href="#">get at it</a> , <a href="#">get to it</a>	Mr. Jarvis wants his car repaired by noon, so let's get on it.
get on my good side	(See <a href="#">on my good side</a> )	
get on my nerves	bother or irritate me, <a href="#">bug</a> me	Her questions get on my nerves. They're too personal.
get on with it	continue working or speaking	When I paused, he said, "Get on with it. Tell the rest of it."
get on your horse	move, get started, <a href="#">get a move on</a>	Get on your horse or you'll be late for work. It's nearly 8!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: get off the ground -- get on your horse

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: get out -- get real

Idiom	Meaning	Example
get out	I do not believe it, <a href="#">you're kidding</a>	Your father played hockey with Bobby Orr? Get out!
get out of	avoid doing, not have to do	You can get out of gym class if you say you have a headache.
get out of my face	go away, I am <a href="#">sick of</a> you	I didn't ask for your advice. Get out of my face!
get out of the road	move, do not stand there	"Get out of the road!" he yelled as he rode his bike down the hill.
get out of town	you are mistaken, do not expect us to believe you	You saw a Martian? Get outa town! I don't believe it.
get out of your hair	leave, not bother you, <a href="#">get lost</a>	Let me ask one more question; then I'll get out of your hair.
get over	move, let me sit beside you, <a href="#">move over</a>	Hey, get over! I was sitting here!
get over	travel, go to visit	We hope to get over to the island when we go to Vancouver.
get over	forget, stop worrying about	We can help her get over the accident by listening to her.
get real	try to see what is really happening, <a href="#">get serious</a>	He wants five million dollars to play hockey? Tell him to get real.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: get out -- get real

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: get reamed out -- get the finger [B] (get the bird)

Idiom	Meaning	Example
get reamed out	(See <a href="#">ream out</a> )	
get revenge	hurt someone who hurt you, <a href="#">get even</a> , <a href="#">pay him back</a>	Do you want to get revenge, or do you want to discuss the problem and forgive him.
get rid of	discard, throw away, <a href="#">do away with</a>	First, we have to get rid of the money. Where can we hide it?
get rolling	move, go, drive away	If you have to be home by noon, we should get rolling.
get screwed	receive unfair treatment, <a href="#">ripped off</a> , <a href="#">taken in</a>	I got screwed when I bought this condo. I paid too much for it.
get serious	do not joke, be serious, <a href="#">pay attention</a>	When we discussed water safety he told us to get serious.
get shit [B]	get a scolding or a lecture, <a href="#">catch it</a> , <a href="#">get hell</a> [B]	He got shit for drinking beer in school. The principal was mad.
get something out of	learn from, benefit from	We always get something out of her class. We learn something.
get the drop on	be quicker to start, <a href="#">get the jump on</a>	Stu's very quick. In faceoffs, he gets the drop on his opponents.
get the finger [B] (get the bird)	get a bad sign, see the middle finger	Bad drivers get the finger when they cut in front of Randy.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: get reamed out -- get the finger [B] (get the bird)

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: get the green light -- get the wrinkles out

Idiom	Meaning	Example
get the green light	get approval, <a href="#">it's a go</a>	Don't start construction until we get the green light from the City.
get the hang of	learn to do, know the first steps	I'm getting the hang of algebra. I can solve the easy problems.
get the jitters	become nervous, begin to shake	When I get up to speak, I get the jitters and I can't think clearly.
get the jump on	start faster than the others, <a href="#">quick on the draw</a>	Ben got the jump on the other runners. He led by one stride.
get the lay of the land	check the conditions, <a href="#">size up</a> the situation	Before I sell insurance in a town, I like to get the lay of the land.
get the lead out	move faster, hurry, <a href="#">move it</a> , <a href="#">shake a leg</a>	The coach told me to get the lead out - to get moving.
get the picture	understand, see the way it is	After Jack explained his plan, he said, "Get the picture?"
get the point	understand the idea or the message	Did you get the point of his talk? What was the main idea?
get the word out	tell the message, <a href="#">spread the word</a>	The easiest way for us to get the word out is on the Internet.
get the wrinkles out	improve, revise	When they get the wrinkles out of the electric car, I'll buy one.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: get the green light -- get the wrinkles out

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: get this monkey off my back -- get together

Idiom	Meaning	Example
get this monkey off my back	stop a bad habit, be rid of a problem or <a href="#">hang-up</a>	I have to get this monkey off my back. I have to stop gambling.
get this show on the road	begin to do something, <a href="#">get down to business</a> , <a href="#">get rolling</a>	After a lot of talk about how to drill a well, the boss said, "Let's get this show on the road."
get this straight	understand what is said, <a href="#">get the picture</a>	Let me get this straight. You say there's a moose in your bathtub?
get to first base	do the first step, complete the first stage	He was hoping for a kiss, but he didn't get to first base.
get to it	do it now, do not delay, <a href="#">get to the point</a>	After listening to her babble for awhile, I said, "Please get to it."
get to me	bother me, <a href="#">bug me</a>	The sound of the fan gets to me. It's too loud.
get to the bottom of	get the facts, find the cause	Did you get to the bottom of the problem? What is the cause?
get to the point	say what is important, <a href="#">come to the point</a>	When answering questions, get to the point. Be direct and brief.
get to the root of the problem	find the cause, <a href="#">get to the bottom of</a>	We got to the root of the problem. The children are afraid of the dog.
get together	come to visit, <a href="#">have you over</a>	We should get together at Easter. Would you like to visit us?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: get this monkey off my back -- get together

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a nail-biter -- a pain in the butt

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a nail-biter	exciting game or movie; having much suspense	Have you seen the movie <i>The Fugitive</i> ? It's a nail-biter.
a necktie party	a hanging, a lynching	If the men catch the outlaw, they want to have a necktie party.
a new broom sweeps clean	an employee works hard on the first day or two, <a href="#">make a good impression</a>	After my first day working for Grandfather, he said, "A new broom sweeps clean."
a new lease on life	a feeling that life will be better, <a href="#">a fresh start</a>	The promotion gave him a new lease on life.
a notch below	inferior, not as good	That bicycle is a notch below the Peugeot. It's not quite as good.
a nut case	a person who is crazy, <a href="#">crackpot</a>	If you go to work in pajamas, people will say you're a nut case.
A-OK	fine, better than average	This restaurant is A-OK. The food and service are good.
a pack of lies	many lies, <a href="#">no truth to it</a>	What Gail is saying about Julie is a pack of lies. It's not true.
a pain in the ass [B]	a bother, a lot of trouble	Fixing that car every day is a pain in the ass.
a pain in the butt	a person who causes problems, <a href="#">a pain in the ass</a>	Hal keeps interrupting me. He's a pain in the butt!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: a nail-biter -- a pain in the butt

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: get under my skin -- get you down

Idiom	Meaning	Example
get under my skin	bother me, <a href="#">bug</a> me, <a href="#">get to me</a>	Don't let Bob's teasing get under your skin. Don't let it bother you.
get-up	clothes, strange clothing, weird costume	A vest with jogging pants! Are you going out in that get-up?
get up a head of steam	generate enough power to move, get <a href="#">up to speed</a>	If I get up a head of steam, I can knock down the door.
get-up-and-go	energy, vitality	I feel so lazy. I have no get-up-and-go.
get up on the wrong side of bed	be grouchy or cranky, get <a href="#">off to a bad start</a>	Did you get up on the wrong side of bed? Are you in a bad mood?
get wind of	hear about, <a href="#">find out</a> about	Did she get wind of our plan? Does she know about it?
get with it	become aware, learn how, <a href="#">in the know</a>	Leni, a friend at work, told me to get with it or I'd lose my job.
get worked up	feel upset, become angry	He gets worked up about unions. He hates protests and strikes.
get you back	(See <a href="#">get back at</a> )	
get you down	cause you to feel sad, cause you to be <a href="#">down</a>	Do Mondays get you down? Do you hate going back to work?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: get under my skin -- get you down

## Idioms: get your act together -- get your head together

Idiom	Meaning	Example
get your act together	become organized, <a href="#">get it together</a>	Bill is getting his act together. He's not late anymore.
get your attention	cause you to be aware of, <a href="#">catch your eye</a>	When Marylou walked by, that got your attention.
get your back up	become upset, <a href="#">get mad</a>	Tim gets his back up when you criticize his work. Be careful.
get your buns over here	come here quickly, <a href="#">on the double</a>	Wade, get your buns over here and sign your name.
get your dander up	annoy or bother you, <a href="#">bug you</a>	Do barking dogs get your dander up? Does barking irritate you?
get your ears pinned back	(See <a href="#">ears pinned back</a> )	
get your feet wet	try to do it, attempt it, <a href="#">try your hand at</a>	To become a lawyer, learn the theory; then get your feet wet.
get your goat	annoy you, <a href="#">bug you</a> , <a href="#">get to me</a>	Don't let Jason get your goat. He teases everybody.
get your head out of the clouds	be more realistic, <a href="#">come down to earth</a> , <a href="#">get real</a>	You can dream at home, but please get your head out of the clouds when you come to work.
get your head together	begin to think clearly, <a href="#">get your act together</a>	I need a holiday to get my head together - to think clearly again.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: get your act together -- get your head together

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: get your hopes up -- get your wires crossed

Idiom	Meaning	Example
get your hopes up	cause you to be hopeful, <a href="#">pin your hopes on</a>	Now don't get your hopes up, but I plan to appeal your conviction.
get your jollies	(See <a href="#">get your kicks</a> )	
get your kicks	enjoy yourself, <a href="#">have fun</a>	How do you get your kicks? Do you sing? Dance? Travel?
get your knuckles rapped	be punished, <a href="#">get hell</a> , <a href="#">get shit</a> [B]	If I forget to register my guns, I'll get my knuckles rapped.
get your mind around	understand, comprehend, <a href="#">wrap your mind around</a>	He explained DNA, but I can't get my mind around it.
get your shirt in a knot/ get your shit in a knot [B]	want to hurry or rush, <a href="#">hurry up</a>	If we asked Pop to hurry, he'd say, "Don't get your shirt in a knot!"
get your shit together [B]	become organized, make a plan and follow it	A counselor can help you get your shit together. Talk to one.
get your tits in a wringer	cause trouble for yourself, <a href="#">get into trouble</a>	If there's hash in your suitcase you could get your tits in a wringer.
get your way	do what you want to do, <a href="#">have it your way</a>	You used to get your way with Mom and Dad. They trusted you.
get your wires crossed	get the wrong meaning, communicate poorly	We got our wires crossed. I said <i>someday</i> , and you heard <i>Sunday</i> !

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: get your hopes up -- get your wires crossed

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: get yours -- give 110%

Idiom	Meaning	Example
get yours	be hurt, get hit or injured	After the fight he said, "You'll get yours! Just wait!"
getting on in years	(See <a href="#">get on in years</a> )	
ghetto blaster	portable radio, <a href="#">boom box</a>	Loud rock music came from a ghetto blaster on the steps.
gibberish	nonsense, <a href="#">bafflegab</a> , <a href="#">bunk</a>	Did he say <i>disregardless</i> ? I wish he wouldn't talk gibberish!
gift of the gab (gift of gab)	(See <a href="#">the gift of the gab</a> )	
gild the lily	decorate a beautiful object, improve a <a href="#">work of art</a>	Decorating that Scotch pine would be gilding the lily.
gimme a break	do not tell me to do that, that is unreasonable	You expect me to spell every word correctly. Gimme a break!
girl Friday	girl employee who does a variety of office jobs	Jan is our girl Friday. She does the important jobs in our office.
git	go, leave, <a href="#">get going</a> , <a href="#">get lost</a>	When our cat dug in his flower garden, he said, "Git! Go on!"
give 110%	work harder than required, do more than asked	If we want to win this game, everyone has to give 110%.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: get yours -- give 110%

## Idioms: give a black eye -- give her

Idiom	Meaning	Example
give a black eye	cause a loss of respect for a person or organization, <a href="#">pride goeth before a fall</a>	When a priest is convicted of sexual assault, it gives the Catholic Church a black eye.
give a damn / give a shit / give a fuck [B]	care about, <a href="#">don't give a damn</a> , <a href="#">give a hoot</a>	Look at his hair. He doesn't give a damn about his appearance.
give a hoot	care; show interest, show concern	The problem with Julio is that he doesn't give a hoot about family.
give a little	be flexible, do not be so firm	When you discuss the divorce terms, try to give a little.
give a shit [B]	care, feel interest or concern, <a href="#">don't give a damn</a>	Sometimes I wonder if you give a shit - about anything!
give an arm and a leg	give a lot, pay a lot, <a href="#">give my eye teeth</a>	She'd give an arm and a leg to have her baby back.
give an inch	concede a little bit, compromise, <a href="#">let up</a>	We asked Dad to change his rule, but he wouldn't give an inch.
give and take	win and lose, give something to get something	Marriage works on a give-and-take basis - more give than take.
give head [B]	give oral sex to a man, perform fellatio	Can you catch AIDS from giving head?
give her	use more power, <a href="#">give it all you've got</a>	If the foreman wants us to work faster, he yells, "Give 'er!"

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: give a black eye -- give her

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: give her credit -- give in

Idiom	Meaning	Example
give her credit	say that she helped or contributed	Give Jane credit for staying with Tarzan all these years.
give her shit [B]	try hard, play hard, go fast, <a href="#">give her</a>	Give 'er shit, guys. We can beat this team.
give her the eye	look at her with interest, <a href="#">come-on</a>	At the school lunch table, Kevin would smile and give her the eye.
give him a taste of his own medicine	do to him what he does, <a href="#">an eye for an eye</a>	If Jim is sarcastic, give him a taste of his own medicine.
give him an inch and he'll take a mile	give him a little freedom and he will take a lot	He lacks self-discipline. Give him an inch and he'll take a mile.
give him enough rope and he'll hang himself	allow him enough freedom and he will hurt himself or be caught	If he's bad, give him enough rope and he'll hang himself. The police will stop him.
give him the brush-off	turn away from someone, reject someone	When Don asked Jane for a date, she gave him the brush-off.
give him the evil eye	look fierce or evil, stare in a bad way	When I testified in court, the prisoner gave me the evil eye.
give him the slip	leave him, <a href="#">ditch him</a>	We gave him the slip while he was in the washroom.
give in	not try anymore, yield	Emily always gives in; she won't disagree with me.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: give her credit -- give in

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: give it a rest -- give me a call

Idiom	Meaning	Example
give it a rest	do not say that anymore, stop complaining	Give it a rest, eh. All you talk about is religion.
give it a whirl	try to do something, <a href="#">try your hand at</a>	When I saw the others dancing, I decided to give it a whirl.
give it all you've got	try very hard, do all you can	When I say "push," give it all you've got.
give it the once-over	look at it quickly, do a hasty job, <a href="#">a lick and a promise</a>	We drove by the house and gave it the once-over. It looks nice!
give it to him	lecture him or hit him, <a href="#">tell him off</a>	If he touches me again, I'm really going to give it to him!
give it to me straight	give me the facts, do not <a href="#">beat around the bush</a>	"I have some bad news, man." "Tell me. Give it to me straight."
give it your best shot	do the best you can, try your hardest	If you want to win, you have to give it your best shot.
give me a bad time	tease me, <a href="#">bug</a> me, give me a rough time (see <a href="#">give you a rough time</a> )	I wish you wouldn't give me a bad time about my low grades.
give me a break	give me a chance to win, <a href="#">gimme a break</a>	When we play tennis, give me a break. Don't play your best.
give me a call	phone me, <a href="#">ring me</a>	I'll give you a call when I have a minute. I have your number.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: give it a rest -- give me a call

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: give me a dingle -- give my right arm

Idiom	Meaning	Example
give me a dingle	phone me, call me, <a href="#">give me a ring</a>	Give me a dingle sometime. My number's in the phone book.
give me a hand	help me, <a href="#">lend a hand</a>	Please give me a hand with this math problem. I can't solve it.
give me a hint	tell me part of the answer, say a word to help me	I can't guess the name of your new boyfriend. Give me a hint.
give me a lift	give me a ride, <a href="#">pick you up</a>	Can I give you a lift to school? Want to ride with me?
give me a lift	give me a happy feeling, cause me to feel better	Pat's jokes give me a lift. When I laugh, I feel much better.
give me a ring	phone me, call me, <a href="#">ring me</a>	Give me a ring when you get home from work, eh.
give me the creeps	cause me to feel scared or uncomfortable	Damon looks like a ghost. He gives me the creeps.
give me the third degree	question me carefully, <a href="#">haul up on the carpet</a>	The police ask a lot of questions. They give you the third degree.
give my eye teeth	give something valuable, <a href="#">give my right arm</a>	Does he like me? I'd give my eye teeth to know if he likes me.
give my right arm	give something valuable, <a href="#">give my eye teeth</a>	What a voice! I'd give my right arm to be able to sing like that.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: give me a dingle -- give my right arm

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: give no quarter -- give you a boost

Idiom	Meaning	Example
give no quarter	not co-operate or concede, <a href="#">drive a hard bargain</a>	When he negotiates a contract, he gives no quarter. He's firm.
give notice	give a letter that says you are leaving or quitting	If I want to leave the position, I give them two weeks notice.
give off an odor	smell, have an odor	After sitting in the sun, the dead fish gave off a strong odor.
give out	break, stop operating, <a href="#">conk out</a>	After three hours of steady use, the pump gave out. It just quit.
give them a hand	clap your hands, applaud	Let's give them a hand, folks. They sang very well.
give them what for	give them a lecture, scold them, <a href="#">give you hell</a>	After the team lost a game, the coach gave 'em what for.
give up	stop trying, not try any more	I give up. I can't remember who invented the telephone.
give up the blueline (hockey)	let opponents cross the blueline before you check them	If we give up the blueline, they will get more shots on goal.
give up the ghost	stop hoping after a long time	When will she give up the ghost? Her son has been gone for years.
give you a boost	cause you to be confident, encourage you	Winning that award will give her a boost. It will encourage her.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: give no quarter -- give you a boost

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: give you a hard time -- give you shit [B]

Idiom	Meaning	Example
give you a hard time	tease you, criticize you, <a href="#">a hassle</a> you	Did the class give you a hard time about losing their papers?
give you a line	tell you a false story, <a href="#">hand you a line</a>	Don't believe him. He's giving you a line about being wealthy.
give you a ribbing	tease you, <a href="#">bug</a> you, <a href="#">give you a hard time</a>	When I got stuck in the lake, my friends gave me a ribbing.
give you a rough time	tease you, hassle you (see <a href="#">hassle me</a> )	The players gave me a rough time about scoring on my own goalie.
give you a run for your money	compete with you, try to defeat you	I'm not the best skier, but I'll give you a run for your money.
give you an out	give you an excuse, allow you to <a href="#">beg off</a>	You don't have to work. Your sore back will give you an out.
give you flack	tell you what you did wrong, criticize you	He gave me flack for smoking in his car. The smell bothers him.
give you hell [B]	lecture you, scold you, <a href="#">tie into</a> you	She'll give you hell if you come late to her class, so be on time.
give you odds	if I lose the bet, I pay you more money than you bet	I'll give you odds that Montreal will win. I'll bet \$2; you bet \$1.
give you shit [B]	lecture you, be angry with you, <a href="#">give you hell</a>	If you spend too much money he'll give you shit.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: give you a hard time -- give you shit [B]

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a paltry sum -- a piece of cake

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a paltry sum	a small amount of money, <a href="#">chicken feed</a> , <a href="#">peanuts</a>	What did I pay for this painting? A paltry sum - I bought it at a garage sale.
a paper trail	a series of memos or letters that record events	A business merger leaves a long paper trail - many documents.
a party to that	a person who helps to do something bad	Jane said she didn't want to be a party to computer theft.
a pat answer	a planned or memorized answer, a <a href="#">canned</a> answer	You won't get the job if you give a pat answer to every question.
a penny for your thoughts	tell me what you are thinking about	When I'm quiet, she will say, "A penny for your thoughts."
a perfect stranger	a person you have never seen, <a href="#">a total stranger</a>	In New York, a perfect stranger asked her to sleep with him.
a pick-me-up	something that gives me energy or new life	On a hot afternoon, a glass of iced tea is a great pick-me-up.
a picture is worth a thousand words	a picture is easier to understand than a report or essay	Instead of more talk, I'll draw thousand words a diagram. A picture is worth a thousand words.
a piece of ass [B]	sex, intercourse, <a href="#">nookie</a>	If it's just a piece of ass you want, why don't you find a prostitute?
a piece of cake	easy to do, <a href="#">it's a snap</a> , <a href="#">no problem</a>	Solving the puzzle was easy. It was a piece o' cake.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: a paltry sum -- a piece of cake

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: give you static -- give your best

Idiom	Meaning	Example
give you static	criticize what you did, <a href="#">give you flack</a>	He gave me static for failing the exam. He said I can do better.
give you the axe	fire you, dismiss you, get the axe (see <a href="#">get axed</a> )	"Why did they give her the axe?" "For stealing company money."
give you the benefit...	(See <a href="#">the benefit of the doubt</a> )	
give you the boot	fire you, dismiss you, <a href="#">down the road</a>	If you drink liquor at work, they'll give you the boot.
give you the cold shoulder	be unfriendly toward you, turn away from you, <a href="#">stand away</a>	If you forget her birthday she'll give you the cold shoulder.
give you the gears	fool you, tease you, <a href="#">josh</a> you, <a href="#">pull your leg</a>	When Dad said you would have to pay for cleaning the carpet, he was giving you the gears.
give you the runaround	(See <a href="#">the runaround</a> )	
give you the shirt off his back	give you anything he owns to help you, <a href="#">bend over backwards</a>	Christian is a compassionate person. He will give you the shirt off his back.
give you what for	lecture you, <a href="#">give you hell</a>	If you miss hockey practice, the coach will give you what for.
give your best	(See <a href="#">give it your best shot</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: give you static -- give your best

## Idioms: give your word -- glued to the set

Idiom	Meaning	Example
give your word	promise, say that you agree, <a href="#">count on</a> what you say	If you gave your word, do whatever you promised. A person is only as good as his word.
glad rags	best clothes, <a href="#">dress clothes</a>	I'll come to your concert. I'll do my hair and put on my glad rags.
glassy eyed	dazed, not alert	When I saw him he was glassy eyed. I think he was drunk.
glitch	fault, problem, <a href="#">snag</a>	That printer is full of glitches. It isn't working right.
glom onto	grab, take	Don't leave any donuts around, or Bubba will glom onto them.
gloss over	cover faults or errors, <a href="#">cover up</a>	Jill won't gloss over your errors. She'll tell you about them.
gloves are off	(See <a href="#">the gloves are off</a> )	
glow on	(See <a href="#">a glow on</a> )	
glowing terms	(See <a href="#">in glowing terms</a> )	
glued to the set	watching TV, interested in a TV show	Jack loves sports. He's glued to the set every Saturday.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: gnashing of teeth -- go around the bend

Idiom	Meaning	Example
gnashing of teeth	anger, complaining	When the hospital closed, there was much gnashing of teeth.
go against the grain	oppose the natural way, <a href="#">do it the hard way</a>	Moe has always been perverse - always going against the grain.
go all-out	do your best, <a href="#">give it all you've got</a>	He'll go all-out at the Olympics. He wants to win a medal.
go all the way (sex)	have intercourse, <a href="#">make love</a>	"When I go all the way, I want to feel loved," she said.
go all the way (sports)	win a final series, win the cup or trophy	If the Leafs beat us, they'll go all the way.
go along for the ride	(See <a href="#">along for the ride</a> )	
go along with	agree to, co-operate with	If you go along with the crime, you'll be as guilty as they are.
go along with	pretend you do not know, <a href="#">play along</a>	If we have a surprise party for Kay, will you go along with it?
go ape	become extremely excited, <a href="#">go bananas</a>	The girls would go ape when they saw the Beatles.
go around the bend	(See <a href="#">around the bend</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: gnashing of teeth -- go around the bend

## Idioms: go around with -- go by the boards

Idiom	Meaning	Example
go around with	be friends with, <a href="#">hang out</a> with	At the time, I was going around with a girl named Diane.
go at a good clip	(See <a href="#">at a good clip</a> )	
go back on	reverse a decision, <a href="#">break a promise</a>	Mat wouldn't go back on his word. He's very dependable.
go bad	spoil, become sour	Milk will go bad if it's left in the sun. It will taste sour.
go ballistic	become very upset, <a href="#">freak out</a>	When I told Mom I was pregnant she went ballistic.
go bananas	become very excited, act crazy, <a href="#">go nuts</a>	When Elvis swiveled his hips, the girls went bananas.
go berserk	become insane, <a href="#">go crazy</a>	With ten kids, it's a wonder the poor woman didn't go berserk.
go bonkers	lose control of emotions, <a href="#">freak out</a> , <a href="#">go crazy</a>	He went bonkers because there was too much pressure at work.
go bust	go bankrupt, <a href="#">go under</a>	Two of his companies went bust within a year.
go by the boards	become less important, be neglected or omitted	When he returned to school, his social life went by the boards.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: go around with -- go by the boards

## Idioms: go by the name of -- go figure

Idiom	Meaning	Example
go by the name of	has the name of, is called, <a href="#">a.k.a.</a>	The zebra also goes by the name of "tiger horse."
go crazy	lose control, <a href="#">go bananas</a> , <a href="#">go wild</a>	If I don't leave this place I'll go crazy! It's boring here.
go down	lie down, go to bed, go to sleep	Our baby goes down early - and gets up early.
go down for the third time	drown, die, fail	In Calculus 101, I'm going down for the third time. I'm failing.
go down on [B]	give oral sex to a woman or a man	"Do you want to go down on me?" she whispered.
go downhill	fail and lose, <a href="#">down and out</a>	It's too bad. After getting out of prison he just went downhill.
go downtown [B]	have intercourse, <a href="#">go all the way</a>	If I go up to your room, it doesn't mean you can go downtown.
go easy on	do not ask him to work hard, <a href="#">ease up</a> on	Go easy on Billy, please. He's not well today.
go easy on	do not take too much, use less	Go easy on the jam, please. Leave some for me.
go figure	you find the answer, the answer is <i>no</i>	He said he quit smoking, then he asks for a cigarette. Go figure.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: go by the name of -- go figure

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: go for -- go hog wild

Idiom	Meaning	Example
go for	believe, accept	I said I was late because of a flat tire, but Dad didn't go for that.
go for	admire, desire	Burt goes for Dolly, but Dolly doesn't like Burt.
go for a spin	go for a ride in a car, <a href="#">take a drive</a>	Clyde stops the car and says to Bonnie, "Want to go for a spin?"
go for broke	try your hardest, <a href="#">go all-out</a>	On my last jump I'll go for broke. I'll beat my best mark.
go for it	try it, attempt it	When he asked if he should climb the tree, we yelled, "Go for it!"
go for the jugular	strike at the vital location, make the killing action, <a href="#">killer instinct</a>	From the lion we have learned to go for the jugular, to defeat our opponents without mercy.
go-getter	(See <a href="#">a go-getter</a> )	
go great guns	(See <a href="#">going great guns</a> )	
go haywire	break, not work properly, <a href="#">break down</a>	They said they fixed the car, but it went haywire again the next day.
go hog wild	have a wild celebration, <a href="#">go wild</a>	When the Stampeders won the Grey Cup, the fans went hog wild.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: go hungry -- go off half-cocked

Idiom	Meaning	Example
go hungry	not have enough to eat, continue to be hungry	We may be poor, but we never go hungry.
go in circles	walk around but not work, work in confusion	I'm going in circles. I have to stop and plan my work.
go into detail	give details in a story or report	Don't go into detail right now. Just tell us how much it costs.
go jump in the lake	go away and do not return, <a href="#">take off</a>	If he expects us to write a 50-page report, he can go jump in the lake.
go like crazy	work fast and hard, be very busy, <a href="#">like crazy</a>	We've been going like crazy trying to feed fifty people!
go like stink	go fast, accelerate quickly	That Mustang goes like stink. It's a fast car.
go mad	become insane, <a href="#">go crazy</a> , <a href="#">go nuts</a>	If he doesn't stop playing those drums, I'll go mad.
go nowhere fast	be unable to advance, be stuck where you are	Without a diploma, you'll be going nowhere fast.
go nuts	become insane, <a href="#">go bonkers</a> , <a href="#">go crazy</a>	If another mosquito bites me, I'll go nuts!
go off half-cocked	speak without thinking, rush into action	Dar is sensible, but he goes off half-cocked when he plays ball.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: go hungry -- go off half-cocked

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: go off the deep end -- go over

Idiom	Meaning	Example
go off the deep end	do something strange, <a href="#">go overboard</a>	Now don't go off the deep end and hit somebody.
go on	happen, occur, <a href="#">what's going down</a>	What's going on here? Why is your bike in the bathtub?
go on	it cannot be true, <a href="#">you're kidding</a>	"Ted drove the car into the lake!" "Go on! Ted wouldn't do that!"
go on about	talk steadily, ramble, <a href="#">run off at the mouth</a>	"What was he saying?" "Oh, he was going on about taxes and the price of wheat."
go one better	do more, hit harder, <a href="#">outdo yourself</a>	If he gives her candy, I'll go one better and give her flowers.
go out of your mind	(See <a href="#">out of your mind</a> )	
go out of your way	do special things to help, <a href="#">put yourself out</a>	Hilda went out of her way to help us when Dad was sick.
go out on a limb	promise too much, risk, <a href="#">take a chance</a>	Don't go out on a limb. Don't say the company will pay for it.
go out with	be a boyfriend/girlfriend, <a href="#">date</a> , <a href="#">see</a>	Jerry asked me to go out with him. I think he likes me.
go over	read, practise	Did you go over your notes? Are you ready for the quiz?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: go off the deep end -- go over

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: go over -- go strong

Idiom	Meaning	Example
go over	be liked, be accepted	Free drinks will go over with the students. They'll like that idea.
go overboard	do it too much, <a href="#">go off the deep end</a>	He goes overboard if he likes a girl - buys her flowers every day.
go places	succeed, do well, <a href="#">make it big</a>	When Percy got his degree, we knew he was going places.
go pound salt	leave, go away, <a href="#">go tell your mother she wants you</a>	We don't allow babies in our gang. Go pound salt!
go public	tell the public, tell a reporter	If he goes public, everybody will know that we had an affair.
go-round	a turn, a try, a cowboy's ride	In the second go-round, he scored a 79, better than his first try.
go soft	be gentle, be considerate	I've learned to go soft when I return papers with low grades.
go steady	<a href="#">date</a> only one person, <a href="#">go out with</a> only one	Tony and Pearl are going steady. They're faithful to each other.
go straight	change from a criminal to a law-abiding citizen	When he's released from prison he plans to go straight.
go strong	(See <a href="#">going strong</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: go over -- go strong

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: go tell your mother she wants you -- go to hell [B]

Idiom	Meaning	Example
go tell your mother she wants you	go away, you're not welcome here, <a href="#">get lost</a>	Mikey, you always cry when you don't win. Please go home - go tell your mother she wants you!
go the distance	finish the race, complete the course	If Mat begins a project, he'll go the distance - he'll complete it.
go the extra mile	work longer or harder than expected, <a href="#">give 110%</a>	If you are willing to go the extra mile, you can be the top student.
go the way of the dodo	become extinct like the dodo bird, <a href="#">die off</a>	If we don't protect our language, it will go the way of the dodo.
go through	say, read, <a href="#">run through</a>	Could you go through the steps one more time, please.
go through the roof	become very angry, <a href="#">blow your stack</a>	Mr. Tse will go through the roof when he sees all these mistakes.
go to any trouble	work to make us welcome, <a href="#">put yourself out</a>	Please don't go to any trouble for us. Don't change your plans.
go to bat for	help someone by talking to managers or authorities, <a href="#">put in a good word for</a>	Uncle Bob works for the City. If your tax bill is too high, maybe he'll go to bat for you.
go to great lengths/ go to any lengths	do whatever is necessary, never <a href="#">give up</a>	Cynthia will go to any lengths to find a dress designed by Voz.
go to hell [B]	leave, go, <a href="#">drop dead</a> , <a href="#">take off</a>	When I asked him to move his car, he told me to go to hell.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: go tell your mother she wants you -- go to hell [B]

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a piece of my mind -- a play on words

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a piece of my mind	my criticism of what you did, <a href="#">a tongue-lashing</a>	If <i>my</i> son stayed out all night, I'd give him a piece of my mind.
a piece of piss	an easy task, an easy thing to do, <a href="#">a piece of cake</a>	Changing the oil? A piece o' piss - I'll show you how.
a piece of tail [B]	(See <a href="#">a piece of ass</a> )	
a piece of the action	a share of the profit or prize or loot	Those who paid for the winning ticket get a piece of the action.
a pig in a poke	a risk, a gamble, taking a chance (see <a href="#">take a chance</a> )	If you don't test drive the car, you're buying a pig in a poke.
a pinch of coon shit [B]	very little or no value, worthless	That Rambler ain't worth a pinch o' coon shit. It's a lousy car.
a pinch of salt	a bit of salt, the salt held between thumb and finger	Hector uses a pinch of salt when he makes chocolate fudge.
a pinch to grow an inch	on your birthday, guests pinch you to help you grow taller	"Happy birthday, Sal. Here's a pinch to grow an inch!" "Ouch!"
a pine float	a glass of water with a toothpick floating on the water	"What's that?" "You ordered a pine float - a toothpick floating in a glass of water!"
a play on words	a pun, a word or phrase that has two meanings	When a man says he'll <i>give you a ring</i> , it may be a play on words.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: a piece of my mind -- a play on words

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: go to hell in a handbasket -- go wild

Idiom	Meaning	Example
go to hell in a handbasket	go to hell feeling peaceful or unconcerned, <a href="#">ignorance is bliss</a>	We don't get involved in issues. We're wasting our lives and going to hell in a handbasket!
go to pieces	(See <a href="#">fall to pieces</a> )	
go to pot	(See <a href="#">gone to pot</a> )	
go to town	(See <a href="#">going to town</a> )	
go to trouble	(See <a href="#">go to any trouble</a> )	
go to your head	(See <a href="#">let it go to your head</a> )	
go too far	become too excited, <a href="#">get carried away</a>	Some soccer fans go too far. They fight and cause damage.
go under	fail, be unable to continue, go bankrupt	Companies that can't make loan payments will go under.
go up in smoke	burn, be destroyed in a fire	You need fire insurance. What if your condo goes up in smoke?
go wild	act wild, run and squeal etc.	When the teacher leaves the room, the kids go wild.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: go with the flow -- going gets rough

Idiom	Meaning	Example
go with the flow	do what others do, do what helps everybody	Don't always try to be different. Go with the flow sometimes.
go without	not have any, not have money, <a href="#">do without</a>	When Dad lost his job, we had go without steak.
go wrong	choose wrong answers, <a href="#">make a mistake</a>	Where did we go wrong with our budget? Did we miscalculate?
god awful	ugly, <a href="#">shabby</a>	I won't wear that god-awful suit! It looks like a garbage bag!
God bless the Duke of Argyle	something to say when scratching your back	Oh, that feels good! God bless the Duke of Argyle!
God rest his soul	(See <a href="#">rest his soul</a> )	
gofer	the employee who must <i>go for</i> supplies, mail, coffee, etc.,	"Are you the gofer in this office?" "Ya, I gofer this and I gofer that, and soon I'm gonna gofer a holiday! Ha ha!"
going concern	(See <a href="#">a going concern</a> )	
going down	(See <a href="#">what's going down</a> )	
going gets rough	(See <a href="#">the going gets rough</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: going great guns -- golden years

Idiom	Meaning	Example
going great guns	working very well, <a href="#">going strong</a>	We were going great guns till our goalie got hurt. Then they scored.
going rate	(See <a href="#">the going rate</a> )	
going strong	doing well, succeeding	The party was going strong - lots of dancing and laughter.
going to the mountains	going home, returning to the place you call home	"Where did John go when he left here?" "He said he was going to the mountains - going home."
going to town	working or talking hard, protesting, <a href="#">sounding off</a>	One man was really going to town, speaking against taxes.
gol dang/gol darn	frustrating, <a href="#">dad-blamed</a> , <a href="#">darn</a>	The gol dang cord is tangled. It's full of knots.
golden age	best years, time of most prosperity	He said the decade after World War II was Canada's golden age.
golden opportunity	(See <a href="#">a golden opportunity</a> )	
golden rule	(See <a href="#">The Golden Rule</a> )	
golden years	65 years of age or older, <a href="#">sunset years</a>	Dad is retired now, enjoying his golden years.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: golly -- good bet

Idiom	Meaning	Example
golly	oh, <a href="#">gee</a> , <a href="#">gosh</a>	Golly! I've never seen so much snow.
golly gee	oh, <a href="#">gee whiz</a> , <a href="#">wow</a>	Golly gee! Nobody ever did that to me before.
gone to pot	in poor condition, neglected, <a href="#">run down</a>	The farmyard had gone to pot. There was junk everywhere.
gone to the dogs	not well maintained, in very poor condition	My garden has gone to the dogs. It's full of dandelions and weeds.
goner	(See <a href="#">a goner</a> )	
gonzo	gone, not here, <a href="#">out of here</a>	On June 30, school's over and I'm gonzo!
good afternoon	hello, <a href="#">hi</a> , <a href="#">good day</a>	Answer the phone this way: "Good afternoon, Ko speaking."
good and dead/mad/sick	very dead or mad or sick etc.	That rodeo bull was good and mad. He tried to gore the rider.
good arm	(See <a href="#">a good arm</a> )	
good bet	good team or horse or person to bet on	The Leafs look like a good bet to win the series. They should win.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: good day -- good hands

Idiom	Meaning	Example
good day	hello, <a href="#">good morning</a> , <a href="#">good afternoon</a>	"Good day, Mrs. Hardy." "How do you do, Mr. Lane."
good egg	(See <a href="#">a good egg</a> )	
good for a loan	willing to lend money, able to lend money	Let's ask Mike for some money. He's usually good for a loan.
good-for-nothing	not useful, useless	I'll be glad when we sell that good-for-nothing truck.
good for you	good work, <a href="#">'at a boy</a> , <a href="#">good on you</a>	When Dad saw my high marks, he said, "Good for you, Nick."
good going	good work, <a href="#">'at a girl</a> , <a href="#">way to go</a>	Good going, Judy! You passed the exam!
good golly	oh, <a href="#">gosh</a> , <a href="#">wow</a>	Good golly, Miss Molly. You are the prettiest girl in the county!
good gravy	oh, how surprising, <a href="#">gosh</a>	Good gravy! I've got BINGO! I won!
good grief	what a shame, oh no, <a href="#">too bad</a>	Good grief! You're injured! Your hand is bleeding!
good hands	skillful hands; ability to pass, catch, shoot; <a href="#">feather a pass</a>	He's not a fast runner, but he's got good hands.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: good head -- goodies

Idiom	Meaning	Example
good head	(See <a href="#">a good head</a> )	
good morning	hello, hi, <a href="#">good day</a>	We said, "Good morning, Miss Keele," as we entered the room.
good on you	that is good, you did good work, <a href="#">good for you</a>	If you can tie a kangaroo down, good on ya, mate!
good riddance	good that someone or something goes away	When the manager resigned, we all said, "Good riddance!"
good show	that is good, you performed well	Good show, I say. Jolly good show! Let's see another trick.
good sport	(See <a href="#">a good sport</a> )	
good time	a good experience; an enjoyable party, visit, etc.	There were lots of people at the wedding and everybody had a good time!
good to go	ready to go, ready to leave	You have the saddle and I have the horse. We're good to go!
good wood on it	(See <a href="#">get good wood on it</a> )	
goodies	cookies, candy, cake, etc.	Grandma always had a plate of goodies on the table for us.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: goodies -- gosh darn (gol darn)

Idiom	Meaning	Example
goodies	accessories: air, cruise, sun roof, etc.; <a href="#">loaded</a>	He likes the Buick because it has a lot of goodies - a lot of extras.
goodness gracious	oh my, oh dear, <a href="#">gosh</a>	Goodness gracious! That sauce is hot!
goof off	play, <a href="#">fool around</a> , <a href="#">horse around</a>	We were goofing off in the hall before class - joking and stuff.
goof up	do it poorly, <a href="#">screw up</a>	If I goof up again, I'm going to use a different typewriter.
goose egg	zero, no score, <a href="#">skunked</a>	They got three goals. We got the goose egg.
goose is cooked	chance is gone, plan has failed, <a href="#">game over</a>	If we don't win this game, our goose is cooked.
goose it	press the gas pedal down, <a href="#">pedal to the metal</a>	When a car tries to pass us, don't goose it. Slow down.
goosed	(See <a href="#">Canada goose</a> )	
gosh	oh, <a href="#">gee</a> , <a href="#">golly</a> , <a href="#">wow</a>	Gosh! I didn't know you had a twin sister!
gosh darn (gol darn)	frustrating, <a href="#">darn</a> , <a href="#">friggin</a>	Where is that gosh-darn pen? Who took my pen?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: gospel truth -- got it made

Idiom	Meaning	Example
gospel truth	(See <a href="#">the gospel truth</a> )	
got a corner on	got most of the business, <a href="#">corner the market</a>	Bata's got a corner on the shoe business in Ontario.
got a crush on	feel romantic about, <a href="#">sweet on</a>	Wayne's got a crush on Miss Kramer. He loves Miss Kramer!
got a light	got a match, have a cigarette lighter	I lost my matches. Have you got a light?
got guts	have courage, have <a href="#">nerves of steel</a>	She's got guts to try skydiving. It's a dangerous sport.
got him covered	point a gun at him, prevent him from going	"I've got you covered!" the boy said, pointing a toy gun at me.
got it bad	feels it very much, has <a href="#">a case of</a>	Poor Jenny. She loves Stuart. She's got it bad for him.
got it coming	deserve to get hurt, should <a href="#">get hell</a> [B]	If you drive drunk, you should be punished - you've got it coming.
got it in for	dislike, is unkind to, is <a href="#">on my case</a>	I think Mr. Yee's got it in for me. He's very critical of my work.
got it made	be happy and successful and rich	Brandy's got it made: she has a career, wealth and a loving family.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: gospel truth -- got it made

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: got my eye on -- got you by the balls [B]

Idiom	Meaning	Example
got my eye on	am interested in, want to know him/her, want to buy it	A Corvette? No. I've got my eye on a Fiat Spyder.
got my hands full	am very busy, <a href="#">plate is full</a>	I'd like to help with your project but I've got my hands full.
got no business	do not have the right, have no claim	Charlie's got no business telling us how to manage our farm.
got rocks in your head	have no sense, make bad decisions	If he swims with sharks, he's got rocks in his head.
got the balls [B]	got the courage, <a href="#">got what it takes</a>	He wants to enforce gun control, and he's got the balls to do it.
got the blues	feel sad, <a href="#">feel blue</a>	Zora's got the blues because her lover was untrue.
got the hots for	desire, feel passion for	She's got the hots for Tony. See how she touches him.
got the rags on [B]	menstruate, <a href="#">have your period</a>	Lana doesn't feel like going out tonight. She's got the rags on.
got what it takes	got what is needed, <a href="#">got the balls</a> [B]	We need a person to manage the office. Ko's got what it takes.
got you by the balls [B]	got you so you can't move or quit or <a href="#">back out</a>	If you signed the contract, they've got you by the balls.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: got my eye on -- got you by the balls [B]

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: got you by the short hairs -- grand slam

Idiom	Meaning	Example
got you by the short hairs	has a painful hold on you, has an advantage, <a href="#">gotcha</a>	"What can I do about a bad credit rating?" "Not much. They've got you by the short hairs."
got you cornered	make it difficult to move or answer	"I've got you cornered," he said, pointing at the checker board.
got your number	know how to manage you; how to <a href="#">get her way</a>	She's got your number, Bill. She knows you'll do anything she asks.
gotcha (got you)	tricked you, defeated you	When I don't know the answer, he says, "Gotcha!"
gotches	men's shorts, men's underwear	Uh oh, no clean gotches. It's time to do my laundry.
grab a bite to eat	eat a lunch or meal, <a href="#">have a bite</a>	We were so busy we didn't have time to grab a bite to eat.
grab a chair	sit down, <a href="#">have a seat</a> , <a href="#">take a load off your feet</a>	After I introduced everybody, I said, "Grab a chair and sit down."
grain belt	a region or area that produces cereal crops	The grain belt got very little rain this year. The land is dry.
grain of salt	(See <a href="#">take it with a grain of salt</a> )	
grand slam	a <a href="#">home run</a> with runners on all bases, a major score	It was 5-1. Then Carter hit a grand slam and tied the game, 5-5.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: got you by the short hairs -- grand slam

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a pocket of resistance -- a redneck

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a pocket of resistance	a small group resisting, a few people not <a href="#">on side</a>	There's a pocket of resistance in one district. A few disagree.
a poker face	a face with no expression; showing no emotion	Judge Brady has a poker face. He doesn't show his emotions.
a pop	per person, per ticket	"How much are the tickets?" "Fifty dollars a pop."
a pretty penny	a lot of money, a high price	I bet she paid a pretty penny for that coat. It looks expensive.
a question of	the important factor, the issue	For them, it's a question of faith. They believe in the Bible.
a quick study	a person who tries to learn much in a short time, <a href="#">a crash course</a>	When my wife was elected to city council, I became a quick study in municipal politics.
a quickie	a quick game or visit, a short time of play	I love to play chess. Do we have time for a quickie before dinner?
a raw deal	an unfair contract, paying too much, <a href="#">taken in</a>	If he's charging too much rent you're getting a raw deal.
a red-letter day	a special day, a memorable day	This is going to be a red-letter day. I found my lost keys!
a redneck	a person who is intolerant of other opinions and cultures, a bigot	If you ask a redneck he'll say, "Find a job or starve - and if you don't like it, too bad."

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: a pocket of resistance -- a redneck

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: grandfather -- greasy kid's stuff

Idiom	Meaning	Example
grandfather	to exempt from new rules, to keep it the same, <a href="#">grandfather clause</a>	This new law prohibits restaurants from serving french fries, but restaurants that now serve fries have been grandfathered.
grandfather clause	a written statement that protects an employee, a right, a privilege, etc.	They can't demote him or delete his position because he has a grandfather clause.
granola	a person who believes in less government and a natural way of living	Pat is mostly granola. She wants to join a commune, grow gardens and protect the environment.
grapevine	(See <a href="#">through the grapevine</a> )	
grass is greener...	(See <a href="#">the grass is greener on the other side of the fence</a> )	
gravy train	a profitable product, <a href="#">the rest is gravy</a>	In 1928, coal was Alberta's gravy train.
grease my palm	pay me, give me money	If you want good service, grease his palm. Give him a tip, eh.
greased lightning	very, very fast; <a href="#">faster than a speeding bullet</a>	Oh, I've slowed down a bit over the years. When I was a teenager they used to call me Jimmy "greased lightning" Fraser.
greaser	a young man with greasy hair, a hoodlum, a <a href="#">hood</a>	Two greasers were hanging out behind the school.
greasy kid's stuff	heavy hair dressing, thick hair oil	None of that greasy kid's stuff on my hair. I use a natural product.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

Idioms: grandfather -- greasy kid's stuff

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: greasy spoon -- green thumb

Idiom	Meaning	Example
greasy spoon	small cafe that serves greasy food	I eat at the greasy spoon. The food ain't great, but it's cheap.
great guns	(See <a href="#">going great guns</a> )	
Great One	(See <a href="#">The Great One</a> )	
great Scot	<a href="#">good gravy</a> , <a href="#">gosh</a> , <a href="#">heavens</a>	When Dale gets excited, he says, "Great Scot!"
great shakes	(See <a href="#">no great shakes</a> )	
Great White Hope	(See <a href="#">The Great White Hope</a> )	
Great White North	(See <a href="#">The Great White North</a> )	
Greek to me	(See <a href="#">it was Greek to me</a> )	
green stuff	dollars, money, <a href="#">lettuce</a> , <a href="#">moola</a>	In those days we had plenty of green stuff, so I bought a Lexus.
green thumb	good gardener, naturally good with plants	Willie is the green thumb in our group. He's the gardener.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms: green with envy -- grinning like a bushel basketful of possum heads

Idiom	Meaning	Example
green with envy	envious, wishing to have someone else's property	How I wish I owned your Acura. I'm green with envy.
greenback	American dollar, money, <a href="#">buck</a>	If we're going to Vegas, we need our pockets full of greenbacks.
grey area	unclear topic, vague statement	There are many grey areas in the legal system - many vague laws.
grey matter	brains, brain capacity, intelligence, <a href="#">smarts</a>	"Sometimes I wonder if he has any grey matter." "Oh, he has it, but maybe he doesn't use it."
grey power	the large numbers of seniors or older people	An increase in life span causes an increase in grey power.
grill you	ask you a lot of questions, <a href="#">pointed questions</a> , <a href="#">the third degree</a>	Do your parents grill you when you come home late?
grim reaper	(See <a href="#">The Grim Reaper</a> )	
grind to a halt	stop with regret and problems	If he quits, the project will grind to a halt. It depends on him.
grinding halt	unplanned stop, forced stop	When Andy lost his job, their marriage came to a grinding halt.
grinning like a bushel basketful of possum heads	grinning widely, having a broad grin	Them boys was grinning like a bushel basketful of possum heads - they done outwitted the sheriff again!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: green with envy -- grinning like a bushel basketful of possum heads

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: groaty to the max -- grow up

Idiom	Meaning	Example
groaty to the max	very nice, <a href="#">way cool</a> , <a href="#">totally awesome</a>	That bike is groaty to the max. I love those wide tires!
groovy	stylish, <a href="#">cool</a> , <a href="#">neat</a> , <a href="#">with it</a>	That's a groovy T-shirt, man. I like the purple parrot.
ground me	keep me at home, not allow me to go out	If I don't pass all my subjects, my parents will ground me.
grounded	not allowed to go out, forced to stay in	Pam was grounded for a week because she stayed out all night.
Group of Five	(See <a href="#">The Group of Five</a> )	
Group of Seven	(See <a href="#">The Group of Seven</a> )	
grouse	complain, <a href="#">a bitch [B]</a>	The mayor said everybody's grouching about high taxes.
grow a tail	need to defecate, <a href="#">drop a log</a>	Have you seen a washroom? I'm growing a tail.
grow on you	you like it more each day, gradually like it more	In time, you will appreciate Lang's poetry. It grows on you.
grow up	live during childhood, become a young adult	He grew up on a farm in Alberta. He was a farm boy.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: grow up -- gussied up

Idiom	Meaning	Example
grow up	become mature, accept responsibility	Grow up, Jerry. Put away that water pistol and act like an adult.
grunge (fashion)	youth clothing designed for grunge music fans	The kids go to parties dressed in grunge. That's cool.
grunge (music)	alternative rock music, distorted sound of rock	When we visited Seattle, every radio station was playing grunge.
grunge	dirt and grease, grime	Let's remove the grunge from the motor. It's really dirty.
guard is down	not ready for a fight, not protecting yourself	I wasn't ready for her criticism. My guard was down.
gun down	shoot, kill with guns	He was gunned down as he left his apartment - shot in the back.
gun it	step on the accelerator, <a href="#">floor it</a> , <a href="#">goose it</a>	When a car tried to pass him, he gunned it. He sped away!
gung ho	very enthusiastic, very interested	Barb's gung ho about our trip to Greece. She's excited about it.
gussied up	groomed and dressed for a party	Sally was all gussied up when he arrived for their date.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: grow up -- gussied up

## Idioms: hack/hacker -- had it

Idiom	Meaning	Example
hack/hacker	writer, journalist, computer guru	Some hack wrote a story about the mayor's son being on drugs.
had a bellyful	had too much, do not want to receive any more	I've had a bellyful of the Reborn Party. What a bunch of bigots!
had a belt	had a drink of alcohol, <a href="#">had a couple</a>	Ragnar had a belt or two at the tavern in town.
had a couple	had two or more drinks of alcohol, <a href="#">tipsy</a>	She was laughing a lot - like she'd had a couple.
had a few	a little drunk, <a href="#">buzzed</a>	He staggered a bit when he walked - like he'd had a few.
had better	should, ought to	I'd better call and explain why we didn't attend the reception.
had enough	endured, <a href="#">fed up</a> , <a href="#">put up with</a> a lot	After ten minutes of his talk, she's had enough. She leaves.
had his bell rung	hit hard, bodychecked, <a href="#">knocked out</a>	Pat had his bell rung by No. 4. He was unconscious for awhile.
had it	had too much of, frustrated with, <a href="#">fed up</a>	I've had it with politicians who waste our money. It's sickening.
had it	worn beyond use, <a href="#">shabby</a> , <a href="#">worn out</a>	My bike's had it: the frame's broken and the gears slip.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: hack/hacker -- had it

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: had it up to here -- half-assed [B]

Idiom	Meaning	Example
had it up to here	upset too many times, <a href="#">had enough</a>	I've had it up to here with his smoking! Yuk!
had the bird	worn or broken, <a href="#">wear out</a>	These shoes are full of holes. They've had the bird.
hail a cab	wave your hand to stop a cab, <a href="#">flag a cab</a>	We missed the bus, so we hailed a cab.
hail-fellow-well-met	friendly man, <a href="#">a good head</a> , <a href="#">jolly good fellow</a>	"Bert is a social person." "Yes, he's hail-fellow-well-met, I say."
hair off the dog that bit you	remedy that uses the cause, <a href="#">fight fire with fire</a>	The theory of penicillin is to use the hair off the dog that bit you.
hair stand on end	be very scared, very frightened, <a href="#">scared stiff</a>	Adriana, your hair is standing on end! Have you seen a ghost?
hairbrain	not sensible, irrational, crazy, <a href="#">kooky</a>	Eric is talking about a hairbrain plan to train ants as employees.
hairdo	hairstyle, coiffure	Did you see Eileen's hairdo? She looks lovely in tight curls.
hale and hearty	healthy and enthusiastic, <a href="#">in the pink</a> , <a href="#">in your prime</a>	"Bob looks hale and hearty these days." "Yes, he's healthy and active."
half-assed [B]	incomplete, half missing	There's a guy at the door with a half-assed invention for sale.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: had it up to here -- half-assed [B]

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: half-bad -- half-snapped

Idiom	Meaning	Example
half-bad	quite good, okay, <a href="#">ain't half-bad</a>	Here, have one of these chocolates. They aren't half-bad.
half-baked	not well planned, not developed	Satellite schools? Sounds like a half-baked idea to me.
half-cocked	(See <a href="#">go off half-cocked</a> )	
half-corked	half drunk, <a href="#">buzzed</a> , <a href="#">feeling no pain</a>	Andy was at the bar for awhile. He's half-corked.
half-cut	(See <a href="#">half-corked</a> )	
half-hearted	using half your ability, not giving enough effort	He made a half-hearted attempt to find our luggage: one phone call.
half-lit	(See <a href="#">half-corked</a> )	
half-pint	a child, a person who is half the size of an adult	When you were a boy - just a half-pint - your hair was yellow.
half-shot	(See <a href="#">half-corked</a> )	
half-snapped	(See <a href="#">half-corked</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: half the battle -- hand in hand

Idiom	Meaning	Example
half the battle	half of the task completed, half of the job done	You've done the research for the report. That's half the battle.
half-there	idiotic, stupid, <a href="#">nitwit</a>	I couldn't think. My words sounded like grunts. People must have thought I was only half-there.
ham	humorous person, comedian, <a href="#">joker</a>	When you imitate John Candy, you're quite a ham.
ham hands	large hands, huge hands	When the coach saw my big hands he called me <i>Ham Hands</i> .
ham it up	act funny and tell jokes, <a href="#">play the ham</a>	Robbie likes to ham it up when he talks to a group - he tells jokes.
hammer and tongs	angrily, furiously, <a href="#">fight tooth and nail</a>	The two men were arguing - going at it hammer and tongs.
hammered	very drunk, <a href="#">pissed</a> , <a href="#">sloshed</a>	You were hammered, so I took your keys and drove you home.
hand down	told by the elders to the children	The story about the loon was handed down for generations.
hand in	give to the teacher or manager, <a href="#">turn in</a>	If we hand in an essay before it's due, teacher gives us a 5% bonus.
hand in hand	related, together	Math and science go hand in hand. They're related subjects.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: half the battle -- hand in hand

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: hand me down -- handout

Idiom	Meaning	Example
hand me down	clothes that belonged to an older family member	Bobby said he's tired of wearing hand-me-down clothes.
hand out	give to the class or audience, <a href="#">pass around</a>	Cory, please hand out the song books - one to each member.
hand over	give them to me, <a href="#">fork over</a>	Hand over the keys to the safe - give them to me now!
hand over fist	as fast as possible, one after the other	The T-shirts are selling hand over fist. Everybody wants one.
hand to mouth	(See <a href="#">from hand to mouth</a> )	
hand you a line	tell you a false story, <a href="#">give you a line</a>	Some politicians try to hand you a line about how busy they are.
handful	(See <a href="#">a handful</a> )	
handle herself	protect herself, <a href="#">been around</a>	Dolly has worked with men before. She can handle herself.
handout	page of information for students	If you want to know more about Brazil, read the handout.
handout	(See <a href="#">a handout</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a regular guy -- a sack of hammers

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a regular guy	an average man, a good guy	David? Well, he's honest and easy to live with - a regular guy.
a riot	a lot of fun, a good time, <a href="#">a hoot</a>	You should've gone to Maude's party. It was a riot!
a rip-off	unfair price or rule, priced too high	The price of drinks was a rip-off. A small Coke cost \$3!
a roll in the hay [B]	making love, having sex	I asked her if she wanted a roll in the hay, and she said, "Sure. Do you have a condom?"
a rolling stone gathers no moss	a person who is always moving has few possessions	"Look at me. I have nothing to keep me in one place." "Yes, but it seems you have always been a rolling stone."
a rough time	a lot of teasing, a lot of <a href="#">bugging</a>	Did your friends give you a rough time about your funny haircut?
a rough time of it	a time of stress or bad luck, <a href="#">a tough time of it</a>	After the divorce he had a rough time of it.
a royal pain	a feeling of irritation, <a href="#">a pain in the ass</a>	When he brags about his wealthy family, he gives me a royal pain.
a run for your money	strong competition, an opponent	I should enter the election and give him a run for his money.
a sack of hammers	a dead weight, a heavy object	Don't throw me in the lake! I'll sink like a sack of hammers!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: a regular guy -- a sack of hammers

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: hands are tied -- hang on like grim death

Idiom	Meaning	Example
hands are tied	be unable to act because others are in control, <a href="#">out of our hands</a>	I'm in favor of public health care but my hands are tied. I have to wait for a government decision.
hands down	easily, <a href="#">no contest</a>	The captain of the team said, "We won hands down - 6 to 1."
hands on	practice doing a task by working with your hands	In shop class, we get hands-on experience in car maintenance.
hands up	put your hands above your head, <a href="#">reach for the sky</a>	"Hands up, everybody!" the thief shouted as he entered the bank.
hang around	stay near, be with, <a href="#">hang out</a>	Don't hang around with that gang. They steal cars.
hang in there	continue, persevere, be patient, <a href="#">keep on</a>	Hang in there until the doctor comes. He'll relieve your pain.
hang loose	be calm, relax, do not be <a href="#">uptight</a>	In Hawaii, they tell the tourists to hang loose - to relax.
hang on	wait, <a href="#">hold on</a>	Hang on a second. I have one more question to do.
hang on every word	listen carefully to every word that is said	When Mr. Frye spoke, we would hang on every word. We listened.
hang on like grim death	be determined or resolute, not quit	In the presidential election, Gore was hanging on like grim death.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: hands are tied -- hang on like grim death

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: hang out -- happy as a clam/lark

Idiom	Meaning	Example
hang out	play with, be with, <a href="#">spend time with</a>	Cal hangs out with Aaron. They go to the gym every day.
hang ten (surfing)	let your toes hang over the edge of the surf board	When you get tired of standing on the board, just hang ten.
hang tough	continue to try, be strong and determined	As we returned to the field, the coach said, "Hang tough, guys."
hang-up	a fear or phobia, a personal problem	For me, marriage is a hang-up. I can't commit to one person.
hang you out to dry	defeat you, convict you, <a href="#">throw the book at</a>	If you're caught shoplifting, they'll hang you out to dry.
hang your hat	live here, live with us	You can hang your hat here for awhile - until you rent a room.
hangover	feeling ill or nausea the day after you are drunk	Is it true that vodka doesn't cause a hangover?
hanky-panky	unfair deal, cheating, <a href="#">underhanded</a> plan	There is no hanky-panky in the contract we signed. It's okay.
happy as a box of birds	joyful, very happy	When we go to the lake, the kids are as happy as a box of birds.
happy as a clam/lark	very happy, carefree	When Tim is working on his car, he's happy as a clam.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: hang out -- happy as a clam/lark

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: happy as a peacock -- hard done by

Idiom	Meaning	Example
happy as a peacock	very happy, very pleased	If you tell Alice she's beautiful, she'll be happy as a peacock!
happy as a pig in shit [B]	very happy, contented	"Does Caleb like farm life?" "He's happy as a pig in shit."
happy camper	a person who is happy most of the time	Jack's a happy camper today. He's smiling and whistling.
happy hour	an hour (or hours) when bar drinks are cheaper	Adam has invited me to the lounge for happy hour.
happy motoring	have a good trip in your car	The slogan of the auto club is <i>Happy Motoring!</i>
hard as nails	tough, not sympathetic	The lawyer was as hard as nails. He felt no pity for anyone.
hard at it	working hard, <a href="#">as busy as a beaver</a>	When the foreman returned, the workers were hard at it.
hard copy	printed page(s), paper with printed words or pictures	You can check your work on the computer screen, but it's easier to find errors on hard copy.
hard day	(See <a href="#">a hard day</a> )	
hard done by	overworked, asked to do too much	With all the help Bonnie gets, she's not hard done by.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: happy as a peacock -- hard done by

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: hard feelings -- hard row to hoe

Idiom	Meaning	Example
hard feelings	unfriendly feelings, resentment	After the argument, Bill said, "I hope there are no hard feelings."
hard line	statement or policy that a person refuses to change	The principal takes a hard line on school attendance. I must attend.
hard liquor	strong liquor (rum etc.) with 40 % alcohol	The bar was serving beer, wine and several kinds of hard liquor.
hard nosed	firm, tough; refusing to lower his price or standard	Ms. Bond is hard nosed. If you plagiarize, you fail the course.
hard of hearing	not able to hear very well, partly deaf	Now that Grandpa's in his 80s, he's quite hard of hearing.
hard-on [B]	(See <a href="#">a hard-on</a> )	
hard on me	makes me work hard, <a href="#">tough on me</a>	That job was hard on me. My back is sore from the lifting.
hard pressed	challenged, faced with a hard task	They'll be hard pressed to find a person who doesn't drink coffee.
hard put	unable to answer easily, <a href="#">stump me</a>	He was hard put to answer the questions on cold fission.
hard row to hoe	(See <a href="#">a hard row to hoe</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: hard feelings -- hard row to hoe

## Idioms: hard sell -- hardware

Idiom	Meaning	Example
hard sell	using much pressure to sell, trying hard to convince the customer to buy, <a href="#">soft sell</a>	He was giving us the hard sell. He almost forced us to sign the contract.
hard skill	skill that can be measured, <a href="#">track record</a>	I think we should offer the position to Linda. Look at the hard skills listed on her resume!
hard stuff	(See <a href="#">hard liquor</a> )	
hard times	a time of poverty and drought and famine	We endured hard times in the 1930s. We were all poor.
hard to believe	not easy to believe, difficult to believe	It's hard to believe that you're a grandfather. You look so young.
hard to get	(See <a href="#">play hard to get</a> )	
hard to swallow	hard to accept, <a href="#">hard to take</a>	She said, "He has custody of the children. It's hard to swallow."
hard to take	difficult to tolerate, <a href="#">hard to swallow</a>	Her cruel words hurt me. Her sarcasm is hard to take.
hard up	poor, unable to pay, <a href="#">in the poorhouse</a>	After the war, our family was so hard up we couldn't buy meat.
hardware	computer machines and accessories	The printer is an important part of your computer hardware.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: hard sell -- hardware

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: harum-scarum -- hat trick

Idiom	Meaning	Example
harum-scarum	careless, disorganized, <a href="#">pell-mell</a>	Tag is a harum-scarum kind of game - no rules or referee.
has a mind of his own	(See <a href="#">mind of his own</a> )	
has-been	someone who has been skilled or famous	Bobby now plays on a team of has-beens: The Old Timers.
has the cat got your...	(See <a href="#">cat got your tongue</a> )	
has the makings	has the potential, has the ingredients	Darcy has the makings of a good teacher. He explains things well.
hash it over	talk about it, discuss it, <a href="#">talk it over</a>	If I mention the lawsuit, he says, "We can hash it over later."
hassle	(See <a href="#">a hassle</a> )	
hassle me	bother me, <a href="#">bug</a> me, <a href="#">give me a bad time</a>	If you hassle me about my kinky hair, I'll cut it all off.
hat in hand	humble, almost begging	If he doesn't find a job in town, he'll return to us, hat in hand.
hat trick	one player scoring three goals in one hockey game	Brad scored a hat trick in the game against the Blades.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: hatchet man -- have a boo

Idiom	Meaning	Example
hatchet man	the man who does the bad jobs: firing, layoffs, etc.	Uh oh, there's Jake, the hatchet man. Who's getting fired now?
hats off	a tribute or honor; praise and thanks	And hats off to Mr. Singh for coordinating the volunteers.
haul ass [B]	do it, hurry, <a href="#">get going</a>	If you want a magazine, haul ass. You can buy one at the drugstore.
haul up on the carpet	questioned, disciplined, <a href="#">give me the third degree</a>	If you don't obey every rule, you will be hauled up on the carpet.
have a ball	enjoy the activity, <a href="#">have a blast</a> , <a href="#">have fun</a>	We had a ball at Yolanda's party. It was lots of fun.
have a bird	be overcome with excitement or grief, <a href="#">beside myself</a> , <a href="#">have a fit</a>	When you told her the boys had been rescued I thought she was going to have a bird! She was almost hysterical.
have a bite	eat lunch, eat some food	We can have a bite at a restaurant after we finish shopping.
have a blast	have a great party; enjoy the dance etc.	"How was the dance?" "Super! We had a blast!"
have a boo	go to the bathroom, go to <a href="#">the can</a>	Let's stop at the next service station so Cory can have a boo.
have a boo	have a look, have a peek	Have a boo with my binoculars. You can see one of the planets.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: hatchet man -- have a boo

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: have a case of -- have a flat

Idiom	Meaning	Example
have a case of	be sick from, have a disease	I was in bed. I had a bad case of the flu.
have a chair	please sit down on a chair, <a href="#">have a seat</a>	"Please have a chair," my aunt said, and the man sat down.
have a clue	know about the answer, know about the topic	I didn't have a clue about the answer to Question 2.
have a conniption	become very upset, <a href="#">have a fit</a>	Stop playing your violin, or Mom will have a conniption!
have a crush on	(See <a href="#">got a crush on</a> )	
have a cow	(See <a href="#">don't have a cow</a> )	
have a drag	draw smoke through a cigarette, <a href="#">have a drag</a>	I'm out of cigarettes. Can I have a drag of yours?
have a fit	become very excited, <a href="#">have a conniption</a>	Promise me you won't have a fit if I fail math.
have a fix	take some drugs, <a href="#">get a fix</a> , <a href="#">shoot up</a>	After he's had a fix, he's happy. The heroin satisfies his need.
have a flat	have a hole in a tire, have a flat tire	If you have a flat, phone a service station for help.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: have a fling -- have a puff

Idiom	Meaning	Example
have a fling	live a wild life as a young person	Dad, did you have a fling when you were young?
have a go	try to do, attempt	You have a go at this puzzle. See if you can solve it.
have a good time	be happy, enjoy yourself, <a href="#">have a blast</a>	You should come to the party. We'll have a good time.
have a heart	do not be cruel, have some feeling	Have a heart when you coach the kids. Be gentle with them.
have a hitch in your getalong	limp, walk with a limp	Since he broke his ankle, he's had a little hitch in his getalong.
have a laugh	laugh, chuckle	Phan and Lo had a laugh about their early birthday parties.
have a leak [B]	urinate, <a href="#">take a pee</a> [B]	When you go camping, it's okay to have a leak in the woods, eh.
have a looksee	look at something, look for something	Pete thinks he can find the cow. He went to have a looksee.
have a mind to	am considering, may do this	I have a good mind to tell his wife he's been with a prostitute.
have a puff	(See <a href="#">have a drag</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: have a fling -- have a puff

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: have a say -- have an attack

Idiom	Meaning	Example
have a say	be allowed to state a view, help to make the decision	Only the investors will have a say in the price of the product.
have a seat	sit down, please be seated, <a href="#">have a chair</a>	The farmer pointed to a chair and said, "Have a seat."
have a shot at	have a chance or a try, qualify to compete	If Scotty wins this fight, he'll have a shot at the boxing title.
have a sip	have a small taste, drink through a straw	Can I have a sip of your cherry drink? Just a little sip?
have a smash	have a drink of liquor, <a href="#">have a sip</a>	Here, Jon. Have a smash of the brandy before it's all gone.
have a soft spot for	have a caring feeling for, have sympathy for, <a href="#">feel for</a>	I've always had a soft spot in my heart for Martha. She was so kind to me as a child.
have a whiz	go to the toilet, visit <a href="#">the john</a>	We were so busy we didn't even stop to have a whiz!
have a word with you	talk to you, discuss with you	As I left the room, Mr. Lee said, "May I have a word with you?"
have an affair	see a lover who is not your spouse, <a href="#">fool around</a>	"Liz is having another affair." "Who is she seeing? Bart?"
have an attack	feel sudden pain from a disease or illness	She can hardly breathe. I think she's having an asthma attack.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: have a say -- have an attack

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a sad sack -- a shogun

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a sad sack	well-meaning, but unable to accomplish	"If you assign this task to Andy, it won't be done. He's a sad sack."
a scandal is brewing	an evil story is being told, there are rumors of a scandal	A scandal is brewing in the Pacific Ocean. A whale and a shark are living together without a marriage license!
a score to settle	an argument to finish, <a href="#">a bone to pick</a>	I have a score to settle with him. He owes me a month's rent.
a screw loose	a little bit crazy, <a href="#">one brick short...</a>	Sometimes I think he has a screw loose - like when he eats paper.
a send-up	a mockery or satire, <a href="#">a takeoff on</a>	The speaker did a send-up of the way Canadians talk.
a shadow of his former self	much lighter than he was before, very thin and weak	After twenty years in prison, he was a shadow of his former self.
a sharp tongue	a tendency to reply sharply or sarcastically	Karly is a beautiful girl, but her sharp tongue may be a problem.
a sharp wit	an ability to say funny things at the right time	Mr. Mills is 85, but he still has a sharp wit. His mind is quick.
a shitload	a lot, a large quantity, <a href="#">make a bundle</a> , <a href="#">tons</a>	Ray made a shitload of money at the races - thousands of dollars!
a shogun	a powerful business person, a tycoon, <a href="#">a heavyweight</a>	Mr. Fuji is a business magnate - a shogun - known for his interest in robots.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: a sad sack -- a shogun

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: have an inkling -- have it in hand

Idiom	Meaning	Example
have an inkling	know, be aware of, <a href="#">have a clue</a>	I didn't have an inkling that you loved him. I didn't know.
have at me	criticize me, scold me, <a href="#">give you hell</a> [B]	Every time I come home late, my parents have at me.
have deep pockets	have lots of money, be wealthy or <a href="#">well off</a>	Some people say the government has deep pockets, but we are the government. Do we have deep pockets?
have designs on	want to take away from, envy, covet	I have no designs on your job. Believe me. I don't want it.
have fun	enjoy an activity or event, <a href="#">have a good time</a>	Did you have fun at the party? Did you enjoy it?
have half a mind to	(See <a href="#">have a mind to</a> )	
have it both ways	let it go and still have it, <a href="#">have your cake...</a>	You can't be married and single. You can't have it both ways.
have it coming	deserve it, <a href="#">ask for it</a>	If you get fined for driving too fast, you have it coming.
have it in for	(See <a href="#">got it in for</a> )	
have it in hand	be able to control it, have it <a href="#">under control</a>	A fire started in the kitchen, but it's okay. We have it in hand.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: have an inkling -- have it in hand

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: have it made -- have the balls [B]

Idiom	Meaning	Example
have it made	have achieved success, have everything you want	Viv has a new home, two cars and a career. She has it made.
have it out	argue, fight, <a href="#">settle it</a>	Jake and Dan had it out. They argued for more than an hour.
have it your way	do what you want to do, <a href="#">get your way</a>	Have it your way. Choose the movie <i>you</i> want to see.
have my ears lowered	get a haircut, have my hair cut	When my hair is long, I go and have my ears lowered!
have my eye on	(See <a href="#">got my eye on</a> )	
have my work cut out	have a difficult task to do; a problem I must solve	Our goal is to win the cup, so we have our work cut out for us.
have nookie	have sexual intercourse, <a href="#">have sex</a> , <a href="#">make love</a>	All he wants to do is have nookie - all the time!
have one on me	have a drink and I will pay for it, <a href="#">this one is on me</a>	Put your money away, please. Have one on me.
have sex	have sexual intercourse, <a href="#">make love</a>	She said that it's dangerous to have sex with several partners.
have the balls [B]	(See <a href="#">got the balls</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: have it made -- have the balls [B]

## Idioms: have the final say -- have you for breakfast

Idiom	Meaning	Example
have the final say	make the final decision, <a href="#">call the shots</a>	The children want a pony, but John has the final say.
have the floor	it is your turn to speak to the group	You have the floor, Mai. Please tell us about your idea.
have the makings of	(See <a href="#">the makings of</a> )	
have things in hand	(See <a href="#">have it in hand</a> )	
have to	must, cannot avoid	Jill <i>has</i> to go to the meeting. She's the president.
have to go	need to visit a washroom, have to <a href="#">whiz</a>	Can we find a washroom? I have to go.
have to go some	must try harder, have to improve	You'll have to go some to get an A. It's a difficult course.
have to hand it to you	must admit that you can do it, give you credit (see <a href="#">give her credit</a> )	I have to hand it to you. You did every problem correctly.
have what it takes	(See <a href="#">got what it takes</a> )	
have you for breakfast	defeat you easily, <a href="#">cut you to ribbons</a>	Don't try to beat the gangsters. They'll have you for breakfast.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: have the final say -- have you for breakfast

## Idioms: have you over -- hawk

Idiom	Meaning	Example
have you over	invite you to visit us, <a href="#">drop over</a>	When we move into our new home we want to have you over.
have your cake and eat it, too	have something after you have eaten or spent it, <a href="#">have it both ways</a>	You want to spend your money and still have it. You can't have your cake and eat it, too!
have your period [B]	menstruate, <a href="#">got the rags on</a>	I get stomach pains when I have my period. Do you?
haven't got a hope	do not have a good chance of succeeding	If you don't study for exams, you haven't got a hope.
haven't got a hope in hell	have no chance to win or succeed or survive etc.	If the parachute doesn't open, I haven't got a hope in hell.
haven't got the stomach for it	dislike it, do not enjoy it	She likes to dissect frogs, but I haven't got the stomach for it.
haven't seen hide nor hair	have not seen a person, have seen no sign of him	We haven't seen hide nor hair of Jack since he borrowed \$1000.
haven't the foggiest	have no idea what the answer is, do not know the answer, <a href="#">have a clue</a>	"What's a googol?" "A googol! I don't know. I haven't the foggiest!"
havoc strikes	problems happen, crises occur suddenly	Farmers plant their crops, and havoc strikes in hailstones.
hawk	a person who likes war; wants to <a href="#">make war</a>	The hawks were pleased when the US declared war on Iraq.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: have you over -- hawk

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: haywire -- head in the sand

Idiom	Meaning	Example
haywire	(See <a href="#">go haywire</a> )	
hazard a guess	guess at the answer, take a <a href="#">a shot in the dark</a>	How many beans are in the jar? Do you want to hazard a guess?
he who hesitates is lost	if you hesitate you may not get another chance	If you want to marry Ko, ask her. He who hesitates is lost.
head (headbanger)	a person who uses drugs, <a href="#">junkie</a>	That school has no heads. Not one student is using drugs.
head	(See <a href="#">skids</a> )	
head and shoulders	superior, better, <a href="#">a cut above</a>	Her work is superior - head and shoulders above the others.
head down there	go there, travel south, <a href="#">head up there</a>	Have you been to Chile? I'm going to head down there for the winter.
head honcho	boss, foreman, manager	Who's the head honcho here? I have a package for him - or her.
head in the clouds	dreaming, wondering, not practical	Shelly is a daydreamer. She's got her head in the clouds.
head in the sand	unable to see, unwilling to look	The minister hasn't noticed their poverty. His head is in the sand.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:  
[B] bad language

Be interactive:  
[Comment on this idiom](#)  
[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)  
[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: haywire -- head in the sand

## Idioms: head is spinning -- health nut

Idiom	Meaning	Example
head is spinning	mind is confused, <a href="#">boggle your mind</a>	The lawyer asked me so many questions my head was spinning.
head on	directly, without hesitation	Lynn meets her challenges head on, but Vera tries to avoid them.
head out	leave, depart	We should head out soon. We have a long way to go.
head over heels	in love with, <a href="#">crazy about</a>	Lan's head over heels for Chan. She's crazy about him.
head up	lead, manage	Rod will head up the project. He can get the job done.
head up there	go there, travel north, <a href="#">head down there</a>	I've always wanted to go to Alaska. Let's head up there.
headhunter	a person who looks for professional employees	The headhunters are looking for good computer programmers.
heads or tails	choose one or the other, which side of the coin?	"Heads or tails?" the gambler asked as he flipped the coin.
heads will roll	people will be dismissed, people will be fired	When the manager hears about the damage, heads will roll.
health nut	a person who eats health foods and does exercises to become healthy	Gary is a health nut. He eats fruit and granola, and jogs five to ten kilometres every day.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: head is spinning -- health nut

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: hear me out -- heavy duty

Idiom	Meaning	Example
hear me out	listen to all that I have to say, do not interrupt me	Please, hear me out. Wait until I finish before you comment.
heart is in the right place	people who encourage you even if they cannot help	Max is too old to help us now, but his heart's in the right place.
heat is on	(See <a href="#">the heat is on</a> )	
heaven forbid	we should not do it, we are not permitted	Grandma said, "Heaven forbid! Don't play hockey on Sunday!"
heaven help us	we are facing a crisis, we need a lot of help	Heaven help us if we have an accident with Dad's Mercedes.
heavens	goodness, oh dear, <a href="#">gosh</a>	Heavens! You weren't supposed to arrive until Friday!
heavens to Betsy	oh no, <a href="#">heavens</a>	Heavens to Betsy! I can't find my purse!
heavy	very serious, not fun	War is a heavy topic because it involves death and destruction.
heavy day	(See <a href="#">a heavy day</a> )	
heavy duty	very difficult, demanding	I have to work hard at math. It's a heavy-duty course.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: heavy foot -- hell of a time

Idiom	Meaning	Example
heavy foot	driving fast, <a href="#">pedal to the metal</a>	Your heavy foot is causing a financial problem for us. Speeding fines are costly!
heavy going	difficult part, hard work, <a href="#">heavy going</a>	I'm glad we have Al on our team. He likes the heavy going.
heavy heart	sad, sorrowful	It was with a heavy heart that he attended his father's funeral.
heavy hitter	(See <a href="#">a heavy hitter</a> )	
heavy metal types	(See <a href="#">skids</a> )	
heck	hell, <a href="#">shucks</a>	She asked me to come in, but heck, her boyfriend was there.
hedge your bets	bet safely, bet on two or more horses etc.	If you hedge your bets, you have a better chance of winning.
hell bent for election	going fast, determined to get somewhere	There goes Joe, driving hell bent for election - always in a hurry.
hell in a handbasket	(See <a href="#">go to hell in a handbasket</a> )	
hell of a time	(See <a href="#">a hell of a time</a> , <a href="#">one hell of a time</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: hell to pay [B] -- here's to

Idiom	Meaning	Example
hell to pay [B]	angry people to face, questions to answer	When I come in at 4 a.m. there's hell to pay.
hell's bells	I can't believe it, <a href="#">good grief</a> , <a href="#">jumping Jehoshaphat</a>	Hell's bells! Where have you been? We've been looking all over for you!
hell's half acre [B]	(See <a href="#">all over hell's half acre</a> )	
hellish [B]	bad, awful, unfair	If we have to pay our medical bills, it's a hellish arrangement!
help out	help someone, <a href="#">lend a hand</a>	The Wongs are good neighbors - always willing to help out.
help yourself	please take some, <a href="#">dig in</a> , <a href="#">eat up</a>	Help yourself to hamburgers. Don't wait to be served.
helping hand	(See <a href="#">a helping hand</a> )	
hemming and hahing	saying "ahem...ah" while thinking what to say, <a href="#">beat around the bush</a>	When we asked him about the missing money, there was a lot of hemming and hahing.
here's mud in your eye	here is a toast to you, <a href="#">drink up</a>	It's good to have a drink with you. Here's mud in your eye.
here's to	I salute, we recognize, we praise, <a href="#">cheers</a>	Here's to Tim Ko on his 75th birthday! Congratulations, Tim!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: hell to pay [B] -- here's to

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: hey -- high

Idiom	Meaning	Example
hey	listen, I am calling you	Hey, Ron. Where are you going?
heyday	best years, <a href="#">in your prime</a>	In his heyday, Pele was the best soccer player in the world.
hi	hello, <a href="#">howdy</a>	Hi, Kelly. How are you?
hi there	hello, <a href="#">hi</a>	Hi there. Do you know the way to Monterey?
hick	rural person, <a href="#">local yokel</a> , <a href="#">rube</a>	Wearing overalls and a straw hat, he looked like a hick.
hidden agenda	secret plan to control the meeting or decisions	The board has a hidden agenda. We don't know their real plans.
hidden talent	a talent or skill you do not show very often	Oh, you play the harmonica! Got any more hidden talents?
hide nor hair	(See <a href="#">haven't seen hide nor hair</a> )	
high	drunk, feeling happy after using a drug, <a href="#">stoned</a>	Look into his eyes to see if he's high. Are his eyes clear?
high	(See <a href="#">natural high</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: 'round the clock -- 'round the clock

Idiom	Meaning	Example
'round the clock	all hours, twenty-four hours, <a href="#">around the clock</a>	We worked 'round the clock to harvest the crop before it snowed.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a shoo-in -- a slip of the tongue

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a shoo-in	the person/horse/team that is certain to win, <a href="#">a sure thing</a>	Ralph's a shoo-in to win the next election. He'll win easily.
a short one	a small drink, a small amount of liquor	"Can I pour you a drink?" "Yes. A short one, please."
a shot in the arm	energy, encouragement, <a href="#">a lift</a>	Billy Graham's sermon was inspiring - a shot in the arm.
a shot in the dark	a wild guess, a try, <a href="#">hazard a guess</a>	His answer was incorrect. It was a shot in the dark.
a sick building	a building with polluted air or insufficient oxygen	This is a sick building. The air contains toxic fumes.
a sight for sore eyes	something or someone you are happy to see	Well, my friend, you are a sight for sore eyes. Good to see you!
a silver spoon...	(See <a href="#">born with a silver spoon in his mouth</a> )	
a sitting duck	an easy target, a person who is easy to deceive	The old lady was a sitting duck for the salesman. It was an easy sale.
a slim chance	very little chance, not likely to happen	"Is it going to rain today?" "Maybe. There's a slim chance."
a slip of the tongue	a spoken error or mistake, a word that <a href="#">slips out</a>	I said <i>brew</i> instead of <i>blue</i> . It was a slip of the tongue.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: a shoo-in -- a slip of the tongue

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: high and mighty -- highball it

Idiom	Meaning	Example
high and mighty	better than other people, snobbish, <a href="#">upper crust</a>	After she married the judge, she acted kind of high and mighty.
high five	celebrating by slapping each other's raised hand	After scoring a goal, the players exchanged high fives.
high handed	superior, above other people	We don't like managers who are high handed - high and mighty.
high-hat	proud, snobbish, pompous	Cynthia looks high-hat, but she's really very friendly.
high hopes	expecting the best, hoping for success	Todd has high hopes for his son, including a college education.
high on the hog	having expensive things, in luxury	If I win the lotto, we'll live high on the hog - in a mansion!
high roller	a person who spends a lot on gambling and betting	This is a game for high rollers. You need a hundred grand to play.
high strung	nervous and sensitive, easily upset	Jacqueline won't speak in public because she's very high strung.
high time	late, past due, <a href="#">about time</a>	It's high time you got a job, Ty. What kind of work do you like?
highball it	drive fast, <a href="#">boot it</a>	The big truck was highballin' it, speeding down the freeway.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: high and mighty -- highball it

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms: higher than a kite -- His Royal Highness

Idiom	Meaning	Example
higher than a kite	drunk, <a href="#">natural high</a> , <a href="#">sloshed</a>	Don't let him drive - he's higher than a kite.
highfalutin	proud, pretentious	We need a musician, not some highfalutin rock star!
hightail it	leave in a hurry, run away	If the bull gets loose, you hightail it for the house.
hill of beans	not very much, very little	What I lose in the poker games doesn't amount to a hill of beans.
hip	sophisticated, fashionable, <a href="#">cool</a> , <a href="#">groovy</a> , <a href="#">with it</a>	It ain't hip to say <i>doll</i> . You got to say <i>chick</i> now.
hip hop (generation)	young adults in the rap-music era with their own slang and subculture	I'm hip hop and if you don't like rap you're "wack"!
hire on	get work, get a job, <a href="#">catch on</a>	Norm was hired on as a roughneck with an oil company.
his nibs	a man who acts high class, <a href="#">His Royal Highness</a>	We were having fun till his nibs walked in and told us to be quiet.
his own man	independent man, one who makes his own decisions	Ken will do his job, but he does it his way. He's his own man.
His Royal Highness	the king, His Majesty	His Royal Highness would like you to play your lute for him.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: higher than a kite -- His Royal Highness

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: history -- hit me

Idiom	Meaning	Example
history	fired, dismissed, gone, <a href="#">down the road</a>	If you refuse to do a job, you're history, pal.
hit	(See <a href="#">a hit</a> )	
hit and miss	some right and some wrong, <a href="#">trial and error</a>	Hiring good help is still a hit-and-miss procedure.
hit and run (baseball)	a play in which the batter tries to hit as the base runner runs	On the next pitch, the Mets tried a hit and run, but the batter missed the ball.
hit and run (traffic)	an accident in which the driver leaves the scene of the collision	Was your car involved in a hit-and-run accident? Did you fail to stop after hitting someone?
hit home	become very meaningful, affect you personally, <a href="#">touch you</a>	When they see hungry Canadian children on TV, the message about poverty will hit home.
hit it off	relate well, be friends immediately	Gus and Bert seem to hit it off. They've been talking for hours.
hit man	hired killer, a person who is paid to commit murder	The hit man who killed the president is a terrorist.
hit me (card games)	give me another card; yes, I'll have another one	The old man looked at his cards carefully, then said, "Hit me."
hit me	the meaning becomes clear to me, I understand	It hit me later that she was a teacher, not a student.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: history -- hit me

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: hit me -- hit speeds of

Idiom	Meaning	Example
hit me	tell me, say it now, <a href="#">give it to me straight</a>	When I said it was bad news, he said, "Hit me. Let's have it."
hit me for a loan	ask to borrow money, ask me for a loan	Hit me for a loan on payday. Then I'll have some money.
hit me with your best shot	shoot or hit as hard as you can, <a href="#">sock it to me</a>	Hit me with your best shot. Serve the ball as hard as you can.
hit my funny bone	cause me to laugh, <a href="#">crack me up</a>	The word <i>pollywog</i> always hits my funny bone. Ha ha ha, ha ha.
hit on	think of, <a href="#">come up with</a>	Ko was a nurse until she hit on the idea of selling jewelry.
hit on	talk to in a sexual manner, <a href="#">come onto</a>	When he hit on a waitress, we asked him to stop.
hit on all cylinders	running smoothly, operating well, <a href="#">hit it off</a>	At first our company wasn't running very smoothly, but now we're hitting on all cylinders.
hit paydirt	become rich, win money, <a href="#">make a lot of money</a>	When Helen began selling chocolate, she hit paydirt. She's rich!
hit rock bottom	feel very unfortunate, feel very depressed	After his farm was seized, he hit rock bottom - lost all hope.
hit speeds of	travel at speeds of, <a href="#">do (a speed)</a>	The stolen car was hitting speeds of 120 km per hour in the city.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: hit me -- hit speeds of

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: hit the bar -- hit the nail on the head

Idiom	Meaning	Example
hit the bar	go to the bar to buy some drinks	Every night after work he hit the bar and stayed for hours.
hit the books	begin to study, <a href="#">crack a book</a>	Exams begin next week. It's time to hit the books.
hit the bottle	drink liquor, get drunk to forget problems	When Laura left him, he hit the bottle, drinking to forget her.
hit the brakes	step on the brakes in a car or vehicle, try to stop	When I saw that the other car couldn't stop, I hit the brakes.
hit the bricks	go to jail, be sentenced to a jail term, <a href="#">in the tank</a>	That was the last time he hit the bricks. He never went to jail again.
hit the ceiling	become very angry, <a href="#">lose your cool</a>	The third time we were late for class, she hit the ceiling.
hit the ground running	be able to work effectively when you begin a new job, <a href="#">self-starter</a>	We need someone who can hit the ground running, a person who needs no training.
hit the hay	go to bed, <a href="#">crash</a>	After supper he hit the hay. He was exhausted.
hit the high notes	sing high notes, play high notes	Can you hit the high notes on your trumpet? High C?
hit the nail on the head	say the right word, suggest a good idea	Your comment hit the nail on the head. You spoke the truth.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: hit the bar -- hit the nail on the head

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: hit the road/trail -- hokey Dinah

Idiom	Meaning	Example
hit the road/trail	travel, leave	Let's hit the road early. We have many miles to go.
hit the skids	begin to fail, <a href="#">go downhill</a>	After losing his job and his wife he hit the skids - became a bum.
hit the spot	taste right, is satisfying	Sometimes tea hits the spot. It satisfies me.
hit town	arrive in town	It was 2 a.m. when we hit town.
hitch in your getalong	(See <a href="#">have a hitch in your getalong</a> )	
hobnob	associate with, be a friend of	Per likes to hobnob with artists because he likes to draw.
Hobson's choice	accept what is offered or you get nothing; <a href="#">tight spot</a>	If I don't agree to accept half the money, it will all go to charity. It's a Hobson's choice.
hogwash	false statements, <a href="#">bull</a> , <a href="#">bunk</a> , <a href="#">hot air</a>	He told you I have a pet python? That's a lot of hogwash!
hoity-toity	a bit snobbish, <a href="#">high and mighty</a>	Pamela is a classy lady, but she is not snobbish or hoity-toity.
hokey Dinah	<a href="#">gosh</a> , <a href="#">holy cow</a> , <a href="#">wow</a>	Every time you hit the ball Wendy says, "Hokey Dinah!"

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:  
[B] bad language

Be interactive:  
[Comment on this idiom](#)  
[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)  
[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:  
 Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson  
 The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books  
 Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email  
[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: hit the road/trail -- hokey Dinah

## Idioms: hold a candle -- hold-out

Idiom	Meaning	Example
hold a candle	do as well, compare with, <a href="#">measure up</a>	The Buick is nice, but it can't hold a candle to the Cadillac.
hold a grudge	stay angry for a long time, <a href="#">bad blood</a>	He gets mad, but he never holds a grudge. He forgives easily.
hold a meeting	organize and conduct a meeting	The club will hold a meeting on Monday at 7:30 p.m.
hold down	keep, stay at	He has shown that he can hold down a job. He's reliable.
hold forth	talk at length about one subject, lecture	"If you mention his favorite topic--ants--he'll hold forth for hours!"
hold her liquor	drink but not get drunk, <a href="#">hold your drinks</a>	Thelma can hold her liquor. She looks sober after five drinks.
hold it	stop, this is important, <a href="#">hold on</a> , <a href="#">wait a minute</a>	"You and I will swim over to - " "Hold it! I can't swim. I didn't agree to swim anywhere!"
hold me responsible	say that I am responsible, <a href="#">carry the can</a> , <a href="#">lay the blame</a>	Because I'm the cashier, the manager holds me responsible for missing cash.
hold on	wait, do not begin, we are not ready	Hold on! We haven't fastened our seat belts.
hold-out	a person who does not agree	There are two hold-outs, but both people are willing to negotiate.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: hold a candle -- hold-out

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: hold out for -- hold you up

Idiom	Meaning	Example
hold out for	wait to get full price, <a href="#">drive a hard bargain</a>	He'll hold out for the full price of his car. He'll wait.
hold that over my head	remind me of my mistake, judge me by a failure	My parking ticket - is he going to hold that over my head?
hold the fort	manage until we return, <a href="#">look after</a> things	The manager asked me to hold the fort while he was gone.
hold the phone	wait a minute, let me think about it	"Dad, I'm going to quit school." "Hold the phone! Let's talk."
hold the purse strings	control how much is spent, decide when to spend	He does the talking, but she holds the purse strings.
hold up	stall, be unable to go, be unable to continue	The plane was held up because of a snowstorm - delayed an hour.
hold up	use a gun in a robbery, <a href="#">mugged</a>	A robber held up the store and took the money from the till.
hold up	cope, not cry, not lose control of your grief	Teri has endured a lot of pain. How's she holding up?
hold water	be logical, be sensible	He can't be in two places at once. His story doesn't hold water.
hold you up	delay you, cause you to be late	Did the traffic hold you up? Is that why you were late?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: hold out for -- hold you up

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: hold your drinks -- hole in one (golf)

Idiom	Meaning	Example
hold your drinks	drink liquor but not be rude or foolish	You may be able to hold your drinks, but you can't drive my car.
hold your hand	help you when you are afraid, baby-sit you	When you go to college, who's going to hold your hand?
hold your horses	wait a minute, <a href="#">hold on</a> , <a href="#">hold the phone</a>	When I said the accident was his fault, he said, "Hold your horses!"
hold your mouth the right way	if you shape your mouth the right way you can do it, <a href="#">the way you hold...</a>	"I can't tie a reef knot." "Sure you can - if you hold your mouth the right way."
hold your nose	accept it but not like it, <a href="#">look the other way</a>	This plan is better than no plan, so hold your nose and vote for it.
hold your own	be equal to the others, <a href="#">keep pace</a>	She can hold her own with the best skiers. She's excellent.
hold your temper	control your temper, do not <a href="#">lose your temper</a>	Try to hold your temper when you work with the children. Don't get angry because they learn from watching you.
hold your tongue	be polite, do not <a href="#">talk back</a>	When your father is talking, you hold your tongue. You be quiet.
holding the bag	left alone to finish the work or be responsible	Mom says we leave her holding the bag - to finish jobs alone.
hole in one (golf)	hit the ball from the tee into the cup in one stroke	There's a \$50 prize for a hole in one at the Pines Golf Course.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: hold your drinks -- hole in one (golf)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: hole up -- home stretch

Idiom	Meaning	Example
hole up	hide and wait, find a place to stay until it is safe	The robbers were holed up in a motel on Hastings Street.
hollow leg	(See <a href="#">a hollow leg</a> )	
holy cow	that is exciting, <a href="#">geez</a> , <a href="#">gosh</a> , <a href="#">wow</a>	Holy cow! That car just about crashed into us!
holy Moses	that is amazing, <a href="#">gosh</a> , <a href="#">holy Toledo</a> , <a href="#">wow</a>	Holy Moses! What a lot of birds! There must be a million!
holy pile	(See <a href="#">a holy pile</a> )	
holy smoke	what a sight, <a href="#">holy cow</a> , <a href="#">wow</a>	Holy smoke, he was weird! He had purple hair!
holy Toledo	how exciting, <a href="#">holy Moses</a> , <a href="#">wow</a>	Holy Toledo, he has big muscles! They're huge!
home free	finished a job, free to go home or away	Two more newspapers to deliver and we're home free - finished.
home run (baseball)	the batter scores a run on one hit (See <a href="#">grand slam</a> )	I remember the game when Rusty hit three home runs.
home stretch	the last part of the journey or race	On the home stretch we drove slower. We wanted to feel relaxed when we got home.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca)

## Idioms: a slippery slope -- a state secret

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a slippery slope	a path that leads to problems, a risky plan	Nationalism is a slippery slope. It often leads to racism.
a slow day	not productive, not many customers	Tuesday is a slow day in the car market - very few sales.
a slug	a group, a bunch	A slug of bats hung from a rock jutting out of the cave's ceiling.
a snap	(See <a href="#">it's a snap</a> )	
a snootful	a lot to smell or drink, <a href="#">get wind of</a>	When the coyotes get a snootful of our campfire, they'll run.
a snow job	a false story, a phony deal, <a href="#">a rip-off</a>	I knew it was a snow job. They said if I ordered some pens, I'd receive a new TV.
a snowball's chance in hell	little or no chance to succeed	If I write the test now, I won't have a snowball's chance in hell.
a soft touch	a person who will not refuse, <a href="#">an easy mark</a>	Barry's a soft touch. Let's ask him for a loan.
a spot of tea	a small cup of tea, a drink of tea	When I visit Mrs. Smith, we always have a spot of tea.
a state secret	(See <a href="#">it's not a state secret</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: a slippery slope -- a state secret

## Idioms: honest-to-goodness -- hook, line and sinker

Idiom	Meaning	Example
honest-to-goodness	genuine, real, <a href="#">the real McCoy</a>	It's not a fake! It's an honest-to-goodness Van Gogh painting!
honestly	truthfully, <a href="#">in fact</a> , <a href="#">upon my word</a>	Honestly, I don't understand you. I really don't.
honesty is the best policy	telling the truth is the best plan, honesty <a href="#">pays off</a>	Above the teacher's desk is this sign: <i>Honesty is the best policy.</i>
honey	dear, darling, <a href="#">sweetie pie</a>	Honey, where are the tomatoes? Do we have any tomatoes?
honky	white person, Caucasian	Then this honky gave us a ride. Some whites are nice, eh.
hoo-haw [B]	penis, <a href="#">dork</a> , <a href="#">prick</a>	"Yes, I've seen a hoo-haw," she said. "I have three brothers."
hooch	liquor, <a href="#">booze</a> , homebrew, <a href="#">screech</a>	Arne brought a bottle of hooch to the dance.
hood	teenage boy involved in crime, hoodlum	Ron looks like a hood, but he's a good boy - and a good student.
hook up with	join, travel together	In Calgary, I hooked up with a guy from Montreal.
hook, line and sinker	completely, fully, without hesitation, <a href="#">fall for that</a>	Martina believes my story - hook, line and sinker! She believes everything I tell her.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: honest-to-goodness -- hook, line and sinker

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: hooker -- horse around

Idiom	Meaning	Example
hooker	prostitute, <a href="#">fallen woman</a>	As I walked along 3rd Avenue, a hooker asked me if I was lonely.
hoosegow	(See <a href="#">in the slammer</a> )	
hoot	laugh, <a href="#">laugh your head off</a> , <a href="#">split a gut</a>	When I said I live in Moose Jaw, he hooted. He laughed at me.
hop up	increase the power, <a href="#">supercharge</a> , <a href="#">tweak</a>	"What are you driving?" "A hopped-up Ford. It flies!"
hopes dashed	plans ruined, dreams lost	Her hopes were dashed when she failed the entrance exam.
hopping mad	very angry, <a href="#">hot</a>	She was hopping mad when you laughed at her wig.
hork	vomit, puke, <a href="#">barf</a> , <a href="#">throw up</a>	Somebody horked on the floor of my car! Yuk!
horn in	interfere, intrude, <a href="#">butt in</a>	We were playing a game of tag, and the big guys tried to horn in.
horny [B]	ready for sex, wanting to have sex, aroused	How come you're never horny when I am?
horse around	play, joke, <a href="#">fool around</a> , <a href="#">goof off</a>	Don't horse around in the lab. You could spill some acid.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: hooker -- horse around

## Idioms: horse feathers -- hot air

Idiom	Meaning	Example
horse feathers	lies, false stories, <a href="#">bull</a> , <a href="#">a bunch of malarkey</a>	When she told her dad she saw a ghost, he said, "Horse feathers!"
horse of a different color	(See <a href="#">a horse of a different color</a> )	
horse sense	being sensible, logical; <a href="#">common sense</a>	He's got horse sense to rent a condo before he buys one.
horse shoes up his ass [B]	very lucky, always winning	He's got horseshoes up his ass! He won six games of bingo!
horse's ass [B]	(See <a href="#">a horse's ass</a> )	
horseplay	just having fun, <a href="#">fooling around</a>	Don't worry. The boys aren't fighting. It's just horseplay.
hose it down/ hose it off	spray with water from the hose, <a href="#">wash down</a>	If the rubber mat is muddy, lay it on the sidewalk and hose it off.
hoser	Canadian guy, neighbor	Hey, hoser. What're you doin' in my garden?
hot	angry, mad, <a href="#">pissed</a> [B]	She was really hot when you said her wig was crooked.
hot air	false talk, bragging, <a href="#">bull</a> , <a href="#">hogwash</a>	Steve brags about winning the marathon, but he's full of hot air.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: horse feathers -- hot air

## Idioms: hot and bothered -- hot ticket

Idiom	Meaning	Example
hot and bothered	upset, getting angry, ready to speak angrily	You know that Dad gets hot and bothered when you stay out late.
hot goods	stolen products, items obtained illegally	I won't buy a watch from him because he sells hot goods.
hot hand	(See <a href="#">a hot hand</a> )	
hot off the press	paper that has just been printed	As the boy handed me the paper he said, "Hot off the press!"
hot on the trail	following the trail, looking for evidence	The police are hot on the trail of the bank robbers.
hot on your heels	following close behind, not far behind	If you begin to run, the bear will be hot on your heels.
hot potato	(See <a href="#">drop him like a hot potato</a> )	
hot stuff	very popular person, very sexy person	When Arlana was in high school she was hot stuff - very sexy!
hot tempered	quick to become angry, <a href="#">lose your temper</a>	He's hot tempered - very impatient and often angry.
hot ticket	(See <a href="#">a hot ticket</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: hot topic -- how are you doing

Idiom	Meaning	Example
hot topic	(See <a href="#">a hot topic</a> )	
hot under the collar	upset, becoming angry, <a href="#">hot and bothered</a>	It's only a joke. Don't get hot under the collar.
hotdog	cooked wiener inside a long bun	Two hotdogs with mustard, please. And two coffees - black.
hotdog	(See <a href="#">a hotdog</a> )	
hothead	(See <a href="#">a hothead</a> )	
hotshot	(See <a href="#">a hotshot</a> )	
hound	keep asking or demanding, harass, <a href="#">browbeat</a>	If you'll stop hounding me, I'll go to the doctor!
household name	(See <a href="#">a household name</a> )	
how about that	that is interesting, <a href="#">you don't say</a>	How about that! We ran ten kilometres!
how are you doing	are you feeling fine? is life good to you?	How are you doing, Chan? I haven't seen you for awhile.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: how are you fixed for -- how it plays out

Idiom	Meaning	Example
how are you fixed for	do you have enough? how many do you have?	How are you fixed for diapers? May I borrow one?
how are you getting along	are you able to do it? are you <a href="#">okay</a> ? <a href="#">how are you doing</a>	"How are you getting along at the new school, Gail?" "Fine. I like my subjects."
how are you making out	are you able to do the job? have you made progress? <a href="#">how are you doing</a>	The manager came to my office and said, "How are you making out? Finished the report?"
how come	why? how do you explain it?	How come you're going home? Don't you want to play?
how do you do	hello, nice to meet you, <a href="#">good day</a> , <a href="#">howdy</a>	"Mr. Grant, I'm Ken Blair, the new bank manager." "How do you do, Mr. Blair."
how do you like them apples	do you like this better? do you like that choice? <a href="#">tough bananas</a>	If you don't like the bed, you can sleep on the floor. How do you like them apples?
how does that grab you	how do you feel about that?	A holiday in Greece - how does that grab you?
how goes it	is your life good? <a href="#">how are you doing</a>	"How goes it?" said my friend. "Not bad," I replied.
how goes the battle	are you winning the battle of life? are you <a href="#">okay</a> ?	"How goes the battle?" Jo asked. "I win and I lose," Pat replied.
how it plays out	how it happens, how it ends how it <a href="#">pans out</a>	The new policy is supposed to improve sales, but we'll see how it plays out.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: how are you fixed for -- how it plays out

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: how so -- hump day

Idiom	Meaning	Example
how so	explain how, <a href="#">how come</a>	When I told him the game was canceled, he said, "How so?"
how time flies	how quickly time passes, how short the time seems	How time flies when I visit you. The hours pass too quickly.
how you hold your...	(See <a href="#">the way you hold your mouth</a> )	
how's that again	what did you say? <a href="#">come again</a>	When Grandpa doesn't hear me, he says, "How's that again?"
how's tricks	is life okay? are you learning new skills?	When Andy sees me, he always says, "How's tricks?"
howdy	hello, good day, <a href="#">how do you do</a>	The old cowboy says, "Howdy, ma'am," when he meets a lady.
huh	what did you say? pardon?	"Did you wash your ears?" "Huh?"
humdinger	(See <a href="#">a humdinger</a> )	
humongous	huge, very large	My uncle has this humongous dog. It's as big as a calf!
hump day	Wednesday, the middle of the work week, <a href="#">over the hump</a>	Brian says if you can get through hump day, the rest of the week is easy.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: how so -- hump day

## Idioms: hungover -- hyah

Idiom	Meaning	Example
hungover	having a headache after drinking liquor, <a href="#">hangover</a>	The next day he was hungover, so he rested and drank coffee.
hungry thirties	(See <a href="#">dirty thirties</a> )	
hunk	a gorgeous man, a very attractive male	Matty thinks Robert Redford is a hunk. She dreams about him.
hunker down	get ready to lift or work, prepare to make an effort	To achieve our sales goals, we all have to hunker down.
hurl	vomit, puke, <a href="#">barf</a> , <a href="#">hork</a> , <a href="#">woof your cookies</a>	After eating two raw eggs, she hurled - all over my sheepskin!
hurry up	do it quickly, <a href="#">make it snappy</a>	Hurry up with the dishes. We want you to play cards with us.
hurt my feelings	make me feel sad, offend me	You hurt my feelings when you said I waddle like a duck.
hush up	do not talk, be quiet, <a href="#">keep quiet</a>	"Mommy, there's the man who kissed you!" "Hush up, child."
hushed up	not talked about, <a href="#">keep a secret</a>	In the 1950s, if a teen-age girl got pregnant, it was hushed up.
hyah	hello, <a href="#">hi</a> , <a href="#">hi there</a>	Hyah, Bill. What's new with you?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:  
[B] bad language

Be interactive:  
[Comment on this idiom](#)  
[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)  
[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:  
 Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson  
 The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books  
 Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email  
[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: hungover -- hyah

# Idioms: I smell where you're stepping -- if that doesn't beat all

Idiom	Meaning	Example
I smell where you're stepping	I understand the direction of your thought, <a href="#">follow me</a> , <a href="#">get my drift</a>	"Do you understand?" "Yes, please continue. I smell where you're steppin'"
I'll be a monkey's uncle	I cannot believe it, I must be dreaming	When Farley won the new car, he said, "I'll be a monkey's uncle!"
I'm afraid so	(See <a href="#">afraid so</a> )	
icing on the cake	a bonus, extra benefit, <a href="#">the rest is gravy</a>	We've sold enough tickets to pay for the trip. This money from the Elks Club is icing on the cake!
idiot lights	warning lights on the instrument panel of a car	Kim wants a car with gauges, not idiot lights.
if a mussel doesn't open don't eat it	if you force things to happen you may regret it, <a href="#">leave well enough alone</a>	If you force a child to talk, you may regret it. As they say, <i>If a mussel doesn't open, don't eat it.</i>
if looks could kill	the look on your face was evil or hateful	If looks could kill, I'd be dead. Are you mad at me or something?
if my memory serves me correctly	if I can remember well, if I have a good memory	Your name is Jose - if my memory serves me correctly.
if only	I wish, we wish	If only we'd phoned before we came. There's nobody home!
if that doesn't beat all	that is the best/biggest/worst I have ever seen	Fifty people in a phone booth - if that doesn't beat all!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

Idioms: I smell where you're stepping -- if that doesn't beat all

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: if the shoe fits, wear it -- in a bit

Idiom	Meaning	Example
if the shoe fits, wear it	if there is a lesson for you, learn it	When I listen to you preach, I wonder if the shoe fits me.
if you can't cut it, you can't stay	if you cannot do the work you will have to leave; <a href="#">shape up or ship out</a>	When I complained about long days, the foreman said, "If you can't cut it, you can't stay."
if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen	if you do not like the pressure you can leave; <a href="#">if you can't cut it, you can't stay</a>	In the boardroom someone had written on the flip chart <i>If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen!</i>
if you're born to hang, you won't drown	fate controls how we die; we do not control the time and cause of our death	After rescuing the swimmer, he said to me, "If you're born to hang, you won't drown."
if you're not with us you're against us	if you do not support us you are against us; <a href="#">can't have it both ways</a>	War divides us into allies and enemies. If you're not with us, you're against us.
ignorance is bliss	ignorant people have nothing to worry about	The teacher said, "Ignorance is bliss - until you write exams."
in a bad way	feeling sad or <a href="#">downhearted</a>	After the accident, Val was in a bad way. She was very depressed.
in a big way	with a lot of style and expense	Pam does things in a big way. She hired a band for her party.
in a big way	very much, a lot	My son likes to play computer games - in a big way!
in a bit	in a minute, within a short time	"Can we go?" asked the girl. "In a bit," her mother replied.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Idioms: if the shoe fits, wear it -- in a bit

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a steal -- a sweet tooth

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a steal	a bargain; purchased for a very low price	How much did I pay for my new coat? Very little. It was a steal.
a stiff upper lip	(See <a href="#">keep a stiff upper lip</a> )	
a stitch in time saves nine	a small repair may prevent a large repair	I believe in maintenance. <i>A stitch in time saves nine.</i>
a stitch of clothes	(See <a href="#">didn't have a stitch of clothes on</a> )	
a stone's throw	a short distance, 25 metres	A deer came into the yard, just a stone's throw from our door.
a sucker for punishment	one who allows himself to be hurt or blamed	If I accept blame for a team loss, I'm a sucker for punishment.
a suicide pass (hockey)	a pass behind the player causing him to look back	Older players always stop when receiving a suicide pass.
a sure bet	certain to win, a good choice to <a href="#">bet on</a>	The Lions are a sure bet in the final game. They'll win easily.
a sure thing	a predictable result, sure to happen	For them, success is a sure thing. They plan for success.
a sweet tooth	a need to eat candy, a craving for sugar	After dinner we'll serve mints. Daddy has a sweet tooth, eh.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: a steal -- a sweet tooth

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: in a blue moon -- in a jam

Idiom	Meaning	Example
in a blue moon	(See <a href="#">once in a blue moon</a> )	
in a cold sweat	very nervous or scared, <a href="#">scared</a> <a href="#">spitless</a>	As Doug waited to speak to the audience he felt breathless and shaky. His hands felt cold and damp. He was in a cold sweat!
in a coon's age	in many years, for a long time, <a href="#">for a dog's age</a>	Hello, Uncle Henry! I haven't seen you in a coon's age!
in a family way	pregnant, <a href="#">a bun in the oven</a>	Carey's in a family way. She's due to have her baby soon.
in a fix	in a bad situation, <a href="#">in a jam</a>	Without matches or food, the lost boys were in quite a fix.
in a flap	worried or upset, in a hurry	Kate is in a flap again. Her dog is sick.
in a flash	very quickly, <a href="#">in no time</a>	If you're in trouble, Superman will be there in a flash.
in a flutter	(See <a href="#">in a tizzy</a> )	
in a funk	in a bad mood, frustrated, <a href="#">in a snit</a>	Rick is in a funk today because Muriel hasn't called him.
in a jam	in a difficult position, in trouble	I was in a jam. I had no money to pay the rent.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: in a jiffy -- in a split second

Idiom	Meaning	Example
in a jiffy	in a minute, very soon, <a href="#">in a sec</a>	When Dad says he'll be there in a jiffy, he means 20 minutes.
in a long time	for months or years, <a href="#">for a dog's age</a>	I haven't seen you in a long time. Where have you been hiding?
in a pickle	in a difficult situation, <a href="#">in a jam</a>	When the motor on our boat quit, I knew we were in a pickle.
in a pig's ass [B]	not true, unbelievable, <a href="#">bull</a> , <a href="#">full of it</a>	You wrote <i>War and Peace</i> ? In a pig's ass!
in a pinch	in a difficult situation, <a href="#">in a jam</a>	I was in a pinch because I had no money to pay for the meal.
in a rut	always doing it the same way, never changing the method or style	After ten years in the same job with the same manager in the same building, he was in a rut.
in a sec	in a second, very soon, <a href="#">in a jiffy</a>	Wait. I'll be there in a sec.
in a slump	not performing well for several days	Wayne's in a slump. He hasn't scored a point in four games.
in a snit	upset, worried, <a href="#">in a stew</a>	Ms. Mak is in a snit because she lost her cat.
in a split second	in less than a second, <a href="#">in a flash</a>	In a split second, the cat twisted and landed on its feet.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: in a jiffy -- in a split second

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: in a stew -- in broad daylight

Idiom	Meaning	Example
in a stew	concerned and upset, <a href="#">in a tizzy</a>	Dad gets in such a stew when Mom is sick. He really worries.
in a tight spot	in a difficult position, <a href="#">in a pinch</a>	Mom told me to go, and Dad told me to stay. I was in a tight spot.
in a tizzy	upset, flustered, <a href="#">in a flap</a>	Aunt Lottie gets in a tizzy when she can't find her wig.
in agreement	believing or feeling the same things	When we discuss Canadian unity, we're in agreement.
in any way, shape or form	in any way, <a href="#">at all</a> , <a href="#">in the least</a>	Winning the award didn't affect her in any way, shape or form. She hasn't changed at all.
in bad faith	not sincere, not really trying to agree	The workers accused management of bargaining in bad faith.
in bad shape	not feeling well, <a href="#">out of it</a>	The day after the party I was in bad shape. How my head ached!
in black and white	written and signed, <a href="#">in writing</a>	If they say the car is guaranteed, get it down in black and white.
in brief	briefly, without giving details	In brief, all flights have been canceled.
in broad daylight	easy to see, not trying to hide	The man undressed right there on the street - in broad daylight.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: in a stew -- in broad daylight

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: in cahoots -- in dire straits

Idiom	Meaning	Example
in cahoots	like partners, helping each other	I think the judge and lawyer are in cahoots - working together.
in charge	responsible for, <a href="#">in control</a>	Who's in charge here? Who is the manager or supervisor?
in clover	becoming wealthy, receiving lots of money	We were in clover! We bought a ranch, a car, and a house in town.
in cold blood	without feeling, without mercy	He's accused of killing a "Mountie" in cold blood.
in control	able to manage, <a href="#">in charge</a>	Mr. Blum is not in control of his pets. They run all over town.
in-crowd	(See <a href="#">the in-crowd</a> )	
in deep doo-doo [B]	in serious difficulties, <a href="#">in deep shit</a> , <a href="#">in deep trouble</a>	He's a member of parliament and has been caught twice for tax fraud. Now he's in deep doo-doo.
in deep shit [B]	in bad trouble, likely to be punished	If you shoot a bear in a national park, you are in deep shit, man.
in deep trouble	in serious trouble, sure to <a href="#">catch hell</a>	Driving without a license could get you in deep trouble.
in dire straits	in debt, having no money	If we don't get a good crop this year, we'll be in dire straits.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: in cahoots -- in dire straits

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: in dribs and drabs -- in his blood

Idiom	Meaning	Example
in dribs and drabs	a few at a time, <a href="#">little by little</a>	Many came to the sale, but they arrived in dribs and drabs.
in fact	to state a fact, <a href="#">as a matter of fact</a> , <a href="#">to be perfectly honest</a>	When some people hear the word <i>gravity</i> , they think of falling bodies; in fact, gravity keeps us from falling.
in full flight	going full speed, <a href="#">flat out</a>	The cyclist was in full flight when he passed the cars.
in glowing terms	with much praise, praise you to the skies (see <a href="#">praise him to the skies</a> )	Your manager spoke of you in glowing terms. He praised you.
in good faith	sincerely, hoping to reach a fair agreement	The union president said that he always bargained in good faith.
in good hands	cared for by a friend, with a trusted person	If Darlene is caring for your dad, he's in good hands.
in hand	able to control, <a href="#">under control</a>	Some fans began fighting, but the police have things in hand.
in heaven's name	if we think of heaven, <a href="#">for heaven's sake</a>	Why in heaven's name did we come to Canada? It's cold here!
in her good graces	being liked by her, doing what she likes	If you are in her good graces, you will be invited to her tea party.
in his blood	an important part of him, in his personality	The prairie is his blood. He's a prairie boy.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: in dribs and drabs -- in his blood

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: in his good books -- in my good books

Idiom	Meaning	Example
in his good books	among those he likes, on his list of good people	She's in his good books because she praised his painting.
in hock	in debt, owing money, having a large mortgage	We were in hock after buying the property. We had a large debt.
in hot water	needing discipline or correction, <a href="#">in deep shit</a>	My son took his pet snake to school, and now he's in hot water. He could be suspended from classes.
in keeping with	following the rules or customs	Refunds are not in keeping with company policy. No refunds.
in leaf	having new leaves, growing leaves	Poplar trees were in leaf, wild roses in bloom.
in love	feeling romantic love, <a href="#">fall in love</a>	Peter's in love with Wendy, but Wendy's in love with Tom.
in mind	thinking of, remembering, <a href="#">keep you in mind</a>	When she wrote the story about the lawyer, she had you in mind.
in mint condition	in new condition, <a href="#">as new</a>	The Nash was in mint condition. It looked like a new car.
in my care	for me to protect, <a href="#">under my wing</a>	The children were in my care when the dog chased us.
in my good books	among the people I like, <a href="#">on my good side</a>	To get in my good books, you can help me with my homework.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: in his good books -- in my good books

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: in no time -- in point of fact

Idiom	Meaning	Example
in no time	very soon, <a href="#">in a sec</a>	We'll be there in no time. We have less than a kilometer to go.
in no uncertain terms	definitely, clearly, <a href="#">call a spade a spade</a>	They told us about sex and drugs in no uncertain terms.
in one ear and out the other	not listening, hearing but not <a href="#">paying attention</a>	The kids don't listen to me; it's in one ear and out the other!
in one fell swoop	in one action, in one attack, <a href="#">at once</a>	Our TV ad is effective. In one fell swoop we create doubts about the other products and sell our own.
in order	to make it possible, to help it happen	In order to win, we have to work as a team.
in over your head	unable to win, competing against better players	If you play chess against Boris, you'll be in over your head.
in person	being there yourself, <a href="#">first hand</a>	Dad saw the wall come down. He was there in person.
in place	in the correct position or location, available	Be sure to have the money in place before you buy a house.
in plain view	easy to see, where all can see, <a href="#">in broad daylight</a>	In Daqing, some of the men urinated in plain view - very close to the street.
in point of fact	(See <a href="#">in fact</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: in no time -- in point of fact

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: in seventh heaven -- in the bag

Idiom	Meaning	Example
in seventh heaven	in a very good mood, feeling very happy	When Smitty asked me to marry him, I was in seventh heaven.
in sick bay	very sick, very ill, <a href="#">as sick as a parrot</a> , <a href="#">as sick as a dog</a>	"Where's Mel?" "In sick bay after last night's pub crawl."
in step	doing things in a similar way, together	Are you in step with our youth? Do you understand how they feel?
in stir	(See <a href="#">in the tank</a> )	
in stitches	laughing hard, <a href="#">crack me up</a>	I was in stitches before she finished telling the joke.
in store for	in the future, going to happen	Carlos didn't know what was in store for him in Canada.
in stride	(See <a href="#">take it in stride</a> )	
in that vein	similar, on the same topic, <a href="#">along those lines</a>	The prime minister talked about the sacrifices we had to bring in the present economic situation. Even the opposition went on in that vein.
in the back of my mind	in my memory, <a href="#">in your mind's eye</a>	In the back of my mind I could see our dog - asleep by the fire.
in the bag	drunk, <a href="#">loaded</a> , <a href="#">sloshed</a>	Two drinks and she'll be in the bag. She gets drunk easily.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: in seventh heaven -- in the bag

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: in the bag -- in the drink

Idiom	Meaning	Example
in the bag	already won or decided, <a href="#">a sure thing</a>	Don't worry. The game is in the bag - we'll win easily.
in the ball park	close, near the total	My offer wasn't even in the ball park. He wanted \$500, not \$300.
in the black	showing a profit, in a sound financial position	After one year our company was in the black - showing a profit.
in the boonies	out of town, out in the country	Lan lives in the boonies - fifty kilometres from Calgary.
in the buff	naked, nude	At our house, we walk around in the buff. Nude is natural, eh.
in the clink	in prison, in jail, <a href="#">behind bars</a>	If you get drunk you may be thrown in the clink overnight.
in the dark	unaware, not informed	I was in the dark about the trip to Ireland. No one told me.
in the doghouse	having your friend or spouse angry at you	I'm in the doghouse. I forgot her birthday and she's mad at me.
in the drink	in the sewer, lost	If you leave your ring on the sink it will soon be in the drink.
in the drink	failing, bankrupt, <a href="#">up the creek</a>	In the drink - that's where I'd be without you. A total failure.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: in the bag -- in the drink

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: in the driver's seat -- in the lap of luxury

Idiom	Meaning	Example
in the driver's seat	controlling events or decisions, <a href="#">in charge</a>	Money and talent will put you in the driver's seat - in control.
in the fast lane	(See <a href="#">life in the fast lane</a> )	
in the flesh	the person (not a photo or recording of the person)	Julia was there - in the flesh, standing right in front of me!
in the gutter	having dirty thoughts or ideas	Pornography puts his mind in the gutter - lusting after flesh.
in the hole	having lost money when gambling or investing	By the time he left the poker game he was \$500 in the hole.
in the hole	in solitary confinement, in a dark jail cell	If a prisoner tries to escape they put him in the hole.
in the hoosegow	(See <a href="#">in the slammer</a> )	
in the jug	(See <a href="#">in the slammer</a> )	
in the know	informed, knowledgeable, (compare) <a href="#">in the dark</a>	Ask Joan about global warming. She's in the know.
in the lap of luxury	living in comfort, living <a href="#">high on the hog</a>	If I win the lottery, we'll be rich. We'll live in the lap of luxury.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a takeoff on -- a tongue-lashing

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a takeoff on	similar to, based on the same idea, <a href="#">a send-up</a>	The school play was a takeoff on Shakespeare's <i>Hamlet</i> .
a talking to	a scolding, a personal lecture	If he has a poor attitude, Dan will give him a talking to.
a tall one	a large drink of liquor, a strong drink	After he heard the bad news, he poured himself a tall one.
a tempest in a teapot	a lot of excitement about a small problem	The argument was over quickly. It was a tempest in a teapot.
a thorn in my side	one who thwarts you, one who irritates you, <a href="#">bug</a>	He's always been a thorn in my side - always critical of me.
a three-bagger (baseball)	a hit that allows the batter to run to third base	Molitor hit a three-bagger in the sixth game of the World Series.
a three-bagger	a person who needs three bags over his head because he looks so scary	"What did he look like?" "He was at least a three-bagger. He also needed a bath."
a titch	(See <a href="#">just a titch</a> )	
a token gesture	a small sign of thanks or recognition	To thank us, they put our names in the paper - a token gesture.
a tongue-lashing	a scolding, a lecture, <a href="#">a talking to</a>	When Sis came home drunk, Dad gave her a tongue-lashing.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: a takeoff on -- a tongue-lashing

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: in the least -- in the mood

Idiom	Meaning	Example
in the least	in any way, <a href="#">at all</a>	Oil prices went up, but the price of gas didn't change in the least.
in the long haul	after several years, for the long term	In the long haul, you'll earn more money if you have a degree.
in the long run	planning for the future, looking many years ahead	In the long run, real estate is a good investment.
in the loop	on the list of people who receive information, <a href="#">the in-crowd</a>	I hope you'll keep me in the loop. I want to hear the latest news.
in the lurch	facing a problem alone, <a href="#">holding the bag</a>	True friends won't leave you in the lurch, will they?
in the making	developing, growing	Raj is a talented pianist. Is he a Glenn Gould in the making?
in the meantime	for now, meanwhile	Someday I want to own a yacht. In the meantime, I have a canoe.
in the money	wealthy, rich, <a href="#">loaded</a>	If my lottery number is drawn, I'll be in the money.
in the Monford lane	driving fast, in the passing lane, <a href="#">pedal to the metal</a>	We got a rush order, so we was in de Monford lane all de way.
in the mood	feeling that you want to do something	I'm in the mood for pizza. Let's order a large one - loaded!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: in the least -- in the mood

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: in the nick of time -- in the running

Idiom	Meaning	Example
in the nick of time	nearly too late, <a href="#">just in time</a> , <a href="#">under the wire</a>	They jumped from the burning boat in the nick of time - just before it sank.
in the nude	naked, <a href="#">in the buff</a>	Sleeping in the nude has advantages and disadvantages.
in the offing	ready to happen, soon to be	A great event was in the offing: the discovery of penicillin.
in the picture	part of the scene, a factor	As Mr. Martin lost the election, he's not in the picture.
in the pink	looking and feeling healthy and happy	Last time I saw Barb, she was in the pink. She looked great.
in the pipe five by five	in the chamber and ready to fire, missiles in firing position	"Check missiles!" "In the pipe five by five, sir!"
in the poorhouse	poor, having little money, <a href="#">as poor as a church mouse</a>	In 1936, they were in the poorhouse. They couldn't grow crops, and nobody had a job.
in the red	showing a financial loss, losing money	Last year our business was still in the red - still showing a loss.
in the road	blocking the way, preventing movement	We'll have to move the table. It's in the road.
in the running	competitive, could win, <a href="#">give you a run for...</a>	With ten games remaining, the Expos are still in the running. They have a chance to win.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: in the nick of time -- in the running

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: in the slammer -- in tough

Idiom	Meaning	Example
in the slammer	in jail, in prison	Marv's been in the slammer four times. He knows prison life.
in the tank	in jail, in prison, <a href="#">in the slammer</a>	While he was in the tank, he studied science and history.
in the throes	in the middle of some work, <a href="#">caught up</a> in a process	We're in the throes of repairing an old house. What a job!
in the wink of an eye	very quickly, <a href="#">in a split second</a>	In the wink of an eye, the coin disappeared from the man's hand.
in the works	in the plans, to be built	I've heard there's a housing project in the works.
in the worst way	very much, a lot	Hal wants a Porsche in the worst way. He loves sports cars.
in these parts	in this part of the country; <a href="#">neck of the woods</a>	We haven't seen a bear in these parts for years.
in time	before the deadline, within the time limit	The check arrived just in time. We flew to Hawaii the next day.
in touch	phone or write a letter, <a href="#">keep in touch</a>	Have you been in touch with your family in China?
in tough	in a difficult battle, against a tough opponent	If you play Ivan in the tennis tournament, you'll be in tough.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: in the slammer -- in tough

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: in trouble -- in your mind's eye

Idiom	Meaning	Example
in trouble	accused, arrested, punished	If you steal, you'll be in trouble. You'll be arrested.
in tune (music)	at the correct pitch, not sharp or flat	It was an excellent concert. Even the children sang in tune.
in tune	believing the same, <a href="#">on the same wavelength</a>	He's in tune with our religious beliefs. He believes in God.
in two shakes (of a lamb's tail)	very soon, in a couple of seconds, <a href="#">in a sec</a>	I'll be with you in two shakes. I just have to turn off the lights.
in writing	written and signed, <a href="#">in black and white</a>	The company guarantees this pen for life. I have it in writing.
in your bad books	one of the people you do not like	If I don't agree with you, I'll be in your bad books, right?
in your corner	hoping you will win, <a href="#">on your side</a>	Hey, man, I'm in your corner. I'll help you get your diploma.
in your face	placed in front of you, right in front of you	Every time I turn on the TV, that ad is in my face. I'm sick of it.
in your hair	bothering you, <a href="#">bugging you</a>	If you have too many kids in a class, they get in your hair.
in your mind's eye	in a picture in your mind, in your memory	In my mind's eye, I can see her face - clearer than a photo.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: in trouble -- in your mind's eye

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: in your prime -- Internet

Idiom	Meaning	Example
in your prime	during your best years, when you are strongest	When he was in his prime, he played professional soccer.
in's and out's	(See <a href="#">the in's and out's</a> )	
information leak	(See <a href="#">have a leak [B]</a> )	
inhale	eat quickly, <a href="#">wolf down</a>	I rushed home, inhaled my lunch and drove to the airport.
inside information	facts available to those inside an organization	I can get inside information. My friend works for the FBI.
inside joke	a joke that is understood by only those who work or play together, <a href="#">inside joke</a>	"Would you like to buy some of our "liveware"?" I asked. She frowned. "Never mind," I said. "It's an inside joke. Ha ha."
inside out	(See <a href="#">know inside out</a> )	
inside story	(See <a href="#">the inside story</a> )	
inside track	(See <a href="#">the inside track</a> )	
Internet	a system of computers, <a href="#">World Wide Web</a>	If you want to know more about any topic, get on the Internet.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms: into fitness/dancing etc. -- is you is, or is you ain't my baby

Idiom	Meaning	Example
into fitness/dancing etc.	involved in fitness etc., enjoying a hobby	They're really into fitness. They exercise and jog a lot.
into hock	(See <a href="#">in hock</a> )	
into the sauce	drinking alcohol, <a href="#">off the wagon</a>	Uncle has been into the sauce. I can smell liquor on his breath.
into the tank	into business failure, into bankruptcy	Two companies went into the tank because of free trade.
into thin air	disappearing like a ghost, vanishing like steam	When I moved closer, the flying saucer vanished into thin air.
invite you over	(See <a href="#">have you over</a> )	
iron out	solve, <a href="#">work it out</a>	She ironed out the problem with the school. Jeff is back in class.
irons in the fire	very busy, <a href="#">plate is full</a>	I can't help with your project. I have too many irons in the fire.
is that so	is that true? <a href="#">no kidding</a>	Every time I tell Mr. Pratt some news, he says, "Is that so?"
is you is, or is you ain't my baby	are you my love? I want to know if you love me	Pearl is singing to Toby: "Is you is, or is you ain't my baby?"

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: into fitness/dancing etc. -- is you is, or is you ain't my baby

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: it ain't over till it's over -- it makes no difference

Idiom	Meaning	Example
it ain't over till it's over	a game is not finished until time has expired, <a href="#">never say die</a>	A few fans stayed to watch the end of the game. "It ain't over till it's over," one man said.
it ain't over till the fat lady sings	an event is not finished until the final bell, don't <a href="#">give up</a>	The tying goal was scored in the final second. It ain't over till the fat lady sings!
it appears to me	this is what I see, I believe this happened	It appears to me that this car swerved to avoid a collision.
it don't make no nevermind	it does not matter, it is not important, <a href="#">never mind</a>	"He done took your shirt, boy! Why you do nothin'?" "It don't make no nevermind. He's kin."
it figures	it is logical, it appears so, it <a href="#">makes sense</a>	"The owner must have started the fire," said Sherlock. "It figures," said Watson.
it goes with the territory	some problems are natural in some jobs or places	There's more crime in the cities. It goes with the territory.
it goes without saying	it is obvious, <a href="#">needless to say</a>	It goes without saying: we want equal pay for equal work.
it has your name on it	we saved this one for you, it is yours	There's a steak on the grill, and it has your name on it.
it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all	you are a better person if you have loved someone - even for a short time	Old and alone, the woman often thought of a saying: <i>It is better to have loved and lost... .</i>
it makes no difference	it does not matter, either way is okay	"Should we have tea or coffee?" "It makes no difference to me."

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: it ain't over till it's over -- it makes no difference

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: it never fails -- it was Greek to me

Idiom	Meaning	Example
it never fails	it always happens, <a href="#">time and again</a>	It never fails - when I get in the shower, the phone rings.
it never rains but it pours	when it comes we get too much, <a href="#">feast or famine</a>	"Tonight we don't have enough chairs for everybody." "It never rains but it pours!"
it occurs to me	this thought comes to my mind	It occurs to me that we won't meet again until Christmas.
it phased me out	it caused me to feel uneasy, <a href="#">throw you</a>	I was nervous when you did the bungee jump. It phased me out.
it seems to me	it is my opinion, it is my view	It seems to me that Don expects us to phone him every week.
it strikes me	this is clear to me, this is my impression	It strikes me that we share many interests and activities.
it takes one to know one	one type of personality recognizes the same type	"Elizabeth is such a fool!" "Takes one to know one."
it takes two to tango	some things you cannot do alone; you need a friend to experience life; two can share, fight, dance, love...; <a href="#">it is better to have loved and lost...</a>	Life is a dance. It takes two to tango!
it was a lark	it was easy, it was fun, <a href="#">a piece of cake</a>	I learned to shift gears on a Peugeot. It was a lark!
it was Greek to me	I could not understand the subject; it was like a foreign language	When he asked me what I had learned about DNA, I replied, "I don't know. It was Greek to me."

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Idioms: it never fails -- it was Greek to me

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: it works -- it's a snap

Idiom	Meaning	Example
it works	it is right, it looks nice, it is a good style	If you place the vase over there and the statue here, it works.
itsy-bitsy / itty-bitty	very tiny, mini, <a href="#">teeny-weeny</a>	An itsy-bitsy halter held her hefty breasts.
it's a case of	it is an example of, it is <a href="#">a case of</a>	With Bud, it's a case of too much love. His wife smothers him.
it's a crock	(See <a href="#">that's a crock</a> )	
it's a dilly	it is beautiful, it is special, I really like it	Have you seen Tom's new bike? It's a dilly!
it's a Duesey	it's as beautiful as a Duesenberg roadster, it's special	You should see Karl's baseball glove. It's a Duesey!
it's a go	it is approved, we can begin	After Ty read the fax, he said, "It's a go! Our proposal won!"
it's a jungle out there	the world is dangerous, the world is cruel	"Why can't I walk home alone?" "Because it's a jungle out there."
it's a matter of life and death	it must be done to save a life, they will die if we do nothing	We must stop the bleeding. It's a matter of life and death.
it's a snap	it is easy to do, it is <a href="#">a piece of cake</a>	You should try making a paper plane. It's a snap.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: it works -- it's a snap

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: it's a toss-up -- it's cold / it's hot

Idiom	Meaning	Example
it's a toss-up	they are equal, toss a coin to decide	It's a toss-up. It's difficult to choose. Both ideas are good.
it's a whole nother world out there	it is very different in that place, it is strange over there	When the kids got back from the virtual space trip, Jamie said, "It's a whole nother world out there!"
it's a whole other world out there	it is very different in that place, it is strange over there	I just came from the rave. It's a whole other world in there!
it's a zoo in there	it is a crazy place, it is a wild party, <a href="#">it's a jungle out there</a>	They're having a marathon dance. It's a zoo in there!
it's all over but the crying	the contest is finished but the losers will cry for awhile	"The Expos lost," he said. "It's all over but the crying."
it's all over but the shouting	the contest is finished but the cheering continues	"The Blue Jays won," he said. "It's all over but the shouting."
it's as plain as the nose on your face	very easy to see or understand, very clear, <a href="#">crystal clear</a>	We have photos of the earth from outer space that prove the earth is round. It's as plain as the nose on your face!
it's been a slice (of life)	it has been an experience, it has been interesting	On the last day of work, Pam said, "It's been a slice, Mag."
it's beyond me	I do not understand why, it does not <a href="#">make sense</a>	It's beyond me why they don't get married. They're in love.
it's cold / it's hot	the weather is cold/hot, <a href="#">it's raining</a>	In January it's cold in Edmonton but hot in Chile.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: it's a toss-up -- it's cold / it's hot

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a total stranger -- a wash-out

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a total stranger	one you have never seen, <a href="#">a perfect stranger</a>	"Can I give you a ride home?" "No. You're a total stranger."
a touch of	a little illness, minor symptoms	Mary's not feeling well today. She has a touch of the flu.
a tough act to follow	a performance that is not easy to equal	Gail danced very well. That is a tough act to follow.
a tough call	a difficult decision, a hard choice	Was the goal scored before the game ended? It's a tough call.
a tough row to hoe	(See <a href="#">a hard row to hoe</a> )	
a tough time of it	a time of stress or bad luck, <a href="#">a rough time of it</a>	When Bev left home she had a tough time of it. She had no job.
a tower of strength	a person who helps you during a crisis, <a href="#">a brick</a>	When my parents were killed in an accident, Harry was a tower of strength to me.
a wake-up call	a warning, a caution, <a href="#">wake up and smell the coffee</a>	"I got a D on my English test!" "Is it a wake-up call to work harder?"
a wash	not owing each other, <a href="#">call it square</a>	You owe me \$20, but you gave me a CD, so it's a wash, eh.
a wash-out	a failure, <a href="#">a lost cause</a>	No one attended the concert. It was a wash-out.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: a total stranger -- a wash-out

## Idioms: it's in the bag -- it's your move

Idiom	Meaning	Example
it's in the bag	(See <a href="#">in the bag</a> )	
it's not a question of	it is not a factor, it is not important	It's not a question of money. We can afford to buy a TV.
it's not a state secret	it is not a special secret, it is not private information, <a href="#">top secret</a>	You can talk about your first marriage. It's not a state secret.
it's not what you know, it's who you know	references are important, <a href="#">Bob's your uncle</a>	In politics, it's not what you know, it's <i>who</i> you know.
it's now or never	do it now or not at all, <a href="#">he who hesitates is lost</a>	If we're going to have a family, it's now or never. We can't wait.
it's over/ it's over with	it is finished, it is done	When the trial ended, she said, "I'm glad it's over with."
it's raining/snowing	the weather is rainy or snowy	Whenever we visit Vancouver, it's raining.
it's the duck's guts	it is great, it is wonderful, <a href="#">the cat's ass</a>	"Have you seen the new Cadillac?" "No, I haven't. Is it nice?" "Yes, I'll say. It's the duck's guts!"
it's up to you	it is your decision, you choose	I can't tell you which program to choose. It's up to you.
it's your move	now you move or speak, <a href="#">it's your turn</a>	She jumps three of my checkers and says, "It's your move, Bud."

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: it's in the bag -- it's your move

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: it's your turn -- itchy feet

Idiom	Meaning	Example
it's your turn	now you play, <a href="#">it's your move</a>	Now it's your turn, Willie. Hit the ball to Daddy.
itchy feet	ready to go, anxious to leave	As we talked about the trip, I could see that Dad was getting itchy feet.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: jack me around -- jerk

Idiom	Meaning	Example
jack me around	tell me lies, <a href="#">play games</a>	Don't jack me around, man. I need to know who took my car.
jack of all trades	a person who has many skills	She's a carpenter, plumber and cook - a jack of all trades.
jam	play jazz, practise music in a small group	After the concert, a few musicians started to jam.
jam session	informal practice session for musicians, <a href="#">jam</a>	After the symphony rehearsal, a few of us had a jam session.
jam tart	a phony person, a pretender	That jam tart! He teaches writing but he hasn't written anything.
jam/jam out	not come to the party etc., <a href="#">back out</a>	Kai jammed last night because her cousin came to visit her.
jazz up	add color or interest, add an accessory	It's a nice coat, but I'm going to jazz it up with a red scarf.
je ne sais quoi	I do not know what it is, it is a special something	She has a special quality, this lady, a certain je ne sais quoi.
jeepers	oh, <a href="#">gee whiz</a> , <a href="#">gosh</a>	Jeepers! I don't know what to say.
jerk	fool, <a href="#">dipstick</a> , <a href="#">fink</a>	Stop acting like a jerk! Stop squeezing mustard on me!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: jack me around -- jerk

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: jerk me around -- Joe Who

Idiom	Meaning	Example
jerk me around	not be honest with me, <a href="#">jack me around</a>	Don't jerk me around. I want to know if you've seen my child.
jerk off [B]	masturbate, <a href="#">pull your wire</a> [B]	"If jerking off is a sin, I know a lot of sinners," said the old man.
jewels	(See <a href="#">the family jewels</a> )	
jig is up	(See <a href="#">the jig's up</a> )	
jim dandy	(See <a href="#">a jim dandy</a> )	
jimmy crickets	<a href="#">geez</a> , <a href="#">gosh</a> , <a href="#">holy cow</a>	Jimmy crickets, it was hot! It was 39 degrees Celsius!
jive ass [B]	one who tries to look cool, <a href="#">show-off</a> , <a href="#">show-off</a>	What a jive ass! Give him a mic, and he thinks he's Elvis.
jock	athlete, student who plays on school teams	Doug is a jock - he plays golf and baseball.
joe-job	a routine task, a chore that nobody wants to do, <a href="#">gofer</a>	If you're the junior employee, you'll have to do the joe-jobs.
Joe Who	Joe Clark - a Canadian politician	When was Joe Who the Prime Minister of Canada? 1979?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: jog your memory -- joke around

Idiom	Meaning	Example
jog your memory	do or say something to help you remember	This photo of your dog may jog your memories of the old days.
john	(See <a href="#">the john</a> )	
John Hancock	signature, signed name	Now, Michael, all we need is your John Hancock right here, on the dotted line.
John Henry	signature, signed name	To give you a refund, we need your John Henry on this form.
Johnny Canuck	Canadian soldier, <a href="#">Canuck</a>	We'll send Johnny Canuck in first, then our tanks.
Johnny-come-lately	a man who has not lived or worked there very long	"Who is she going with now?" "Oh, some Johnny-come-lately."
Johnny on the spot	being ready to help, being there when needed	When I need a ride, you're always here - Johnny on the spot.
join up	enrol, enlist, <a href="#">sign up</a>	The Army needed volunteers, so Milo joined up.
join you	meet you, <a href="#">catch up</a> with you	You go to the game directly from work. I'll join you at the arena.
joke around	play and tell jokes, <a href="#">fool around</a>	They were joking around after class - rapping and laughing.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: jog your memory -- joke around

## Idioms: joke is on you -- jump [B]

Idiom	Meaning	Example
joke is on you	(See <a href="#">the joke is on you</a> )	
joker	a person who tells jokes and likes to laugh	Jerry is some joker! He makes everybody laugh.
joker	a stranger, a person who does something unusual	Some joker stopped and asked me if I knew the way to heaven.
joking aside	to stop joking and be serious, without joking, <a href="#">get serious</a>	Joking aside, we need to find Willie. His bride is waiting in the church!
jolly good fellow	a good person, a person being honored	At Jim's farewell party we sang <i>For He's A Jolly Good Fellow</i> .
josh	fool, tease, <a href="#">kid</a>	Quit joshin' me. Tell the truth.
joyride	fun-filled experience, <a href="#">have fun</a> , <a href="#">what a rush</a>	Shooting the rapids is no joyride. You need to know how to paddle a canoe.
juice	electricity, electrical power	This heater uses a lot of juice - 1500 watts.
jump	surprise and overpower, attack without warning	The gang attacked him in the alley. They jumped him.
jump [B]	have sex with, <a href="#">bang</a> , <a href="#">screw</a> [B]	"Did you jump her, Ted?" "Is that all you think of - sex?"

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: jump at the chance -- jump through hoops

Idiom	Meaning	Example
jump at the chance	be ready to try if you have the opportunity	If I was asked to play with their band, I'd jump at the chance.
jump for joy	jump up and down because you are happy	When their horse won the race, they jumped for joy.
jump in the lake	(See <a href="#">go jump in the lake</a> )	
jump in with both feet	become totally involved, <a href="#">go whole hog</a>	Ken gets involved in his work. He jumps in with both feet.
jump out of your skin	jump with fright, become very scared, <a href="#">scared stiff</a>	Keith, if you had seen that ghost, you would have jumped right out of your skin!
jump queue	go to the front of a line of people waiting for service, <a href="#">horn in</a>	If somebody jumps queue in front of Dad, he tells them to go to the back of the line.
jump ship	go to work for the other team - the competition	The company asked me to sign a form saying I wouldn't jump ship.
jump start	use cables to start a car, <a href="#">kick start</a>	One cold morning my dad helped me to jump start my car.
jump the gun	act too soon, leave early	A good chef waits until the food is cooked. Don't jump the gun.
jump through hoops	do all the required steps, <a href="#">red tape</a>	To get a student loan, I had to jump through a lot of hoops.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: jump at the chance -- jump through hoops

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: jump to conclusions -- just a smidgeon

Idiom	Meaning	Example
jump to conclusions	form conclusions before you have all the facts, <a href="#">jump the gun</a>	If you see a wrecked car and say that the driver was drunk, you are jumping to conclusions.
jumping Jehoshaphat	<a href="#">holy cow</a> , <a href="#">jimminy crickets</a> , <a href="#">wow</a>	"Your VISA balance is \$63,756." "Jumping Jehoshaphat! Is it?"
jungle mouth	smelly breath, unpleasant odor on the breath	Most people have jungle mouth when they wake up in the morning, but not me!
junk	illegal drugs: dope, acid etc.	He tried to smuggle junk into Canada. He hid drugs in his shoes.
junk food	snack food, food with little nutritional value	They eat junk food for lunch - chips, candy and pop.
junk it	throw it away, put it in the garbage	If a pen is leaking, junk it. Throw it away.
junk mail	advertisements and commercial letters	On her mail box she wrote a sign: <i>NO JUNK MAIL!</i>
junkie	a person who does junk or drugs; <a href="#">skids</a>	"What is a junkie?" "A person who uses bad drugs."
jury-rig	make a substitute, improvise	When we don't have a fuse, Dad jury-rigs one with silver paper.
just a smidgeon	just a little, just a small amount	"Would you like more cream?" "Just a smidge, please."

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: jump to conclusions -- just a smidgeon

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: just a titch -- just passing through

Idiom	Meaning	Example
just a titch	just a tiny amount, <a href="#">just a smidgeon</a>	"Is that piano too heavy?" "Just a titch."
just about	nearly, almost	We just about fell into the lake. Our canoe nearly tipped over.
just as soon	would prefer to, wish	I'd just as soon forget the fight with Dwen, eh.
just ducky	just fine, wonderful, <a href="#">peachy</a>	"Bill, my mother is coming to live with us." "That's ducky, just ducky!"
just in time	not quite late, <a href="#">in the nick of time</a>	Superman arrived just in time to save the girl from burning.
just-in-time	when the manufacturer is ready, not before	T-Max has requested just-in-time delivery of the engine parts.
just like that	without a pause or explanation, <a href="#">before you can say Jack Robinson</a>	First you say yes, then you say <i>no</i> - just like that!
just passing through	(See <a href="#">pass through</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: kaput -- keep an eye open

Idiom	Meaning	Example
kaput	broken, ruined	We have a car, but it won't go. The motor is kaput.
keep a lid on it	not tell others, <a href="#">keep it quiet</a>	The judges know who won, but they have to keep a lid on it.
keep a low profile	not go out much, <a href="#">lay low</a>	He plans to keep a low profile until the trial is over.
keep a promise	do what you promise to do	You can depend on Vern to keep a promise. He's reliable.
keep a secret	not tell anyone, <a href="#">keep it to yourself</a>	Children can keep a secret better than adults.
keep a stiff upper lip	do not cry, do not be afraid	When Arthur left Tag, Dad said, "Keep a stiff upper lip, Dear."
keep a straight face	not smile or laugh, have a <a href="#">poker face</a>	When you said I was your uncle, I couldn't keep a straight face.
keep an even keel	be steady, be calm and sensible	Customer Service needs people who can keep an even keel.
keep an eye on	watch to prevent harm, <a href="#">watch out for</a>	Fred, will you keep an eye on the children? I'm going to the store.
keep an eye open	(See <a href="#">keep an eye out</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: kaput -- keep an eye open

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms: a way with words -- above and beyond the call of duty

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a way with words	natural ability to speak, <a href="#">the gift of the gab</a>	Ask Viv to write the speech. She has a way with words.
a whale of a game	an exciting game, <a href="#">a cliff-hanger</a>	When Canada played Sweden, it was a whale of a game.
a wild goose chase	a waste of time, a long chase without results	Oil exploration is sometimes a wild goose chase. It's uncertain.
a window of opportunity	an opportunity, a chance, <a href="#">a golden opportunity</a>	Sometimes a problem is actually a window of opportunity.
a wolf in sheep's clothing	an evil person who looks innocent	The priest looked harmless, but he was a wolf in sheep's clothing.
a word to the wise is sufficient	a wise person understands when he hears a key word	I can't discuss the plan, but a word to the wise is sufficient: <i>progress</i> .
a wordsmith	a person who works with words, a writer or author	Ask Jan if it's <i>colour</i> or <i>color</i> . She's a wordsmith.
a yawner	a boring event, a book etc. that is not interesting	I went to the movie, but it was a yawner so I left.
about time	nearly late, <a href="#">high time</a>	It's about time you got here. We've been waiting a long time.
above and beyond the call of duty	much more than expected, <a href="#">go the extra mile</a>	Her extra work was above and beyond the call of duty.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: a way with words -- above and beyond the call of duty

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: keep an eye out -- keep it to yourself

Idiom	Meaning	Example
keep an eye out	watch for, look for, <a href="#">keep your eyes peeled</a>	Keep an eye out for Helen at the school reunion. You may see her.
keep an open mind	be fair to all opinions, avoid prejudging	I keep an open mind when I talk to you - open to all opinions.
keep fit	exercise to be healthy, <a href="#">look after</a> your body	You'll feel better if you keep fit - if you exercise regularly.
keep in good shape	care for your body, be fit, <a href="#">keep fit</a>	You keep your body in good shape. You look fit.
keep in line	obey the rules, conform, <a href="#">stay in line</a>	The manager expects us to keep in line, not cause problems.
keep in the loop	(See <a href="#">in the loop</a> )	
keep in touch	phone, write a letter	Please keep in touch with us when you move to the city.
keep it down	be quiet, do not be noisy, <a href="#">pipe down</a>	Dad called to us, "Keep it down, eh. We're trying to go to sleep."
keep it quiet	do not tell anyone, <a href="#">keep a lid on it</a>	I have a new job, but keep it quiet because I haven't told my boss.
keep it to yourself	do not tell anyone, <a href="#">keep a secret</a>	If I tell you what she said, will you keep it to yourself?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: keep an eye out -- keep it to yourself

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: keep it up -- keep the wolf from the door

Idiom	Meaning	Example
keep it up	continue doing it, maintain this quality	Good work, Joe. If you keep it up, you'll soon be a manager.
keep on	continue, do it more	We asked him to stop phoning us, but he kept on doing it.
keep on trucking	continue to go or work, <a href="#">carry on</a>	Len has a sign on the door of his big rig: <i>Keep On Truckin, Man!</i>
keep out	do not come in, stay outside	There was a sign on the gate: PRIVATE - KEEP OUT!
keep pace	go as fast, <a href="#">keep up</a>	Our company keeps pace with the leaders. We're near the top.
keep quiet	do not talk, <a href="#">shut up</a>	Will you please keep quiet. You've said enough.
keep tabs on	watch and write notes, <a href="#">keep track</a> of	Who keeps tabs on expenses? Who has the receipts?
keep the ball rolling	continue the work, encourage us to continue	Reg will keep the ball rolling. He won't allow the work to stop.
keep the faith	believe in what we know, do not doubt	When we parted, John said, "Keep the faith, eh."
keep the wolf from the door	keep us fed, prevent hunger	This check will keep the wolf from the door. We can buy food.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: keep it up -- keep the wolf from the door

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms: keep them straight -- keep you honest

Idiom	Meaning	Example
keep them straight	know the difference, be able to identify them	Mo, you have so many relatives. How do you keep them straight?
keep to yourself	be alone, not associate with people	When I'm feeling sad, I keep to myself. I like to be alone.
keep track	check, count	Keep track of the time you work at the computer. Keep a record.
keep under wraps	keep something hidden, not show or talk about	Details of the program were kept under wraps until the election.
keep up	go as fast as the others, <a href="#">keep pace</a>	In typing class, I can't keep up. I can't type as fast as the others.
keep up the good work	continue to do good work, <a href="#">'at a boy</a>	I like to hear my supervisor say, "Keep up the good work."
keep up with the Joneses	buy what the neighbors buy, <a href="#">keep pace</a>	I can't afford to keep up with the Joneses. I'm not rich!
keep up with the times	be aware of new methods and trends, <a href="#">stay abreast</a>	Reading newspapers will help you keep up with the times.
keep you going	provide money or food or energy, <a href="#">get by</a>	If you can't stop for lunch, drink some juice to keep you going.
keep you honest	keep you from lying, cause you to be truthful	Your child's questions will keep you honest. You can't lie to kids.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: keep them straight -- keep you honest

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: keep you in mind -- keep your head

Idiom	Meaning	Example
keep you in mind	remember you or your request, think of you	If we have any job openings in sales, I'll keep you in mind.
keep you on track	tell you what to do, remind you of the topic	The instructor will help to keep us on track. She'll remind us.
keep you posted	send or phone the news to you, inform you	I'll be in Korea for six months, but I'll keep you posted.
keep your cool	stay calm, not become excited	Can you keep your cool during an emergency, or do you panic?
keep your distance	do not come too close, respect a person's space	Keep your distance or she'll accuse you of harassment.
keep your ear to the ground	listen for news, listen for gossip	Keep your ear to the ground. You'll hear about drug dealers.
keep your eyes peeled	look or watch carefully, watch for	Keep your eyes peeled for birds. Watch for animals, too.
keep your fingers crossed	hope that plans will be successful, hope our dreams will <a href="#">come true</a>	"I hope I get a pet dog for my birthday." "Keep your fingers crossed, my dear."
keep your hair on	don't rush, be calm, <a href="#">keep your shirt on</a>	"Hurry, Adriana! We're late!" "Keep your hair on. I'm coming!"
keep your head	think clearly, do not <a href="#">lose your head</a>	Try to keep your head during a crisis. Try to think clearly.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: keep you in mind -- keep your head

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: keep your head above water -- kick

Idiom	Meaning	Example
keep your head above water	survive, have just enough to live, <a href="#">get by</a>	With a part-time job, I was able to keep my head above water.
keep your nose clean	stay out of trouble, <a href="#">toe the line</a>	Keep your nose clean, and you'll get out of prison sooner.
keep your nose to the grindstone	continue to work hard	Keep your nose to the grindstone and you'll pass the final exam.
keep your shirt on	be calm, do not rush me, do not <a href="#">get your shirt in a knot</a>	When we asked Dad to hurry, he'd say, "Keep your shirt on."
keep your word	do as you promise, <a href="#">keep a promise</a>	You can depend on him. He always keeps his word.
keeper	(See <a href="#">a keeper</a> )	
keester	buttocks, <a href="#">backside</a> , <a href="#">bum</a> , <a href="#">rear end</a>	We laughed when Lan fell off the horse and landed on her keester.
kept woman	(See <a href="#">a kept woman</a> )	
kettle of fish	(See <a href="#">a different kettle of fish</a> )	
kick	running faster at the end of a race, <a href="#">home stretch</a>	If you are a distance runner, you know the meaning of <i>kick</i> .

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: kick a habit -- kick the bucket

Idiom	Meaning	Example
kick a habit	stop a habit, <a href="#">shake a habit</a>	A person needs discipline to kick a habit like drinking.
kick ass [B]	scold, lecture, <a href="#">give you hell</a>	The coach will kick ass if we don't go to practice.
kick ass	proves it is best, shows superior quality, <a href="#">kick some ass</a>	This cd kicks ass, man! Even Jimmy would say it rocks!
kick at the cat	a turn, a try, <a href="#">have a go</a>	It's your kick at the cat. See if you can solve the puzzle.
kick back	relax, sit back and put your feet up	I'm going to kick back on the deck for a couple of hours.
kick butt	defeat badly, <a href="#">blow them away</a>	The Cougars beat us last week. Let's kick their butt tonight!
kick myself	be angry at myself, regret my choice	I could kick myself for selling that car. I wish I hadn't sold it.
kick some ass	win, beat the other team, show them who is the best	The captain of our team said, "Let's go out there and kick some ass!"
kick start	use battery cables to start a car, <a href="#">jump start</a>	The battery was dead so we got a tow truck to kick start our car.
kick the bucket	die, <a href="#">buy the farm</a> , <a href="#">pass away</a>	Charlie finally kicked the bucket. He had cancer, you know.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: kick a habit -- kick the bucket

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: kick the weed -- kill me

Idiom	Meaning	Example
kick the weed	stop smoking, kick the habit (see <a href="#">kick a habit</a> ) of smoking	It's hard to kick the weed after smoking for twenty years.
kick up a fuss	complain, <a href="#">make a scene</a>	Jon will kick up a fuss if he doesn't get paid on time.
kick up your heels	celebrate, go to parties, <a href="#">have fun</a>	After you've written your exams you can kick up your heels.
kicking around	lying around here; is here or there or somewhere near	"Do you have a hammer?" "Ya, there's one kickin' around here somewhere."
kid	joke, fool, tease, <a href="#">josh</a>	I was kidding when I said the mosquitoes are as big as bats.
kid you not	tell the truth, not joke	There were three large circles in the field, I kid you not.
kill a penalty (hockey)	prevent a goal while your player has a penalty	Team Canada killed a penalty near the end of the game.
kill an elephant	do too much, do ten times more than necessary, <a href="#">overdo it</a>	He asked you to adjust the carburetor, not rebuild the motor. Don't kill an elephant!
kill for	do anything to get it, <a href="#">in the worst way</a>	Lea would kill for a date with Mat. She really likes him.
kill me	cause me to laugh a lot, <a href="#">crack me up</a>	Your jokes kill me. They're so funny I nearly die laughing.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: kick the weed -- kill me

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: kill off -- kiss curls (hair style)

Idiom	Meaning	Example
kill off	kill all, kill every one	The oil killed off the ducks in the bays along the coast.
kill ourselves laughing	laugh hard, <a href="#">hoot</a> , <a href="#">split a gut</a>	When the teacher wasn't looking we killed ourselves laughing.
kill the goose that lays the golden eggs	lose or destroy the source of wealth	If we pollute the environment, we kill the goose - we lose it all.
kill time	wait, <a href="#">put in time</a> , <a href="#">time to kill</a>	He was killing time waiting for a plane, so he phoned a friend.
kill two birds (with one stone)	get two with one try, do two jobs on one trip	If you sell and advertise at the same time, you kill two birds... .
killer instinct	wanting to defeat the opponent, <a href="#">go for the jugular</a>	Mel is a fine tennis player, but he lacks the killer instinct.
killing me	hurting me, causing severe pain	These new shoes are killing me. Can we stop and rest?
King Shit on Turd Island	the ruler, the person who tells everybody what to do	He's been promoted to the rank of sergeant and he thinks he's King Shit already!
kiss ass [B]	be nice to get favors, <a href="#">brown nose</a>	I won't kiss ass to get a job. I refuse to be a slave.
kiss curls (hair style)	flat curls on the forehead or in front of the ears	Teddi can't go out until her kiss curls are dry.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: kill off -- kiss curls (hair style)

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: kiss it off -- knee high to a grasshopper

Idiom	Meaning	Example
kiss it off	not deal with it, <a href="#">put it off</a>	We're fighting for equal pay. We won't let them kiss it off.
kiss of death	an action that results in failure or loss	His TV speech was a disaster - the kiss of death for his party.
kiss off	go, <a href="#">get lost</a> , <a href="#">take off</a>	When he's angry with me he says, "Kiss off!"
kiss that one goodbye	say it is lost or stolen, <a href="#">down the drain</a>	Hank borrowed your new pen? You can kiss that one goodbye.
kiss the blarney stone	say a lot of compliments, <a href="#">flattery will get you...</a>	You always say that I look nice. Did you kiss the blarney stone?
kit and caboodle	everything, all the stuff, <a href="#">the whole shebang</a>	The canoe tipped, and it all fell in the river - the whole kit and caboodle!
kitty bar the door	play defensively, play only to prevent a goal	In the third period we played kitty bar the door and won 4-2.
kitty-corner	the diagonally opposite corner of an intersection	The Bay is kitty-corner from the drugstore.
klutz	a clumsy person, one who makes careless mistakes	What a klutz I am! I poured sugar in the salt shaker!
knee high to a grasshopper	small or short, the size of a child	When we lived in Oslo, you were just knee high to a grasshopper.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: kiss it off -- knee high to a grasshopper

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: knock -- knock them down, drag them out

Idiom	Meaning	Example
knock	criticize, <a href="#">put down</a>	Don't knock the teacher. She's trying to help us learn.
knock against	(See <a href="#">the knock against</a> )	
knock around with	be friends with, <a href="#">hang around</a> with	Lynn used to knock around with us. She was our friend.
knock flat	knock down, knock over	The flag pole was knocked flat - hit by a truck.
knock it off	stop it, do not do that	When we teased the bull, Dad told us to knock it off.
knock me over with a feather	I was very surprised, I could not believe it, <a href="#">blow me down</a>	When she told me she was married to my ex-husband, you could have knocked me over with a feather.
knock off	remove, kill	One by one, the wolves were knocked off - shot by hunters.
knock out	hit a person until he is unconscious, <a href="#">out cold</a>	You punched him very hard. You knocked him out.
knock the wind out of his sails	cause him to slow down, cause him to quit, knock him down a peg (see <a href="#">knock you down a peg</a> )	If you tell him his letter is full of errors, you'll knock the wind out of his sails.
knock them down, drag them out	fighting, brawling, <a href="#">Donnybrook</a> , <a href="#">no holds barred</a>	After the game, a few soccer fans began to fight. It was a knock-em-down-drag-em-out brawl.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: knock -- knock them down, drag them out

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: above board -- act out

Idiom	Meaning	Example
above board	legal, not hidden, not <a href="#">under the table</a> , not <a href="#">underhanded</a>	Every action, every payment is above board. Customers respect that kind of honesty.
above the law	not required to obey laws, privileged	Just because he's rich, he thinks he's above the law.
absence makes the heart grow fonder	when friends are apart they like each other more	When she's away I'm very lonely. Absence <i>does</i> make the heart grow fonder.
according to Hoyle	according to the rules, if we follow the rules	According to Hoyle, it's your turn to deal the cards.
account for	explain how or why, provide reasons, <a href="#">call into account</a>	How do you account for the missing money? Where did it go?
ace in the hole	a hidden strength or talent	Sam's ace in the hole is honesty, which his clients soon discover.
Achilles heel	a weakness, a vulnerable place	Jewelry is my Achilles heel. I buy too much jewelry.
acid test	(See <a href="#">the acid test</a> )	
across the board	affecting all people, applies to everything	We want a salary increase across the board - for all positions.
act out	explain by movement and gestures	Watch - I'll act out the meaning of <i>pacifist</i> .

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: above board -- act out

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: knock up [B] -- know the first thing...

Idiom	Meaning	Example
knock up [B]	become pregnant, <a href="#">in a family way</a>	She doesn't want to get knocked up, so she uses a contraceptive.
knock you down a peg	say you are too proud, <a href="#">put him in his place</a>	If you are too cocky, Don will knock you down a peg.
knock you out	amaze you, <a href="#">blow your mind</a>	You should see <i>The Phantom of the Opera</i> . It'll knock you out.
knock your socks off	surprise you, perform better than you expect	This music will knock your socks off! It's rock and roll!
knocked out	eliminated from a competition or series	Our team was knocked out during the semi-final games.
knockout	stunning appearance, beautiful body	When Jackie wears that red party dress, she's a knockout.
know better	know you should not do that	Why did you take the candy? You know better than to steal.
know inside out	know a method well, know an occupation well	After 30 years in real estate, he knows the business inside out.
know like the back of your hand	know an area well, know every feature of the land	I lived here for years. I know this town like the back of my hand.
know the first thing...	(See <a href="#">don't know the first thing about</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: knock up [B] -- know the first thing...

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: know the ropes -- kooky

Idiom	Meaning	Example
know the ropes	know how, have much experience, <a href="#">learn the ropes</a>	Good managers know the ropes. They have skills and experience.
know the score	know what is happening, <a href="#">in the know</a> , <a href="#">know your stuff</a>	The leader of the party should know the score. He or she should be well informed.
know where we stand	know our position, know if we have a chance, <a href="#">leave me hanging</a>	The Department hasn't replied to our application for assistance, so we don't know where we stand.
know which end is up	know where you are, know what to do next	With so many problems, he doesn't know which end is up.
know which side your bread is buttered on	know who pays your salary, If you refuse extra work, you have <a href="#">common sense</a> , <a href="#">bite the hand that feeds...</a>	don't know which side your bread is buttered on.
know your stuff	know a lot, know facts, have the answers	In calculus, Tara knows her stuff. She can solve difficult problems.
know your way around	know how to survive, be <a href="#">worldly wise</a>	To live on the street, you have to know your way around.
knuckle down	work harder, achieve more	If you knuckle down and study, you can pass this exam.
knucklehead	one who does not think, <a href="#">doughhead</a>	What a knucklehead! He made the same mistake ten times.
kooky	crazy, <a href="#">hairbrain</a> , <a href="#">nuts</a>	Just because I eat insects doesn't mean I'm kooky.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

Idioms: know the ropes -- kooky

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: kowtow -- kowtow

Idiom	Meaning	Example
kowtow	do as someone wishes, <a href="#">brown nose</a> , <a href="#">suck up to</a>	Marie won't kowtow to anyone. She's proud and independent.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: lady-killer -- landlubber

Idiom	Meaning	Example
lady-killer	(See <a href="#">a lady-killer</a> )	
laid back	relaxed, casual	<i>Lenny's Place</i> is a laid-back kind of restaurant - casual.
laid bare	exposed, open for everyone to see	During the trial, details of his personal life were laid bare.
laid off	to be told by the manager that your job is canceled	Billy was laid off because there's not enough work at the plant.
laid up	sick, injured, not able to work	Kelly was laid up for two weeks with a very bad cold.
lame duck	a person who is powerless or ineffectual because he or she will soon be replaced	We haven't seen a promising negotiation for peace in the Middle East since Bill Clinton was a lame-duck president.
lamebrain	foolish person, slow thinker, <a href="#">dipstick</a> , <a href="#">jerk</a> , <a href="#">dork</a>	Don't wait for his suggestion. He's a lamebrain.
land on your feet	be ready to work, be ready for action, <a href="#">hit the ground running</a>	We're looking for employees who land on their feet after facing a problem or challenge.
land up	come to rest at, stop at, <a href="#">end up</a>	If you take this boat you'll land up in Norway!
landlubber	a person who does not go to sea, a landlocked human, not <a href="#">salty</a>	You landlubber, Jack! I bet you've never been in a boat!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: lady-killer -- landlubber

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: lap of luxury -- last legs

Idiom	Meaning	Example
lap of luxury	(See <a href="#">the lap of luxury</a> )	
lap up	welcome, appreciate	She laps up their compliments. She loves their praise.
lard butt/lard ass [B]	a person with fat buttocks, a person with a big <a href="#">bum</a>	When I was young and chubby, my brother called me lard butt.
larger than life	larger or prettier than people we know; <a href="#">bigger than life</a>	In American movies, everything seems larger than life. Buildings are taller, women are sexier.
lark	(See <a href="#">it was a lark</a> )	
last but not least	the last one on the list but not the least important	Last but not least is Carla, winner of the spelling contest.
last call	last chance to buy a drink or come in for supper	Dad stood on the back porch and shouted, "Last call for supper!"
last-ditch	last try, desperate attempt, <a href="#">last resort</a>	In a last-ditch attempt to save the marriage, he bought her a BMW.
last hurrah	last big event for an old person	Frank is planning one more TV concert - his last hurrah.
last legs	(See <a href="#">on his last legs</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: last me -- laugh yourself silly

Idiom	Meaning	Example
last me	be sufficient, provide enough, <a href="#">do me for</a> , <a href="#">tide me over</a>	I have a ton of tooth paste - enough to last me for ten years!
last resort	last hope for assistance, last chance to succeed	I will call the police only as a last resort - only when I'm desperate.
last straw	(See <a href="#">the last straw</a> )	
last word	(See <a href="#">the last word</a> )	
late bloomer	a person who is slow to mature or succeed	Kelly is not doing well in math, but she may be a late bloomer.
laugh it off	laugh about an insult, be <a href="#">cool</a> when you are cheated	The crowd booed him when he scored, but he just laughed it off.
laugh up your sleeve	laugh secretly at someone, <a href="#">behind your back</a>	He tried to please her, unaware she was laughing up her sleeve.
laugh your head off	laugh loud and long, <a href="#">crack me up</a> , <a href="#">hoot</a>	When Jerry tells a joke, I laugh my head off. He is so funny!
laugh yourself sick	laugh until you ache, <a href="#">split a gut</a>	When I listen to Mandy's jokes, I laugh myself sick.
laugh yourself silly	laugh and laugh, <a href="#">laugh your head off</a>	One girl said something funny, and we laughed ourselves silly.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: last me -- laugh yourself silly

## Idioms: laughing -- lay it on the line

Idiom	Meaning	Example
laughing	fortunate, lucky, rich etc.	He has a full scholarship to go to university. He's laughing.
laughing stock	(See <a href="#">the laughing stock</a> )	
laundered money	stolen money that has been invested or donated	Do Mafia companies donate laundered money to the church?
lay [B]	have sex with, <a href="#">get laid</a> [B]	Chuck brags about all the girls he's laid, but I don't believe him.
lay a trip	suggest guilt or blame or duty	Don't lay a trip on me about low grades. I'm studying hard.
lay down your arms	stop fighting, <a href="#">bury the hatchet</a>	It's time to lay down your arms. Stop fighting with your sister.
lay down your life for	die for, be killed for	Doug was killed in World War II. He laid down his life for Canada.
lay eyes on	see, look at	She says she's my sister, but I've never laid eyes on her before.
lay it on	compliment, praise, <a href="#">a little thick</a>	The salesman is praising the new Camry. He's really laying it on.
lay it on the line	be truthful, <a href="#">the straight goods</a>	You can lay it on the line. I want to know if I passed or failed.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: laughing -- lay it on the line

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: lay low -- lay waste

Idiom	Meaning	Example
lay low	stay out of sight; <a href="#">out of circulation</a>	The escaped prisoner planned to lay low for a few days.
lay of the land	(See <a href="#">get the lay of the land</a> )	
lay off	be unable to employ any longer, <a href="#">let go</a>	NSU laid off 50 employees because there's not enough work.
lay off	stop doing it, quit it, <a href="#">cut it out</a>	I think I'll lay off coffee. I'm getting too much caffeine.
lay on	provide, supply	The chefs lay on lots of food at the banquet. It's a feast!
lay over	stay overnight while traveling	On the way to Winnipeg, we usually lay over in Regina.
lay rubber	spin a car's wheels, <a href="#">drag race</a>	He likes to drive fast. He lays rubber at every intersection.
lay the blame	blame, say who is <a href="#">at fault</a>	When he fails a test, his mom lays the blame on the teacher.
lay the lumber	hit with a hockey stick, slash with a hockey stick	The losing team started to lay the lumber on our best players.
lay waste	damage, wreck, plunder	The Vikings raided Scotland's coast, laying waste the villages.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: lay low -- lay waste

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: lay you -- leak

Idiom	Meaning	Example
lay you	bet you, <a href="#">give you odds</a>	I'll lay you ten to one that Marc uses steroids. I'm sure he does.
lazy bones	lazy person, a person who does not want to work	If you don't want to work, we'll call you lazy bones.
lead a life	have a style of living, have a way of life	With your career and children, you lead a busy life.
lead foot	(See <a href="#">heavy foot</a> )	
lead pipe cinch	certain of the result, <a href="#">a foregone conclusion</a>	The Jets are a lead pipe cinch to win the game. They're better.
lead you down the garden path	tell you a false story, <a href="#">give you a line</a>	He said the trip to Paris was free. He led me down the garden path.
lead you on	promise good things, pretend to be good	I know you love Jo, but she was leading you on. She loves Paul.
leaf out	grow new leaves, <a href="#">in leaf</a>	She trimmed the branches before the trees began to leaf out.
leak	allow people to know, tell the media	Details of the program were leaked to a newspaper.
leak	(See <a href="#">have a leak</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: lay you -- leak

## Idioms: lean times -- leave well enough alone

Idiom	Meaning	Example
lean times	times of poverty, <a href="#">hard times</a>	During lean times they sold eggs for 50¢ a dozen.
learn the lingo	learn the language, know the idioms	To work in the computer industry you have to learn the lingo.
learn the ropes	learn the first steps, learn the basics, <a href="#">know the ropes</a>	He wants to learn the ropes, to learn how to play jazz.
learn your place	learn to know where and when to speak	When I was young, kids learned their place; they showed respect.
leave me hanging	leave me wondering what happened	You begin a story, but you don't finish it. You leave me hanging.
leave no stone unturned	look everywhere, <a href="#">look high and low</a>	In our search for Mom's wedding ring, we left no stone unturned.
leave out	not include, discard	Leave out the cracked dishes. We'll throw them away.
leave out in the cold	not invite, exclude	Kim didn't receive an invitation. She was left out in the cold.
leave the door open	allow people to reply, invite a response, <a href="#">feel free</a> to reply	If you offer to provide answers to their questions, you leave the door open for a reply.
leave well enough alone	if you do more you could cause more trouble	If I cause a problem, I apologize. Then I leave well enough alone.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: lean times -- leave well enough alone

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: act up -- against the grain

Idiom	Meaning	Example
act up	misbehave, do bad things	She said that Kim was acting up at church - making noise.
act up	not work right, give pain or problems	My stomach is acting up today. I don't feel well.
actions speak louder than words	people judge by actions more than words, <a href="#">practice what you preach</a>	Parents should remember that actions speak louder than words. Kids imitate their parents.
ad lib (ad libitum)	improvise, create, <a href="#">at will</a> , <a href="#">off the cuff</a>	After I learn the melody I like to ad lib. I play what I hear in my head.
add fuel to the fire	cause more anger, aggravate a problem	He's angry. Telling him bad news will add fuel to the fire.
add insult to injury	add another negative, <a href="#">make it worse</a> , <a href="#">put your foot in it</a>	If you say his answer is wrong, and then say he can't understand, you've added insult to injury.
afraid so	sorry, but it is true; believe me, <a href="#">yeppers</a>	"Did he spend all of our money?" "Yes, 'fraid so."
after all	after you consider all the facts, to be fair	Will you help me with English? After all, I helped you with math.
against all odds	not likely to happen, <a href="#">a slim chance</a>	Against all odds - poor weather, student pilot - we landed safely.
against the grain	against the natural way, <a href="#">rub the wrong way</a>	Some words go against the grain. Their spellings aren't natural.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: act up -- against the grain

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: leave you holding the bag -- leftovers

Idiom	Meaning	Example
leave you holding the bag	leave you to do the work or finish a difficult job	He left me holding the bag. I had to finish the work by myself.
leave you in the lurch	leave you with a problem, <a href="#">fend for yourself</a>	The bride didn't go to the church. The groom was left in the lurch.
leave yourself open	not protect yourself, allow people to hurt you	By coming late to work, he left himself open to discipline.
led to believe	be told, be given information, <a href="#">lead you down...</a>	"Were you led to believe that the car was in good condition?" "Yes. They said it was fine."
left holding the bag	(See <a href="#">leave you holding the bag</a> )	
left in the lurch	(See <a href="#">leave you in the lurch</a> )	
left out in the cold	(See <a href="#">leave out in the cold</a> )	
left over	remainder, what is not used or not eaten	We bought too much ice cream. There are two pails left over.
left, right and center	in every direction, everywhere	There were soldiers everywhere - left, right and center.
leftovers	food not eaten at the previous meal	After the Christmas feast they ate leftovers for a few days.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: lefty -- let George do it

Idiom	Meaning	Example
lefty	left-handed person, <a href="#">southpaw</a>	The ignition switch in most cars is not designed for a lefty.
leg up	(See <a href="#">a leg up</a> )	
leg work	walking, going to visit customers or voters	The kids delivered the notices - they did the leg work.
lemon	a car with many problems, a car of low quality, <a href="#">seconds</a>	When the American companies began to make small cars, there were a lot of lemons for sale.
lend a hand	help someone, <a href="#">give me a hand</a>	Our neighbors lend a hand when we have too much work to do.
lesser lights	people who are not as talented, not <a href="#">superstars</a>	We owe our success to the lesser lights on our team - the workers.
lesser of two evils	both are bad but one is not as bad as the other	Neither person can be trusted. Choose the lesser of two evils.
let a fart [B]	allow gas to escape, fart, <a href="#">pass wind</a>	If I let a fart in this tiny room, we won't be able to breathe.
let down	not do as expected, disappoint someone	Don't let the team down. Please come to the game.
let George do it	let him or her do the job, wait for someone to do it	If his attitude is <i>let George do it</i> , he won't succeed in our firm.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: lefty -- let George do it

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: let go of -- let one

Idiom	Meaning	Example
let go of	release, allow to be free, <a href="#">part with</a>	Please let go of my hand now. I want to leave.
let her rip	release or start suddenly, go with full power	When you want him to dump the load, just say, "Let 'er rip!"
let it all hang out	relax, be natural	When we go camping, we let it all hang out. We really relax.
let it be	leave it alone, do not touch it	When a cat is sick, let it be. Don't pet it or pick it up.
let it go to your head	become too proud, have a <a href="#">swelled head</a>	So you won the golf tournament. Don't let it go to your head.
let me have it	tell me, do not wait to tell me	If you want to criticize my work, go ahead. Let me have it.
let off	not have to pay or do, <a href="#">get off</a>	Kyle was involved in the crime, but they let him off.
let off steam	express concern, <a href="#">sound off</a>	Hec is letting off steam again. He wants to save the wolves.
let on	show, say, reveal, let others believe	Don't let on that you know me. Our friendship will be a secret.
let one	(See <a href="#">let a fart</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: let go of -- let one

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: let sleeping dogs lie -- let yourself go

Idiom	Meaning	Example
let sleeping dogs lie	do not create problems, leave things alone	Don't tell them the price of gas will rise. Let sleeping dogs lie.
let the cat out of the bag	tell people, <a href="#">the cat's out of the bag</a>	People know we plan to elope. Who let the cat out of the bag?
let the chips fall where they may	let it happen naturally, do not control everything	We've done all we can to win the election. Let the chips fall... .
let the good times roll	let the party begin, let us enjoy our time together, <a href="#">the more the merrier</a>	Uncle Harry welcomed us to the reunion. Then he said, "Let the good times roll!"
let this chance go by	allow an opportunity to pass, <a href="#">miss your chance</a> , <a href="#">seize the opportunity</a>	This letter means that you are accepted for admission to Oxford. Don't let this chance go by.
let up	not do it as much, <a href="#">ease up</a>	If the rain lets up, we'll go to the park.
let you down	(See <a href="#">let down</a> )	
let you have it	scold you, shout at you, hit you, tell you off (see <a href="#">tell him off</a> )	If you tease him about his girlfriend, he'll let you have it.
let yourself go	relax, be natural, <a href="#">let it all hang out</a>	"Let yourself go," the leader said. "Share what you are feeling."
let yourself go	not groom yourself, become sloppy	If you let yourself go, your wife may lose interest in you.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: let sleeping dogs lie -- let yourself go

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: letter-perfect -- life is just a bowl of cherries

Idiom	Meaning	Example
letter-perfect	perfect in every detail, like a machine-printed alphabet, <a href="#">picture-perfect</a>	"How did I do on my theory test?" "It was letter-perfect, but can you <i>hear</i> all of the notes you have written so neatly?"
lettuce	money, <a href="#">dough</a> , <a href="#">moola</a>	A billion dollars is a lot of lettuce! It's more than I need.
level the playing field	make it equal for everyone, <a href="#">a level playing field</a>	If we train all employees, we help to level the playing field.
level with you	be honest with you, <a href="#">the straight goods</a>	Peter will level with you. He'll tell you what the doctor said.
lick and a promise	(See <a href="#">a lick and a promise</a> )	
lick your wounds	become healthy again, recover from a defeat	After losing the election, he went home to lick his wounds.
lickety-split	moving fast, <a href="#">boot it</a> , <a href="#">hell bent for election</a>	The train is going lickety-split, at least sixty miles an hour!
lie down on the job	stop working, refuse to work	Yes, I take long coffee breaks, but I would never lie down on the job.
life in the fast lane	a fast-paced life, living or working in a large city	We tried life in the fast lane - in Toronto - but Seth didn't like it.
life is just a bowl of cherries	life is just wonderful, life is grand	When Anne is happy, she says, "Life is just a bowl of cherries!"

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: letter-perfect -- life is just a bowl of cherries

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: life is not all guns and roses -- light in the loafers

Idiom	Meaning	Example
life is not all guns and roses	life is not all war and love, life is not like the movies, <a href="#">come down to earth</a>	After World War II, some people had to learn that life is not all guns and roses.
life of Riley	(See <a href="#">the life of Riley</a> )	
life of the party	(See <a href="#">the life of the party</a> )	
life on the edge	(See <a href="#">live on the edge</a> )	
life you lead	the way you live, lifestyle; <a href="#">lead a life</a>	The life we lead here is based on respect for human rights.
lifer	a person who has been sentenced to life in prison	The lifers all sit at the same table in Hampton Penitentiary.
lift a finger	help someone, do anything to help	Loki is my friend, but he didn't lift a finger when I needed help.
lift my spirits	cause me to be happy, <a href="#">give me a lift</a>	Music will lift our spirits. Let's listen to some Mozart.
light at the end of the tunnel	a sign of progress, feeling hopeful because you will soon be finished	After four years of study, I could see light at the end of the tunnel. I would soon graduate.
light in the loafers	homosexual, gay, <a href="#">fag</a>	Just because he likes to sew, you think he's light in the loafers.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: life is not all guns and roses -- light in the loafers

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: light up -- like a dirty shirt

Idiom	Meaning	Example
light up	light a cigarette, begin to smoke	As Ken left the school, he lit up. It was okay to smoke outside.
lighten up	relax, do not be so serious	Lighten up, Charles. Try to see the humor in life.
lighthearted	humorous, joking	His lighthearted approach to life is popular with students.
lightning fast	very quick, super fast, <a href="#">faster than a speeding bullet</a> , <a href="#">greased lightning</a>	The black mamba is lightning fast - one of the fastest - and is the most deadly of African snakes.
lights are on but...	(See <a href="#">the lights are on but nobody's home</a> )	
like a bat out of hell	very fast, <a href="#">go like stink</a>	When Harriet is late for work, she drives like a bat out of hell.
like a bolt from the blue	like a sign from heaven, like a flash of light	Like a bolt from the blue, I got the idea to shave my head.
like a broken record	repeating the same sound, saying it over and over again	From morning till night I hear that complaint - like a broken record!
like a chicken on a June bug	very quickly, <a href="#">in a flash</a> , <a href="#">before you can say Jack Robinson</a>	If you leave a chocolate bar on the table, Kathie will be on it - like a chicken on a June bug!
like a dirty shirt	always there - like shirts that need to be washed	If you have a garage sale, Jim will be there like a dirty shirt.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: light up -- like a dirty shirt

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: like a hawk -- like it or lump it

Idiom	Meaning	Example
like a hawk	(See <a href="#">watch me like a hawk</a> )	
like a mother hawk	(See <a href="#">watch over like a mother hawk</a> )	
like a hot potato	(See <a href="#">drop him like a hot potato</a> )	
like a ton of bricks	heavily, with much weight and force	When the cable broke, the cargo came down like a ton of bricks.
like crazy/like mad	a lot, very much, <a href="#">to beat the band</a>	She laughed like crazy whenever Earl told a joke.
like dog's breath	not pleasant, not popular	This plan smells like dog's breath. It's a bad plan.
like father, like son	sons are like their fathers, <a href="#">a chip off the old block</a>	This is Fred, and this is Fred, Jr. Like father, like son.
like hell [B]	not likely, <a href="#">no way</a> , <a href="#">not</a>	"It's a goal!" said the referee. "Like hell it is!" said the goalie.
like hell [B]	fast, <a href="#">go like stink</a>	That dog can run like hell.
like it or lump it	if we do not like it, that is too bad; <a href="#">tough bananas</a>	This is the supper Dad cooked for us - like it or lump it.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: like nobody's business -- lip

Idiom	Meaning	Example
like nobody's business	a lot, busily, <a href="#">like crazy</a>	The squirrel was eating nuts - chewing like nobody's business.
like shit through a goose	moving easily, smoothly, <a href="#">easy as pie</a>	"How do you get the bark off the aspen branch to make the whistle?" "After making the cuts, just tap the bark and the wood will come out like shit through a goose!"
like the devil	quickly, too fast to see, <a href="#">like hell</a>	The disease spread like the devil. Soon his whole leg was swollen.
like the wind	fast and smooth, <a href="#">like the devil</a>	You can't catch that deer. It can run like the wind.
lily-livered	cowardly, <a href="#">chicken</a> , <a href="#">wimpy</a>	Bull riding is not a sport for lily-livered folks. It's not for wimps.
line of authority	people in order of power, <a href="#">chain of command</a>	The line of authority goes from our manager up to the president.
line up	form a line of people, form a queue	College students have to line up to buy their text books.
lingo	(See <a href="#">learn the lingo</a> )	
lion's share	(See <a href="#">the lion's share</a> )	
lip	rudeness, <a href="#">cheek</a>	No more of your lip, boy. I won't allow you to be rude.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: like nobody's business -- lip

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: lip off -- live by

Idiom	Meaning	Example
lip off	talk without respect, <a href="#">talk back</a>	Did you hear him lip off the police? He called them pigs.
lippy	rude, impolite, <a href="#">cheeky</a> , <a href="#">sassy</a>	If you get lippy with me, I'll give you extra work to do.
lips are sealed	will not talk about it, <a href="#">mum's the word</a>	I won't tell anybody you love the coach. My lips are sealed.
liquored up	drunk, having drunk too much liquor, <a href="#">sloshed</a>	I wish Pa wouldn't get liquored up when he goes to town.
listen up	listen carefully, <a href="#">pay attention</a>	The coach said, "Listen up, guys. This is important."
little bird told me	(See <a href="#">a little bird told me</a> )	
little by little	a little progress each time you try, <a href="#">bit by bit</a>	Little by little, we saved our money to buy this house.
little white lie	(See <a href="#">white lie</a> )	
live and let live	live your life and let others live their lives	Pop's approach to life is simple and fair: live and let live.
live by	follow, use as a guide	My husband and I live by two principles: honesty and trust.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:  
[B] bad language

Be interactive:  
[Comment on this idiom](#)  
[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)  
[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:  
 Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson  
 The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books  
 Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email  
[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: lip off -- live by

## Idioms: age before beauty -- airy-fairy

Idiom	Meaning	Example
age before beauty	the older person should be allowed to enter first	"Age before beauty," she said as she opened the door for me.
age of majority	the age when you can vote, <a href="#">come of age</a>	Dad said that when I reach the age of majority I can buy my own car!
ahead of the curve	having a higher grade, having better performance the bell curve - a line graph of test scores	In sales, we're a little ahead of the curve. But in service, we "suck"!
ahead of the game	finished your work, paid all the bills, <a href="#">caught up</a>	With all these expenses, we can't seem to get ahead of the game.
ain't	isn't, is not; aren't, are not	"It ain't easy being green," said the frog.
ain't half-bad	is quite good, is not bad, is okay	Hey, this pizza ain't half-bad. I kinda like it.
air rage	angry or violent passengers on an airplane	The man struck one of the attendants. It was air rage.
air was blue	(See <a href="#">the air was blue</a> )	
airhead	(See <a href="#">an airhead</a> )	
airy-fairy	not real, impractical, <a href="#">pie in the sky</a>	Sell flying saucers to little gray people? That's too airy-fairy for me!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:  
[B] bad language

Be interactive:  
[Comment on this idiom](#)  
[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)  
[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:  
 Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson  
 The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books  
 Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: age before beauty -- airy-fairy

## Idioms: live it up -- loaded

Idiom	Meaning	Example
live it up	live wild, go to a lot of parties, <a href="#">have a fling</a>	When I move to the city, I'm going to live it up - have fun.
live off	earn enough money to pay expenses	Can we live off the profit from selling your garden flowers?
live on	have to pay rent and buy food etc.	What will we live on if you don't have a job?
live on the edge	live in danger from drugs or disease or crime	When Bill played in the NHL, he was living on the edge.
live up to	be as good as people said you would be	Live up to your own standards. Set your own rules.
liven up	cause more activity or excitement	Let's invite Jerry to our party. He'll liven things up.
liveware	people who use computers, computer students	Our school has more liveware than computers!
living daylights	(See <a href="#">the living daylights</a> )	
lo and behold	suddenly, look, <a href="#">out of the blue</a> , <a href="#">wonder of wonders</a>	We were standing there when, lo and behold, a fish fell out of the sky and flopped around on the ground!
loaded	having many extra devices or accessories	That Buick is loaded, including a sun roof.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: live it up -- loaded

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: loaded -- long and the short of it

Idiom	Meaning	Example
loaded	drunk, inebriated, <a href="#">sloshed</a>	After his fifth drink of rum, he was loaded. He was staggering.
loaded	wealthy, rich, <a href="#">deep pockets</a> , <a href="#">moneybags</a>	To own a jet, you would have to be very wealthy - loaded.
loaded to the hilt	fully loaded, packed to the top	The trailer was loaded to the hilt - full of our belongings.
local yokel	resident of a town or rural community, local resident	We were lost, so we stopped and asked a local yokel for help.
lock you up	put you in prison, put you in a mental hospital	If you sell cigarettes to children, the police will lock you up.
lock, stock and barrel	everything, <a href="#">kit and caboodle</a>	They took everything in the shed - lock, stock and barrel.
log off	exit from a mainframe computer system	Before you log off, be sure to save the work you completed.
log on	enter a mainframe computer system	When you log on, you have to type in your password.
lollygag	be idle, be listless, waste time (see the opposite: <a href="#">waste no time</a> )	Hank isn't busy today. He's just lollygagging around the house.
long and the short of it	(See <a href="#">the long and the short of it</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: loaded -- long and the short of it

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: long arm of the law -- look down on

Idiom	Meaning	Example
long arm of the law	(See <a href="#">the long arm of the law</a> )	
long for	wish for, want very much	Kelly longs for her home in the mountains. She's homesick.
long gone	departed earlier, not here now	Albert was long gone by the time the RCMP arrived.
long in the tooth	old, aged, <a href="#">over the hill</a>	Jack is a good pitcher, but he's long in the tooth - too old.
long johns	winter underwear - with long sleeves and legs	If you are going cross-country skiing, put on your long johns.
long time no see	I have not seen you for a long time	When I got off the bus, Grandpa said, "Long time no see."
loo	(See <a href="#">the loo</a> )	
look after	care for, <a href="#">take care of</a>	He really looks after his car. It's in very good condition.
look daggers	look angry, look with hateful eyes	Ginny looked daggers at me when I kissed her boyfriend.
look down on	look as if you are better, look superior	Do some Americans look down on people from Canada?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: long arm of the law -- look down on

## Idioms: look down your nose at -- look over your shoulder

Idiom	Meaning	Example
look down your nose at	look at a person as though he is not as good as you	Just because he's rich he looks down his nose at us.
look high and low	look everywhere, <a href="#">leave no stone unturned</a>	We've looked high and low for that watch, but we can't find it.
look into	investigate, find the facts, <a href="#">get to the bottom of</a>	The principal will look into the attendance problem and see what is causing it.
look like death warmed over	appear to be sick, look pale or weak	Mom is not feeling well. She looks like death warmed over.
look like he was dragged through a knothole	appear to be very tired, <a href="#">burn out</a> , <a href="#">run down</a>	After a divorce and a funeral, Anne looked like she'd been dragged through a knothole.
look out	be careful	Look out! That knife is sharp.
look out for	watch, protect, <a href="#">look after</a>	Please look out for your sister. She needs your protection.
look out for number one	help yourself first, get enough for yourself	You can look out for number one as well as help your friends.
look over	check, examine, look at	I've looked over the report. It contains the data we need.
look over your shoulder	look to see who is following you	He's always looking over his shoulder to see who's after him.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: look down your nose at -- look over your shoulder

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: look sharp -- loose cannon

Idiom	Meaning	Example
look sharp	look very nice, very well dressed and groomed	She looks very sharp in her new suit-like a model!
look the other way	try not to notice, <a href="#">turn the other way</a>	The officer saw the liquor, but he looked the other way.
look up a dead horse's ass [B]	do a worthless task, do a pointless exercise, <a href="#">pissing into the wind</a>	If they want a tax-free society, they may as well be looking up a dead horse's ass!
look up to	admire, idolize	Ian looks up to his brother. He respects James a lot.
look up/look it up	find it in a book	Please look up the word <i>guru</i> .
looking up	(See <a href="#">things are looking up</a> )	
loonie	Canadian one-dollar coin	I bought this rose for one loonie!
loony bin	mental hospital, <a href="#">nut house</a>	If you ride that giraffe downtown they'll put you in the loony bin.
looped	drunk, <a href="#">loaded</a> , <a href="#">smashed</a>	You were looped last night. You don't remember what happened.
loose cannon	(See <a href="#">a loose cannon</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: loose ends -- lose it

Idiom	Meaning	Example
loose ends	unfinished tasks, <a href="#">odds and ends</a>	"Finished making the dress?" "Almost - just some loose ends."
loose ends	(See <a href="#">at loose ends</a> )	
loose ends	(See <a href="#">tie up loose ends</a> )	
lord it over	be the boss of, dominate a person/group	When we were boys, my older brother tried to lord it over me.
lose a family member	experience the death of a member of the family	Poor Sadie. She lost her mother last year and a brother this year.
lose count	forget how many you counted, <a href="#">lose track</a>	There were so many falling stars that I lost count.
lose favor	lose a person's approval, <a href="#">in your bad books</a>	If you lose favor with reporters, you may lose the election.
lose ground	slide back, lose power, <a href="#">fall behind</a>	Every day we lose ground in the battle to save the environment.
lose him	get away from him, <a href="#">ditch him</a>	I can lose him at the mall - among the shops and people.
lose it	become angry, <a href="#">lose your cool</a>	When he criticized you, I started to lose it. I almost hit him.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: loose ends -- lose it

## Idioms: lose it -- lose your head

Idiom	Meaning	Example
lose it	lose the ability to think clearly, become forgetful	After 35 years of teaching, he was losing it. He was confused.
lose my train of thought	forget my order of thoughts or words	Don't interrupt me because I may lose my train of thought.
lose out	lose a chance, fail to <a href="#">take advantage of</a>	If I don't apply now, I'll lose out. This is my last chance.
lose patience	not be patient any longer, <a href="#">out of patience</a>	Mom is losing patience with us because we don't obey her.
lose sight of	forget about, not remember the purpose	Let's not lose sight of why we're picking berries - to make pies.
lose time	waste time, <a href="#">fall behind</a>	We lost time when the car stalled. We were delayed.
lose track	forget how many you have, <a href="#">lose count</a>	He tried to count the number of birds, but he soon lost track.
lose your appetite	not feel hungry anymore, lose the desire to eat	If a bug crawled out of your apple would you lose your appetite?
lose your cool	lose control of emotions, <a href="#">lose your temper</a>	Don't you ever lose your cool? Don't you ever get angry?
lose your head	lose your ability to think clearly	If you become lost, don't lose your head. Be sensible.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: lose it -- lose your head

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: lose your marbles -- lost cause

Idiom	Meaning	Example
lose your marbles	lose control of your mind, <a href="#">lose it</a>	When people grow old, do they lose their marbles?
lose your mind	lose control of your mind, go <a href="#">out of your mind</a>	If you continue to use drugs, you'll lose your mind.
lose your shirt	lose most of the money you invested	He invested in condominiums and nearly lost his shirt.
lose your temper	become angry, <a href="#">get mad</a>	When you lose your temper, the children become frightened.
lose your tongue	be unable to think what to say, <a href="#">cat got your tongue</a> , <a href="#">mind goes blank</a>	It's embarrassing to lose your tongue when you're standing in front of an audience.
lose your touch	lose some of your skill, <a href="#">lose it</a>	"I'm losing my touch," he said, looking at his drawing.
losing it	losing the ability to think or remember, not <a href="#">sharp</a>	I think I'm losing it. I can't add or multiply without a calculator.
losing streak	losing game after game, losing a series of games	The Jays are on a losing streak. They've lost four games straight.
loss leader	a low-priced item to bring customers to a store, <a href="#">bogof</a>	The loss leader at SuperStore is a package of coffee for 99¢.
lost cause	(See <a href="#">a lost cause</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: lose your marbles -- lost cause

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: Lotus Land -- love them and leave them

Idiom	Meaning	Example
Lotus Land	British Columbia (west coast of Canada)	They went to Lotus Land for a holiday - to Vancouver.
loud mouth	one who talks about things he should not	When Bart was a boy, he was a loud mouth. He told our secrets.
lousy	poor quality, in poor condition, <a href="#">shabby</a>	Everything works except the lousy printer. It's broken.
love at first sight	sudden love, love begins when people first meet	When Jessica met Ryan, it was love at first sight.
Love Bug	Volkswagen <i>Beetle</i> , <i>The Bug</i>	I'd love to go for a ride in your Love Bug.
love conquers all	love is strong enough to overcome all problems	When the family was reunited, Mom said, "Love conquers all."
love is blind	people do not see the faults in their lovers	She can't see his bad habits because love is blind.
love is where you find it	love happens, love is not planned, <a href="#">it is better to have loved...</a>	My family thinks Peter is too old for me, but I think love is where you find it.
love tap	(See <a href="#">a love tap</a> )	
love them and leave them	love them but not stay with them	When Claude was touring Europe, he'd love 'em and leave 'em.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: Lotus Land -- love them and leave them

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: lovelies -- luck of the draw

Idiom	Meaning	Example
lovelies	ladies, women, girls, <a href="#">chicks</a>	When we docked at Rome, we met three lovelies and went dancing.
lovelife	the romantic part of your life, your intimate life	"How's your lovelife?" "Great! I've met a wonderful lady."
Lovers' Leap	a cliff where lovers jump into a canyon together	Let's drive up to Lovers' Leap and look at the stars.
low	sad, depressed, ill, <a href="#">down</a>	I've been feeling kind of low lately - it's the bad weather.
low-ball him	offer him a very low price for his car, house etc.	If his price is too high, low-ball him. Offer him a very low price.
low-down	bad, evil, not nice	Stealing from that old woman was a low-down thing to do!
lowdown	(See <a href="#">the lowdown</a> )	
lowlife	a person without morals or humanitarian values	What a lowlife! He sold drugs to children.
low on the totem pole	ordinary worker, not a manager or boss, <a href="#">gofer</a> , <a href="#">pecking order</a>	If you want to understand the real problems, talk to the workers - people who are low on the totem pole.
luck of the draw	(See <a href="#">the luck of the draw</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: lovelies -- luck of the draw

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a.k.a. (aka) -- all hell broke loose

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a.k.a. (aka)	also known as, alias, <a href="#">go by the name of</a>	William O'Connor - a.k.a. Wil, Willie, Billy Boy - was born in Ireland.
all around Robin Hood's barn	an indirect route, a roundabout way, <a href="#">a wild goose chase</a>	When Celia is the driver, we go all around Robin Hood's barn!
all decked out	(See <a href="#">deck out</a> )	
all ears	listening carefully, trying to hear everything	When Dad mentioned hunting, I was all ears. I loved to hunt.
all eyes	watching carefully, staring	When the fire truck arrived, the children were all eyes.
all fired up	eager, enthused, <a href="#">gung ho</a>	Ian gets all fired up when he sees Kari. There's love in his eyes.
all get-out	(See <a href="#">as all get-out</a> )	
all goes well	have good luck, have no problems	I hope all goes well for you at college. I hope you succeed.
all hat and no cattle	pretending to be important and rich, <a href="#">all show</a>	If a man buys things he can't pay for, he's all hat and no cattle.
all hell broke loose	people did crazy things, everybody was fighting	When the fire alarm sounded, all hell broke loose.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: a.k.a. (aka) -- all hell broke loose

## Idioms: luck of the Irish -- lush

Idiom	Meaning	Example
luck of the Irish	(See <a href="#">the luck of the Irish</a> )	
luck out	have good luck, <a href="#">a lucky break</a>	She lucked out at the casino. She won a thousand dollars.
lucky break	(See <a href="#">a lucky break</a> )	
lucky dog	a lucky person, someone who has just won a prize	When I told Bill I won the car, he said, "You lucky dog!"
lucky streak	a series of lucky wins, <a href="#">string of good luck</a>	He lost the bet on the sixth race, and his lucky streak ended.
lump together	put together, place in the same category	They lumped us all together - young, old, rich, poor.
lush	alcoholic, <a href="#">in the tank</a> , <a href="#">wino</a>	Joni was a lush when she met me. Now she doesn't drink at all.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: mad about -- make a big deal of it

Idiom	Meaning	Example
mad about	like a lot, love very much, <a href="#">crazy about</a> , <a href="#">head over heels</a>	Olga's mad about Yorgi. She loves him too much!
mad about	angry about, <a href="#">pissed off</a> [B]	He's mad about the lost key. He told me I was careless.
mad as a hatter	strange, eccentric, batty, <a href="#">plumb loco</a>	If you wear that pink wig, people will think you're mad as a hatter.
mad hatter	strange, unusual, <a href="#">wacko</a>	Jo lives in a mad-hatter place. Her friends walk around nude and sing songs about heaven.
made for each other	be natural mates, be very compatible, <a href="#">soul mates</a>	Bob and Alice are made for each other. They're happily married.
mainstream	common, familiar, of the majority	Smoking isn't as common now. It isn't a mainstream activity.
major (credit)	(See <a href="#">a major</a> )	
major	big, huge, main	"Is money a problem?" "Ya. Major."
make a beeline	go straight towards	When the kids saw the ice-cream man, they all made a beeline for him.
make a big deal of it	complain a lot, <a href="#">make a mountain...</a>	Whenever Todd dances with me, Brenda makes a big deal of it.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: mad about -- make a big deal of it

## Idioms: make a big to-do -- make a federal case of it

Idiom	Meaning	Example
make a big to-do	complain too much, <a href="#">make a federal case...</a>	If the waiter makes a mistake, don't make a big to-do about it.
make a booboo	cause an error, <a href="#">make a mistake</a> , <a href="#">screw up</a>	"I made a booboo." "Don't worry. We can fix it."
make a bundle	earn a large profit, <a href="#">make a lot of money</a>	Manfred made a bundle selling real estate. He's rich.
make a clean breast of it	tell all you know about it, admit what you did	The man went to the police and made a clean breast of his crime.
make a clean sweep	win all games in a series	The Jets made a clean sweep of the series - won all four games.
make a comeback	try to recover your former skill and success, <a href="#">comeback kid</a>	George Foreman made a comeback when he was over forty!
make a difference	affect or change it, <a href="#">tip the scales</a>	Even a small donation will make a difference. It will help us.
make a face	wrinkle your face until it is ugly	Chad made a face at me and stuck out his tongue.
make a false move	reach for the phone or a gun, try to run away	"Make a false move and I'll shoot your buttons off," the boy said.
make a federal case of it	make it too important, <a href="#">make a mountain...</a>	Okay, so I used your hair dryer! Don't make a federal case of it.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: make a big to-do -- make a federal case of it

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: make a fuss -- make a pass

Idiom	Meaning	Example
make a fuss	cry or complain, <a href="#">throw a tantrum</a>	If I don't hold the baby, it will make a fuss. It will cry.
make a go of it	earn enough money to pay the bills, live well	With both of us working, we were able to make a go of it.
make a good impression	meet and talk to strangers so they like you	Penny made a good impression on my parents. She is so polite!
make a killing	earn a big profit, <a href="#">make a bundle</a>	If you buy gold now, you'll make a killing when the price goes up.
make a life for yourself	live a good life; have a job, home and family	So you want to make a life for yourself in Canada. That's good.
make a living	earn enough money to live on, <a href="#">make your way</a>	You can make a living at farming, but you won't be rich!
make a mistake	give a wrong answer, <a href="#">make a booboo</a>	Learn from making a mistake. Learn how <i>not</i> to do it.
make a mountain out of a mole hill	make a problem bigger, exaggerate a problem	I spent \$50, not \$500! Don't make a mountain out of a mole hill.
make a name for yourself	become well known, become famous	Martin Luther King made a name for himself - and for freedom!
make a pass	show that you feel romantic toward someone	Julie made a pass at me. She sent me a love note and smiled at me.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: make a fuss -- make a pass

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: make a pitch -- make believe

Idiom	Meaning	Example
make a pitch	try to sell, try to persuade	She handed him her resume and made a pitch for the job.
make a point of	remember to do, act with a purpose, <a href="#">make sure</a>	Uma made a point of telling me about the meeting. She wants us to come.
make a scene	complain too loud, <a href="#">kick up a fuss</a>	If she doesn't let Denis ride in the shopping cart, he makes a scene.
make a silk purse...	(See <a href="#">you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear</a> )	
make a splash	advertise with style, open with balloons and prizes	When Tom opened his Toyota dealership, he made quite a splash.
make advances	try to kiss or touch, <a href="#">come onto</a> , <a href="#">get fresh</a>	"If he doesn't make advances, should I?" Shelly asked.
make amends	apologize to someone you have hurt, <a href="#">make up for</a>	What can I do to make amends for opening her personal mail?
make an entrance	enter with style, enter with a flourish	When the duchess attends an event she likes to make an entrance.
make an offer	offer money to buy; write what you will pay for something	"Your price is too high." "Well, make an offer. What do you think the car is worth?"
make believe	imagine, pretend, <a href="#">make up</a>	"Let's make believe we are baby elephants," I said to the children.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: make a pitch -- make believe

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: make do -- make headway

Idiom	Meaning	Example
make do	use whatever you can find, substitute, <a href="#">jury-rig</a>	When our kids don't have toys, they make do with pots and pans.
make ends meet	pay the bills, have enough to pay the expenses	Although the Millers are poor, they make ends meet.
make every effort	do everything possible, <a href="#">bend over backwards</a>	Our employees make every effort to please our customers.
make faces	(See <a href="#">make a face</a> )	
make friends	act in a friendly way, become a friend of	Sally makes friends easily. People seem to like her.
make fun of	tease, laugh at, <a href="#">poke fun at</a>	Ko is angry because you made fun of him. You teased him.
make good	do as promised, <a href="#">follow through</a>	When I get paid, I'll make good my promise to buy you dinner.
make good time	travel quickly, not be delayed, not <a href="#">lose time</a>	Driving to Saskatoon, we made good time. It took only five hours.
make hay while the sun shines	work while the weather is good, work while we have time and helpers	There's a demand for our product, and we have a large stock. Let's make hay while the sun shines!
make headway	progress, <a href="#">get ahead</a>	With Freda's help, we made headway. We learned to write.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: make do -- make headway

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: make it -- make mention

Idiom	Meaning	Example
make it	go or come, attend	Can you make it tonight? Can you come to the meeting?
make it better	improve it, help it	When a child is hurt, sympathy will help to make it better.
make it big	succeed, be one of the best	Roch made it big as a singer. He's very successful.
make it snappy	be quick, <a href="#">hurry up</a>	I'll have a Coke, please, and make it snappy!
make it worse	hinder, cause it to be worse	Stepping on the brakes will only make it worse. The car will skid.
make light of	make a joke about, <a href="#">make fun of</a>	I was hurt when you made light of my poem. You laughed at it.
make love	embrace in a loving way and have intercourse	I can't describe how I feel when we make love. It's breathtaking!
make me do it	cause me to act, force me to do it	I didn't want to steal the watch. The devil made me do it.
make me sick/mad etc.	cause me to feel sick or mad etc.	It makes me sick the way he talks about war all the time.
make mention	talk about, <a href="#">bring up</a>	No one made mention of his research - not one word!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: make it -- make mention

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: make mincemeat of -- make room

Idiom	Meaning	Example
make mincemeat of	defeat badly, demolish, <a href="#">blow them away</a>	The heavyweight champ made mincemeat of the young boxer.
make money	work for wages, earn a profit	You can make money in real estate. You buy low, sell high.
make my day	do something to help me enjoy this day	Go ahead, kiss me, and make my day!
make myself clear	say it clearly, say it so you understand	Her sister said, "Do <i>not</i> wear my clothes. Do I make myself clear?"
make no bones about it	admit it, speak openly about it	She's in love with her student. She makes no bones about it.
make of it	know what it is, identify it, <a href="#">make sense of it</a>	Do you see that bright light in the sky? What do you make of it?
make off with	take away, take without permission	The boys made off with his toys. They took all his cars and trucks.
make out	do, finish, <a href="#">end up</a>	How did you make out when you played the Rebels? Did you win?
make out	kiss and hug, <a href="#">get it on</a> , <a href="#">make whoopee</a>	Keith and Dawn were making out in the back seat of the car.
make room	create a space, <a href="#">move over</a> , <a href="#">out of the way</a>	Please make room so Miss Munroe can walk to her car. Move, please.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: make mincemeat of -- make room

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: make sense -- make the team

Idiom	Meaning	Example
make sense	appear to be logical or sensible	Renting a car makes sense to me - if it's not too expensive.
make sense of it	understand it, fathom it, see how it happened	He is my father, but I am not his son. Can you make sense of it?
make something of it	(See <a href="#">want to make something of it</a> )	
make something of yourself	be successful, be respected for your skill and honesty	I want to choose an occupation and make something of myself.
make strange	be afraid of a stranger, cry when a stranger comes	Ali makes strange when we have visitors. He cries and tries to hide.
make sure	be certain, check carefully	Make sure you mail the letter. It must be sent today.
make the bed	arrange the sheets and blankets on a bed	Please make the bed before you eat breakfast.
make the grade	do acceptable work, <a href="#">measure up</a>	To make the grade, you have to complete the training program.
make the most of it	do the best you can, <a href="#">seize the opportunity</a>	When you speak, make the most of it. Persuade them not to fight.
make the team	become a member of the team	Paul will make the soccer team. The coach will choose him.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: make sense -- make the team

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms: make tracks -- make whoopee

Idiom	Meaning	Example
make tracks	hurry, move quickly, <a href="#">vamoose</a>	We better make tracks or we'll be late for dinner.
make trouble	cause a fight, <a href="#">don't make waves</a>	Don't make trouble, eh. Don't start an argument or a fight.
make up	create, imagine	He likes to make up stories - you know, fiction.
make up	be friends again, come together again	John and Marsha fight, but they always kiss and make up.
make up for	repay, compensate	Please let me make up for my mistake. Let me help you.
make up your mind	decide, choose	If you will make up your mind, we can order our dinner.
make war	fight with troops and planes and bombs	To make war is to be greedy or insane - or both.
make waves	(See <a href="#">don't make waves</a> )	
make way	move off the path, move to the side, <a href="#">make room</a>	If the leader wants your seat in parliament, you make way for her. You give her your seat.
make whoopee	kiss and hug, <a href="#">get it on</a> , <a href="#">make love</a>	Tony and Victoria were making whoopee when we walked in.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a babe in arms -- a barrel of laughs

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a babe in arms	a baby, a child who is <a href="#">still wet behind the ears</a>	Dar was just a babe in arms when we emigrated to Canada.
a babe in the woods	a defenseless person; a naive, young person	He's just a babe in the woods. He needs someone to protect him.
a bad taste in my mouth	a feeling that something is false or unfair, a feeling of ill will	I left the meeting with a bad taste in my mouth. There was a lot of dishonesty in the room.
a bad time	a lot of teasing, <a href="#">a rough time</a>	The class gave him a bad time about his pink shorts.
a ball-park figure	a number that is near the total; approximate figure	Fifty is a ball-park figure. It's close to our class size.
a bar fly	a person who often goes to bars or lounges	Every evening Penny goes to <i>Lucifer's</i> . She's quite a bar fly.
a bar star	a girl who goes to bars to drink and find friends	Lola was known as a bar star at <i>Pinky's Lounge</i> .
a bare-faced lie	a deliberate lie, a planned lie	His statement to the police was false - a bare-faced lie.
a barnburner	an exciting game, <a href="#">a cliff-hanger</a>	When the Flames play the Oilers it's a barnburner - a great game.
a barrel of laughs	a lot of fun, a person who makes you laugh	Let's invite Chang to our party. He's a barrel of laughs.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: a babe in arms -- a barrel of laughs

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: all his marbles -- all set

Idiom	Meaning	Example
all his marbles	normal, sensible	Dan talks to the door. I wonder if he's got all his marbles.
all in	very tired, exhausted, <a href="#">dog tired</a> , <a href="#">done in</a>	After the marathon, she was all in - completely exhausted.
all in a day's work	not extra work, just part of my duties	She said, "Thanks for the help." "All in a day's work," he replied.
all in all	generally, considering everything	All in all, it was a good holiday. We enjoyed our trip to Europe.
all it's cracked up to be	as good as the ads say, <a href="#">live up to</a> the reports	The new computer isn't all it's cracked up to be. It's not so hot.
all joking aside	(See <a href="#">joking aside</a> )	
all-out	all your effort, <a href="#">go all-out</a>	We looked day and night for the lost girl. It was an all-out effort.
all over but the shouting	(See <a href="#">it's all over but the shouting</a> )	
all over hell's half acre	all over the place, everywhere	I left the gate open, and the cows are all over hell's half acre.
all set	ready, prepared to start	"All set?" he asked, as she closed her suitcase.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: all his marbles -- all set

## Idioms: make your bum hum -- make yourself to home

Idiom	Meaning	Example
make your bum hum	excite you, please your senses, <a href="#">turn you on</a>	Anchovies on a banana split - that'll make your bum hum!
make your hair stand on end	cause you to be afraid, <a href="#">petrified</a> , <a href="#">scared stiff</a>	Strange sounds began coming from the closet. It was enough to make your hair stand on end.
make your head spin	confuse you, amaze you, <a href="#">boggle your mind</a>	All the numbers on this sheet will make your head spin.
make your mark	be known for an invention or an achievement, <a href="#">set the world on fire</a>	If you want to make your mark, do it for humanity. Think of a cure for hate and war.
make your mouth water	cause you to salivate, cause you to be hungry	Your carrot cake smells so good it makes my mouth water.
make your way	move toward, navigate	After sailing to Jamaica we made our way over to Cuba, si?
make your way	survive, live by your own efforts, <a href="#">make a living</a>	Chad, my boy, if you are going to make your way in this world, you need an education - formal and informal.
make yourself at home	relax, feel as though you are in your own home	Lee's mom welcomed us, saying, "Please, make yourself at home."
make yourself scarce	leave, do not stay, <a href="#">get lost</a>	If you see a bull in the pasture, make yourself scarce.
make yourself to home	(See <a href="#">make yourself at home</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: make your bum hum -- make yourself to home

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: makes no difference -- matter of life and death

Idiom	Meaning	Example
makes no difference	will not affect or change something	The color of the car makes no difference to me. I don't care.
makings of	(See <a href="#">the makings of</a> )	
malarkey	(See <a href="#">a bunch of malarkey</a> )	
man of few words	(See <a href="#">a man of few words</a> )	
man of the cloth	(See <a href="#">a man of the cloth</a> )	
mark a watershed	begins a change, starts a shift or movement, <a href="#">the turning point</a>	The invasion of Palestinian neighborhoods marked a watershed. That's when world opinion shifted.
mark my words	listen carefully, <a href="#">pay attention</a>	A California team will win the Super Bowl. Mark my words.
marked man	(See <a href="#">a marked man</a> )	
match wits	compete with someone's wit or humor	Don't try to match wits with Pat. He has a reply for everything.
matter of life and death	(See <a href="#">it's a matter of life and death</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: mayday (m'aidez) -- melt in your mouth

Idiom	Meaning	Example
mayday (m'aidez)	distress signal, call for help, <a href="#">SOS</a>	"Mayday! Mayday!" we shouted into our cell phones when the tanks started running over people in the streets.
mean business	is serious or determined, <a href="#">no nonsense</a>	At work or play she means business. She is a serious person.
mean streak	being unkind at times, having cruel traits	Kurt has a mean streak in him. Did you see him kick his dog?
mean well	wants to help, has good intentions	Kay is a gossip, but she means well. She tries to be a friend.
measure up	do enough work, achieve high quality	With more training, he'll improve. He'll measure up to our standards.
meet up with	meet, encounter	In Montreal, he met up with a young singer named Celine.
meet you half way	find an equitable agreement, <a href="#">split the difference</a>	Try to settle the claim out of court. See if he will meet you half way.
meeting of minds	mutual agreement, consensus	We agreed to share the cost of the project. It was a meeting of minds.
megabucks	a lot of money, thousands of dollars	Her personal computer system cost megabucks. It was very expensive.
melt in your mouth	fine bread or pastry, food with a fine texture	Aunt Carol's muffins are so good! They just melt in your mouth!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: mayday (m'aidez) -- melt in your mouth

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: mend fences -- miffed

Idiom	Meaning	Example
mend fences	solve political problems, listen to voters	Every summer the politicians go home and try to mend fences.
mental block	(See <a href="#">a mental block</a> )	
mess up	do a bad job, ruin it, <a href="#">screw up</a>	The manager messed up. He spent too much money on advertising.
mess with	challenge, fight with, <a href="#">mix it up</a> with	We learned not to mess with the Mafia. Their revenge is deadly.
messed up	depressed, dependent on drugs, not coping with life	At that point in his life, he was messed up on drugs and alcohol.
mete out	administer, give according to the law or policy	It was his duty to mete out justice in the colony.
middle ground	a position that is fair to both sides, a compromise, <a href="#">meeting of minds</a>	The minister tried to find some middle ground between the nurses and the administrators.
middle of the road	moderate, not extreme	Our education policy is middle of the road. The majority like it.
middleman	(See <a href="#">the middleman</a> )	
miffed	annoyed, not pleased, <a href="#">put out about</a> , <a href="#">ticked off</a>	Marnie was miffed when you swore at her cat. She said you were rude.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: mend fences -- miffed

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: milk it -- mind the store

Idiom	Meaning	Example
milk it	take all it will give, get all you can from it, <a href="#">seize the opportunity</a>	I learned the mail-order business and milked the idea for all it was worth. I earned a lot of money.
milk run	airline route that stops at small cities	From Vancouver, we took the milk run through Kelowna.
mince words	(See <a href="#">doesn't mince words</a> )	
mind boggling	too many to count, more than you can imagine	The potential for profit is mind boggling - too large to believe.
mind games	control people's feelings, <a href="#">play games</a>	He plays mind games with me - he tries to control my feelings.
mind go blank	cannot think what to say, <a href="#">lose your tongue</a>	When the Prime Minister stopped to talk to me, my mind went blank.
mind in neutral	not thinking, <a href="#">vegetate</a>	Some of our employees stand around with their minds in neutral.
mind of his own	independent thinker, <a href="#">his own man</a>	Fu doesn't copy the work of his friends. He has a mind of his own.
mind over matter	believing you can do it, using the mind's power	When your brain controls your heart rate, it's mind over matter.
mind the store	manage the store, serve customers	Dana, please mind the store while I go to the post office.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: milk it -- mind the store

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: mind your manners -- miss you

Idiom	Meaning	Example
mind your manners	be polite, be courteous, <a href="#">watch your P's and Q's</a>	At the wedding, Mom said to me, "Now, Son, mind your manners."
mind your own business	do not ask questions about my business	I asked about her plans, and she told me to mind my own business.
mind your P's and Q's	be polite, do not drink too much, <a href="#">mind your manners</a>	Lorraine said he was drinking too much. She told him to mind his P's and Q's.
mint condition	new condition, original condition, <a href="#">super mint</a>	In an old garage we found a Peugeot 403 in mint condition.
misery loves company	sad people want to be with other sad people	On the door of the jail was this sign: <i>Misery Loves Company</i> .
miss out on	not be there, be unable to attend	If I have a job, I'll miss out on the soccer games after school.
miss the boat	misjudge, misunderstand, <a href="#">make a mistake</a>	I missed the boat on the essay question. My answer was wrong.
miss the point	not understand, not <a href="#">get the point</a>	I missed the point of his remark. Do you know what he meant?
miss the water till...	(See <a href="#">you don't miss the water till the well runs dry</a> )	
miss you	feel lonely because you are not here	I miss you when you go to Hong Kong. Can I go with you?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: mind your manners -- miss you

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: miss your chance -- money to burn

Idiom	Meaning	Example
miss your chance	not do it when you can, not <a href="#">seize the opportunity</a>	I'm sorry. You cannot go today. You missed your chance to go yesterday.
mix it up	challenge, fight, <a href="#">mess with</a>	If you mix it up with a street fighter, you could get injured.
mix up	become confused or puzzled	He gets mixed up when we all give advice. He gets confused.
mix you up	confuse you, <a href="#">boggle your mind</a>	Too much information will just mix you up - confuse you.
mixed feelings	feeling both positive and negative, happy and sad; bittersweet	I have mixed feelings. I'm happy about the new job, but sad about leaving my friends.
moment of truth	(See <a href="#">the moment of truth</a> )	
money doesn't grow on trees	money is not easy to get, we value our money	Father said, "Money doesn't grow on trees, boy. You earn it."
money is the root of all evil	money is the cause of bad things	If money is the root of all evil, why do you want to be rich?
money talks	money causes action, <a href="#">grease my palm</a>	If you want service, money talks. When you pay, they serve.
money to burn	lots of money, <a href="#">filthy rich</a>	They've got money to burn, so why do they drive that old car?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: miss your chance -- money to burn

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: moneybags -- moonshine

Idiom	Meaning	Example
moneybags	rich person, <a href="#">loaded</a> person	We used to call him <i>moneybags</i> . He always had money on him.
monkey business	nonsense, foolishness, <a href="#">funny stuff</a>	I've had enough of your monkey business. No more foolishness.
monkey off my back	(See <a href="#">get this monkey off my back</a> )	
monkey's uncle	(See <a href="#">I'll be a monkey's uncle</a> )	
monkeywrenching	trying to ruin a project, sabotaging, <a href="#">throw a monkey wrench into...</a>	The members of Green Peace were accused of monkeywrenching the whale hunt. They tried to stop it.
month of Sundays	(See <a href="#">a month of Sundays</a> )	
moola	money, cash, <a href="#">scratch</a>	Without moola, we can't travel. We need money for air fare.
moon them	show them a bare <a href="#">bum</a> , show your bare buttocks	They booed him for dropping the ball, so he mooned them.
moonlighting	working at a second job in the evening	Bernie is very tired these days because he's moonlighting.
moonshine	homemade liquor, <a href="#">hooch</a> , <a href="#">screech</a>	Art invited us over to taste his moonshine - homemade wine.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: moneybags -- moonshine

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: mop the floor with us -- mothball

Idiom	Meaning	Example
mop the floor with us	perform so well the audience wants more, <a href="#">she peed</a>	We loved the Gagnon concert. He mopped the floor with us.
mop up	correct mistakes, <a href="#">clean up</a> a mess left by others	The manager told us he would not mop up after us. We have to fix our own mistakes.
moppie	mobile office professional, ambitious business people, <a href="#">yuppie</a>	A lot of moppies lost their jobs when the oil industry declined.
more money than brains	rich but not intelligent, <a href="#">money to burn</a> , <a href="#">moneybags</a>	He bought a house but didn't use it, rent it or sell it. He has more money than brains!
more power to you	you deserve more support, we hope you succeed because you are kind	When she told us about her plan to help abused children, we said, "More power to you, Ms. Wah."
more than meets the eye	(See <a href="#">there's more than meets the eye</a> )	
more than welcome	we invite you, please come to our place, <a href="#">feel free</a>	Mary invited them to stay. "You are more than welcome to sleep at our place," she said.
more than you can shake a stick at	a lot, too many, <a href="#">oodles</a>	Alfreda has more cats than you can shake a stick at - over 30!
mortal coil	(See <a href="#">this mortal coil</a> )	
mothball	put away, put on a shelf	The boss mothballed the report. The owners never saw it.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: mop the floor with us -- mothball

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: Mother Nature -- move it

Idiom	Meaning	Example
Mother Nature	nature, natural forces and causes	Mother Nature provided the basic foods: wild vegetables and water.
motherfucker [B]	a person you dislike, <a href="#">creep</a> , <a href="#">scum</a>	That motherfucker! I'd like to kick his ass to kingdom come!
motherhood and apple pie	statements about mom and home etc.	The audience wants news and facts, not motherhood and apple pie.
motherlode	the largest amount, the main supply, <a href="#">a shitload</a>	He played poker for six hours before he won the motherlode.
motormouth	one who talks fast but says very little, <a href="#">disk jockey</a>	Listen to that motormouth! He talks fast but says nothing.
mount a comeback	begin to score goals or points while losing, <a href="#">snatch victory from...</a>	Our soccer team was losing 4-1, but they mounted a comeback and won the game 5-4.
Mounties	Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)	The Mounties, Canada's police force, were once called <i>Redcoats</i> .
mousy	worn and faded, <a href="#">shabby</a>	This shirt is kind of mousy, but I love to wear it.
mouth off	tell a secret, talk about private information	Why did you mouth off about the accident? I was going to tell Dad.
move it	go, go faster, <a href="#">get going</a>	"Move it!" said the guard. "Get in your cell!"

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: Mother Nature -- move it

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: all she wrote -- all the marbles

Idiom	Meaning	Example
all she wrote	(See <a href="#">that's all she wrote</a> )	
all shook up	excited, nervous	Al gets all shook up when he sees Gina. He likes her a lot.
all show	artificial, having little or no substance, <a href="#">put on airs</a>	When he gets angry and yells at us, it's all show, just to scare us.
all spruced up	clean and dressed in your best clothes, <a href="#">dressed up</a>	The young farmers got all spruced up for the dance.
all talk and no action	a person who talks a lot but does very little, <a href="#">hot air</a>	He talks about doing everything, but doesn't accomplish anything. He's all talk and no action!
all teed up	the golf ball is on the tee, everything is ready	The parade is ready to begin. It's all teed up.
all that jazz	all related things, other similar topics	They were talking about UFO's and all that jazz.
all the bells and whistles	a lot of extra features, lots of <a href="#">goodies</a> , <a href="#">loaded</a>	When Horst sold his business he bought a motorhome with all the bells and whistles.
all the livelong day	all day, lasting the whole day	Our canary sings all the livelong day - from dawn to dusk.
all the marbles	all the money, the top prize	How does it feel to be playing in the final - for all the marbles?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: all she wrote -- all the marbles

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: move over -- mum's the word

Idiom	Meaning	Example
move over	move a little, move to the next chair, <a href="#">make room</a>	I asked him if he would move over so I could sit beside him.
move you to tears	cause you to feel sadness or sympathy, <a href="#">touch you</a>	The songs in Gorecki's Third Symphony will move you to tears.
move your ass	move quickly, <a href="#">get going</a> , <a href="#">move it</a>	If you want to ride on the train, you better move your ass. It's leaving now.
movers and shakers	owners, investors, <a href="#">wheeler-dealer</a>	We invited all the big investors: the movers and shakers.
much obliged	very thankful, very grateful, <a href="#">thanks a million</a>	"You can stay with us until your wounds heal," she said. "Much obliged, Ma'am," I replied.
muckrake	gossip, tell bad stories	If you talk about your opponent, try to avoid muckraking.
mudslng	insult people, criticize other candidates	The Liberal leader lost my vote when he began mudslnging.
mugged	stopped and robbed, held up by robbers (see <a href="#">hold up</a> )	If you walk down Cordova Street at night, you could get mugged.
mull over	think about, consider, <a href="#">think it over</a>	I've been mulling over what you said about love. I believe it's more spiritual than physical.
mum's the word	do not tell anyone, this is <a href="#">on the QT</a>	She told us the secret. Then she whispered, "Mum's the word."

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: move over -- mum's the word

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: Murphy's Law -- my old man

Idiom	Meaning	Example
Murphy's Law	"Anything that can go wrong will go wrong." <a href="#">it never fails</a>	Have you planned for failure? Remember, Murphy's Law applies to all projects.
muscle in	force yourself between two people	He didn't want to go to the end of the line, so he tried to muscle in.
music to my ears	good news, a message that makes me happy	When she called my name, it was music to my ears.
musical chairs	a game in which each player must find a chair when the music stops (there are more players than chairs), <a href="#">play musical chairs</a>	"At my birthday party can we play a game of musical chairs?" "Yes, dear."
must	(See <a href="#">a must</a> )	
my ass	I doubt it, that is not true	"It's our right to own a gun." "My ass! It's a privilege!"
my eye	I do not believe it, that did not happen	You ate fifteen blueberry pies? My eye!
my old man	my husband, my man	My old man is babysitting while I have a weekend holiday!
my old man	my father, my dad	My old man gets mad if I don't come right home from school.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: Murphy's Law -- my old man

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: nada -- naked eye

Idiom	Meaning	Example
nada	nothing, none, zero, <a href="#">zip</a>	"How much for the baseball cap?" "Nada - it was free."
nag	horse, race horse	Pat bet on a nag in the sixth race and it came in second!
nag	complain too much, <a href="#">a hassle</a>	Poor Erik. His wife nags him about his first marriage.
nail-biter	(See <a href="#">a nail-biter</a> )	
nail down	get a clear answer, <a href="#">find out</a> , <a href="#">pin down</a>	I've checked the books, but I can't nail down the reason for the loss. I can't find the error.
nail him	hit him, hurt him, stop him	They want to nail him because he beat up on Tommy.
nail in your coffin	(See <a href="#">another nail in your coffin</a> )	
nail it down	complete it, finalize it, <a href="#">close a deal</a>	Don't spend too long on a sale. Try to nail it down quickly.
naked as a jay bird	no clothes on, bare naked, <a href="#">in the nude</a>	A boy had taken my clothes, so there I stood, naked as a jay bird!
naked eye	(See <a href="#">the naked eye</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms: name-dropper -- necessity is the mother of invention

Idiom	Meaning	Example
name-dropper	one who implies famous people are his friends, <a href="#">drop a name</a>	That name-dropper! He spoke of Gordon Lightfoot as his friend.
name is cleared	name is not involved in a scandal or a crime	The lawyer thinks I should leave town until my name is cleared.
name is mud	name is bad, name is not respected	If you don't pay for the support of your child, your name is mud.
nary a word	not a word, nothing	When I asked the boy a question, he said nothing - nary a word.
natural high	feeling good from having nutritious food or exercise	After swimming, she would often experience a natural high.
nature calls	need to go the washroom, <a href="#">have to go</a>	When nature calls, just say you have an important appointment.
navel-gazing	sitting and looking at your own navel, contemplating your own existence	"Have you nothing better to do than to sit there navel-gazing?" "No."
nay	no, <a href="#">nope</a>	"Should Tom be our team leader?" "Nay."
neat	fine, well designed, <a href="#">cool</a>	What a neat car! It's small but roomy - and comfortable!
necessity is the mother of invention	our needs cause us to invent devices, <a href="#">build a better mousetrap</a>	Do you think the invention of TV proves that necessity is the mother of invention?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: name-dropper -- necessity is the mother of invention

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: neck -- nerves of steel

Idiom	Meaning	Example
neck	kiss and hug, <a href="#">make out</a> , <a href="#">make whoopee</a>	For me, necking is a memory from my teenage years.
neck and neck	running at the same speed, <a href="#">even-stein</a> , <a href="#">side by side</a>	It was neck and neck all the way - then Jordy won the race by leaning forward at the finish line!
neck of the woods	area, part of the country, <a href="#">in these parts</a>	In our neck of the woods, a man doesn't hit a woman.
necktie party	(See <a href="#">a necktie party</a> )	
need money to make...	(See <a href="#">you need money to make money</a> )	
needle	ask bothersome questions, <a href="#">a hassle</a>	She needled him with questions about his former girlfriends.
needless to say	it is obvious, <a href="#">it goes without saying</a>	Needless to say, there are many idioms in the English language.
neither fish nor fowl	not clearly separated, a little of both	Our experiment produced a being that was neither fish nor fowl.
nerd	weird person, <a href="#">nut</a>	That nerd! He spit on my toe!
nerves of steel	able to speak or act calmly when facing risk or danger	Percy has nerves of steel. He persuaded the gunman to leave.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: neck -- nerves of steel

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: nervous breakdown -- new legs

Idiom	Meaning	Example
nervous breakdown	(See <a href="#">breakdown</a> )	
nest egg	money for retirement, life savings	After selling the farm, they had their nest egg - about \$200,000.
Net surfer	a person who frequently uses the <a href="#">Internet</a>	Lisa is a Net surfer. She can help you get on the Internet.
Netwar	an attack on computer systems via the Internet, terrorist attacks on the Net	After 9-11, the fear is Netwar. How do we defend against attacks on computer systems that control a city's water and electricity?
never mind	do not bother to do it, do not worry, <a href="#">forget it</a>	Will you help me find an idiom? Never mind. I found it.
never say die	never quit, never <a href="#">give up</a>	Set your goals and try to achieve them. Work hard. Never say die.
new blood	different person, someone with new ideas	Armid retired because he feels the company needs new blood.
new kid on the block	new person in the office or in the class etc.	I'm the new kid on the block. I come from Portugal.
new lease on life	(See <a href="#">a new lease on life</a> )	
new legs	young runners or players, rested players	The Geritols have a lot of old players. They need new legs.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: nervous breakdown -- new legs

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: new money -- nitty-gritty

Idiom	Meaning	Example
new money	money earned recently, money that is not inherited	Bill's got a million or two - it's mostly new money.
new wave	new trend, the latest idea or fashion	Tony loves new-wave music. He buys only new-wave CD's.
Newfie	person from <a href="#">The Rock</a> ; from Newfoundland	Is Gordon Pinsent a Newfie? Was he born in Newfoundland?
next of kin	closest relatives, members of the family	The police are trying to find the man's next of kin - his family.
nine lives	avoiding death often, lucky to survive	Some race-car drivers have nine lives. They often escape death.
nine times out of ten	90% of the time, very often	Jack wins at cribbage nine times out of ten. He's very lucky.
nip and tuck	a close race, having just enough to win or finish	It was a close race - nip and tuck all the way - but we won!
nip it in the bud	stop it before it grows, prevent it from spreading	If the students plan a revolt, we'll nip it in the bud.
nitpick	find unfinished details, see flaws or small errors	Deborah can find the errors. She likes to nitpick.
nitty-gritty	(See <a href="#">the nitty-gritty</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: new money -- nitty-gritty

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: nitwit -- no fair

Idiom	Meaning	Example
nitwit	fool, <a href="#">dumbbell</a> , <a href="#">hairbrain</a> , <a href="#">half-there</a>	When he's drunk he acts like a nitwit - like he has no sense!
no bloody way	(See <a href="#">no way</a> )	
no bones about it	(See <a href="#">make no bones about it</a> )	
no business	(See <a href="#">got no business</a> )	
no can do	we cannot do it, <a href="#">no way</a>	We can't sell you a pet tiger. Sorry, no can do.
no chancy	there is no chance of it, it cannot be done, <a href="#">no dice</a>	When I asked Bill for a loan, he said, "No chancy."
no contest	one player or team wins easily, <a href="#">hands down</a>	Compare the speed of light to the speed of sound. It's no contest.
no dice	no, no chance, not approved, <a href="#">no way</a>	I asked Dad if we could use the car, but no dice.
no doubt	it is certain, without a doubt, <a href="#">no question</a>	No doubt, you will inherit his fortune. You are the only heir.
no fair	it is not fair, one person or team has an advantage	You have six players and we have five. No fair!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: no-frills -- no match for

Idiom	Meaning	Example
no-frills	without unnecessary additions or luxuries	We just booked a no-frills motel room in Toronto.
no fucking way [B]	(See <a href="#">no way</a> )	
no great shakes	not special, not superior, <a href="#">not so hot</a>	I've tasted Granny apples. They're no great shakes.
no guff	it is the truth, <a href="#">no kidding</a> , <a href="#">no shit</a> [B]	I swam across the lake. No guff.
no hard feelings	no feelings of anger or resentment, no grudges	Dad and Paul argue about politics but there are no hard feelings.
no holds barred	try anything, no rules apply	In a street fight, it's no holds barred. There are no rules.
no kidding	I am serious, I am not joking	Keith's my brother. No kidding. I'm telling you the truth.
no let-up	continuing strong, not diminishing	There was no let-up in the traffic. The cars kept coming.
no love lost	(See <a href="#">there's no love lost</a> )	
no match for	not as strong as, not an equal competitor	European basketball teams were no match for the Dream Team.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: no-frills -- no match for

## Idioms: no matter how you slice it -- no rest for the wicked

Idiom	Meaning	Example
no matter how you slice it	it does not matter how you look at it	No matter how you slice it, we have to hire more help.
no news is good news	if there is no news there is still a chance of good news	The doctor hasn't phoned. No news is good news.
no nonsense	serious, not joking, <a href="#">strictly business</a>	Gil is a very serious person - a no-nonsense kind of guy.
no offense, but...	do not be insulted but..., <a href="#">don't get me wrong</a>	No offense, but I was here first. I hope you understand.
no pain, no gain	to improve, exercise until your muscles ache	A sign on our gym wall reads <i>No Pain, No Gain!</i>
no problem (no prob)	it was not a problem, <a href="#">don't mention it</a>	"Thank you," I said. "No problem," she replied.
no qualms	no doubts, no hesitation	She has no qualms about dating married men. She doesn't care.
no question	it is certain, <a href="#">no doubt</a>	"No question of its quality," he said, examining the watch.
no questions asked	you will not be asked to explain or pay	If he returns the stolen car, there will be no questions asked.
no rest for the wicked	wicked people must work long hours as a penalty, <a href="#">what did I do to deserve...</a>	When I told the men there was another truck to unload, Per said, "No rest for the wicked, eh."

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: no matter how you slice it -- no rest for the wicked

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms: all the tea in China -- all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy

Idiom	Meaning	Example
all the tea in China	(See <a href="#">not for all the tea in China</a> )	
all the way to Egery and back	a long, indirect road; the long way; <a href="#">all around Robin Hood's barn</a> , <a href="#">all over hell's half acre</a>	To get to the Halsteads, we have to go all the way to Egery and back!
all the world's a stage	the world is a stage; we are all performers	The teacher asked Jason to explain the meaning of Shakespeare's words: "All the world's a stage, And all the men and women merely players. They have their exits and their entrances; And one man in his time plays many parts, His acts being seven ages."
all things being equal	if things remain the same, if no surprises occur	All things being equal, we should sell all our bicycles by October.
all things to all people	satisfy everyone, <a href="#">live up to</a>	Be yourself. Stop trying to be all things to all people.
all thumbs	clumsy, unable to hold it, fingers feel like thumbs	When I try to sew a button on my shirt, I'm all thumbs.
all walks of life	all occupations and lifestyles	As a salesperson, you will meet people from all walks of life.
all washed up	failed in business or career	Barry's all washed up. His business is bankrupt.
all wet	mistaken, do not know what you are talking about	You're all wet! You can't grow bananas in Saskatchewan.
all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy	do not work too long, take time for recreation, <a href="#">take time to smell...</a>	When I picked up my overtime check, Karen reminded me that <i>All work and no play... .</i>

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:  
[B] bad language

Be interactive:  
[Comment on this idiom](#)  
[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)  
[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:  
Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

Idioms: all the tea in China -- all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: no rhyme or reason -- no use for

Idiom	Meaning	Example
no rhyme or reason	no sense, no logical plan	There's no rhyme or reason to the game of golf. It's stupid!
no rush	do not hurry, <a href="#">take your time</a>	"When does he want his car?" "He left a note saying <i>no rush</i> , so do the other cars first."
no shit [B]	it is true, <a href="#">no kidding</a>	We drove from Calgary to Regina in seven hours - no shit.
no-show	someone who does not attend	There were two no-shows on the class list. All but two attended.
no shrinking violet	a bold woman, not a timid woman	Barb will defend her rights. She's no shrinking violet.
no skin off my nose	no bother to me, will not hurt me	If he doesn't come to my party it's no skin off my nose.
no slouch	quite skilled or talented, <a href="#">not half bad</a>	Cora doesn't brag, but she's no slouch when it comes to tennis.
no sweat	not a problem, no trouble, <a href="#">no prob</a>	"Thanks for the help, Ryan." "No sweat, man."
no truth to it	lacking any reliable information, <a href="#">a pack of lies</a>	When Gary tells you about his hiking adventures, don't believe a word. There's no truth to it.
no use for	no respect for, no desire to own	I have no use for STAR products because they are not reliable.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: no rhyme or reason -- no use for

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: no way -- not

Idiom	Meaning	Example
no way	no, do not try, it is not possible	When he told me to jump off the train, I said, "No way, man."
no word	no news, no reply, no phone call or letter	We've had no word from Denise and Guy. I hope they're okay.
nobody's fool	wise or intelligent person, <a href="#">been around</a>	Joe is nobody's fool. He's intelligent and experienced.
none of your lip	do not be rude, don't <a href="#">talk back</a>	"You can't boss me," Bobby said. "None of your lip, boy!" I replied.
none the worse for wear	not hurt or damaged, still in good condition, <a href="#">okay</a>	The immigrants were none the worse for wear after their wagon trip across the prairie.
nookie [B]	intercourse, sex, <a href="#">poontang</a>	My man! All he wants is nookie!
nope	no, <a href="#">nay</a>	"Want to paint the fence?" "Nope."
nose is out of joint	she is upset, he is not pleased	Ed's nose is out of joint because the Liberals lost the election.
nosebag	food, something to eat, <a href="#">fill your face</a>	I'm hungry. It's time to put on the nosebag.
not	not a good idea, <a href="#">forget it</a>	"Maybe we should buy a Lada." "Not."

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: not a question of -- not likely

Idiom	Meaning	Example
not a question of	(See <a href="#">it's not a question of</a> )	
not all it's cracked up...	(See <a href="#">all it's cracked up to be</a> )	
not all there	retarded, slow to learn, <a href="#">one brick short...</a>	Sometimes Vincent acts kind of strange - like he's not all there.
not at all	it was no trouble at all, <a href="#">don't mention it</a> , <a href="#">no prob</a>	"Thank you for helping us find our dog," Dad said. "Not at all," the man replied.
not by a long shot	very little chance, <a href="#">not likely</a>	That horse won't win, not by a long shot. It's old and slow.
not by any stretch of the imagination	not adding to the story, not <a href="#">stretching it</a>	Gigi wasn't his only girl, not by any stretch of the imagination.
not feeling myself	not feeling well, <a href="#">under the weather</a>	I'm not feeling myself these days. I'm tired all the time.
not for all the tea in China	no; never; not if you gave me all the tea in China	"Would you like to live in space?" "No. Not for all the tea in China!"
not half bad	quite good, better than expected	Have you seen <i>Honey, I Ate The Kids</i> ? It's not half bad, actually.
not likely	very little chance, improbable, <a href="#">a slim chance</a>	"Do you think we'll win the prize?" the boy asked. "Not likely," his dad replied.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: not a question of -- not likely

# Idioms: not long for this world -- not worth a plugged nickel

Idiom	Meaning	Example
not long for this world	soon will die, do not have long to live	When Lee had the flu, he said, "I'm not long for this world."
not on your life	no; it is dangerous; <a href="#">no way</a>	"Can I shoot your gun?" I asked. "Not on your life," she replied.
not on your tintage	no, never, <a href="#">not on your life</a>	Mom said, "You're not going to Vegas - not on your tintage!"
not playing with a full deck	not rational, <a href="#">not all there</a>	People say he's not stable - that he's not playing with a full deck.
not so hot	not special, not superior, <a href="#">no great shakes</a>	I went to hear Le Gang last night. They're not so hot.
not speaking	not friendly, not speaking to each other	Emily and Pam had a fight. They're not speaking.
not to worry	do not worry, <a href="#">no sweat</a>	"I dropped my ice cream!" "Not to worry. There's more."
not too shabby	quite good, better than average	Have you seen the new Camaro? It's not too shabby.
not with it	not feeling right, <a href="#">out of it</a>	I'm just not with it these days. I lack energy and confidence.
not worth a plugged nickel	worthless, good for nothing	In 1930, stocks weren't worth a plugged nickel - nothing!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: not long for this world -- not worth a plugged nickel

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: notch below -- number is up

Idiom	Meaning	Example
notch below	(See <a href="#">a notch below</a> )	
nothing succeeds like success	one success leads to more success	This is the first rule of learning: <i>Nothing succeeds like success.</i>
nothing to it	(See <a href="#">there's nothing to it</a> )	
nothing to sneeze at	of good quality, do not ignore it	That was a nice apartment - nothing to sneeze at.
nothing to write home about	not special or spectacular, <a href="#">no great shakes</a>	He's a nice guy, but nothing to write home about.
nothing ventured, nothing gained	if you try nothing, you will gain nothing; <a href="#">go for it</a>	We've decided to start a business. As the old saying goes, <i>Nothing ventured, nothing gained.</i>
now or never	(See <a href="#">it's now or never</a> )	
nuke	heat in a microwave oven, <a href="#">zap</a>	If you nuke a potato, it cooks in about seven minutes.
nukes	nuclear arms, nuclear weapons	He opposes the building of more nukes - like nuclear bombs.
number is up	(See <a href="#">your number is up</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: number one -- nutty as a fruit cake

Idiom	Meaning	Example
number one	the best, the winner, <a href="#">top dog</a>	"We're number one!" the crowd shouted when we won the game.
numbskull	idiot, foolish person, <a href="#">dimwit</a> , <a href="#">dipstick</a>	Why did he call me a numbskull? I'm not stupid.
nut	a person who acts crazy or foolish	You nut! Wearing that wig makes you look like a British judge.
nut bar, nut case	(See <a href="#">a nut case</a> )	
nut house	mental hospital, psychiatric ward, <a href="#">loony bin</a>	They took Hans to the nut house when he taped paper wings to his arms and tried to fly.
nuts	crazy, <a href="#">around the bend</a> , <a href="#">off your rocker</a>	If that phone rings once more I'll go nuts!
nuts	oh no, <a href="#">darn</a> , <a href="#">rats</a> , <a href="#">sheesh</a>	When he doesn't catch the ball, he says, "Nuts!"
nuts about	likes a lot, passionate, <a href="#">crazy about</a>	Helen is nuts about Mozart. She loves his piano concertos.
nutty as a fruit cake	funny, <a href="#">kooky</a> , <a href="#">mad as a hatter</a>	Do I know Karl? Yes, I do. He's nutty as a fruit cake!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: odd one -- off key (music)

Idiom	Meaning	Example
odd one	(See <a href="#">the odd one</a> )	
odds and ends	small pieces that are not used, <a href="#">tie up loose ends</a>	When you build the fence, save the odds and ends to make toys.
odds-on favorite	(See <a href="#">the odds-on favorite</a> )	
of course you can	you can do it; yes, you can	"I can't read this fat book." "Of course you can, Johnny."
of the lot	of the group, of the bunch	This rug is the best of the lot. It's nicer than the others.
of two minds	having two opinions, <a href="#">mixed feelings</a>	Speaking of abortion, I'm of two minds: pro choice and pro life.
off	sour, spoiled	The cream tastes a bit off. I think we should buy fresh cream.
off-beat	different, unusual	His condo has an off-beat design. There's a shower in the kitchen.
off color	bad, dirty, impolite	His wife gets so embarrassed when he tells an off-color joke.
off key (music)	not at the right pitch, not <a href="#">in tune</a>	He has a beautiful voice, but wasn't he singing a bit off key?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: odd one -- off key (music)

## Idioms: off kilter -- off the record

Idiom	Meaning	Example
off kilter	off balance, not straight, <a href="#">out of whack</a>	One of the poles was off kilter. It was leaning toward the road.
off my back	(See <a href="#">get off my back</a> )	
off the bat	(See <a href="#">right off the bat</a> )	
off the beaten track	not on the main road, <a href="#">out of the way</a>	I like to explore places that are off the beaten track - wild places.
off the cuff	quickly, without thinking	Off the cuff, I'd say there are 75 applicants. That's my guess.
off the deep end	(See <a href="#">go off the deep end</a> )	
off the hook	not charged with a crime, not obligated, <a href="#">let off</a>	The police found the murderer, which lets Louis off the hook.
off the kitchen etc.	leading from the kitchen, attached to the kitchen	The laundry room is off the kitchen - very convenient.
off the mark	not correct, wrong	His answer is a bit off the mark. Canada Day is July 1, not July 4.
off the record	not to be reported, not official	What the President said is not to be printed. It's off the record.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: off the shelf -- off with you

Idiom	Meaning	Example
off the shelf	from the store shelf, <a href="#">run of the mill</a>	It isn't a special gift, just an off-the-shelf radio with batteries.
off the top of my head	without thinking carefully, <a href="#">off the cuff</a>	Off the top of my head, I believe the US has 50 states.
off the wagon	drinking again, drunk again	He's off the wagon again. He started drinking last night.
off the wall	unrelated, unusual, <a href="#">off topic</a>	His idea of selling time is really off the wall - quite strange.
off to a bad start	not a good start, a poor beginning	The class got off to a bad start because the teacher was sick.
off to a good start	a successful beginning, <a href="#">away to the races</a>	Jim's off to a good start in math. He has the basic skills.
off to the races	moving quickly ahead, <a href="#">off to a good start</a>	When we get our business loan, we'll be off to the races.
off topic	not on the chosen topic, not related to the topic	If you're writing about dogs, flowers are off topic.
off with	remove clothing or a covering	Off with your overcoat, Ben. Stay and visit awhile.
off with you	leave, go, <a href="#">skidaddle</a>	Off with you, girl, or you'll be late for school.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: off the shelf -- off with you

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: off your high horse -- Old Boys' Club

Idiom	Meaning	Example
off your high horse	(See <a href="#">get off your high horse</a> )	
off your rocker	crazy, not rational, <a href="#">around the bend</a>	You gave away your piano? You're off your rocker!
offer I couldn't refuse	(See <a href="#">an offer I couldn't refuse</a> )	
offhand	casual, without much thought, <a href="#">off the cuff</a>	I didn't think before I spoke. It was an offhand remark.
offside (hockey)	going into the opponent's zone ahead of the puck	Wayne scored a beautiful goal, but Kurri was offside on the play.
oh my gosh	oh no, oh dear, <a href="#">darn</a> , <a href="#">rats</a>	Oh my gosh! I've lost my keys!
oilpatch	the local oil industry, the oil business	Calgary's oilpatch does not control the price of oil and gas.
okay, OK	fine, good, <a href="#">cool</a>	It's okay with me if your friends come to play.
okay, OK	yes, alright	"Can I borrow your sweater?" "OK - if I can use your cell phone."
Old Boys' Club	a group of wealthy old men with political power	For City approval, talk to Craig. He's in the Old Boys' Club.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: all your eggs in one basket -- an attitude

Idiom	Meaning	Example
all your eggs in one basket	depending on one plan or one investment, <a href="#">hedge your bets</a>	If you invest all your money in one hotel, you'll have all your eggs in one basket.
all's fair in love and war	there are no rules to guide you in love or war, <a href="#">that's life</a>	When your girlfriend leaves you for your best friend, remember, <i>All's fair in love and war.</i>
all's well that ends well	a happy ending is the most important thing, <a href="#">the end justifies...</a>	Although we argued and fought, we are happy with the result. All's well that ends well!
along for the ride	just a passenger, not a helper, <a href="#">joyride</a>	You've met the workers. This is my nephew - he's just along for the ride.
along those lines	similar, on the same topic, <a href="#">in that vein</a>	He wants a job in health care or nursing, along those lines.
American as apple pie	(See <a href="#">as American as apple pie</a> )	
an ace up your sleeve	an important card to play, an important fact to reveal	To survive, one needs an ace up one's sleeve - a special talent.
an airhead	a person who talks without thinking, a fool	Sally is such an airhead. She said that chicklets are baby chickens.
an apple a day keeps the doctor away	eat one apple each day for good health	Mom gave me an apple, saying, "An apple a day... ."
an attitude	a negative attitude, a poor outlook	If you don't do your work, they will think you have an attitude.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: all your eggs in one basket -- an attitude

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: old coot -- on a pedestal

Idiom	Meaning	Example
old coot	an old man, <a href="#">geezer</a>	That <i>old coot</i> , as you call him, is a person with feelings.
old flame	a former lover, an old sweetheart	In Toronto, I met an old flame. We were lovers many years ago.
old goat	an old man, a cranky man	Henry Wilson - that old goat - told the kids to get off his lawn.
old hat	an old idea or fashion, <a href="#">passé</a>	Sunday picnics are old hat. They're not popular now.
old man	(See <a href="#">my old man</a> )	
old money	an inheritance, money that has been in the family for decades	She bought that property with old money - money that her great-grandfather saved.
old wives' tale	a myth, an old story that contains little truth	One old wives' tale says that goose fat will cure a cold.
on a full stomach	with a stomach full of food, soon after eating a meal, <a href="#">on an empty stomach</a>	I've heard that it's not a good idea to run or do strenuous exercise on a full stomach.
on a lark	carefree, happy in a natural way	It's fun to be with him when he's on a lark - when he's carefree.
on a pedestal	in the position of a hero, in a high place	If you put your girlfriend on a pedestal, she won't respect you.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: old coot -- on a pedestal

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: on a roll -- on cloud nine

Idiom	Meaning	Example
on a roll	having good luck, <a href="#">lucky streak</a>	I'm gonna play bingo all night. I'm lucky - I'm on a roll!
on a silver platter	like a beautiful gift, served in style	Success won't come on a silver platter. You have to work for it.
on a string	controlled by a person, <a href="#">wrapped around his finger</a>	He's got you on a string, Bonny. Are you thinking for yourself?
on about	(See <a href="#">go on about</a> )	
on all fours	on your hands and knees, crawling around	There was Julie, on all fours, looking for her contact lens.
on an empty stomach	without food in your stomach, <a href="#">on a full stomach</a>	He never has a drink on an empty stomach. He says it affects his appetite.
on approval	taking a purchase home to decide if you want it	I buy clothes on approval so I can return them if they don't fit.
on behalf of	representing a group, acting for a group	He presented the award to me on behalf of the community club.
on board	loaded on a vehicle, riding on a boat etc.	Two thousand passengers were on board the ship to Canada.
on cloud nine	very happy, <a href="#">riding high</a>	When Bev received her diploma, she was on cloud nine.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: on a roll -- on cloud nine

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: on deck -- on loan

Idiom	Meaning	Example
on deck	next in order, next to bat	Gary's at bat; Tim's on deck.
on drugs	using drugs, <a href="#">do drugs</a>	"Do you know he's on drugs?" "Yes. His eyes look blank."
on edge	not relaxed, nervous, anxious, <a href="#">edgy</a>	Gina's a little on edge. She gets her test results back today.
on even terms	having equal skills, having the same ability	When we play chess, we're on even terms. We're both average.
on fire	eager, energetic, <a href="#">all fired up</a> , <a href="#">gung ho</a>	When he began working here, he was on fire - very enthusiastic.
on good terms	in a good relationship, able to talk and work with	Steve is on good terms with all his co-workers. They like him.
on his last legs	very tired or old, at the end of his career	Gordie was on his last legs, but he could still shoot hard.
on his tail	following him closely, chasing him	The thief knew the police would follow him. They'd be on his tail.
on in years	(See <a href="#">get on in years</a> )	
on loan	borrowed, <a href="#">signed out</a>	The book you want is on loan to someone else until May 12.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: on deck -- on loan

## Idioms: on moral grounds -- on our last legs

Idiom	Meaning	Example
on moral grounds	based on what is right and wrong	We refuse to accept money from drug dealers - on moral grounds.
on my back	criticizing me, <a href="#">on my case</a> , <a href="#">ride me</a>	The coach is on my back about missing the game last week.
on my best behavior	being polite to everyone, behaving in an appropriate manner	I promised my mother that I will be on my best behavior at her wedding. I will be a very good boy.
on my case	looking for my mistakes, criticizing me	The coach is on my case again, yelling at me to play harder.
on my deathbed	nearly dead, very ill, <a href="#">at death's door</a>	I was so sick, I thought I was on my deathbed.
on my good side	to become my friend, <a href="#">in my good books</a>	He says nice things to me, hoping to get on my good side.
on my plate	on my schedule, on my list of duties or tasks	I have too much on my plate right now. I'm too busy.
on my way	continue my journey, departing	Before I leave, I'd like a cup of coffee. Then I'll be on my way.
on my word	(See <a href="#">upon my word</a> )	
on our last legs	nearly dead or bankrupt, nearly <a href="#">done for</a>	Financially, we were on our last legs. We couldn't get a loan.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: on moral grounds -- on our last legs

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: on parade -- on side

Idiom	Meaning	Example
on parade	walking in a parade, displaying	When Jack's on parade, he marches straight and tall.
on parole	still supervised, not free of prison	He's on parole now. He can leave the prison during the day.
on pins and needles	waiting anxiously, worried	Mom will be on pins and needles until we arrive. She'll be worried.
on probation	becoming a permanent employee, <a href="#">proby</a>	As an employee on probation, you will be learning new skills.
on purpose	for a reason, intentional	Did she drop her glove on purpose - so he would find it?
on queer street	dizzy or stunned, not acting normal	After he hit me I felt like I was on queer street - I was dazed.
on schedule	within the dates on the plan, <a href="#">on target</a>	They arrived on Mars on June 11, which means they're on schedule.
on shaky ground	missing a proper foundation, prone to fail	"If you don't start learning for your next exam now, you'll be on shaky ground."
on short notice	without much warning, <a href="#">at a moment's notice</a>	Can you come to work on short notice? Within a day or two?
on side	for our side, supporting our group	In order to have a majority, we need to bring the clerks on side.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: on parade -- on side

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: on speaking terms -- on the bright side

Idiom	Meaning	Example
on speaking terms	not friendly but saying hello etc.	Louise and I are not friends, but we're on speaking terms.
on tap	available from the tap on a keg of beer or ale	There was a red neon sign in the window: <i>COLD BEER ON TAP</i>
on target	done by the planned date, <a href="#">on schedule</a>	If we can complete the drawings by Monday, we'll be on target.
on tenterhooks	carefully, cautiously, afraid to move	He's cautious since his accident. He drives around on tenterhooks.
on the back burner	to be done later, not as important	The playground project is on the back burner until next spring.
on the ball	smart, intelligent, <a href="#">bright</a> , <a href="#">sharp</a>	Max has a lot on the ball. He can solve our problem.
on the bandwagon	helping, supporting, <a href="#">on side</a>	Get on the bandwagon, folks! Our man is going to be Premier!
on the beat	on the job, working, doing a task or assignment	A journalist must be on the beat, working among the people and telling their stories.
on the books	listed, accounted for	Is it legal to sell items that aren't on the books - that aren't listed?
on the bright side	positive, optimistic	Chan is positive. He always looks on bright side of things.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: on speaking terms -- on the bright side

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: on the brink -- on the fence

Idiom	Meaning	Example
on the brink	close, almost there, <a href="#">on the verge</a>	Their marriage is failing. They're on the brink of divorce.
on the bubble	between the ones that pass and fail, may be included or excluded	There are seven applicants. Two will be interviewed, three will not, and two are on the bubble.
on the button	correct, accurate, <a href="#">dead on</a> , <a href="#">spot on</a>	When Fern guessed my age, she was right on the button: 39.
on the carpet	asked to explain a mistake, <a href="#">give me the third degree</a>	Tom's on the carpet because he lost company documents.
on the clock	o'clock, at the time showing on the clock	"Did you come to work on time, Michael?" "Yes, sir. At eight on the clock, sir."
on the cutting edge	(See <a href="#">the cutting edge</a> )	
on the dot	exactly on time, not early or late	The concert started at 7:30 on the dot.
on the double	quickly, now, <a href="#">move it</a>	Coach Keyser said, "Sutton, get over here - on the double!"
on the edge of your seat	very interested in a movie, feeling suspense in a story	The movie <i>The Firm</i> will have you on the edge of your seat.
on the fence	(See <a href="#">sit the fence</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: on the brink -- on the fence

## Idioms: on the fringe -- on the mark

Idiom	Meaning	Example
on the fringe	not familiar, radical, not <a href="#">mainstream</a>	The Canasaurus Party is new - definitely on the fringe.
on the fritz	not operating, broken, <a href="#">out of order</a>	The VCR is on the fritz again. We can't watch videos tonight.
	Several conjectures about the origin can be found on <a href="http://www.worldwidewords.org/qa/qa-ont4.htm">www.worldwidewords.org/qa/qa-ont4.htm</a>	
on the go	busy, not stopping to rest	We've been on the go all day, shopping and preparing food.
on the ground floor	(See <a href="#">get in on the ground floor</a> )	
on the heels	immediately after, following	On the heels of the typhoon was a five-day rain.
on the lam	running away from the police, <a href="#">lay low</a>	When he's not in jail, he's on the lam - always running.
on the limp	limping, walking with a leg injury	Norman is on the limp today. He sprained his ankle playing ball.
on the loose	free, running around, not in a pen or cage	The zoo notified the media that a giraffe is on the loose.
on the make	looking for romance or sex	Most of the men in the bar were on the make, looking for action.
on the mark	accurate, correct, <a href="#">dead on</a> , <a href="#">spot on</a>	Your answer is right on the mark. Canada became a country in 1867.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: on the fringe -- on the mark

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: on the market -- on the run

Idiom	Meaning	Example
on the market	ready to sell, for sale, <a href="#">up for sale</a>	Yes, our house is on the market. We want to sell it by October 1.
on the mend	healing, becoming healthy again	Jake's had open-heart surgery, but he's on the mend.
on the money	correct, accurate, <a href="#">on the mark</a> , <a href="#">spot on</a>	Your answer is on the money. You win a new Honda!
on the move	moving, going from place to place	The caribou are on the move again, migrating to find food.
on the outs	not friendly, <a href="#">not speaking</a>	Amy and Pat are on the outs. They had a fight.
on the QT	as a secret, not to be told to anyone	I'm telling you this on the QT. Please don't tell anyone.
on the rails	operating smoothly, <a href="#">on track</a>	Troy helped me get back on the rails when I was depressed.
on the rise	increasing, growing	The number of female engineers is on the rise - more every year.
on the road	going toward, improving, <a href="#">on the mend</a>	Jill is feeling much better today. She's on the road to recovery.
on the run	very busy, having much to do, <a href="#">on the go</a>	I've been on the run since early this morning. What a busy day!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: on the market -- on the run

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: on the run -- on the take

Idiom	Meaning	Example
on the run	running from the police, running from a problem	He's been on the run ever since he robbed a bank in Tulsa.
on the same wavelength	understanding each other, communicating clearly	I understand Ted's beliefs. We're on the same wavelength.
on the shit list [B]	on the list to be punished, <a href="#">in your bad books</a>	Greg's on the shit list because he missed the sales meeting.
on the side	extra, in addition, <a href="#">under the table</a>	By typing reports and resumes, I earned a few dollars on the side.
on the sly	secretly, illegally	Phil was selling cigarettes to his friends on the sly.
on the spot	immediately, at that time and place, <a href="#">then and there</a>	He admitted the accident was his fault and wrote me a check for the damage on the spot.
on the spur of the moment	immediately, impulsively	On the spur of the moment we decided to drive to Banff.
on the stand	on the witness stand, testifying in court	Jack was on the stand today. He told the court what he saw.
on the table	offered, proposed	Our offer is on the table: a 7% increase in salary for the clerks.
on the take	stealing, robbing	A week after he got out of jail, he was on the take again.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: on the run -- on the take

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: an axe to grind -- anal retentive

Idiom	Meaning	Example
an axe to grind	a point to discuss or argue about	Jason had an axe to grind at the meeting - job security.
an earful	a lecture, a scolding, <a href="#">a bawling out</a>	If Mom catches you smoking, you'll get an earful.
an easy mark	one who can easily be persuaded, <a href="#">a soft touch</a>	Ask Charlie for a loan. He's an easy mark.
an even keel	good balance, stability	We need a steady manager, one who can keep an even keel.
an eye for an eye (a tooth for a tooth)	equal punishment or revenge	Canadian laws do not demand an eye for an eye.
an offer I couldn't refuse	an offer that contains a threat or force, a request that is a command	The border guards invited me to stay for further questioning - it was an offer I couldn't refuse.
an old hand at	a person with a lot of practice or experience	Tom's an old hand at cribbage. He's played since he was a boy.
an old warhorse	a veteran, an old soldier, a classic story or tune	The band played marches and overtures - the old warhorses.
an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure	prevent a problem so you don't have to solve it, <a href="#">a stitch in time...</a>	Forest fires deserve an ounce of prevention: public education in campfire safety.
anal retentive	too concerned with detail, pedantic	Amy is anal retentive. She writes down everything the teacher says.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: an axe to grind -- anal retentive

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: on the throne -- on thin ice

Idiom	Meaning	Example
on the throne	sitting on the toilet, in <a href="#">the john</a>	Archie's on the throne. He'll be down in a few minutes.
on the tip of my tongue	almost able to recall, beginning to remember	Her name is on the tip of my tongue. It begins with K.
on the up and up	legal, within the law, not <a href="#">underhanded</a>	If a company gives away cars, can it be on the up and up?
on the verge	close, nearly, almost doing it	Our baby is on the verge of talking. She said, "Da-da."
on the wagon	not drinking liquor, not getting drunk	The old man is on the wagon. He promised he wouldn't drink.
on the wane	decreasing, diminishing	The number of men who smoke is on the wane. It's decreasing.
on the whole	generally, considering the whole group or situation	On the whole, women are making progress toward equal status.
on the wing	flying, in flight	Canada geese were on the wing, going south for the winter.
on the wing	without a plan, creating as you go, <a href="#">wing it</a>	Paul can perform on the wing - he has a great imagination!
on thin ice	in a risky position, in danger	His grades are very low in this course. He's on thin ice.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: on the throne -- on thin ice

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: on time -- on your side

Idiom	Meaning	Example
on time	not late, at the scheduled time	Mary is always on time. She is very punctual.
on top of	informed, prepared, <a href="#">up on</a>	Addie stays on top of math by doing problems every day.
on track	in the right direction, <a href="#">on the rails</a>	After a few problems, our project is back on track.
on trial	in court as a defendant, defending your actions	The man charged with the assault is on trial now. He's in court.
on vacation	having a holiday from work or school	I don't feel like getting up early when I'm on vacation.
on your ass [B]	wrong, misinformed, <a href="#">all wet</a>	He doesn't know how to manage a business. He's on his ass!
on your deathbed	very ill, nearly dead	When I get a cold, you think I'm on my deathbed. Relax.
on your guard	careful, cautious	Be on your guard when you buy a used car - don't buy a "lemon".
on your own	independent, supporting yourself	When you're on your own, you can stay out all night if you wish.
on your side	supporting you and your efforts	"I'm on your side," Kelly said. "I want you to pass this course."

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: on time -- on your side

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: on your toes -- one by one

Idiom	Meaning	Example
on your toes	ready, alert	I have to be on my toes in her class. I have to listen and think.
on your way	traveling, leaving, on the road home	You can be on your way as soon as the tire is repaired.
once-over	(See <a href="#">give it the once-over</a> )	
once in a blue moon	very seldom, rarely, <a href="#">in a long time</a>	"Have you heard from Paul?" "Once in a blue moon he calls, maybe once a year."
once upon a time	a long time ago, <a href="#">at one time</a>	Once upon a time, there was a king named Arthur...
one and the same	the same as, not different, <a href="#">part and parcel</a>	Some people believe abortion and murder are one and the same thing.
one at a time	one then another, <a href="#">one by one</a>	Don't push, kids! It's one at a time.
one born every minute	many easy customers, lots of <a href="#">suckers</a>	"There's lots of suckers," he said. "There's one born every minute!"
one brick short of a full load	mentally slow, <a href="#">not all there</a>	I'm okay, but you may be one brick short of a full load. Ha ha.
one by one	one then another; <a href="#">one at a time</a> , <a href="#">single file</a>	One by one the children entered the shelter.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: on your toes -- one by one

## Idioms: one false move -- one-track mind

Idiom	Meaning	Example
one false move	one move to get away or call for help	"One false move and you're dead," the gunman said to his hostage.
one fell swoop	(See <a href="#">in one fell swoop</a> )	
one for the money, two for the show...	prepare to go or run, children's countdown	Before bedtime, Dad would say, "One for the money..."
one for the road	one drink or kiss etc. before you leave	If you have one for the road, have a cup of coffee (or a kiss).
one hell of a time	one very difficult task, one major problem, <a href="#">a hell of a time</a>	I think that bull knew we were taking him to market. We had one hell of a time getting him into the truck!
one man's garbage is another man's art	each person has different likes and dislikes, <a href="#">to each his own</a>	You pick up what somebody throws away, so one man's garbage is another man's art.
one man's meat is another man's poison	one person likes what another person hates, <a href="#">to each his own</a>	Some people love his music; others hate it. One man's meat is another man's poison.
one of the boys	a typical member of the group, <a href="#">a regular guy</a>	Roger is one of the boys, eh. He's always ready to play or help.
one on one	one player against one player	I like it when the coach lets us go one on one in soccer practice.
one-track mind	tendency to think about only one subject	My son has a one-track mind these days. He thinks only about cars.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: one false move -- one-track mind

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: onto something -- open to criticism

Idiom	Meaning	Example
onto something	found some important information	Nick looks very confident. I think he's onto something.
onto us	knows that we are doing bad things, <a href="#">wise to us</a>	The doorman is onto us. He knows we didn't buy a ticket.
oodles	lots, more than we need, <a href="#">scads</a>	"Do we have enough salad?" "Yes. Oodles!"
open a can of worms	(See <a href="#">can of worms</a> )	
open a window	find a new way of looking at a topic or problem	That idea opens a window on the causes of war. What do you see?
open and shut	easy to judge, not complex	If either spouse admits adultery, divorce is an open and shut case.
open mind	(See <a href="#">keep an open mind</a> )	
open season	legal to hunt or kill at this time	Nancy said there should be an open season on sex offenders.
open some doors	provide opportunities, help someone succeed	I'm hoping my college diploma will open some doors.
open to criticism	in a position that can be criticized, vulnerable	If you become a politician you will be open to criticism.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: open to question -- out in the cold

Idiom	Meaning	Example
open to question	not clearly correct, debatable	Your decision to allow liquor at the party is open to question.
open up	talk openly, express feelings	When we become friends, I'll open up with you - I'll share.
open up a big can of whoop-ass	punish, discipline, <a href="#">whup your ass</a>	If you don't stop jumping on the couch, I am going to open up a big can of whoop-ass!
other fish to fry	(See <a href="#">bigger fish to fry</a> )	
ounce of prevention	(See <a href="#">an ounce of prevention</a> )	
out and out	bold, not hidden, <a href="#">a bare-faced lie</a>	The advertisement was an out-and-out lie. It contained no truth.
out cold	unconscious, <a href="#">knocked out</a>	Liam is out cold. A baseball hit him on the side of the head.
out for blood	trying to defeat or hurt, seeking revenge	The Jets are out for blood tonight because they lost 7-0 last night.
out in left field	not logical or sensible, <a href="#">all wet</a>	Don't listen to his advice. He's out in left field.
out in the cold	not included in a group, not invited	He was left out in the cold because of his religious beliefs.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: out loud -- out of harm's way

Idiom	Meaning	Example
out loud	loud enough to hear, spoken clearly	Dad was very angry, but he didn't swear out loud.
out of	have no more, have none, <a href="#">run out</a>	Stop at the bakery, please. We're out of bread.
out of bounds	off the playing field, across boundary lines	Ramone kicked the soccer ball over my head and out of bounds.
out of breath	short of breath, puffing, <a href="#">out of breath</a>	She was out of breath after climbing the stairs.
out of circulation	not visiting, don't <a href="#">get around</a>	I've been out of circulation. I've been studying.
out of commission	not operating, <a href="#">out of order</a>	My brain is out of commission. I can't think today.
out of context	taken out of the sentence, missing important words	Brian's comment, "Roll of the dice," was taken out of context.
out of control	not managed, wild, not <a href="#">under control</a>	The crowd was out of control. People were fighting and looting.
out of hand	not controlled or disciplined	The children got out of hand. I couldn't control them.
out of harm's way	out of danger, in a safe place	Jerry parked the car off the road - out of harm's way.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: out loud -- out of harm's way

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: out of here (outa here) -- out of my hair

Idiom	Meaning	Example
out of here (outa here)	going, leaving	When I get paid, I'm outa here.
out of his element	not trained, <a href="#">too deep for</a> him	He was out of his element when they began discussing DNA.
out of hock	not having debts, not owing any money	We paid off our mortgage today. It feels good to be out of hock.
out of it	not feeling right, not <a href="#">with it</a>	For some reason, I'm out of it today. I have no energy.
out of joint	(See <a href="#">nose is out of joint</a> )	
out of kilter	(See <a href="#">off kilter</a> )	
out of line	not showing respect, not polite	Ty was out of line when he called you a hooker.
out of luck	nothing left for you, <a href="#">shit out of luck</a> [B]	We're out of luck. There are no tickets left.
out of my depth	not having the knowledge, <a href="#">over my head</a>	I was out of my depth talking about genetics with the doctors.
out of my hair	not bothering me, not a problem for me	Next week the kids will be back at school - out of Mom's hair.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: out of my head -- out of sight

Idiom	Meaning	Example
out of my head	crazy, <a href="#">out of your mind</a> , <a href="#">wacko</a>	I must have been out of my head to lend him my car. I was crazy.
out of nowhere	without warning, without an introduction	Out of nowhere a motorcycle passed us, going like a bullet.
out of order	not operating, broken	The stamp machine is out of order. I think it's broken.
out of our hands	not able to change or control the result	The decision is out of our hands. The voters will decide who wins.
out of patience	having no more patience, <a href="#">lose patience</a>	I'm out of patience with the kids. They're fighting all the time.
out of place	in the wrong place, not appropriate	I felt out of place wearing shorts in the dining room.
out of pocket	expense paid from personal funds	Larry is out of pocket for the team lunch at McDonald's.
out of range	too far away, not close enough	The FM station is out of range of my radio. The signal is weak.
out of sight (outa sight)	too much, too high	The price was outa sight! They wanted \$200 for a nylon jacket.
out of sight	too far away to see, not visible anymore	He watched the plane until it was a speck. Then it was out of sight.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: out of my head -- out of sight

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: out of sight, out of mind -- out of the norm

Idiom	Meaning	Example
out of sight, out of mind	if you do not see it you will forget about it	When I moved away, I forgot her - out of sight, out of mind, eh.
out of sorts	feeling negative, <a href="#">down</a> , <a href="#">in a funk</a>	Andre is out of sorts because he didn't get enough sleep.
out of step	not with the others, not designed for today	Your business plan is out of step with the 21st century. It's old.
out of the ball park	not close to the correct number or price	Few people will buy your product if the price is out of the ball park.
out of the blue	not expected, not on topic	Then out of the blue, he says, "What color are your shorts?"
out of the closet	not hiding your sexual orientation or secret	Jay decided to come out of the closet - to tell people he's gay.
out of the corner of my eye	at my far right or left, to the side	Out of the corner of my eye, I saw something move. It was the cat.
out of the goodness of my heart	because I am kind, because I want to help	I help her out of the goodness of my heart. I don't want to be paid.
out of the loop	not included on the list, not <a href="#">in the loop</a>	Ever since I moved across town I've been out of the loop. Nobody tells me the news anymore.
out of the norm	not normal, not common	Having six husbands at the same time is out of the norm, eh.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: out of sight, out of mind -- out of the norm

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: anchor you -- any way you slice it

Idiom	Meaning	Example
anchor you	make you feel stable or confident	When you have a crisis, your faith will anchor you.
and how	very much	The kids love pizza - and how!
and stuff	and other things or activities, et cetera	We were watchin' TV an' stuff, just hangin' out.
and that's that	that is final, that is the way it will be done	You will be home by 10 p.m., and that's that!
and then some	with lots to spare, plus a few more	We invited everybody in town - and then some!
angels fear to tread	(See <a href="#">where angels fear to tread</a> )	
another nail in your coffin	another cigarette; harmful substance	Every cigarette he smoked was another nail in his coffin.
ante up	put some money in the center of the table	As the dealer shuffled the cards, he said, "Ante up, boys."
any old thing	any word, any answer	When the teacher asks him a question, he says any old thing.
any way you slice it	(See <a href="#">no matter how you slice it</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: anchor you -- any way you slice it

## Idioms: out of the picture -- out of touch

Idiom	Meaning	Example
out of the picture	not a factor, not competing or playing	Mario returned to Italy, so he's out of the picture. He's gone.
out of the question	not possible, <a href="#">no way</a>	Because of the storm, traveling by car is out of the question.
out of the way	off the road or path, not blocking or obstructing	"Get out of the way!" he shouted. "Here come the runners!"
out of the way	done, no longer a problem, <a href="#">over with</a>	Our Christmas shopping is finally done - out of the way.
out of the way	off the main road, <a href="#">off the beaten track</a>	Rumsey is an out-of-the-way town, just east of the river.
out of the woods	out of difficulty, not in danger any more	Pedro survived the heart surgery, but he's not out of the woods yet.
out of the woodwork	from hidden places, from unknown places	Gas at 40¢ per litre will bring customers out of the woodwork.
out of this world	excellent, very delicious	Naomi is an excellent cook. Her carrot cake is out of this world!
out of touch	not communicating, not <a href="#">in touch</a>	I'm not sure where Diane lives. We've been out of touch.
out of touch	not aware of reality, <a href="#">head in the clouds</a>	He's been doing drugs. He's completely out of touch.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: out of the picture -- out of touch

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: out of tune (music) -- out to get you

Idiom	Meaning	Example
out of tune (music)	not at the correct pitch, not <a href="#">in tune</a>	The violins were out of tune, but I enjoyed the singing.
out of whack	not aligned, poorly constructed, <a href="#">off kilter</a>	The door doesn't close properly. Something is out of whack.
out of wind	short of breath, winded, <a href="#">out of breath</a>	After running the race he was out of wind - exhausted.
out of work	not employed, unemployed, <a href="#">laid off</a>	Lyle is out of work, so he stays at home with the kids.
out of your gourd	(See <a href="#">out of your mind</a> )	
out of your mind	not thinking logically, crazy, <a href="#">crackers</a>	You must be out of your mind to lend him money. You're crazy.
out of your tree	crazy, loony, <a href="#">nuts</a> , <a href="#">out of your mind</a>	You're out of your tree if you think I'm going sky diving.
out on a limb	in a dangerous place, taking a chance (see <a href="#">take a chance</a> )	I went out on a limb and said that you would donate \$1000.
out on the town	enjoying the city's entertainment	On Saturday night, let's go out on the town and have a good time.
out to get you	wanting revenge, waiting for a chance to <a href="#">get even</a>	Ever since I beat him at table tennis he's been out to get me.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: out of tune (music) -- out to get you

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: out to lunch -- over the edge

Idiom	Meaning	Example
out to lunch	not working effectively, not <a href="#">with it</a>	The Service Manager is out to lunch. He's not helpful.
out to win	wanting to win, competitive	When Jon plays checkers, he's out to win. He's a competitor.
outdo yourself	perform better than before, do your personal best	Don't try to outdo yourself every time you run. Just jog sometimes.
outplay	play better than the opponent	The Flames outplayed the Kings in the third period of the game.
over and done with	done and forgotten, <a href="#">out of the way</a>	We were glad when the trial was over and done with - finished.
over and out	message complete, <a href="#">signing off</a>	"Over and out," the radio operator said when he completed his call.
over easy	eggs fried on both sides without breaking the yolks	"How would you like your eggs?" "Over easy, please - on toast."
over my dead body	do not try to do it, I'll stop you	"I want to marry your sister." "Over my dead body!"
over my head	I do not understand, <a href="#">too deep for me</a>	That lesson went over my head. Did you understand it?
over the edge	become ill or unable to cope, <a href="#">around the bend</a>	Poor Ernst went over the edge when his twin brother died.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: out to lunch -- over the edge

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: over the hill -- own worst enemy

Idiom	Meaning	Example
over the hill	too old, <a href="#">on his last legs</a>	At 35, he was over the hill - too old to play pro soccer.
over the hump	past the difficult part, into an easier phase	After saving \$2000, I was over the hump. I could pay the tuition.
over the rainbow	eccentric, weird, <a href="#">a bit off</a> , <a href="#">spinnny</a>	Aunt Freda? She's been over the rainbow for years, poor lady.
over the top	too much, exaggerated, <a href="#">ham it up</a> , <a href="#">a send-up</a>	His interpretation of Hamlet was over the top. Hamlet is a tragic figure, not a comic figure.
over with	completed, finished, <a href="#">over and done with</a>	Now that the trial is over with, we can return to a normal life.
overdo it	work too hard, become too tired	The doctor said I can work in the garden if I don't overdo it.
owly	cranky, unco-operative, negative	When Herb gets drunk he gets owly - kind of stubborn.
own medicine	giving what you got, <a href="#">tit for tat</a>	She hurt me so I'll hurt her - give her some of her own medicine!
own up	admit a mistake, <a href="#">come clean</a>	If Jason is involved in the crime, he'll own up. He'll tell the police.
own worst enemy	create our own problems, prevent our own success	A smoker is his own worst enemy. He's harming himself.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: over the hill -- own worst enemy

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: P's and Q's -- pain in the butt

Idiom	Meaning	Example
P's and Q's	(See <a href="#">watch your P's and Q's</a> )	
pack a punch	hit hard, have a strong effect	Here's a word that packs a punch: <i>guilty</i> .
pack a rod	carry a hand gun, have a gun on a belt	The boys knew that one of the students was packing a rod.
pack it in	quit, leave, <a href="#">pull the pin</a>	"What if you don't get paid?" "I'll pack it in. I'll quit."
pack Uzis	carry automatic rifles, have powerful weapons	The news report stated that the soldiers were packing Uzis.
pad	apartment, <a href="#">digs</a>	You have a nice pad, Nora. I love your leather furniture!
pad an expense account	claim more money than spent, add false expenses	How can I pad my expense account if I don't have receipts?
paddle your own canoe	be an individual, be independent	<i>Love many, trust few, but always paddle your own canoe.</i>
pain in the ass [B]	(See <a href="#">a pain in the ass</a> )	
pain in the butt	(See <a href="#">a pain in the butt</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: paint a picture -- part and parcel

Idiom	Meaning	Example
paint a picture	describe in detail, portray with words	The speaker painted a picture of a ghetto with kids on the streets.
paint the town red	have a party downtown, go <a href="#">out on the town</a>	During the carnival they paint the town red - have a great time.
paint with the same brush	include in the same group, generalize	He was with the gang, but can we paint him with the same brush?
pair off/pair up	find a partner, organize people in two's	The coach asked us to pair off and practise passing the ball to each other.
pale by comparison	is not as good, is not as beautiful or talented	Most European parks pale by comparison to Banff.
paltry sum	(See <a href="#">a paltry sum</a> )	
pan out	succeed, go as planned, <a href="#">work out</a>	Blair's ideas usually pan out. His suggestions are practical.
parachute	to lose a job and be given another, to land in a safe position when your position is in danger, <a href="#">Bob's your uncle</a>	A vice-president in trouble can parachute to one of several positions, or the board can create a position!
pardon me	what did you say? please repeat it	Pardon me? Did you say you grew up in Hong Kong?
part and parcel	the same as, similar, <a href="#">one and the same</a>	Socialism and communism are part and parcel of the same thing.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: paint a picture -- part and parcel

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: part company -- pass on

Idiom	Meaning	Example
part company	separate, go in different directions, <a href="#">split up</a>	Mel and Brad parted company after they arrived in Germany.
part with	sell, allow someone else to own, <a href="#">let go of</a>	Papa won't part with his Peugeot. He'd never sell it.
partners in crime	people who plan and commit crimes together, <a href="#">boozing buddies</a>	As kids, Andy and I took apples from a neighbor's tree. We were partners in crime, so to speak.
party-pooper	one who leaves a party, <a href="#">stick-in-the-mud</a>	You party-pooper! Stay here and dance with us.
party to that	(See <a href="#">a party to that</a> )	
pass around	pass from person to person in the room, <a href="#">hand out</a>	The speaker passed around a sheet of paper for us to sign.
pass away	die, <a href="#">pass on</a>	Grandma passed away in 1974. She was 92.
pass for	appear similar to, look like	In that uniform, you could pass for a police officer.
pass off	offer as real or genuine, use a fake object or paper	If you pass off counterfeit money, you can be charged with a crime.
pass on	die, <a href="#">bite the dust</a> , <a href="#">kick the bucket</a>	Before her dad passed on, she visited him every day.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: part company -- pass on

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: pass out -- pat on the back

Idiom	Meaning	Example
pass out	faint, become unconscious	He passed out after running the marathon. He fell on the road.
pass the buck	blame others, refer the problem to others	I won't pass the buck. I won't blame others for our problems.
pass through	drive or travel through a town or city	When we were passing through Regina, I called my cousin.
pass up	not take an opportunity, not do it when you can	Do not pass up this opportunity to go back to school.
pass water	urinate, <a href="#">take a leak</a> [B], <a href="#">take a pee</a> [B]	The nurse came in and asked him if he'd passed water yet.
pass wind	let out gas, <a href="#">let a fart</a> [B]	Mother says it's not polite to pass wind while you are eating.
passé	old fashioned, dated, <a href="#">old hat</a>	It's passé to say <i>beg your pardon</i> . We don't hear that now.
past is slipping by without a trace	(See <a href="#">the past is slipping by without a trace</a> )	
pat answer	(See <a href="#">a pat answer</a> )	
pat on the back	praise, a compliment, <a href="#">tip of the hat</a>	Chaya's compliment was like a pat on the back. She praised my work.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: pass out -- pat on the back

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: patch things up -- pay in kind

Idiom	Meaning	Example
patch things up	agree to stop fighting, become friends again	Jon and May fight a lot, but they patch things up and go on.
paths will cross	(See <a href="#">cross paths</a> )	
pave the way	make it easier to do, prepare a path	A \$5000 scholarship paved the way for her career in medicine.
pay a compliment	say nice things about, say you did a good job	Tony paid you a compliment, Rita. He said you have a lovely garden.
pay a visit	go to visit someone, <a href="#">drop over</a>	I must pay her a visit. I want to see her before we move.
pay attention	watch and listen, <a href="#">listen up</a>	Pay attention to my words. Please listen carefully.
pay back	repay, return money that was borrowed	He said he would pay back every cent he borrowed from us.
pay down	pay more, <a href="#">pay off</a>	Interest rates are high, so let's pay down our mortgage.
pay him back	do what he did to you, <a href="#">get revenge</a>	Sally paid Harry back by going on a date with Jim.
pay in kind	(See <a href="#">repay in kind</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: patch things up -- pay in kind

## Idioms: pay my respects -- pay up

Idiom	Meaning	Example
pay my respects	attend a ceremony or send a symbol of your respect for someone	Remembrance Day allows us to pay our respects to the people who defended our country.
pay off	pay all that you owe, pay the balance	I want to pay off my loan now - pay the whole balance.
pay off	reward you, give you what you want	Studying pays off. You get higher grades.
pay-off	reward, profit	We invested in property, hoping for a pay-off when we sell it.
pay the penalty	pay a fine, endure, receive punishment	He paid the penalty for his laziness: failure.
pay the price	work hard, endure, suffer	To be an Olympic athlete, you have to pay the price: pain.
pay the shot	pay the whole bill, pay for everybody's ticket etc.	Uncle Sammy paid the whole shot for our trip to Europe.
pay through the nose	pay high rates for rent or service, <a href="#">cost an arm...</a>	If you rent a condo in Dover, you'll pay through the nose.
pay tribute	show that you respect or admire a person, honor someone	In a letter to Ms. Lee, the City paid tribute to her for service to her community.
pay up	pay what is owed, pay a bet you lost	When I see Todd, I'll ask him to pay up. He owes me \$20.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: pay my respects -- pay up

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: any word -- as a matter of fact

Idiom	Meaning	Example
any word	any phone calls or letters, any reply	Any word from Dale? He should have called us by now.
anything goes	there are no rules; expect anything to happen	Anything goes during Stampede week. People do crazy things!
apple a day...	(See <a href="#">an apple a day keeps the doctor away</a> )	
apple of his eye	(See <a href="#">the apple of his eye</a> )	
apple-pie order	very neat, well organized, <a href="#">shipshape</a> , <a href="#">tickety-boo</a>	"Is your room in apple-pie order?" "Yes, Mom. It is."
armed to the teeth	prepared to fight or defend, having lots of evidence	By the time the trial began, the lawyer was armed to the teeth.
around Robin Hood's barn	(See <a href="#">all around Robin Hood's barn</a> )	
around the bend	crazy or insane, <a href="#">off your rocker</a>	If I had to listen to that noise all the time, I'd go around the bend.
around the clock	twenty-four hours, <a href="#">'round the clock</a>	Julie worked around the clock to finish her sewing project.
as a matter of fact	to state a fact, <a href="#">in fact</a> , <a href="#">to be perfectly honest</a>	The burrowing owl is a protected species. As a matter of fact, it's an endangered species.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: any word -- as a matter of fact

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: pay your dues -- peed

Idiom	Meaning	Example
pay your dues	work hard and learn, be loyal for years	In the sport of rodeo, you have to pay your dues to get respect.
pay your way	pay your share of the expenses	"I don't want charity," she said. "I pay my way."
peace of mind	freedom from worry or guilt	If you want peace of mind, you should buy insurance.
peaches-and-cream	beautiful skin, clear complexion	This new lotion will give you a peaches-and-cream complexion.
peachy	fine, great, wonderful, <a href="#">neat</a>	When I asked Ko if she liked her job, she said, "Yes! It's peachy!"
peanuts	small amount of money, loss of a negligible value, <a href="#">a paltry sum</a> , <a href="#">chicken feed</a>	"Isn't the loss of one billion worth of credits a problem for you?" "Oh, that's peanuts for a bank like us."
pecking order	from strongest to weakest, <a href="#">line of authority</a>	The first thing to learn about a company is the pecking order.
pedal her ass [B]	sell sex, become a prostitute	Jane used to joke about pedaling her ass to earn extra money.
pedal to the metal	accelerator all the way down, <a href="#">flat out</a>	He always drives fast - pedal to the metal all the time.
peed	(See <a href="#">she peed</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: pay your dues -- peed

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: peek-a-boo -- people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones

Idiom	Meaning	Example
peek-a-boo	peek through the fingers with hands covering eyes	Shelly was playing peek-a-boo with the baby.
peep this	look at this, <a href="#">check this out</a> , <a href="#">eyeball this</a>	Peep this! My fingernails are as long as Dolly's!
peer sneer	an unfriendly look from a person who is the same age	When the manager praised my work, Vic gave me a peer sneer.
pell-mell	in a wild manner, in panic, <a href="#">harum-scarum</a>	When the fire alarm sounded we ran pell-mell down the hall.
pen those words/lines	write those words or lines, compose that line	<i>The medium is the message</i> : Do you know who penned that line?
penny for your thoughts	(See <a href="#">a penny for your thoughts</a> )	
penny pincher	a person who spends carefully, a thrifty person	He used to be a penny pincher, but now he spends freely.
penny wise, dollar dumb	wise in saving, foolish in spending; <a href="#">burn a hole in your pocket</a>	You spent our carefully-saved money on an expensive electric organ that neither of us can play! Now that is penny wise, dollar dumb!
penny wise, pound foolish	careful with pennies but careless with pounds, <a href="#">penny wise, dollar dumb</a>	Our budget is penny wise and pound foolish - we save a little on food, and waste a lot on a luxury car!
people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones	people who have faults should not criticize others	Perfect people can be critical, but people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

Idioms: peek-a-boo -- people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: perfect stranger -- phone-in

Idiom	Meaning	Example
perfect stranger	(See <a href="#">a perfect stranger</a> )	
perk up	show interest or enthusiasm	When we mention girls, he perks up. His eyes sparkle.
pernickety/persnickety	fussy, critical of details, perfectionistic	When Dale was teenager, he was pernickety about his hair.
pet	touch intimately, kiss and caress	Petting is a prelude to sex. It is the touch of passion.
peter out	gradually lose power, reduce, <a href="#">run out</a>	After 6, sales began to peter out. We had fewer customers.
petrified	very frightened, <a href="#">scared stiff</a>	Gigi was petrified when a spider crawled up her leg.
phase me	(See <a href="#">faze me</a> )	
phase me out	(See <a href="#">it phased me out</a> )	
phat	pretty hot and tempting, nice, <a href="#">cool</a>	Hey, phat wheels! The WRX is a cool car.
phone-in	a radio/TV show that invites phone calls	The topic for the phone-in show was <i>Animal Rights</i> .

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: phooey -- pick up

Idiom	Meaning	Example
phooey	oh no, <a href="#">darn it</a> , <a href="#">nuts</a> , <a href="#">rats</a> , <a href="#">shucks</a>	Phooey! I hit my golf ball into the water again!
photo op	photo opportunity, chance to have your photo taken	Then Brian shook hands with students to create a photo op.
piano tied to your ass [B]	something preventing you from moving	If you want coffee, make some! There's no piano tied to your ass.
pick a fight	start a fight, begin an argument	If Jamie tries to pick a fight with you, just walk away.
pick holes in	criticize, look for errors or faults, <a href="#">nitpick</a>	Grant won't show you his work because you pick holes in it.
pick-me-up	(See <a href="#">a pick-me-up</a> )	
pick of the litter	(See <a href="#">the pick of the litter</a> )	
pick on	criticize, tease, get <a href="#">on my case</a>	Why is everybody picking on me? I feel like a victim.
pick up	learn, understand, <a href="#">catch on</a>	We pick up the street idioms faster than the grammar, eh.
pick up	improve, increase	If business doesn't pick up soon, we'll need another loan.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: phoey -- pick up

## Idioms: pick up the pace -- picture-perfect

Idiom	Meaning	Example
pick up the pace	go a little faster, <a href="#">step on it</a>	We're walking rather slowly. Can we pick up the pace?
pick up the pieces	put together again, mend	After her husband died, she tried to pick up the pieces of her life.
pick up the tab	pay the bill, <a href="#">pay the shot</a>	Who picked up the tab for the hotel rooms? Who paid?
pick you up	give you a ride in a car, give you a lift (see <a href="#">give me a lift</a> )	I'll pick you up at 6:45 and we'll drive to the mall.
pick you up	make you feel better, make you happy or <a href="#">natural high</a>	Here, have a cup of tea. That will pick you up.
pick your brains	learn what you know, ask you questions	Maria wants to pick your brains about Freud and Jung. She wants to ask you what you know about them.
pick yourself up	do not quit, persevere, <a href="#">roll with the punches</a>	Don't let a failure stop you. Pick yourself up and try again.
picky	fussy, looking for the perfect one	Don't be so picky, Dennis. Just choose a candy and eat it.
picture is worth a thousand words	(See <a href="#">a picture is worth a thousand words</a> )	
picture-perfect	perfectly made or performed, excellent, <a href="#">letter-perfect</a>	Olga's performance on the balance beam was picture-perfect!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: pick up the pace -- picture-perfect

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: piddly -- piece of tail [B]

Idiom	Meaning	Example
piddly	little, small, tiny	"What a piddly car!" "Yes. It's a Micra."
piddly-assed [B]	(See <a href="#">piddly</a> )	
pie-eyed	drunk, intoxicated, <a href="#">hammered</a>	Byron was pie-eyed when we got to the party. He was drunk, man.
pie in the sky	unrealistic, not practical, <a href="#">hairbrain</a> , <a href="#">half-baked</a>	When first invented, the car and phone were pie-in-the-sky ideas. Now we have phones in cars.
piece of ass [B]	(See <a href="#">a piece of ass</a> )	
piece of cake	(See <a href="#">a piece of cake</a> )	
piece of me	(See <a href="#">want a piece of me</a> )	
piece of my mind	(See <a href="#">a piece of my mind</a> )	
piece of piss	(See <a href="#">a piece of piss</a> )	
piece of tail [B]	(See <a href="#">a piece of ass</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: pig -- pin down/pin him down

Idiom	Meaning	Example
pig	police, <a href="#">cop</a> , <a href="#">flatfoot</a> , <a href="#">fuzz</a>	Rocky says, "There was pigs on every corner. We couldn't move."
pig in a poke	(See <a href="#">a pig in a poke</a> )	
pig out	eat a lot, <a href="#">fill your face</a>	Then we went to the Dairy Queen and pigged out on soft ice cream.
piggy bank	glass or porcelain pig used for saving coins	The little girl was counting the money in her piggy bank.
piggyback	carried on someone's back, riding on someone's back	Jurgen loved to ride piggyback when his dad walked in the park.
piggyback	succeed on the efforts of others	A catering firm piggybacked to success on United Airlines.
pill	(See <a href="#">the pill</a> )	
pilot project	the model or prototype, <a href="#">trial run</a>	This solar generator is our pilot project. If it's successful we'll learn from it and build more.
pimple pole	youth with pimples, teenager with <a href="#">zits</a>	Hey, pimple pole! You left your locker door open.
pin down/pin him down	get a direct answer, obtain the facts	Jed won't answer my questions. He's difficult to pin down.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:  
[B] bad language

Be interactive:  
[Comment on this idiom](#)  
[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)  
[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:  
 Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson  
 The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books  
 Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: pig -- pin down/pin him down

## Idioms: pin money -- pine float

Idiom	Meaning	Example
pin money	extra money, money to spend on candy etc.	Janet used to earn pin money by painting signs.
pin your hopes on	hope for one big chance, hope without planning, <a href="#">all your eggs...</a>	If you pin your hopes on some horse winning a race, you will probably be disappointed.
pinch	steal, rob, take what does not belong to you	When he was a boy he pinched pennies from his mom's purse.
pinch an inch	pinch an inch of fat on your body	"If I can pinch an inch, am I fat?" "No. Just pleasantly plump."
pinch-hitter (baseball)	substitute batter, extra batter	Gomez is the best pinch-hitter on the team. His average is .372.
pinch of coon shit [B]	(See <a href="#">a pinch of coon shit</a> )	
pinch of salt	(See <a href="#">a pinch of salt</a> )	
pinch off a loaf [B]	have a bowel movement, <a href="#">drop a log</a>	"Where were you?" "In the can, pinching off a loaf."
pinch to grow an inch	(See <a href="#">a pinch to grow an inch</a> )	
pine float	(See <a href="#">a pine float</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: pinhead -- piss away [B]

Idiom	Meaning	Example
pinhead	one who does not use his brain, <a href="#">dipstick</a>	"Who broke your glasses?" "Some pinhead sat on them!"
pinko	a socialist; one who is not as red as a communist, nor as white as a democrat	The pinkos want big business to pay for their social programs.
pinpoint	locate the exact place or point, determine the time	Lawrence is trying to pinpoint the time of the plane crash.
pins and needles	(See <a href="#">on pins and needles</a> )	
pipe down	do not be so noisy, be quiet, <a href="#">keep it down</a>	The teacher opened the door and said, "Pipe down, Grade 7."
pipe dream	a dream based on luck, <a href="#">pie in the sky</a>	Do you have a pipe dream or a plan? There's a big difference.
pipes	voice, <a href="#">carry a tune</a>	K.D. Lang has great pipes, eh.
pipsqueak	tiny person, weak man, <a href="#">potlicker</a> , <a href="#">wimp</a>	Keith was a pipsqueak until he started lifting weights.
pirate	steal, take someone else's property, <a href="#">bootleg</a> , <a href="#">rabbit</a>	His computer is loaded with pirated games and movies - all stolen.
piss away [B]	waste, spend on liquor	He pissed away a lot of money when he was an alcoholic.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: pinhead -- piss away [B]

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: piss in the pickles [B] -- pissed [B]

Idiom	Meaning	Example
piss in the pickles [B]	ruin a project, wreck a piece of work	Plans for a school were OK until the Premier pissed in the pickles.
piss like a race horse [B]	have to urinate, <a href="#">back teeth are floating</a>	I hope this mall has a washroom. I have to piss like a race horse.
piss off [B]	leave, go, <a href="#">beat it</a> , <a href="#">take off</a>	"If you don't like cigar smoke," he said, "you can piss off."
piss on them [B]	who cares about them? they are worthless	When Scotty heard you quit the team, he said, "Piss on him!"
piss parade [B]	a group of people pissing together	On bus trips we stopped for a piss parade every two or three hours.
piss poor [B]	of poor quality, not well made	Grandpa said, "That's a piss-poor tractor. Don't buy it."
piss pot full [B]	a lot, very many, more than expected	After the poker game, Sammy had a piss pot full of loonies.
piss your pants [B]	become very frightened, be very scared	The House of Horrors is so scary you'll piss your pants!
pissed [B]	angry, upset, <a href="#">teed off</a>	She was really pissed when you told her to carry your luggage.
pissed [B]	drunk, <a href="#">hammered</a> , <a href="#">sloshed</a>	When I saw her walk, I knew she was pissed. She nearly fell down.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: piss in the pickles [B] -- pissed [B]

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: as all get-out -- as luck would have it

Idiom	Meaning	Example
as all get-out	very much, a lot, <a href="#">like crazy</a> , <a href="#">to the max</a>	Tracy is not only beautiful. She's as talented as all get-out.
as American as apple pie	very American, like an American custom	Jeans and T-shirts are American, as American as apple pie!
as busy as a beaver	very busy, working steadily	When the teacher returned, the students were as busy as beavers.
as clean as a whistle	without any dirt or marks, smooth and clean	The hen squeezed, and out popped an egg as clean as a whistle.
as drunk as a skunk	very drunk, <a href="#">polluted</a> , <a href="#">sloshed</a>	You don't remember the party because you were as drunk as a skunk!
as dumb as a sack of hammers	very dumb, ignorant, <a href="#">dumbbell</a>	If your dog doesn't learn your tricks, who is as dumb as a sack of hammers?
as far as I know	based on my knowledge, <a href="#">to the best of my...</a>	As far as I know, the company will pay your travel expenses.
as full as a tick	(See <a href="#">full as a tick</a> )	
as if	unlikely, unbelievable	As if we'd leave for Banff without you. We'd never do that!
as luck would have it	as luck is sometimes good and sometimes bad	By the time we arrived, as luck would have it, the fight was over.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: as all get-out -- as luck would have it

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: pissed off [B] -- Plan B

Idiom	Meaning	Example
pissed off [B]	angry, mad, <a href="#">pissed</a> , <a href="#">ticked off</a>	He'll be pissed off if I leave him. He'll be mad.
pissed to the gills [B]	drunk, <a href="#">plastered</a> , <a href="#">snapped</a>	He was pissed to the gills, so we sent him home in a taxi.
pissing into the wind [B]	working at a hopeless job, feeling futile about a task	Cleaning up an oil spill is like pissing into the wind - hopeless!
pit of my stomach	(See <a href="#">the pit of my stomach</a> )	
pit stop	a brief stop to buy gas or go to the washroom	Excuse me. I have to make a pit stop before we go to the movie.
pits	(See <a href="#">the pits</a> )	
place on a pedestal	(See <a href="#">on a pedestal</a> )	
plain as day	easy to see, clearly visible, <a href="#">in broad daylight</a>	I saw it, plain as day - Bigfoot - not twenty feet away!
plain as the nose on your face	very easy to see or understand, very clear, <a href="#">crystal clear</a>	We have photos of the earth from outer space that prove the earth is round. It's plain as the nose on your face!
Plan B	the substitute for Plan A, an alternative plan	Plan A depends on getting a student loan. What is Plan B?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: plastered -- play a trick on

Idiom	Meaning	Example
plastered	very drunk, <a href="#">hammered</a> , <a href="#">looped</a> , <a href="#">sloshed</a>	After losing the fight, Jock went and got plastered.
plastic	credit cards, bank cards	I like to use plastic when I travel. I don't feel safe carrying cash.
plate is full	too much to do, cannot do any more	I'm busy writing exams. My plate is full.
play a big part	do much to help, be a main factor	The nice weather played a big part in the success of our festival.
play a bit-part	be a minor actor in a movie or a stage play	Irene played a bit-part in a movie last year. She's a good actor.
play a joke on	fool or trick someone, <a href="#">play a prank on</a>	I played a joke on Ty. I phoned and said he'd won the lottery.
play a mean game	play very well, play to win	Ingrid may beat you. She plays a mean game of chess.
play a part	be a cause, affect the result	His drinking played a part in his dismissal. Drinking was a cause.
play a prank on	arrange a surprise for you so people will laugh	Ty played a prank on me. He left a message to call the president.
play a trick on	deceive you for fun, <a href="#">play a joke on</a>	We played a trick on Liz. We sent her picture to a beauty contest.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: plastered -- play a trick on

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: play along -- play hardball

Idiom	Meaning	Example
play along	pretend to believe, <a href="#">go along with</a> , <a href="#">let on</a>	Lisa played along with the joke on Mark. She didn't tell him.
play around	have other mates, <a href="#">sleep around</a>	She knows he's playing around, but she won't confront him.
play catch-up	try to score the number of goals the opponent has scored, <a href="#">catch up</a> , <a href="#">too little too late</a>	They scored four goals in the first period, and we were playing catch-up for the rest of the game.
play dead	pretend to be dead, lie down as if you are dead	If a grizzly bear attacks you, play dead and it may go away.
play dirty	play rough, <a href="#">break the rules</a> , <a href="#">play hardball</a>	Even if his opponents cheat and lie, Pat won't play dirty.
play dumb	act as if you do not know, <a href="#">play along</a>	Play dumb when she tells you I won. Pretend you don't know.
play fair	play using rules, give everyone an equal chance	A referee will help us to play fair, to play according to the rules.
play games	deceive people, not be sincere, <a href="#">mind games</a>	He's been playing games with us. We can't believe what he says.
play hard to get	pretend you do not care; you do not want him	When Tom invites you to go on a date, you could play hard to get.
play hardball	play tough, try to hurt the opponent, <a href="#">play dirty</a>	If the manager wants to play hardball, show him that you are tough.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: play along -- play hardball

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: play havoc with -- play my cards right

Idiom	Meaning	Example
play havoc with	interfere with, cause sudden changes	The wind played havoc with the ball, causing it to rise or fall.
play hooky	not attend classes, stay away from school	One spring day, some of us played hooky. We went fishing.
play into his hand	do as he planned, fall into his trap (see <a href="#">fall into a trap</a> )	By accepting a ride in Paul's car, you played right into his hand.
play it by ear	play without a plan, improvise, <a href="#">jam</a>	If our plans fail, we can play it by ear. We'll be creative!
play it cool	be calm, do not become excited, <a href="#">chill out</a>	If Lisa tells you she's pregnant, play it cool. Don't become angry.
play it for all it's worth	get the most out of it, dramatize it, <a href="#">ham it up</a>	When Uncle Saul tells a story, he plays it for all it's worth.
play it safe	be careful, do not <a href="#">take a chance</a>	Play it safe when you go out in a boat. Wear a life jacket.
play it up	act like it is important, make it a <a href="#">big deal</a>	If there's an argument, he plays it up. He makes it worse.
play musical chairs	move people around but not change the operation, <a href="#">shuffle the chairs on the deck</a>	The government is playing musical chairs again - moving the the ministers around but not improving anything.
play my cards right	behave in the best way, do the right things	If you play your cards right at the interview, you should get the job.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: play havoc with -- play my cards right

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: play on my heart strings -- play the ponies

Idiom	Meaning	Example
play on my heart strings	cause me to feel emotional, make me feel sentimental	The movie <i>Hey Jude</i> will play on your heart strings. It will make you cry.
play on words	(See <a href="#">a play on words</a> )	
play out	become tired or exhausted, become winded	After two sets of tennis, Ling said, "I'm played out!"
play out	happen, conclude, <a href="#">pan out</a> , <a href="#">work out</a> ,	Nina used to work for Ed. Now Ed works for Nina. I want to see how this plays out.
play second fiddle	accept a lower position, <a href="#">take a back seat</a>	Kirk won't play second fiddle to her. He wants to be the boss.
play the field	<a href="#">date</a> many people, go out with various men/women	After a long relationship with Sue, he began to play the field.
play the fool	pretend you are a fool, act simple or foolish	If you play the fool, people will often tell you secrets.
play the ham	act for an audience, <a href="#">ham it up</a>	After a couple of drinks, he likes to play the ham - to be a clown.
play the heavy	be the strong man or tough guy	In our gang, Don plays the heavy. He talks and acts tough.
play the ponies	bet on horses at the race track	He's lost a lot of money playing the ponies. He bets on every race.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: play on my heart strings -- play the ponies

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: play the stock market -- plumb loco

Idiom	Meaning	Example
play the stock market	buy stocks and shares, sell stocks and shares	At first he invested in real estate; then he played the stock market.
play to the crowd	play a sport just for the crowd, <a href="#">a hotdog</a>	The coach wants us to play to win, not play to the crowd.
play with fire	do risky things, live dangerously, <a href="#">take chances</a>	"If you play with fire," Trine explained, "you may get burned. You may get hurt."
pleased as punch	very pleased, happy about	Our minister is pleased as punch when there's a large offering.
pluck at the heart strings	cause us to feel sadness or longing, <a href="#">move you to tears</a> , <a href="#">touch you</a>	I'm feeling sentimental. That song is plucking at my heart strings.
plug away	work slowly and steadily, <a href="#">slug away</a>	If you plug away at physics, you will eventually understand it.
plug into	become familiar with, learn to use	If he wants to be a dentist, he'll have to plug into the sciences.
plug the product	(See <a href="#">put in a plug for</a> )	
plug the team	add the best players from other teams	The Flyers plugged their team with star players from the league.
plumb loco	completely crazy, <a href="#">crackers</a>	After several crop failures, one farmer went plumb loco.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: play the stock market -- plumb loco

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: plump full -- point out

Idiom	Meaning	Example
plump full	very full, full to the top, <a href="#">chock full</a>	Johnny's glass was plump full - so full he spilled some milk.
pocket Hercules	a small person with great strength	In the 1970s a guy named Stan Jonathan played for the Boston Bruins. He was small but very tough - a pocket Hercules.
pocket of resistance	(See <a href="#">a pocket of resistance</a> )	
pogey	checks from employment insurance	Some guys work all summer and collect pogey all winter.
point a finger at	accuse, suggest that someone is guilty	If you aren't guilty, fine. But don't point a finger at me!
point-blank range	close range, only a few feet away	The report stated that the gorilla was shot at point-blank range.
point is well taken	opinion is true, statement is logical	Your point about smoking is well taken. It <i>is</i> expensive.
point of no return	(See <a href="#">the point of no return</a> )	
point of view	opinion, what you think of it	This is my point of view: Religion is a private matter.
point out	tell, show, indicate	The teacher pointed out that the word <i>run</i> has several meanings.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: plump full -- point out

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: pointed questions -- pony up

Idiom	Meaning	Example
pointed questions	questions that accuse, <a href="#">on the carpet</a> , <a href="#">the third degree</a>	"Why did you take the files?" he asked. "Stop with the pointed questions!" I replied. "I didn't take the files!"
poke fun at	laugh at, <a href="#">make fun of</a>	Would you poke fun at someone who can't speak Chinese?
poker face	(See <a href="#">a poker face</a> )	
pokey	jail, prison, <a href="#">behind bars</a> , <a href="#">in the clink</a>	Don't mention <i>pokey</i> in your resume. You don't want to advertise your time in jail.
polish off/polish it off	eat all of it, drink it all	Somebody polished off the last few cookies. Who ate them?
political football	a program or issue used by politicians to get votes, <a href="#">play political games</a>	A day-care program is a political football. Politicians use it to get the votes of parents with babies.
politically correct	appropriate, not racist or sexist	Advertise for a sales <i>person</i> . Use the politically correct term.
polluted	very drunk, <a href="#">loaded</a> , <a href="#">plastered</a> , <a href="#">wasted</a>	Every Friday night he goes to the bar and drinks till he's polluted.
pony tail	tying the hair at the back leaving a <i>tail</i> of hair	Stan pulled on Judy's pony tail as he walked past her desk.
pony up	contribute, give some money, <a href="#">do your part</a>	Okay guys, it's time to pony up. Ten dollars will pay for a taxi into town.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: pointed questions -- pony up

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: poontang [B] -- pop your buttons

Idiom	Meaning	Example
poontang [B]	sex, intercourse, <a href="#">nookie</a>	Listen, guys, poontang should be measured in <i>quality</i> , not <i>quantity</i> .
poop	excrement, droppings	"Please take with you what your dog brought: We need no poop in the playground."
poor as a church mouse	(See <a href="#">as poor as a church mouse</a> )	
poor house	(See <a href="#">in the poorhouse</a> )	
pop a cap [B]	shoot, murder, <a href="#">knock off</a>	He says he's going to pop a cap in the supervisor. We've got to stop him.
pop in	visit without warning, <a href="#">drop in</a>	When I'm in your part of town I'll pop in for a visit, okay?
pop over	visit for a few minutes, <a href="#">drop over</a>	Why don't you pop over and see our wedding pictures?
pop the question	ask an important question, ask someone to marry you	In the old days, a man would buy the ring and then pop the question.
pop up	appear, occur, be visible	The name <i>M. Greig</i> kept popping up in the company records.
pop your buttons	feel very proud, be full of pride	When you received the award, did you pop your buttons?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: poontang [B] -- pop your buttons

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: popcorn brain -- pound salt

Idiom	Meaning	Example
popcorn brain	one who has not learned to think, <a href="#">an airhead</a>	When I forgot my phone number they called me <i>popcorn brain</i> .
pope's nose	(See <a href="#">the pope's nose</a> )	
positive	certain, very sure, <a href="#">dead certain</a>	Are you positive it was Ming? Do you know for sure it was him?
pot	marijuana tobacco, <a href="#">reefer</a>	The room smelled of tobacco, like someone had been smoking pot.
pot calling the kettle black	a guilty person accusing another guilty person	When thief accuses robber, it's the pot calling the kettle black.
pot of gold	a fortune, a lot of money	Izzy believes there's a pot of gold buried in every acre he buys.
potato sack	loose fitting jacket or clothing	Potato sack looks good on Ken. Baggy clothes suit him.
potlicker	little person, small competitor; originally a dog or other pet	George - that potlicker! I can beat him with my little finger!
pound of flesh	revenge, <a href="#">an eye for an eye</a>	For that insult, Simon will get revenge - his pound of flesh.
pound salt	leave, go, <a href="#">take off</a>	If you don't want to play by our rules, you can pound salt, man!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: popcorn brain -- pound salt

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: as new -- as slow as molasses in January

Idiom	Meaning	Example
as new	like new, <a href="#">in mint condition</a>	For Sale: 1999 Mazda Miata, red, all options, low km, as new.
as plain as day	easy to see, clearly visible, <a href="#">in broad daylight</a>	I saw it, as plain as day - Bigfoot - not twenty feet away!
as plain as the nose on your face	very easy to see or understand, very clear, <a href="#">crystal clear</a>	We have photos of the earth from outer space that prove the earth is round. It's as plain as the nose on your face!
as poor as a church mouse	very poor, having little, <a href="#">the wolf is at the door</a>	How can they refuse to help her? She's as poor as a church mouse.
as right as rain	(See <a href="#">right as rain</a> )	
as scarce as hen's teeth	rare, uncommon, not many of them	Country doctors are as scarce as hen's teeth.
as sick as a dog	very sick, very ill, <a href="#">as sick as a parrot</a> , <a href="#">in sick bay</a>	Barry can't come to practice. He's sick as a dog!
as sick as a parrot	very, very sick; <a href="#">on your deathbed</a> , <a href="#">sicker than a dog</a>	Samuel's voice sounds weird because he's as sick as a parrot.
as slow as a dead snail	unbeatable in slowness	He writes as slow as a dead snail, only a word or two per day!
as slow as molasses in January	only a dead snail is slower	The tortoise is very slow - as slow as molasses in January.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: as new -- as slow as molasses in January

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: pound the pavement -- power user

Idiom	Meaning	Example
pound the pavement	look for a job, walk from company to company to find a job	Carrying several copies of his resume, Tang was pounding the pavement in Vancouver.
pour it on	praise a lot, compliment too much	When Harry starts pouring it on, I know he wants something.
pour out your soul	tell your private feelings, <a href="#">tell all</a>	When Zora visits, she pours out her soul to me. She tells me all about her lover.
pow	a word to describe a hit or a punch, <a href="#">bam</a>	Then pow! This guy hits Cody in the stomach.
powder my nose	go to the ladies' washroom, go to the bathroom	Excuse me. I'm going to powder my nose. Are you coming, Judy?
power play (business)	a show of power, a grab for power	If a general manager demotes two managers, it's a power play.
power play (hockey)	five skaters against four or three	The Russians scored twice on their five-minute power play.
power to burn	very powerful, lots of horsepower, <a href="#">go like stink</a>	That old Chev has a 454 motor. It has power to burn.
power trip	showing power, showing authority	Last week he went on a power trip and told us to work harder.
power user	a person who uses a computer a lot	Jay uses the computer about 12 hours a day. He's a power user.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: pound the pavement -- power user

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: powers that be -- press charges

Idiom	Meaning	Example
powers that be	(See <a href="#">the powers that be</a> )	
practice what you preach	do what you say people should do	If you want to hear truth, tell the truth. Practice what you preach.
prairie oyster	the testicle of a young bull or bull calf	Do you believe that some folks in Alberta eat prairie oysters?
praise him to the skies	praise him a lot, <a href="#">sing his praises</a>	Wade is an excellent student. His teachers praise him to the skies.
pre-menstrual syndrome	emotional crises the week before menstruation, pms	Judy says pms causes most of her personal problems.
preach to the choir/preach to the converted	tell people who already know the message, talk to the wrong audience,	When I complained to the class about students who were absent, Ed reminded me that I was preaching to the choir!
prepare like crazy	prepare thoroughly, be ready for an event or test	Before I go to a job interview I prepare like crazy.
preppy	a youth who wears trendy clothes, <a href="#">clean cut</a>	Brad is a preppy. He wears Polo sweaters and drives a Celica.
presence of mind	ability to think clearly and act appropriately, <a href="#">cool under pressure</a>	When the bear charged the car, Jill had the presence of mind to sound the burglar alarm.
press charges	ask the police to charge someone with a crime	The police asked her if she wanted to press charges against the thief.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: powers that be -- press charges

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: press into service -- pride goeth before a fall

Idiom	Meaning	Example
press into service	required to help, forced to serve	The young men were injured, so the old men were pressed into service.
press on	continue traveling, <a href="#">keep on</a> going	Dumont wanted to stop at Batoche, but he pressed on to Fort Carlton.
press the panic button	become very scared, panic, <a href="#">freak</a>	If a dog growls at me, I press the panic button. I scream and run.
pretty as a picture	very pretty, beautiful	"How do I look in my new dress?" "Pretty as a picture, my dear."
pretty penny	(See <a href="#">cost a pretty penny</a> )	
price out	check the price of, <a href="#">find out</a> the price	Before we buy a European car, we should price out parts and service.
price you have to pay	(See <a href="#">the price you have to pay</a> )	
prick [B]	penis, <a href="#">dork</a> , <a href="#">hoo-haw</a>	When the doctor asked me where it hurt, I pointed to my prick.
prick [B]	foolish man, <a href="#">jerk</a>	Only a prick would feed liquor to his pet.
pride goeth before a fall	you lose self-respect before you do an evil deed	I think this proverb is taken from the Bible: <i>Pride goeth before a fall.</i>

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: prima donna -- pub crawl

Idiom	Meaning	Example
prima donna	one who expects special treatment or privileges	A prima donna on our team might upset the other players.
Prince Charming	the perfect man, the ideal mate	Colin is not Prince Charming, but I love him and he loves me.
proby	an employee who is on probation, a new employee	When I was a proby, I tried to impress my supervisors.
promise the moon	promise that everything will be perfect	If you promise the moon, the kids may be very disappointed.
pronto	now, immediately, <a href="#">right away</a>	You'll miss your bus if you don't leave now. Pronto!
proof of the pudding...	(See <a href="#">the proof of the pudding is in the eating</a> )	
props	respect for ability or effort; derived from "proper respect"	David deserves his props for scoring points against the champion.
psych out	lose confidence, be unable to concentrate, <a href="#">faze me</a>	If I think about making a mistake, I get psyched out.
psyched/psyched up	prepared, excited, <a href="#">pumped</a> , <a href="#">up for it</a>	Claire was psyched for the exam. She was ready for the challenge.
pub crawl	drink at many pubs in one day, <a href="#">bar hopping</a>	If you go on a pub crawl today, you'll have a headache tomorrow.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: prima donna -- pub crawl

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: public property -- pull out all the stops

Idiom	Meaning	Example
public property	what everybody knows, public information	If you tell Zora about the plan, it'll be public property.
puddlejumper	small car, subcompact	"Why did you buy that puddlejumper?" "Because it gets good gas mileage."
pull a face	wrinkle your face, <a href="#">make a face</a>	Lyle is 14, but he's still a boy. He pulls a face when he's upset.
pull a few strings	help by talking to powerful people, <a href="#">it's not what you know...</a>	My application was late, but a friend of mine pulled a few strings and got me an interview.
pull a muscle	injure a muscle, strain a muscle, <a href="#">charley horse</a>	One of our best players pulled a muscle and can't play tonight.
pull for	support, cheer for	We were pulling for your team. We're glad you won.
pull in your horns	not be so aggressive, stop attacking or criticizing	Father's advice is to pull in your horns or you could be dismissed.
pull it off	cause it to happen; succeed, win, <a href="#">snatch victory...</a>	With Jean as leader of the party, the Liberals can pull it off. They can win the election.
pull it out	win just before the end; before it is too late	The score was tied, but we pulled it out with a last-minute goal.
pull out all the stops	work as hard as possible, <a href="#">go all-out</a> , <a href="#">go for broke</a>	You're losing this match. If you want to win, you'll have to pull out all the stops.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: public property -- pull out all the stops

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: pull punches -- pull up stakes

Idiom	Meaning	Example
pull punches	talk nice, <a href="#">ease up</a> , <a href="#">take it easy</a> on you	If the service is poor, he doesn't pull punches. He complains.
pull that	do that, do something wrong, <a href="#">try that</a>	She reached for the phone to call the police, but the thief said, "Don't try to pull that."
pull the goalie (hockey)	remove the goaltender and use an extra skater	After our coach pulled the goalie we scored and tied the game.
pull the pin	quit, resign, leave, <a href="#">pack it in</a>	If the company doesn't give us a raise in pay, I'm pulling the pin.
pull the plug	stop working on a project, not support any more, <a href="#">leave you in the lurch</a>	When Zoe lied to Social Services they pulled the plug on her. They stopped paying her expenses.
pull the rug out	take away your help, remove your support, <a href="#">leave you holding the bag</a>	Some insurance companies pull the rug out from under you when you file a claim.
pull the wool over your eyes	deceive you, trick you, fool you	Don't let him pull the wool over your eyes. He's not at the office.
pull through	recover, get well, <a href="#">get over</a> the operation	The doctor didn't think he'd pull through, but he's feeling fine.
pull together	work together, co-operate	If we pull together, we can complete this project on time.
pull up stakes	move away, go to live in another place	We pull up stakes when winter comes. We move to Arizona.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: pull punches -- pull up stakes

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: pull up your socks -- puppy love

Idiom	Meaning	Example
pull up your socks	do better, improve	He'll have to pull up his socks in math - if he wants to pass.
pull your chain	ask you what you think, ask for your opinion	If we want your opinion we'll pull your chain. We'll ask you.
pull your leg	fool you, tell you a false story as a joke	If he said Canada has a tropical climate, he was pulling your leg.
pull your weight	do your job, do your share of the work	If we all pull our weight - do our share - we can achieve our goals.
pull your wire [B]	masturbate, <a href="#">jerk off</a> [B]	"Why do you pull your wire?" "Because it feels good."
pull yourself together	control your sadness, <a href="#">get a grip</a> on yourself	It's difficult to pull yourself together after a divorce.
pumped/pumped up	excited about performing, ready to play	John's pumped for today's game. He really wants to play.
punch your lights out	hit you, knock you down, <a href="#">knock you out</a>	If you try to kiss my girlfriend I'll punch your lights out.
puppy	a name for someone or something familiar	Your old Honda? Don't sell that puppy. It's "a keeper".
puppy love	young love, love between children or teenagers	Puppy love is sweet, but it's just a step on the path to mature love.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: pull up your socks -- puppy love

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: pure luck -- pussy whipped

Idiom	Meaning	Example
pure luck	just luck, not skill or talent	Hank won the fishing contest, but it was pure luck, not skill.
push me (to the limit)	put pressure on me, <a href="#">bug</a> me too much	Don't push me. One more insult and I'll punch you.
push the boat out	work harder to complete the job, <a href="#">give 110%</a> , <a href="#">go the extra mile</a>	Chris, my son, to make your marriage work, sometimes, well, many times, you have to push the boat out.
push the envelope	challenge yourself, innovate, <a href="#">take risks</a> , <a href="#">think outside the box</a>	If we are going to lead this industry, we need to push the envelope.
push the right buttons	say the right things, do the right things	The players want to play for Pat. She pushes all the right buttons.
push your luck	(See <a href="#">don't push your luck</a> )	
pusher	a person who sells illegal drugs	The judge sentenced the pusher to ten years in prison.
pushing fifty	nearly 50 years old, 48 or 49 years old	Bart is pushing fifty, but he looks much younger.
pushing up daisies	dead and buried in a graveyard, <a href="#">deep six</a>	Old Tom's pushin' up daisies. He died a long time ago.
pussy whipped	controlled by his wife, afraid his wife will <a href="#">cut him off</a>	Tim loves his wife, but he's not pussy whipped. He has a mind of his own.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: pure luck -- pussy whipped

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: put 'em up -- put away

Idiom	Meaning	Example
put 'em up	raise your hands, <a href="#">reach for the sky</a>	Merv sticks his finger in my ribs and says, "Put 'em up."
pussyfoot around	not have the courage to say what you think, <a href="#">wimp</a>	"Say what you believe!" Marilyn shouted. "Stop pussyfooting around here like we're made of crystal!"
put 'er there	let us shake hands, I want to shake hands with you	After the argument, I apologized and said, "Put 'er there, eh."
put a bug in my ear	told me secretly, <a href="#">a little bird told me</a>	"Who told you I need a wallet?" "Mom put a bug in my ear."
put a different slant on it	change the way you see it, change your view, <a href="#">put things in perspective</a>	If you called the police because you thought I needed help, that puts a different slant on it.
put a hex on me	bring a curse upon me, put me <a href="#">under a spell</a>	I haven't won a game of cards today. Did you put a hex on me?
put a lid on it	do not be noisy, <a href="#">keep it down</a>	When we shout, he says, "Put a lid on it. Not so loud, eh."
put all your eggs in...	(See <a href="#">all your eggs in one basket</a> )	
put an end to	stop or end it, cause it to stop	The policeman came and put an end to the fighting.
put away	eat or drink, <a href="#">pig out</a>	Dennis has a good appetite. He put away ten pancakes!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: put 'em up -- put away

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: put down -- put in time

Idiom	Meaning	Example
put down	criticize, <a href="#">knock</a> , <a href="#">put-down</a>	Those poor kids are put down all the time - criticized and yelled at.
put down	kill, shoot, dispatch, <a href="#">put out of its misery</a>	The horse had to be put down because it was badly injured.
put-down	criticism, disapproval	His speech was a put-down of our policies - very negative.
put down roots	live in one place for years, buy land and raise a family	After moving from town to town, we put down roots in Moose Jaw.
put her there	let us shake hands, I want to shake hands with you	After the argument he apologized and said, "Put 'er there."
put him in his place	tell him he is wrong - that he is <a href="#">out of line</a>	Dwayne has insulted all of us. I hope Dad puts him in his place.
put in a good word for	tell the employer that you are a good applicant	If you apply for a job with us, I'll put in a good word for you.
put in a hard day	work hard all day, <a href="#">a hard day</a>	You've put in a hard day, Fran. Let's have supper at a cafe.
put in a plug for	advertise free, promote free	When you speak on TV, please put in a plug for my book.
put in time	be there a lot, <a href="#">hang out</a> , <a href="#">spend time</a>	Raj puts in a lot of time at the piano. He practices a lot.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: put down -- put in time

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar -- ass

Idiom	Meaning	Example
as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar	very solid or stable, not movable or wobbly	"What is the foundation made of?" "Concrete - it's as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar!"
as sure as shit	certain to happen, predictable, <a href="#">a foregone conclusion</a>	Robert will come, sure as shit. He comes every day.
as the crow flies	the shortest distance between two places	The farm is about ten miles northeast of town, as the crow flies.
as useless as a fifth wheel	not useful, not needed, redundant, (four wheels are sufficient)	I sat there watching the four of them play bridge, and feeling as useless as a fifth wheel.
as useless as tits on a boar	not useful, not necessary, having no function	Our toenails are useless - as useless as tits on a boar.
ask for it	invite or deserve an attack	When you called him a thief, you asked for it. You made him mad.
ask for the moon	ask for a lot, ask for more than you need or want	When we negotiate our salary let's try this strategy: <i>Ask for the moon and hope for a 10% raise.</i>
asking price	a starting price, a price to begin negotiations	The asking price for the lot was \$29,500. It sold for \$28,000.
asleep at the switch	not alert, not watching, not <a href="#">paying attention</a>	If you're asleep at the switch, you won't learn much in class.
ass	fool, <a href="#">dipstick</a> , <a href="#">jerk</a>	Don't be an ass, Duddy. Stay in school and get your diploma.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar -- ass

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: put it -- put on airs

Idiom	Meaning	Example
put it	say it, express it	She said, "He's my favorite cowboy." That's how she put it.
put it on the bill	charge a purchase, <a href="#">charge it</a> , <a href="#">run a tab</a>	When I buy something at the grocery store, I put it on the bill.
put me on	(See <a href="#">putting me on</a> )	
put my finger on it	(See <a href="#">can't put my finger on it</a> )	
put my foot down	say no, say you cannot do that, <a href="#">no way</a>	When the kids ask if they can go to a restricted movie, I put my foot down.
put my neck on the line	risk my job or safety, <a href="#">stick my neck out</a>	As a manager, I'll put my neck on the line for a good employee.
put off	upset, unhappy, <a href="#">miffed</a> , <a href="#">put out about</a>	He was put off when Nola refused to go out with him.
put off	do it later, postpone	We've put off the wedding until Chad completes his education.
put on a pedestal	(See <a href="#">on a pedestal</a> )	
put on airs	pretend you are better or richer or smarter	Martha would never put on airs. She is very sincere.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: put on the dog -- put the heat on

Idiom	Meaning	Example
put on the dog	use your finest dishes or clothes etc.; <a href="#">show off</a>	When we visit Mame, she likes to put on the dog - get dressed up.
put out	do, function, perform	Vern's crew really puts out. They do a lot of work in a day.
put out	unhappy, upset	Was he put out when you asked for more money? Was he upset?
put out about	bothered, annoyed, <a href="#">ticked off</a>	What's Jan put out about? She seems irritated.
put out feelers	discover indirectly, ask subtle questions, <a href="#">through the grapevine</a>	I'm not really looking for a new job, but I'm going to put out a few feelers and see what happens.
put out of its misery	kill because it is suffering, <a href="#">put down</a>	One of our dogs had diabetes, so we put it out of its misery.
put stock in	believe in, have faith in	An atheist doesn't put much stock in the Bible.
put the finishing touches on	add the last details or trimmings	Lan decorated the cake - she put the finishing touches on it.
put the hammer down	go faster, <a href="#">floor it</a> , <a href="#">pedal to the metal</a>	If we's goin from New York to LA in two days, you got to put de hammer down.
put the heat on	cause someone to feel pressure or stress	The cops put the heat on them by asking a lot of questions.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: put on the dog -- put the heat on

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: put the kibosh on -- put too fine a point on

Idiom	Meaning	Example
put the kibosh on	prevent, stop	The manager put the kibosh on our dental plan. He said no.
put the right spin on it	say it in a diplomatic way, <a href="#">bafflegab</a> , <a href="#">doctor it</a> , <a href="#">spin doctor</a>	Don't say <i>it's lost</i> . Say <i>it's been misplaced</i> . Put the right spin on it!
put them up	put your hands up, <a href="#">stick them up</a>	The outlaw drew his gun, saying, "Put 'em up, folks, or I'll shoot."
put things in perspective	see things as they are, see the actual size	A few days after the flood, I was able to put things in perspective.
put to bed (print media)	put in a box when it is ready to print	The editor always checks the paper before he puts it to bed.
put to death	killed, shot, hanged, <a href="#">put down</a>	If a soldier deserted the army he was put to death.
put to rest	not think or worry about it any more	It's time we put to rest our quarrel over Dad's will.
put to shame	defeated very badly, feel ashamed of losing	Our baseball team was put to shame by the Cubans: 11-0.
put to the test	be tested, be challenged	Your computer skills will be put to the test in your new position.
put too fine a point on	be too precise, <a href="#">split hairs</a>	If you want to put too fine a point on it, the color is actually russet.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: put the kibosh on -- put too fine a point on

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: put up or shut up -- put your foot in it

Idiom	Meaning	Example
put up or shut up	pay for or be quiet, do instead of talk	If you brag about your cooking we'll ask you to put up or shut up.
put up the money	pay for, finance, <a href="#">front me</a>	If I start a new business, will you put up the money?
put up with	tolerate, endure, not get frustrated	Alice puts up with a lot of complaining from Jackie.
put you at ease	cause you to relax, <a href="#">break the ice</a>	An embarrassing moment can sometimes put you at ease.
put you away	defeat you, <a href="#">knock you out</a>	If the score is tied, he must win two points to put you away.
put you in a bad mood	cause you to feel upset or unhappy	The violence in that movie put me in a bad mood. I dislike violence.
put you off your game	cause you to play poorly, cause you to make errors	Wearing a helmet will put me off my game. It will bother me.
put you through the mill	test your endurance or will, <a href="#">give you a hard time</a> , <a href="#">run the gauntlet</a>	On the first day, the workers will put you through the mill. They want to know if you are strong.
put your best foot forward	try to do your best work, present yourself well	If you put your best foot forward, the employer will be impressed.
put your foot in it	say or do something that causes an argument	He really put his foot in it when he said that doctors are underpaid.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: put up or shut up -- put your foot in it

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: put your foot in your mouth -- putting on the ritz

Idiom	Meaning	Example
put your foot in your mouth	say something that causes pain or embarrassment	If you speak the truth, you will often put your foot in your mouth.
put your heart into it	try hard, do your best, <a href="#">give it your best shot</a>	If you hope to succeed in life, you have to put your heart into it.
put your mind to it	use the power of your mind, be focused, <a href="#">mind over matter</a>	You can do this calculus problem if you put your mind to it. Find a quiet place to work and apply all of your skill.
put your money where your mouth is	pay what you offered, <a href="#">put up or shut up</a>	I accept your offer. Now put your money where your mouth is.
put your shoulder to the wheel	begin to work	If you want a share of the profits, put your shoulder to the wheel.
put yourself out	give too much, sacrifice, go to a lot of trouble (see <a href="#">go to any trouble</a> )	When I visit, don't put yourself out. Don't do anything special.
put yourself through college	earn money to pay for your college education	You need a good summer job to put yourself through college.
putting me on	joking, fooling me, <a href="#">kidding me</a>	You won a Nobel Prize? You're putting me on!
putting on the ritz	dressing fancy or classy, doing things high class	She's dining and dancing in Paris. She's putting on the ritz!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: put your foot in your mouth -- putting on the ritz

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: quake in his boots -- quit while you're ahead

Idiom	Meaning	Example
quake in his boots	feel afraid, be scared, <a href="#">scared</a> <a href="#">spitless</a>	When the war began, it was scary. We were quaking in our boots.
question of	(See <a href="#">a question of</a> )	
quick and dirty	fast or easy, instant, <a href="#">short cut</a>	I know a quick and dirty way to calculate interest. It's easy.
quick like a bunny	very quick, without delay	Get into bed now - quick like a bunny!
quick on the draw	quick to speak or shoot; <a href="#">get the drop on</a>	Think before you speak. Don't be so quick on the draw.
quick study	(See <a href="#">a quick study</a> )	
quicker than you can say Jack Robinson	very quickly, <a href="#">before you can say Jack Robinson</a>	The ghost was gone - quicker 'n you can say Jack Robinson!
quickie	(See <a href="#">a quickie</a> )	
quit this place	leave, go away from here, <a href="#">blow this joint</a>	I'm bored. Let's quit this place. Let's get out of here.
quit while you're ahead	quit before you begin to lose, <a href="#">don't push your luck</a>	If he lets you have the car, don't ask for his credit card. Quit while you're ahead.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: rabbit -- ragtop

Idiom	Meaning	Example
rabbit	steal, take company supplies, <a href="#">pinch</a> , <a href="#">scoff</a>	Those sailors will rabbit anything that isn't chained to the deck! They're ruddy thieves!
rabbit died	(See <a href="#">the rabbit died</a> )	
rabbit food	lettuce, carrots, cabbage etc.	Dad says salad is tasteless. He calls it rabbit food.
rabble-rouser	a person who makes noise and causes problems	A bunch of rabble-rousers were fighting at the football game.
rack my brain	think hard, try to remember	I've racked my brain, but I can't remember where I saw that man.
rack up	compile, increase, <a href="#">build up</a> , <a href="#">run up</a>	He racked up a lot of points with his first hand of cribbage.
rad	radical, weird, <a href="#">on the fringe</a>	What a rad video! The singer's head was sitting on a table!
rag	clothes, <a href="#">threads</a>	I need some new rags. My clothes are old and worn.
rag to riches	(See <a href="#">from rags to riches</a> )	
ragtop	convertible car, <a href="#">ragtop</a>	In the summer, Pam drives a ragtop - a Fiat Spyder.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).



## Idioms: railroad -- raise the bar

Idiom	Meaning	Example
railroad	push a plan, force a person	No, I didn't want to resign. I was railroaded into it!
rain check	using a service later, credit for a product	The store had sold all the CD's, so they gave me a rain check.
rain on their parade	ruin the party, spoil the fun, <a href="#">piss on them</a> [B]	When Barb found out she wasn't invited to the wedding, she said, "I hope it rains on their parade."
raining cats and dogs	raining hard, raining heavily	You need a raincoat, Dear. It's raining cats and dogs!
raise a stink	complain a lot, cause an argument or a bad scene	Gunter raised a stink by accusing the chairman of stealing funds.
raise an eyebrow	(See <a href="#">raised eyebrows</a> )	
raise Cain	shout and make noise, cause a disturbance	They were having a wild party upstairs - really raising Cain.
raise hell [B]	make noise, disturb the peace, <a href="#">raise Cain</a>	The neighbors are drinking and raising hell again.
raise money	earn or request money for a project or a charity	The Boy Scouts are raising money to pay for a trip to China.
raise the bar	raise the level, set a higher standard	If we raise the bar, students will try harder but more will fail.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: railroad -- raise the bar

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: raise your hand against -- rant and rave

Idiom	Meaning	Example
raise your hand against	hit someone, hurt someone	If you ever raise your hand against her, I'll call the police.
raise your spirits	help you feel positive, help you feel happy	If you want to raise your spirits, just have a visit with Kari.
raised eyebrows	shock, surprise, disapproval	When Chuck and Di separated, it caused some raised eyebrows.
raisins	old folks, seniors	Let's invite the raisins to our concert. They're a great audience.
rake in the dough	receive a lot of money, earn a large salary or profit	When he played pro basketball he was raking in the dough.
rake you over the coals	lecture you, scold you, ask you to explain	I got raked over the coals for taking the car without asking.
raking it in	(See <a href="#">rake in the dough</a> )	
ralph	vomit, puke, <a href="#">barf</a> , <a href="#">hork</a> , <a href="#">throw up</a>	In the washroom, someone had ralphed all over the floor.
ram down your throat	(See <a href="#">shove down my throat</a> )	
rant and rave	yell and cry out, preach and complain	The old man was ranting and raving about his lost goats.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: raise your hand against -- rant and rave

## Idioms: rap your knuckles -- raw deal

Idiom	Meaning	Example
rap your knuckles	(See <a href="#">get your knuckles rapped</a> )	
rat fink	person who tattles, one who squeals, <a href="#">fink</a>	You rat fink! Did you "blab" to Mom and Dad? Did you tell them?
rat on	tell the police or the authorities, <a href="#">squeal</a> , <a href="#">tell on</a>	Billy won't rat on me. He won't tell the teacher.
rat race	fast pace, busy schedule, living/working in the city	What a rat race! I want to leave the city and live in the country.
ratch	damage, wreck, <a href="#">trash</a>	Who ratched the gears on my bike? I can't shift into low!
rats	oh no, <a href="#">darn</a> , <a href="#">nuts</a>	Rats! We have a flat tire!
rattle my chain	annoy me, anger me, <a href="#">get under my skin</a>	That woman rattles my chain, the way she gossips about me!
rattle on	continue to talk, ramble, <a href="#">hold forth</a>	The professor was rattling on about Canadian culture.
rattle sabres	threaten to attack, appear to be preparing for war	The workers are rattling their sabres, but they won't strike.
raw deal	(See <a href="#">a raw deal</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a basket case -- a bimbo

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a basket case	a person who is very nervous, <a href="#">in bad shape</a>	If Gloria has one more crisis, she'll be a basket case.
a bawling out	a scolding, a lecture, <a href="#">an earful</a> , <a href="#">catch it</a>	When I forgot to do my chores Dad gave me a bawling out.
a bed of roses	an easy life, a pleasant place to work or stay	Who said that retirement is a bed of roses?
a bee in her bonnet	upset, a bit angry, <a href="#">on edge</a>	Aunt Betsy was kind of cranky, like she had a bee in her bonnet.
a beehive of activity	a busy place, a room full of working people	The kids are making crafts. It's a beehive of activity in there!
a big rig	a big truck, a semi-trailer truck	Do you have a driver's license? Have you ever driven a big rig?
a big shot	an important person, a boss, <a href="#">a big wheel</a>	On payday he spends money like a big shot, buying drinks for all.
a big wheel	a person with power, <a href="#">a big shot</a>	Bing has been acting like a big wheel since he got promoted.
a big wig	an important person, a president etc., <a href="#">VIP</a>	Barry is a big wig in Gulf Oil - a vice president or something.
a bimbo	a foolish girl, <a href="#">an airhead</a>	Don't call any girl a bimbo, please.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: a basket case -- a bimbo

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: ass [B] -- at bay

Idiom	Meaning	Example
ass [B]	buttocks, <a href="#">backside</a> , <a href="#">butt</a>	Those jeans fit you, but they're a little tight around the ass.
ass into gear	moving, working, doing	After holidays, I'll get my ass into gear and paint the house.
ass on the line	be accountable for an error or failure, <a href="#">take the rap</a>	I sent the package Overnight Air Mail, because my ass is on the line if it arrives late.
ass over teakettle	falling over backwards, <a href="#">head over heels</a>	The cowboy knocked him off his feet - ass over teakettle!
at a glance	with one look, a quick look	I could see at a glance that the car was unsafe. A wheel was loose.
at a good clip	fast, at a high speed	When you passed us you were going at a pretty good clip.
at a loss for words	unable to think of a reply or something to say	When he asked why I wanted the vase, I was at a loss for words.
at a moment's notice	with little warning, <a href="#">on short notice</a>	We may call you at a moment's notice - whenever we need help.
at all	in any way, <a href="#">in the least</a>	"Are you sleepy?" "No. Not at all."
at bay	at a distance, away from you	The smoke keeps the mosquitoes at bay. They don't like smoke.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: ass [B] -- at bay

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: razzle-dazzle -- read me (CB radio)

Idiom	Meaning	Example
razzle-dazzle	spectacular show, dazzling display, <a href="#">showboat</a>	Grandpa said the rodeo had too much razzle-dazzle. It was too fancy.
reach for the sky	raise your hands, <a href="#">put them up</a>	The cowboy drew his gun and said, "Reach for the sky, mister!"
reach me	phone me, contact me	You can reach me by leaving a message at my brother's place.
reach me	cause me to feel your message	The minister said he was trying to reach the kids through a film.
reach out	offer to help, let people know that you care	Magdalena reaches out to the children in violent families.
read along	read with the leader, read together	The instructor asked the class to read along in their text books.
read between the lines	see what is not written, read the implied message, find the hidden meaning	If we read between the lines, the memo says the company is going to be sold.
read into	add your own meaning, see what you are hoping to see	Teri reads love into every letter you write to her.
read it over	read it, <a href="#">go over</a> it	Read it over and tell me what you think it says.
read me (CB radio)	hear my voice, hear my message	"Do you read me?" she asked. "Yes. Loud and clear," he replied.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: razzle-dazzle -- read me (CB radio)

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: read my lips -- rear end

Idiom	Meaning	Example
read my lips	my lips are saying what you are hearing, believe it	Edie said, "Read my lips, people. We have no more money."
read them and weep	check your cards and cry about your poor hand	After dealing the cards, Walt said, "Read 'em and weep, boys."
read up on	read about, study, <a href="#">look up</a>	I'm going to the library to read up on Louis Riel.
read you	see what you're thinking or feeling	You have an expressive face. Anybody can read you.
real McCoy	(See <a href="#">the real McCoy</a> )	
realize your potential	be the best you can, <a href="#">come into your own</a>	If you work for a good company, you can realize your potential.
really deaf	not willing to listen, not wanting to hear about	When you talk about smoking, he's really deaf.
ream out	scold, <a href="#">give you hell</a> , <a href="#">tie into</a>	He reamed me out for driving too fast. He said I could have caused an accident.
reap what you sow	(See <a href="#">you reap whatsoever you sow</a> )	
rear end	buttocks, posterior, <a href="#">backside</a> , <a href="#">butt</a>	"Where did she pinch you?" "On my rear end - my bum."

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: read my lips -- rear end

## Idioms: rearend -- regular guy

Idiom	Meaning	Example
rearend	bump a car in the back, <a href="#">run into</a> the rear of a car	"Your back bumper is dented." "Ya, some guy rearended me."
red carpet	(See <a href="#">roll out the red carpet</a> )	
red-faced	embarrassed, ashamed when something private is made public	Judy was red-faced after you kissed her in class. She was embarrassed.
red herring	a false issue, <a href="#">make a mountain...</a>	She said, "Fluoride is a red herring. It's not important."
red-letter day	(See <a href="#">a red-letter day</a> )	
red tape	government forms and procedures	An immigrant faces a lot of red tape - many interviews, forms.
redneck	(See <a href="#">a redneck</a> )	
reduce to tears	ask hurtful questions until someone cries	The lawyer's hurtful questions soon reduced Karla to tears.
reefer	marijuana cigarette, <a href="#">pot</a>	After smoking two reefers, he laughed at anything they said.
regular guy	(See <a href="#">a regular guy</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: reject out of hand -- ride herd

Idiom	Meaning	Example
reject out of hand	reject without thinking, throw away quickly	If the apples aren't from B.C. he rejects them out of hand.
relate to that	know about that, have experienced that	He said he was afraid to speak in public. I can relate to that.
rented lips	lips that mispronounce, lips that say strange words	Did I say <i>ossifer</i> ? I meant <i>officer</i> ! Excuse my rented lips!
repay in kind	give the same as you get, help one who helped you	If you help a neighbor, he may repay in kind.
rest assured	be sure, be certain, <a href="#">count on</a>	If Johnny said he would vote for Kim, you can rest assured he will.
rest his soul (God rest his soul)	may his soul rest in peace; I hope his soul is peaceful	I remember when Jock Reynolds (rest his soul) saved Pete's life.
rest my case	have no more arguments, have completed my work	After speaking for abortion for an hour, he said, "I rest my case."
rest on your laurels	depend only on past success to help you, <a href="#">you're only as good...</a>	If you win an award, you can rest on your laurels, or you can set new goals.
rhyme or reason	(See <a href="#">no rhyme or reason</a> )	
ride herd	try to control a group; supervise children	When my wife goes shopping, I have to ride herd on the kids.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: reject out of hand -- ride herd

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: ride his coattails -- right on

Idiom	Meaning	Example
ride his coattails	depend on his success, use his success	My dad was a great doctor, but I don't want to ride his coattails.
ride me	continue to remind me of a duty or habit	You can stop riding me about doing my homework. It's done.
ride the clutch	drive a car with your foot on the clutch pedal	If you ride the clutch, we will soon have to replace it.
ride the wave	use luck or success to achieve more success	Enjoy your success. Ride the wave to a better life.
riding high	feeling great, <a href="#">on cloud nine</a>	Jane is riding high after getting an A in math.
right as rain	as welcome as rain, naturally good	We always enjoyed Uncle Mel's visits. They were right as rain.
right away	now, immediately, <a href="#">on the double</a> , <a href="#">pronto</a>	If you leave right away, you can get to school on time.
right before my eyes	in front of me, <a href="#">in plain view</a>	There, right before my eyes, was the Eiffel Tower! I had finally arrived in Paris.
right off the bat	at the start, the very first thing	Right off the bat she says, "Are you married?"
right on	that's good, great, <a href="#">okay</a>	When I told him he passed the test he said, "Right on, man!"

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: ride his coattails -- right on

## Idioms: right on the money -- rip-snorting mad

Idiom	Meaning	Example
right on the money	(See <a href="#">on the money</a> )	
right, left and center	(See <a href="#">left, right and center</a> )	
rigmarole	(See <a href="#">what a rigmarole</a> )	
rile up	become afraid, upset, <a href="#">worked up</a>	The horses get all riled up when they smell smoke.
ring a bell	remind you, cause you to remember	Does the name Kurelek ring a bell? Have you heard of him?
ring leader	leader of a gang, leader of some criminals	The ring leader, Tony Amano, helped the prisoners escape.
ring me	phone me, call me, <a href="#">give me a ring</a>	Ring me when you get home from work. Tell me about your day.
ring off the hook	receive many phone calls	We put an ad in the paper. Now the phone's ringing off the hook!
rip-off	(See <a href="#">a rip-off</a> )	
rip-snorting mad	very angry, violent	The bull got rip-snorting mad when he missed the toreador.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: ripped off -- rob the cradle

Idiom	Meaning	Example
ripped off	cheated, <a href="#">taken</a>	Dar paid too much for the watch. He got ripped off.
rise and shine	wake up and be happy, get out of bed smiling	"Rise and shine," he called to us each morning - at 6 a.m.!
rise to the occasion	be able to do what is needed at the time	When we need a speaker, Ed rises to the occasion. He speaks well.
risky business	a risky plan, a gamble	Being a peacemaker is risky business. You could get shot!
ritzy	very nice, luxurious, <a href="#">putting on the ritz</a> , <a href="#">snazzy</a>	Curt has a ritzy apartment in Berlin. It's a neat "pad"!
road apple	a frozen horseturd used as a puck for road hockey	Let's play hockey. You get the sticks and I'll find a road apple.
road to hell is paved...	(See <a href="#">the road to hell is paved</a> )	"with good intentions")
Roaring Twenties	the decade following World War I (1920-1929)	In the Roaring Twenties, ladies had short hair with kiss curls.
rob Peter to pay Paul	move money from one part of a budget to another	If we use grocery money to buy gas, we rob Peter to pay Paul.
rob the cradle	court a person who is too young, <a href="#">date</a> a minor	You're seeing Lisa? She's only 17! That's robbing the cradle!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: ripped off -- rob the cradle

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: Rock -- roll around

Idiom	Meaning	Example
Rock	(See <a href="#">The Rock</a> )	
rock	shock, cause a personal change, <a href="#">shake him</a>	<i>Killing Fields</i> is a powerful movie. It will rock you.
rock	is great, is as good as great rock music, is <a href="#">cool</a>	This webcam really rocks. I can send movies to all my friends!
rock bottom	(See <a href="#">hit rock bottom</a> )	
rock the boat	disturb or upset things, <a href="#">don't make waves</a>	If you rock the boat, you may be asked to leave the project.
rocks in your head	(See <a href="#">got rocks in your head</a> )	
rocks socks	so good it will blow your socks off, <a href="#">cool beans</a> Coined by William Burns III	"You've just won a million dollars." "Holy crap! That rocks socks!"
rocky road	difficult path, <a href="#">rough going</a>	In life, he traveled the rocky road. He always chose the difficult way.
rodchester	single armrest between two airplane seats	The woman beside me rested her arm on the rodchester.
roll around	future becomes present, future date arrives, time passes	By the time your birthday rolls around, I'll have no money to buy you a present.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: Rock -- roll around

## Idioms: roll in the hay -- root for

Idiom	Meaning	Example
roll in the hay	(See <a href="#">a roll in the hay</a> )	
roll off the tongue	natural to say, easy to pronounce	Podnzilowicz is a name that doesn't roll off the tongue.
roll out the red carpet	welcome in a special way, show lots of hospitality	We roll out the red carpet when the Queen comes to Calgary.
roll over and play dead	not try, not compete hard, <a href="#">give up</a>	The coach said, "Don't expect the Jets to roll over and play dead."
roll their eyes	eyes express boredom or disapproval	When he told the joke again, the students began rolling their eyes.
roll with the punches	be a flexible competitor, <a href="#">pick yourself up</a>	In politics you learn to roll with the punches and keep going.
rolling in it	rich, wealthy, <a href="#">filthy rich</a> , <a href="#">loaded</a>	"Is Erica rich?" "My dear, Erica is rolling in it."
rolling in the aisles	laughing so hard they fall out of their chairs	Robin Williams made us laugh. We were rolling in the aisles.
rolling stone	(See <a href="#">a rolling stone gathers no moss</a> )	
root for	cheer for, <a href="#">pull for</a>	Who are you rooting for - the Leafs or les Canadiens?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: roll in the hay -- root for

## Idioms: root of the problem -- round up

Idiom	Meaning	Example
root of the problem	(See <a href="#">the root of the problem</a> )	
rope into	be asked to help, <a href="#">talk into</a> helping	We got roped into delivering posters because we have a car.
rot gut	homemade liquor, <a href="#">hooch</a> , <a href="#">moonshine</a>	If you drink that rot gut, you'll get sick. It tastes awful!
rotten to the core	all bad, corrupt	Hitler's regime was rotten to the core - corrupt.
rotter	one who cheats or lies, <a href="#">dirty rat</a>	Hank, you rotter! You sold me a car that won't start.
rough and ready	strong and willing, <a href="#">a game one</a>	For the oil-well crews, we need people who are rough and ready.
rough going	difficult work, <a href="#">tough sledding</a>	It was rough going the first year. We had financial problems.
rough up	beat a little bit, push and slap	The leader roughed me up a bit because I lied to him.
round the clock	(See <a href="#">around the clock</a> )	
round up	bring together, chase into a herd	Will you round up the kids and tell them to come inside?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: at death's door -- at liberty

Idiom	Meaning	Example
at death's door	dying, near death, <a href="#">brush with death</a>	Poor Sarah! She has lung cancer and I fear she's at death's door.
at ease	stand at ease, do not stand at attention, relax	The lieutenant said, "At ease, soldier. We're not on duty."
at face value	the value shown by the surface, what you see ...	At face value, this car appears to be in good condition.
at fault	caused the problem, <a href="#">to blame</a>	The judge will decide who's at fault - who caused the crash.
at first glance	when you first see it, when you notice it	At first glance, it looked like a cat - a large cat.
at first light	just before the sun rises, <a href="#">at the crack of dawn</a>	At first light, the ducks would fly to the grainfields to feed.
at heart	with feeling for you, with you <a href="#">in mind</a>	Believe me, she has your needs at heart. She cares about you.
at it again	doing it again, <a href="#">back at it</a>	That dog is at it again - barking in the middle of the night.
at least	not very much, very little to ask	At least he could have phoned. He could have done that.
at liberty	free to speak or act, allowed to speak	Are you at liberty to tell us who won? Can you tell us?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: at death's door -- at liberty

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: row of beans -- rube

Idiom	Meaning	Example
row of beans	(See <a href="#">a hill of beans</a> )	
royal pain	(see <a href="#">a royal pain</a> )	
royal treatment	special hospitality, <a href="#">roll out the red carpet</a>	We received royal treatment when we visited our relatives in Sweden.
rub elbows	work beside, associate with	Fran and I used to rub elbows when we worked at the fish plant.
rub salt in the wound	cause it to be worse, aggravate, <a href="#">add insult to injury</a>	If you criticize a student's work in front of the class, you are rubbing salt in the wound.
rub shoulders with	work with, associate with	Art dealers rub shoulders with people from all the professions.
rub the wrong way	bother, irritate, <a href="#">bug</a>	That waiter rubs me the wrong way. He's too impatient.
rubber match	final game, showdown	Each team has won a game. They play the rubber match today.
rubberneck	listen to a conversation on a party (co-op) phone line	Grandma used to rubberneck so she could hear the local news.
rube	rural man, <a href="#">local yokel</a>	Axel Nelson is a rube - a farmer. He doesn't know about city life.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: row of beans -- rube

## Idioms: ruddy -- run across

Idiom	Meaning	Example
ruddy	awful, <a href="#">cotton-picking</a> , <a href="#">darn</a> , <a href="#">friggin</a>	I can't find the ruddy light switch! Ouch! Here it is. Now we can see.
ruffle your feathers	annoy you, bother you, <a href="#">get your dander up</a>	Don't let that insult ruffle your feathers. Don't let it upset you.
rug up	dress warmly, <a href="#">bundle up</a>	Rug up, my dear. It's winter in Winnipeg!
rule of thumb	general rule, guideline	The rule of thumb for a resume is <i>Don't exceed two pages</i> .
rule out	not allow, not permit, <a href="#">put the kibosh on</a>	"How about the right to strike?" "That's been ruled out. They're passing a law against strikes."
rumor has it	people say that, <a href="#">through the grapevine</a>	Rumor has it you're moving to Tuktoyaktuk. Is that true?
run a red light	go through an intersection when the light is red	The driver of the stolen car ran a red light and hit a truck.
run a tab	charge your purchases, <a href="#">put it on the bill</a>	You can run a tab for groceries at my store if you pay every month.
run a tub	turn on the tap and fill the bathtub with water	When you're finished your bath, will you run a tub for me?
run across	discover, happen to see, <a href="#">run into</a>	While I was in Vancouver, I ran across an old friend of yours.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: ruddy -- run across

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: run amuck -- run for your money

Idiom	Meaning	Example
run amuck	not go smoothly, <a href="#">go haywire</a>	We ran amuck when Gus joined the band. He can't play the tuba!
run an errand	deliver something, go and get something	Paul, please run an errand for me. Take this bread to Aunt Matty.
run circles around you	run faster than you, win easily	Billy can run circles around any boy in school. He's very fast.
run down	go to, walk to	Lu, please run down to the store and get an onion.
run down	check, <a href="#">look over</a> , <a href="#">run through</a>	Run down the list before we go to the store. Did I miss anything?
run down	criticize, <a href="#">put down</a>	Fred doesn't run down his staff. He never says negative things.
run down	tired, in poor condition, <a href="#">worn out</a>	His car was a run-down Buick. It belonged in the junk yard.
run for office	be a candidate in an election	I do not plan to run for office this year. I'm leaving politics.
run for the hills	run away to a safe place, run and hide	A tiger has escaped from the zoo! Run for the hills!
run for your money	(See <a href="#">a run for your money</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: run amuck -- run for your money

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: run-in -- run out

Idiom	Meaning	Example
run-in	argument, fight	Doug had a run-in with the boss yesterday. They had an argument.
run interference	protect from attack, come between the attacker and the victim	We've been running interference for the President all week - people calling and demanding to speak with him about lying "under oath".
run into	bump, crash into	My car slid on the ice and I ran into a mail box - knocked it down.
run into	meet by chance, <a href="#">bump into</a> , <a href="#">run across</a>	Did you run into anyone you know? See any old friends?
run it by me again	tell me again, <a href="#">come again</a>	I didn't get the postal code. Would you run that by me again.
run its course	go until it stops, <a href="#">take its course</a>	We don't have a cure for a cold. It will just have to run its course.
run of the mill	average, common, <a href="#">off the shelf</a>	It was a run-of-the-mill novel, the story of a man who returns to the place he was born.
run off	make copies at a photocopier	Please run off extra copies of her resume before the job interview.
run off at the mouth	talk a lot, talk when you should be quiet	Why do you run off at the mouth and disturb this class?
run out	use all, not have enough, <a href="#">run short</a>	Dad, we've run out of coffee. Will you make some more?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: run-in -- run out

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: run out of patience -- run through

Idiom	Meaning	Example
run out of patience	(See <a href="#">lose patience</a> )	
run out of town	chase out of town, <a href="#">the bum's rush</a>	If you don't pay property taxes they'll run you out of town.
run rampant	spread quickly, go <a href="#">out of control</a>	A disease can run rampant in a ghetto. It's difficult to control.
run roughshod	force his way, <a href="#">step on people</a>	The foreman is mean. He'll try to run roughshod over you.
run short	have less than you need, <a href="#">run out</a>	First we ran out of coffee. Then we ran short of wine.
run the gamut	look at what is available, check the range of choices	We ran the whole gamut of colors but she didn't like any of them.
run the gauntlet	run past the enemy, go through a dangerous area	After three job interviews, I felt like I'd run the gauntlet.
run the risk	be at risk, be unable to control the risk or danger	When you invest in stocks, you run the risk of losing money.
run the show	manage the project, <a href="#">call the shots</a>	Talk to Luc if you want to change anything. He's running the show.
run through	practise, read, <a href="#">go through</a>	Let's run through the answers again. I want to know them well.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: run out of patience -- run through

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: run up -- rust out

Idiom	Meaning	Example
run up	drive to, go to, travel to	I have to run up to Edmonton tomorrow. Do you want to come?
run up	increase, add to a total, <a href="#">charge it</a>	Ming lets us run up a bill if we pay it once a month.
run you out	force you to leave, <a href="#">the bum's rush</a>	If they find drugs in your room they'll run you out of the hotel.
run you ragged	make you feel tired, <a href="#">wear you out</a>	Grade 8 students use up all your energy. They run you ragged.
runaround	(See <a href="#">the runaround</a> )	
running water	tap water, water from a pressure system	At the cabin in the woods we don't have running water.
runt of the litter	(See <a href="#">the runt of the litter</a> )	
rush	(See <a href="#">what a rush</a> )	
rush hour	the hour of heavy traffic, <a href="#">bumper to bumper</a>	During rush hour, many drivers become impatient and angry.
rust out	become rusty, be ruined by rust	Nobody wants that car because it's all rusted out.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: rustbucket -- rye

Idiom	Meaning	Example
rustbucket	a car that is very rusty, <a href="#">beater</a>	Can you fix my rustbucket? Can you repair the rusty fenders?
rye	Canadian whisky, whisky made from rye	"What's your favorite drink?" "Rye and Coke."

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: sabre rattling -- salt of the earth

Idiom	Meaning	Example
sabre rattling	(See <a href="#">rattle sabres</a> )	
sack of hammers	(See <a href="#">a sack of hammers</a> )	
sack out	sleep, <a href="#">catch some z's</a> , <a href="#">crash</a>	If you bring your sleeping bag, you can sack out on the floor.
sacred cow	protected part, the part that must not be changed	If our company is going to change, <i>everything</i> should be evaluated - no sacred cows.
sacred moose	(a <a href="#">sacred cow</a> in Canada)	
sad sack	(See <a href="#">a sad sack</a> )	
saddle up	put a saddle on a horse, place a saddle on a horse	Let's saddle up and ride our ponies to the river.
saddled with	burdened with, responsible for	She doesn't want to be saddled with a bus load of teen-age boys.
salt away	save a little money each month, save tiny amounts	By the time Jake died, he had salted away about \$50,000.
salt of the earth	(See <a href="#">the salt of the earth</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: salty -- save your bacon

Idiom	Meaning	Example
salty	of the sea, accustomed to the ocean, like a sailor	Peter is a salty old bugger. The ocean is "in his blood".
same here	I feel the same way, I have the same feeling	"I like reading stories." "Same here."
same to you	I wish the same to you, <a href="#">ditto</a>	"I hope you have ugly children!" "Same to you!"
Saskatchewan pheasant	magpie, black and white bird	Two Saskatchewan pheasants flew out of the bush.
Sasquatch	a large ape-man living in the forests of Western Canada; <a href="#">Bigfoot</a>	A man who was hunting moose in Northern Saskatchewan says that Sasquatch visited him. They sat around the campfire drinking coffee.
sassy	rude, impolite, <a href="#">cheeky</a> , <a href="#">lippy</a>	"I won't go to church!" he said. "Don't be sassy!" Mama said.
save a bundle	save a lot of money, save <a href="#">big time</a>	If you buy a new car through a broker, you can save a bundle.
save face	prevent embarrassment, prevent more shame	To save face, the accused member should resign. It's embarrassing.
save for a rainy day	save money for a time when you really need it	Ed and Vi spend little money. They're saving for a rainy day.
save your bacon	save you from failure or disaster, <a href="#">save your skin</a>	If the boat sinks, a life raft may save your bacon.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: salty -- save your bacon

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: save your skin/neck -- say what's on your mind

Idiom	Meaning	Example
save your skin/neck	save you from risk, dismissal or death	The dog saved your neck. His barking helped us find you.
saw logs	sleep, <a href="#">fall asleep</a> , <a href="#">sleep like a log</a> , <a href="#">sound asleep</a>	When we got home, you were sawing logs. You were asleep.
saw-off	tie game, even score	The game ended in a saw-off: Leafs 3, Flames 3.
saw off a chunk [B]	have sex, have intercourse	I could hear the couple upstairs. They were sawing off a chunk.
saw sawdust	review a decision or failure too many times	"Don't saw sawdust," said the old man. "Don't live in the past."
say jump...how high	(an idiom to show how one person controls another)	Fritz is afraid of Olga. When she says <i>jump</i> , he says <i>how high</i> ?
say my piece	say what I think, say my <a href="#">two cents' worth</a>	When everyone else had spoken, I said my piece.
say the word	say yes or no, tell us when you want to begin	We're waiting for you. Just say the word and we'll start working.
say what	what did you say? <a href="#">pardon me</a> ?	Say what? Did you insult my pet pig?
say what's on your mind	say what you are thinking, <a href="#">speak your mind</a>	Now, Mother, say what's on your mind. Give us your opinion.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: save your skin/neck -- say what's on your mind

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: at loggerheads -- at rest

Idiom	Meaning	Example
at loggerheads	not agreeing, opposed to each other	They're at loggerheads over who owns the farm. They don't agree.
at loose ends	disorganized, unable to concentrate	I was at loose ends when the kids were fighting. I couldn't think.
at my wits' end	very tired and nervous, <a href="#">at the end of my rope</a>	After a wedding and a funeral she was at her wits' end.
at odds	not in agreement, opposed, <a href="#">at loggerheads</a>	Your testimony in court is at odds with the statement you gave to the police. Why are they different?
at one fell swoop	(See <a href="#">in one fell swoop</a> )	
at once	at the same time, simultaneously	You can't do two things at once. You can eat or talk, but not both.
at once	now, immediately	Your mother said you should come in at once - immediately.
at one time	in the past, during a time past, <a href="#">once upon a time</a>	At one time, the sun didn't seem so hot. We didn't need sunscreen when we worked or played in the sun.
at peace	feeling peaceful, without worry	After talking about his problem he was at peace with himself.
at rest	stopped, not moving	Tie these ropes while the boat is at rest - before it moves.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: at loggerheads -- at rest

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: say your piece -- scared to death

Idiom	Meaning	Example
say your piece	state your opinion, tell us what you think	OK, Vic, say your piece. Then we can vote on this offer.
scads	lots, many, <a href="#">oodles</a>	"Are there any cookies left?" "Yes, scads of them."
scandal is brewing	an evil story is being told, there are rumors of a scandal	A scandal is brewing in the Pacific Ocean. A whale and a shark are living together without a marriage license!
scarce as hen's teeth	not many of them, few or none	Rural doctors are scarce as hen's teeth. Doctors like the city life.
scare the life out of me	frighten me a lot, scare me badly, <a href="#">scared out of my wits</a>	My son jumped out of the closet and shouted <i>boo!</i> He nearly scared the life out of me.
scared out of my wits	so scared I couldn't think, <a href="#">scared spitless</a>	When I heard a low moan coming from the bathroom I was scared out of my wits.
scared shitless [B]	very frightened, scared, <a href="#">petrified</a> , <a href="#">scared spitless</a>	When I woke up and saw a figure standing beside my bed, I was scared shitless.
scared spitless	very frightened, <a href="#">scared stiff</a>	Believe me. I was scared spitless when the wolves started to howl.
scared stiff	very frightened, <a href="#">frightened to death</a> , <a href="#">petrified</a>	"Are you afraid of heights?" "Yes. I'm scared stiff of anything higher than a bicycle seat."
scared to death	very scared, very anxious, <a href="#">scared stiff</a>	I was scared to death that your plane had crashed. I was worried.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: say your piece -- scared to death

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: scaredy cat -- scout's honor

Idiom	Meaning	Example
scaredy cat	a person who is afraid, a coward, <a href="#">fraidy cat</a>	The girls will say <i>scaredy cat</i> if I don't go in the water.
schmooze	(See <a href="#">shmooze</a> )	
school of hard knocks	(See <a href="#">the school of hard knocks</a> )	
school's out	school is finished for the day or for the year	When the bell rings at 3:30, school's out! Yea!
scoff	steal, <a href="#">pinch</a>	People who scoff books from the library are thieves.
scoop	news report, story	What's the scoop on the murder? Do you know who did it?
scoop them	get news before they do, print the story first	The reporter said, "We scooped them all on the Harding story."
score to settle	(See <a href="#">a score to settle</a> )	
scot-free	free of work or discipline, not asked to pay, <a href="#">get off</a>	Four members of the gang were convicted, but two went scot-free.
scout's honor	what I say is the truth; <a href="#">the gospel truth</a>	We didn't take your golf ball - scout's honor.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: scrape by -- screw [B]

Idiom	Meaning	Example
scrape by	have just enough to live, <a href="#">get by</a>	We can scrape by if we sell the car and the TV.
scrape me off the ceiling	help me become normal or recover from shock	If I win a million dollars, you'll have to scrape me off the ceiling.
scrape the bottom of the barrel	use the last ones or the worst ones, <a href="#">seconds</a>	He's a bad referee. We scraped the bottom of the barrel to find him.
scratch	money, cash, <a href="#">bread</a> , <a href="#">moola</a>	If we sell these bottles, we'll have enough scratch to buy cigarettes.
scratch	remove from the list, cancel	I saw the list of players on the team. I've been scratched.
scratch the surface	barely begin, uncover only a few facts	His first lecture on Stravinsky only scratched the surface. He told us the basic facts about the composer.
scratch your head	feel confused, wonder who or why	They're still scratching their heads about who assassinated Kennedy.
screech	homemade liquor, <a href="#">hooch</a> , <a href="#">moonshine</a>	We can't afford a bottle of gin, so I bought a jug of screech.
screw	cheat, <a href="#">shaft</a> , get an unfair advantage (also see <a href="#">get screwed</a> )	Twice I tried to strike a deal with him and twice he screwed me.
screw [B]	have sex with, <a href="#">make love</a>	When he heard the bed squeaking he knew they were screwing.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: scrape by -- screw [B]

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: screw loose -- second nature

Idiom	Meaning	Example
screw loose	(See <a href="#">a screw loose</a> )	
screw up	perform poorly, ruin it, <a href="#">blow it</a>	I hope I don't screw up when I take my driver's test.
screw-up	a careless mistake, a bungled job	Those screw-ups were his fault. He forgot to order materials.
screw you [B]	the worst to you, <a href="#">up yours</a> [B]	After I defeated him, he said, "Screw you." He hates to lose.
scrut	oh no, <a href="#">darn</a> , <a href="#">nuts</a> , <a href="#">rats</a>	Scrut! My bike has a flat tire!
scum/scumbag	unpleasant person, <a href="#">dirty rat</a> , <a href="#">slimebucket</a>	"Scum!" he shouted at the man who had attacked his daughter.
search me	I do not have the answer, I do not know	"Who took my Coke?" "Search me. I don't know."
second fiddle	(See <a href="#">play second fiddle</a> )	
second guess	guess what people think or what they will do	Don't try to second guess people. Ask them what you need to know.
second nature	natural ability or interest, talent	Skating is second nature to Paul. He's got natural skating ability.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: second wind -- see it through

Idiom	Meaning	Example
second wind	a feeling that your energy is returning as you run	In a 10 K race, I usually get my second wind after 15 minutes.
seconds	second-rate products, products with flaws	For work, I buy seconds - shirts and pants with minor flaws.
seconds	second helpings of food, more food on your plate	Mom, can we have seconds? This is great apple pudding!
see	<a href="#">date</a> , <a href="#">go out with</a> , <a href="#">hang out</a> with	Derek is seeing Angie. Aren't they a nice couple?
see a man about a dog	go to the bathroom or washroom	Excuse me. I have to see a man about a dog.
see eye to eye	agree, have similar views or opinions, <a href="#">on the same wavelength</a>	Bob and Sue don't see eye to eye on religion. He's an atheist and she's a Christian.
see fit	decide it is right, decide it is good	I hope you will see fit to approve their request for assistance.
see hide nor hair	not see a person because he has gone	You won't see hide nor hair of him after he borrows money.
see it coming	predict it will happen, sense it will happen	I should have seen it coming. Now I know they were planning to dismiss me long before it happened.
see it through	work until you finish, <a href="#">follow through</a>	If you renovate the kitchen, please see it through. Finish it.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: second wind -- see it through

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: see me for dust -- see your way

Idiom	Meaning	Example
see me for dust	not see me because I leave so fast, <a href="#">tail lights</a>	If a sumo wrestler was chasing me, you wouldn't see me for dust.
see red	become angry, <a href="#">burn up</a>	When she interrupts me, I see red. I get really angry.
see the light	understand, become aware	Now I see the light. I understand. You multiply first, then divide.
see the light of day	be exposed, be revealed	The treasure was buried, never again to see the light of day.
see through	see the real reason, see your motive	Mom saw through me. She knew I wanted the money for cigarettes.
see to it/see to that	be certain that it is done, be responsible for doing it	The doors should be open at 7. Ken, will you see to that?
see you stuck	(See <a href="#">won't see you stuck</a> )	
see you through	allow you to survive, help you pay the bills	Here's \$100. Will that see you through till the end of the month?
see you/see your	match your bet, bet as much as you did	I'll see your \$50 and raise you \$100. That's my bet.
see your way	be able to, afford to	Can you see your way to give \$50 to the Food Bank?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: see me for dust -- see your way

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: seeing things -- sell out

Idiom	Meaning	Example
seeing things	imagine that you see things, hallucinate	If John said there's a ghost in the house, he must be seeing things.
seek revenge	try to hurt a person who hurt you, <a href="#">get back at</a>	If a dog bites you, there are many ways to seek revenge.
seen better days	not in good condition, <a href="#">worn out</a>	This jacket has seen better days. Look how the sleeves are worn.
seen dead in	(See <a href="#">wouldn't be caught dead</a> )	
seize the opportunity	act now to gain most, <a href="#">take advantage of</a>	He seized the opportunity to invest in gold. He didn't wait.
self-made man	one who succeeds by his own efforts	Ming built his business by himself. He's a self-made man.
self-starter	a person who will begin to work without a supervisor; <a href="#">a go-getter</a>	We're looking for self starters - people who can begin a job and work by themselves.
sell like hotcakes	sell many, sell fast	Hockey cards sell like hotcakes. The kids collect them.
sell out	sell a business, sell all assets	Grandpa was 60 years old when he sold out and moved to Victoria.
sell out	sell information or support	The Bible tells us that Judas sold out to the bad guys.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: seeing things -- sell out

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: sell the farm -- sentence to death

Idiom	Meaning	Example
sell the farm	over-react, sell everything to invest in a new venture	They've discovered diamonds in B.C., but don't sell the farm, eh.
sell yourself short	not mention some of your skills or qualifications	If the employer asks about your awards, don't sell yourself short.
seller's market	sellers are receiving high prices, a good time to sell, <a href="#">firm market</a>	Real estate prices are high. It's a seller's market.
selling point	best feature, nicest part	The Peugeot's strongest selling point is comfort.
send a bouquet	compliment a person, announce a compliment	I would like send a bouquet to the volunteers at the Food Bank.
send him flying	trip him, cause him to fall, <a href="#">ass over teakettle</a>	His motorcycle hit a rock and sent him flying into the ditch.
send him up	send him to prison, find evidence to convict him	The criminal threatened to kill the policeman who sent him up.
send-up	(See <a href="#">a send-up</a> )	
sense of humor	ability to see a joke; knowing what is funny	He has a broad sense of humor. He laughs at himself and others.
sentence to death	say that a person will be killed because he is guilty	After the jury said he was guilty, the judge sentenced him to death.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: sell the farm -- sentence to death

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: serious coin -- set in

Idiom	Meaning	Example
serious coin	a lot of money, <a href="#">big bucks</a>	Membership in the Pines Golf Club will cost you serious coin.
serve notice	state your plans, say what you will do, <a href="#">spread the word</a>	If you enter the novel contest, you are serving notice that you are a serious writer.
serve the purpose	do the job, accomplish the task	If you don't have an organ, a piano will serve the purpose.
serve them right	give them what they deserve	If they cheat on a test, it serves them right if they get an <i>F</i> .
set a spell	sit down for awhile, <a href="#">visit a spell</a>	Hannah had to set a spell after doing the chores. She rested.
set about	begin, start	After we found the problem with the car, we set about fixing it.
set fire	start a fire, light a fire	A child playing with a cigarette lighter set fire to the curtains.
set foot	walk, step, come for a visit	He hasn't set foot in this house since his mother died.
set for life	have enough money to last a lifetime	He inherited a lot of money. He's set for life.
set in	begin, start	He had a cold. Then pneumonia set in, and it nearly killed him.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: serious coin -- set in

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: set in her ways -- set-up

Idiom	Meaning	Example
set in her ways	having old habits, not able to change easily	After living alone for fifty years, Florence was set in her ways.
set of wheels	vehicle, car, truck, <a href="#">wheels</a>	The Ford needs a lot of repairs. I need a new set of wheels.
set off	start, trigger	Who set off the fire alarm? Who pushed the button?
set out	place where you can see it, put where it can be used	Tomorrow we go to the lake, so set out your swim suit and towel.
set out for	leave, embark	Then we set out for Pluto, where it's much colder than the arctic.
set out to	plan to, hope to	"What did you set out to do?" "I wanted to change the world."
set the table	set plates and cutlery on the table	If you will set the table, I won't ask you to wash the dishes.
set the world on fire	do great things, achieve fame and wealth	I don't want to set the world on fire. I just want a career.
set-to	argument, fight	After playing cards, the brothers had a set-to. They argued.
set-up	plan, scheme	Here's the set-up: You buy the tickets; I'll collect the money.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: set in her ways -- set-up

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: at sixes and sevens -- at the wheel

Idiom	Meaning	Example
at sixes and sevens	not in agreement, confused, in a state of confusion, arguing, <a href="#">at loggerheads</a>	Parents and teachers are at sixes and sevens over sex education.
at stake	what you could lose or gain	If you're involved in a crime, your career may be at stake.
at the crack of dawn	at the first sign of light, <a href="#">at first light</a>	At the crack of dawn he would rise, wash and go for a walk.
at the drop of a hat	without hesitation, quickly	He'll argue at the drop of a hat. He likes to argue.
at the end of my rope/ at the end of my tether	losing control of myself, losing patience (see <a href="#">lose patience</a> )	Babysitting five kids, I was at the end of my rope.
at the hands of	while competing against, when fighting	It was at the hands of his former student that he was defeated.
at the ripe old age	at a very old age; being unusually old	He could still play checkers at the ripe old age of ninety-eight.
at the top of her game	at her best, playing as well as she can	If Val's at the top of her game she can defeat Olga.
at the top of his voice	as loud as he can, shouting loudly	Ben called for help at the top of his voice. "Help!" he shouted.
at the wheel	driving a car, steering a car or truck	Who was at the wheel when the car went off the road?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: at sixes and sevens -- at the wheel

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: set up shop -- settle down

Idiom	Meaning	Example
set up shop	organize a place to do business, buy a store	You could set up shop and sell this pizza. It's delicious!
set you back	pay, pay for, cost you	That looks like a fine camera. How much did it set you back?
set you straight	give you the facts, tell you how it is	If you want to know who's got the gold, Pat will set you straight.
set you up	cause you to appear guilty, <a href="#">frame</a> you	We know you didn't steal your friend's car. He set you up.
set your mind at ease	help you to stop worrying, cause you to relax	Here is some news to set your mind at ease: the kids are safe.
set your price	choose a price for an item you want to sell	If you want to sell it quickly, set your price lower than the others.
set your sights	choose a goal, decide what you want to get	If you set your sights on being a doctor, I will help you.
set your teeth on edge	irritate, irk, <a href="#">bug</a>	Some songs set my teeth on edge - really bother me.
settle down	be calm, relax, <a href="#">calm down</a>	Let's wait until the baby settles down. Then we can eat.
settle down	live in one place, town or city, <a href="#">put down roots</a>	We moved from place to place before we settled down in Guelph.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: set up shop -- settle down

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: settle in -- shagging wagon

Idiom	Meaning	Example
settle in	become comfortable in a new house or apartment	We'd like to get settled in before we have visitors.
settle it	decide what is fair, work for an agreement	If the dispute is about property lines, a survey will settle it.
seven come eleven	7 followed by 11 are lucky numbers	"Seven come eleven," he whispered as he threw the dice.
shabby	worn, torn, ragged, <a href="#">lousy</a> , <a href="#">mousy</a>	I love these shabby old slippers. They're ragged but comfortable.
shack up [B]	live together before you get married, live common-law	"Tarzan and Jane are shacked up." "Oh, I hope they're happy."
shades	sunglasses, tinted glasses	Erica looks cool in her shades. She looks like a model.
shades of	like, similar to	That building looks familiar - shades of our old school.
shady deal	unfair business deal, <a href="#">a rip-off</a>	Cal is a good salesman, but he's put together some shady deals.
shaft	cheat, swindle, screw (see <a href="#">get screwed</a> )[B]	Tom got shafted. He only got 3% commission on his sales.
shagging wagon	a van designed for relaxing and having sex	Tony's van has a bar and a bed. It's his shaggin' wagon.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: settle in -- shagging wagon

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: shake a habit -- shareware

Idiom	Meaning	Example
shake a habit	quit a habit, <a href="#">kick a habit</a>	It's difficult to shake the habits you learn as a child.
shake a leg	hurry, <a href="#">move it</a>	Shake a leg or you'll be late for work. Hurry!
shake a stick at	(See <a href="#">more than you can shake a stick at</a> )	
shake hands	be friends after a fight, agree the fight is over	They argue for hours, but they always shake hands afterward.
shake him	make him nervous, cause him to lose confidence	Even the divorce didn't shake him. He didn't change at all.
shake on it	shake hands to show you agree on a price or a deal	After they agree on a price, they shake on it. It's a deal.
shaky ground	(See <a href="#">on shaky ground</a> )	
shape up	improve, reform, <a href="#">get it together</a>	The coach told us to shape up - to come to practice on time.
shape up or ship out	improve your work or go away, <a href="#">if you can't cut it...</a>	"Soldiers must obey orders," the officer said. "You will learn to shape up or ship out."
shareware	computer programs that people share	Shareware will help us to save money. We'll share software.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).



## Idioms: sharp -- sheesh

Idiom	Meaning	Example
sharp	intelligent, quick to learn	Geoff is a sharp kid. He's doing calculus at the age of twelve.
sharp	sarcastic, abrupt	Even when Anne was tired, she never gave you a sharp reply.
sharp	at a specific time, <a href="#">on the dot</a>	The preacher began the service on time - at 11 a.m. sharp.
sharp as a tack	quick to understand, able to think quickly	He may be 85, but he's sharp as a tack - plays chess every day.
sharpen up	think carefully, use your intelligence	If I make a mistake, I don't want him telling me to sharpen up.
sharpen your pencils	be ready, be prepared	Let's sharpen our pencils, gang. We have to set some goals.
she peed	she is great, she took risks and succeeded, <a href="#">did good</a> , <a href="#">done good</a> , <a href="#">totally awesome</a>	"Hey John, how'd Jessie's concert go?" "She peed. She peed all over the stage. She was awesome!"
shed a little light on	explain, enlighten, help you understand,	To shed a little light on the topic of idioms, we'll read this book.
shed a tear	cry, weep	He hides his emotions. When his dog died, he didn't shed a tear.
sheesh	this is frustrating, I am embarrassed, <a href="#">darn</a> , <a href="#">nuts</a>	Sheesh! I did it again! Why do I say <i>lay</i> when I mean <i>lie</i> ?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: sharp -- sheesh

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: shekel -- shit hot [B]

Idiom	Meaning	Example
shekel	dollar, coin, <a href="#">buck</a> , <a href="#">loonie</a>	He earns a few shekels a day by selling bottles that he finds.
shell out	pay money for, <a href="#">fork over</a>	How much did you shell out for that calculator? Thirty dollars?
shellack	defeat in a game, win by many points	The Bears were shellacked by the Pirates. The score was 19-2.
shipshape	everything is clean and orderly, ready for inspection, <a href="#">tickety-boo</a>	We're ready for the demonstration. Everything is shipshape.
shirty	impolite, rude, <a href="#">cheeky</a> , <a href="#">lippy</a>	Brad has an attitude. He gets a little shirty with his teachers.
shit disturber [B]	a person who tries to cause problems	Cal is a shit disturber. He tries to embarrass the boss at meetings.
shit-faced [B]	very drunk, <a href="#">plastered</a> , <a href="#">polluted</a>	He goes to the bar every day and drinks until he's shit-faced.
shit fire and apple butter	I am getting upset, <a href="#">good grief</a> , <a href="#">hell's bells</a>	You still haven't taken your shower? Shit fire and apple butter! We have to leave in 10 minutes!
shit hit the fan [B]	(See <a href="#">the shit hit the fan</a> )	
shit hot [B]	very skilled, talented	I've played golf with him. He's not so shit hot.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: shekel -- shit hot [B]

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: shit list [B] -- shitting bricks [B]

Idiom	Meaning	Example
shit list [B]	(See <a href="#">on the shit list</a> )	
shit myself [B]	so surprised or scared that I shit in my pants	When lightning struck the tree beside me, I nearly shit myself.
shit or get off the pot	do it or move, <a href="#">dog in the manger</a>	He's holding the phone but he's not using it. I wish he'd shit or get off the pot!
shit or wind my watch	surprised, shocked, confused, <a href="#">discombobulated</a>	When she announced that I was the father, I didn't know whether to shit or wind my watch! I don't even know the woman!
shit out of luck [B]	have no more, none left for you	There are no tickets left. We're shit out of luck.
shit through a goose	(See <a href="#">like shit through a goose</a> )	
shitface [B]	ugly face	Tom's bulldog is a real shitface, but Tom loves him.
shithead [B]	stupid or foolish person, <a href="#">dipstick</a> , <a href="#">jerk</a>	What a shithead! He put water in the gas tank!
shitload	(See <a href="#">a shitload</a> )	
shitting bricks [B]	very frightened, <a href="#">scared to death</a>	When my parachute didn't open, I was shitting bricks!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: shitty [B] -- shoot-out (sports)

Idiom	Meaning	Example
shitty [B]	bad behavior, awful, <a href="#">crappy</a>	He borrowed your car and took your girl? That's pretty shitty.
shmooze	visit with, be friendly, <a href="#">rub shoulders with</a>	You don't have to sell wine. Just shmooze with the clients.
shoe-in	(See <a href="#">a shoo-in</a> )	
shoes like boats	very large shoes, gigantic shoes	This guy had shoes like boats. I bet he could've walked on water!
shogun	(See <a href="#">a shogun</a> )	
shoo-in	(See <a href="#">a shoo-in</a> )	
shoot	tell me, say it, I am listening, <a href="#">fire away</a>	"Do you have any news?" "No. Just a rumor." "Shoot. I love rumors."
shoot from the hip	talk without thinking, <a href="#">run off at the mouth</a> , <a href="#">shoot your mouth off</a>	Juan, my friend, if you tell a traffic cop to "shove it", you are shooting from the hip.
shoot it out	shoot at each other, shoot until one is killed	The thief decided to shoot it out with the police.
shoot-out (sports)	taking shots at each goal to determine the winner	Sweden won the gold medal by defeating Canada in a shoot-out.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: shitty [B] -- shoot-out (sports)

## Idioms: shoot-out -- shooting fish in a barrel

Idiom	Meaning	Example
shoot-out	a gunbattle, a duel	Two men died in the shoot-out: one "cop" and one robber.
shoot the breeze	talk, visit, chat, <a href="#">chew the fat</a>	Hank and I were drinking beer and shooting the breeze.
shoot the shit [B]	visit, have a conversation, <a href="#">a chin wag</a>	The ladies went shopping, and the men sat around shootin' the shit.
shoot up	inject an illegal drug, get <a href="#">a hit</a> , <a href="#">do drugs</a>	One of the addicts was in the bathroom shooting up.
shoot up	shoot guns to celebrate and scare people	The cowboys used to get drunk and shoot up the town.
shoot-up	shoot guns in the air without aiming	Do you remember the shoot-ups in the old western movies?
shoot your mouth off	talk without thinking, <a href="#">blab</a> , <a href="#">squeal</a>	Moe won't shoot his mouth off. He won't tell anybody.
shoot your wad	spend all your money, use all you have	If you shoot your wad today, what will you spend tomorrow?
shoot yourself in the foot	ruin your chances, <a href="#">cut off your nose...</a> , <a href="#">your own worst enemy</a>	If you want the job, don't be late for the interview. Don't shoot yourself in the foot.
shooting fish in a barrel	a task that is too easy, a game without challenge	We won 18-2. It was like shooting fish in a barrel.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: shoot-out -- shooting fish in a barrel

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: shooting match -- short with me

Idiom	Meaning	Example
shooting match	(See <a href="#">the whole shooting match</a> )	
shop talk	(See <a href="#">inside joke</a> )	
shop-floor struggle	a battle for control in the workplace, a fight between workers and managers	This is a shop-floor struggle about quality control. The workers want the right to choose the tools they use in the plant.
shoplifting	stealing products from a store while you shop	He's charged with shoplifting. He stole some cigarettes.
short cut	a shorter path, a quicker method, <a href="#">quick and dirty</a>	To become an actor, you learn the skills and work very hard. There are no short cuts.
short end of the stick	(See <a href="#">the short end of the stick</a> )	
short one	(See <a href="#">a short one</a> )	
short strokes	(See <a href="#">down to the short strokes</a> )	
short temper	quick to become angry, <a href="#">hot tempered</a>	Dr. Jones has a short temper. He gets mad very quickly.
short with me	cross, abrupt, curt, <a href="#">cut me off</a>	Mrs. Gore was short with me. I wonder if she's angry.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: shortchange -- shove down my throat

Idiom	Meaning	Example
shortchange	not return enough money to the purchaser, <a href="#">a rip-off</a>	I gave the clerk \$10 for a book costing \$6.95 and got \$2.05 back. Was I shortchanged?
shortfall	loss, deficit	Shoplifting is one of the reasons for the shortfall - for the deficit.
shot	worn, broken, ruined, <a href="#">had it</a>	When they returned my bike, the gears were shot - worn out.
shot in the arm	(See <a href="#">a shot in the arm</a> )	
shot in the dark	(See <a href="#">a shot in the dark</a> )	
should be so lucky	one would be lucky if that happened, that would be very lucky	Your goal is to find your bliss? You should be so lucky!
shoulder the blame	accept the blame, <a href="#">take the rap</a>	The managers agreed to shoulder the blame for the error? Sure.
shoulder to shoulder	working beside him/her, <a href="#">side by side</a>	Poet and peasant stood shoulder to shoulder during the war.
shoulder to the wheel	(See <a href="#">put your shoulder to the wheel</a> )	
shove down my throat	force me to accept it, force me to agree to that, <a href="#">eat that</a>	Our preacher said that babies are sinners. He's not going to shove that down my throat!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: shortchange -- shove down my throat

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: at this point in time -- awesome

Idiom	Meaning	Example
at this point in time	now, at this time	At this point in time, ten cases of AIDS have been reported.
at will	freely, without restraint	He shared his feelings, speaking at will about his problems.
at your beck and call	serving you, doing everything for you	You don't have to be at his beck and call, doing whatever he asks.
at your fingertips	easy to find, ready to use	When I repair a car, I like to have all my tools at my fingertips.
attaboy (that a boy)	good work, well done, <a href="#">'at a boy</a>	Whenever I win, Don says, "Attaboy! Good game!"
attagirl (that a girl)	good work, well done, <a href="#">'at a girl</a>	When Judy gets good grades, her mom says, "Attagirl, Judy!"
away out	(See <a href="#">way out</a> )	
away out of line	(See <a href="#">way out of line</a> )	
away to the races	going without a problem, <a href="#">smooth sailing</a>	When they approve our business loan, we'll be away to the races.
awesome	great, super, <a href="#">bonzer</a> , <a href="#">totally awesome</a>	We had an awesome time in Rome! It was a great trip!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: at this point in time -- awesome

## Idioms: shove it [B] -- showboat

Idiom	Meaning	Example
shove it [B]	put it away, <a href="#">stick it up your ass</a> , <a href="#">stuff it</a>	If that dental plan pays only half the cost, they can shove it.
show off	brag, boast, <a href="#">showboat</a>	"Did you see Eric scale the stairs on his rollerblades in front of everybody? He loves to show off."
show-off	one who displays, <a href="#">showboat</a>	Ron is the show-off in our class. He's always advertising himself.
show promise	show some of your ability, show that you will develop	Len shows promise as a teacher. He is patient and articulate.
show up	attend, go to class or work	Vi shows up every week for her lesson. She's always on time.
show you around	show you where things are, guide you	When we get to the ranch, follow me. I'll show you around.
show you the ropes	teach you the first steps, <a href="#">learn the ropes</a>	It is my duty to take you to the plant and show you the ropes.
show you up	be better than you, cause you to look inferior	If you play tennis with Martina, she'll show you up. She's good!
show your stuff	do your best, show what you can do	When it's your turn to dance, show your stuff. Impress them!
showboat	a person who displays, a <a href="#">show-off</a>	The peacock is one of nature's showboats - he's magnificent!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: shove it [B] -- showboat

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: showdown -- shut-in

Idiom	Meaning	Example
showdown	final fight or contest, <a href="#">rubber match</a>	Ali defeated Frazier in the boxing showdown of the '70s.
shrink/head shrink	psychiatrist, therapist	If I can't manage my personal life, I can always visit a shrink.
shrinking violet	(See <a href="#">no shrinking violet</a> )	
shrug it off	not let it affect you or bother you	He was hurt by the remark, but he shrugged it off and kept working.
shuck on down to the fraidy hole	go to the cellar for shelter from a cyclone or tornado, hide when you are afraid	When my uncle saw the sky turn black in the afternoon, he would shuck on down to the fraidy hole.
shucks	oh dear, well, <a href="#">heck</a>	Aw shucks, Beth Ann, you know I care a whole lot for you.
shuffle the chairs on the deck	appear to change by moving things around, <a href="#">play musical chairs</a> ,	Shuffling the chairs on the deck will not help a sinking ship!
shut down	stop operating, quit	Without electricity, the factory will have to shut down.
shut-down	closure, end of operations	Cold weather sometimes causes a shut-down of our schools.
shut-in	someone who is ill and cannot go outside	Our priest visits the shut-ins - people who must stay at home.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: showdown -- shut-in

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: shut my mouth -- sick to my stomach

Idiom	Meaning	Example
shut my mouth	sorry for what I said, <a href="#">slap my afro</a>	"The girl you called an idiot last week has carried off the best marks." "Well, shut my mouth! There's more to her than meets the eye."
shut up	do not talk, <a href="#">keep quiet</a>	"Shut up!" he yelled at the dog. "Be quiet or I'll muzzle you!"
shut your face	stop talking, <a href="#">shut up</a>	When I told him he was a racist, he said, "Shut your face."
shutout (sports)	no goals scored against a goal keeper in one game	Our goalie has three shutouts this season - three zeros!
sick as a dog	(See <a href="#">as sick as a dog</a> )	
sick at heart	sad, sorrowful	Papa was sick at heart after the hailstorm ruined our crop.
sick building	(See <a href="#">a sick building</a> )	
sick of	not interested any more, bored by, <a href="#">tired of</a>	We're sick of his jokes because he repeats them.
sick to death	wishing for a change, <a href="#">fed up</a> , <a href="#">sick of</a>	People are sick to death of the debate on gun control. They've heard too much about guns.
sick to my stomach	vomit, puke, <a href="#">throw up</a>	Stop the car! I think I'm going to be sick to my stomach.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: shut my mouth -- sick to my stomach

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: sicker than a dog -- silkhead

Idiom	Meaning	Example
sicker than a dog	very, very sick; <a href="#">as sick as a parrot</a>	He wants to go and play hockey, and he's sicker 'n a dog!
sicko	weird person, pervert, psycho, <a href="#">scumbag</a>	"Who would pour ketchup all over my car?" "Oh, some sicko, I guess."
side by side	standing/walking beside, <a href="#">shoulder to shoulder</a>	The children were standing side by side on the stairs.
sight for sore eyes	(See <a href="#">a sight for sore eyes</a> )	
sign in	sign your name to show you are in the building	Be sure to sign in. We want to know that you are safe inside.
sign off	say goodbye, close, stop writing or talking	"I'll sign off now, but I'll write again soon. With love, Kim."
sign out	sign your name to borrow something, <a href="#">on loan</a>	If you want to sign out a book you will need a library card.
sign up	sign the list, enrol, enlist	"Did you sign up for lessons?" "Yes. My name is on the list."
silence is golden	silence is wonderful, silence is peaceful	After a day of teaching grade two students, silence is golden.
silkhead	bald person, <a href="#">chromedome</a>	If you were a silkhead, would you wear a toupee?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: sicker than a dog -- silkhead

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: silver spoon -- sit in judgement on

Idiom	Meaning	Example
silver spoon	(See <a href="#">born with a silver spoon in his mouth</a> )	
silver-tongued	nice-talking, <a href="#">smooth talker</a>	A silver-tongued salesman sold me this car, but I can't drive!
simmer down	control your anger, <a href="#">chill out</a> , <a href="#">cool off</a>	Simmer down, Sassy. You are very angry. Try to control yourself.
sin bin (hockey)	(See <a href="#">the sin bin</a> )	
sing his praises	praise him a lot, talk <a href="#">in glowing terms</a>	His mom is always singing his praises, saying he's a good boy.
sing up a storm	sing loud, sing vigorously	After dinner we gathered around the piano and sang up a storm.
single file	a single row of people, <a href="#">one by one</a>	We marched single file through the prison door.
single out	choose one person from a group	Why does the priest single me out for extra duties? Why me?
sinking feeling	feeling of failure; despair	When I saw the ambulance at our house, I got a sinking feeling.
sit in judgement on	judge someone's actions, evaluate	Gary is afraid because you sit in judgement on whatever he does.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: silver spoon -- sit in judgement on

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: sit the fence -- skate on thin ice

Idiom	Meaning	Example
sit the fence	not choose either side, try to be in the middle	People don't like politicians who try to sit the fence.
sit tight	not move, wait here	I'll go and buy the hotdogs. You sit tight until I get back.
sit with you	relate to you, appeal to you	If we build a fence on your land, how would that sit with you?
sitting duck	(See <a href="#">a sitting duck</a> )	
sitting pretty	in a good position, in favorable circumstances	Rich in oil and timber resources, Alberta was sitting pretty.
six bits	seventy-five cents, 3 x <a href="#">two bits</a>	Grandfather told us that he used to pay six bits for a hotel room.
six of one, half a dozen of the other	nearly equal, about the same, like twins	Panasonic and Quasar are very similar - it's six of one, half a dozen of the other.
sixes and sevens	(See <a href="#">at sixes and sevens</a> )	
size up	evaluate, <a href="#">check over</a>	The teacher sized up the new student. He looked scared.
skate on thin ice	(See <a href="#">on thin ice</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: skaters -- skip out

Idiom	Meaning	Example
skaters	skate boarders, boarders	The skaters were asked to leave the downtown area.
skeleton in the closet	unpleasant secrets, old scandals	Every family has a skeleton in the closet - a dark secret or two.
skidaddle	leave, go, <a href="#">off with you</a> , <a href="#">vamoose</a>	"Get out of here! Skidaddle!" the old man shouted at the boys.
skids	drug users, <a href="#">skids</a>	A few skids were playing video games at the mall.
skin virgin	never had a tattoo, skin has not been tattooed	Our club has no skin virgins. Every member has at least one tattoo.
skinhead	youth with a short haircut, member of the Nazi Party	Three skinheads shouted "Heil!" as they marched up the street.
skinny dip	swimming naked, in the buff	They took off their clothes and went for a skinny dip in the lake.
skins game	gambling game, betting on who will win a game of golf, curling, etc.	Jake would rather bet on a skins game than watch it.
skip classes	miss classes, not attend classes, <a href="#">play hooky</a>	Riza had low grades in history because he skipped classes.
skip out	take a leave, do not attend, <a href="#">duck out</a>	The students were so enthusiastic about math that nobody skipped out on the voluntary Saturday lesson.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: skaters -- skip out

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: skoal -- sleep in

Idiom	Meaning	Example
skoal	a Scandinavian toast or salute, <a href="#">cheers</a> , <a href="#">drink up</a>	Jonas, here's to the monster fish we caught. Skoal!
skunk	not score one goal, <a href="#">goose egg</a>	In the final game we got skunked 6-0. We were humiliated.
sky isn't blue	(See <a href="#">the sky isn't blue</a> )	
slackass [B]	lazy person, <a href="#">lazy bones</a>	Larry, you slackass, get over here and help us load the truck!
slam	criticize, insult, <a href="#">knock</a> , <a href="#">put down</a>	The newspaper article slammed the government for being slow to help the flood victims.
slammer	(See <a href="#">in the slammer</a> )	
slap my afro / slap my fro	slap me to help me think, wake me up, <a href="#">shut my mouth</a>	"Did you know that a Pentium computer is smarter than most Americans?" "Well, slap my fro! I didn't know that!"
slash and burn	reduce and cut programs without care or mercy	To save money, the Government used slash-and-burn policies.
sleep around [B]	sleep with and make love to many partners	Harry was sleeping around before his wife divorced him.
sleep in	sleep until late in the morning	Don't call me until after lunch tomorrow. I'm going to sleep in.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: skoal -- sleep in

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: sleep it off -- slip away

Idiom	Meaning	Example
sleep it off	sleep until you are sober, sleep until you feel normal	"That medicine made me drowsy." "Go to bed and sleep it off."
sleep like a log	sleep well, sleep soundly, <a href="#">dead to the world</a> , <a href="#">deep sleep</a>	After working in the fields and eating a big meal, I sleep like a log!
sleeper	ordinary device with surprising skill or power	The Taurus SHO was a sleeper. It looked slow, but it was fast!
sleepy head	a child who is tired or sleepy	Go to bed, sleepy head. I'll see you in the morning.
slick	quick and smooth, <a href="#">cool</a> , <a href="#">neat</a> , <a href="#">swell</a>	You ran a slick race, Leah. You paced yourself, stayed in the inside lane and left just enough for the final "kick". Congratulations!
slim chance	(See <a href="#">a slim chance</a> )	
slimebucket [B]	crude, immoral person; <a href="#">scumbag</a>	Children need protection from the slimebuckets in society.
slip	become lower, <a href="#">lose ground</a>	My grades slipped last semester. My average dropped from B to C.
slip a notch	be less skillful, not perform as well	After the age of 30, your physical skills may slip a notch or two.
slip away	go away quietly, sneak out	While the men watched the fight, the boys slipped away unnoticed.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: sleep it off -- slip away

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: slip away -- slow as a dead snail

Idiom	Meaning	Example
slip away	die, <a href="#">pass away</a>	Grandma slipped away during the night. She was gone by morning.
slip of the tongue	(See <a href="#">a slip of the tongue</a> )	
slip out	leave quietly, <a href="#">slip away</a>	I'll slip out and check the parking meter. Be right back.
slip out	speak carelessly, say it without thinking	I didn't mean to answer, Sir. The words just slipped out.
slip up	cause a small mistake, <a href="#">make a booboo</a>	The singer didn't slip up once - not even a little mistake.
slip your mind	forget, not remember	I met her at church last Sunday but her name slips my mind.
slippery slope	dangerous path, a path that leads to problems	When you assume that people are bad, you are on a slippery slope.
slo mo	slow motion, movement becomes slower, <a href="#">time stands still</a>	Are you in slo mo today? You're moving like a snail!
sloshed to the gills	very drunk, <a href="#">loaded</a> , <a href="#">plastered</a> ,	She was sloshed to the gills and singing very badly.
slow as a dead snail	(See <a href="#">as slow as a dead snail</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: slip away -- slow as a dead snail

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: axe to grind -- axe to grind

Idiom	Meaning	Example
axe to grind	(See <a href="#">an axe to grind</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: slow as molasses... -- small potatoes

Idiom	Meaning	Example
slow as molasses...	(See <a href="#">as slow as molasses in January</a> )	
slow day	a day with few customers, a day with little activity	We had another slow day at the theater - only six customers!
slow down	go slower, <a href="#">ease up</a>	Please slow down for the bumps. You're driving too fast.
slowpoke	a person who is working slower than the others	I'm a slowpoke! I've done only one question; you've done six!
sluff off	not do, avoid doing, procrastinate	I've been sluffing off. I'm behind in my assignments.
slug away	work slowly but steadily, <a href="#">plug away</a>	When we returned, Annie was still slugging away at her math.
slug of	(See <a href="#">a slug</a> )	
smack dab in the middle	directly in the middle, in the center	The ball landed smack dab in the middle of the pizza.
smack of	is similar to, <a href="#">shades of</a>	Even the phrase <i>person of color</i> smacks of racism. Don't use it.
small potatoes	unimportant things, insignificant matters	Don't worry about a few broken dishes. That's small potatoes.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: slow as molasses... -- small potatoes

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: small talk -- smells

Idiom	Meaning	Example
small talk	talk about unimportant topics - the weather etc.	Winnie is good at making small talk with strangers.
smartass [B]	a person who tries to be witty, <a href="#">cocky</a> , <a href="#">lippy</a>	"What do you want to drink?" "Do you have breast milk?" "Don't be a smartass!"
smarten up	be smarter, do not be stupid	People who drink and drive should smarten up.
smarts	intelligence, mental ability	Jen gets good grades. She has the smarts to win a scholarship.
smashed	drunk, <a href="#">hammered</a> , <a href="#">wasted</a>	She gets smashed on gin and dances around the living room.
smashing	very beautiful, very attractive	Nicole looks absolutely smashing in that red dress.
smell blood	sense victory, be aware of an opponent's weakness	Michael is a fierce competitor. When he smells blood, he wins.
smell where you're stepping	(See <a href="#">I smell where you're stepping</a> )	
smelling yourself	acting grown-up, having signs of physical maturity, <a href="#">cocky</a>	I know you're smelling yourself, but this is a conversation for adults.
smells	(See <a href="#">something smells</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).



## Idioms: smidge/smidgeon -- snap

Idiom	Meaning	Example
smidge/smidgeon	(See <a href="#">just a smidgeon</a> )	
smithwright it	throw it in the garbage, <a href="#">chuck it</a> , <a href="#">eighty-six it</a> , <a href="#">junk it</a>	If the drawing isn't perfect, we smithwright it - we throw it out.
smoke and mirrors	false impressions, deceit, trickery, <a href="#">bafflegab</a>	His speech about new projects is just smoke and mirrors. The company is bankrupt.
smoke like a furnace	smoke a lot of cigarettes, <a href="#">chain smoke</a>	He died of lung cancer. He used to smoke like a furnace.
smoking gun	weapon used, evidence, <a href="#">caught red-handed</a>	The company told me to dismiss the employee, so I was holding the smoking gun.
smooth out	solve a problem or argument	The counselor smoothed out our problem. We're friends again.
smooth sailing	easy job, an operation that has no problems	After we paid the bank for our loan, it was smooth sailing.
smooth talker	one who says nice words, <a href="#">butter wouldn't melt...</a>	Janet is such a smooth talker! She should be in politics.
snag	problem, difficulty, <a href="#">glitch</a>	If you plan a project carefully, there will be fewer snags.
snap	(See <a href="#">it's a snap</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: smidge/smidgeon -- snap

## Idioms: snap a picture -- snow them

Idiom	Meaning	Example
snap a picture	(See <a href="#">take a picture</a> )	
snap at	speak in a harsh tone, answer sharply	If I talk to you while you're watching TV, you snap at me.
snapped	drunk, <a href="#">loaded</a> , <a href="#">looped</a>	Whenever he gets snapped, he wants to fight.
snatch victory from the jaws of defeat	win when it appears that you will lose, <a href="#">mount a comeback</a>	The opinion polls showed we were losing, but we snatched victory from the jaws of defeat.
snazzy	stylish, <a href="#">neat</a> , <a href="#">way cool</a>	That's a snazzy suit, George. It looks great on you.
snitch	tattle, <a href="#">squeal</a> , <a href="#">tell on</a>	That little devil! He snitched! He told Dad!
snootful	(See <a href="#">a snootful</a> )	
snotty-nosed kid	a child, a boy with a dirty face	I was just a snotty-nosed kid when I got my first job.
snow job	(See <a href="#">a snow job</a> )	
snow them	fool them, tell them a false story	You can't snow them. They know if you're telling a lie.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: snowball -- so small you could barely swing a cat

Idiom	Meaning	Example
snowball	grow, become bigger, spread to other people	Among students, discontent can snowball. It can spread rapidly.
snowbirds	Canadians who go south for the winter	It's November, and the snowbirds are leaving Alberta for Arizona.
snug as a bug in a rug	warm and comfortable, <a href="#">cocoon</a>	In this nice apartment, you'll be snug as a bug in a rug.
so and so	a person you dislike, a name you forget	Who invited that so and so to the party? I don't like him!
so far, so good	doing fine this far, good this far	After I had read one page, she said, "So far, so good."
so help me	I will need help to stop, I will need help if I do it	If that dog barks tonight, so help me, I'm going to get the shotgun!
so long	goodbye, see you later	So long, my friends. I have to leave you now.
so much as	this much will anger me, very little will anger me	If that cat so much as touches the baby, I'll tie up its tail!
so quiet you can hear a pin drop	very quiet, very still	The teacher said, "Class, try to be so quiet you can hear a pin drop."
so small you could barely swing a cat	very small room, narrow room, <a href="#">pokey</a>	The bedroom was so small you could barely swing a cat in it.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: snowball -- so small you could barely swing a cat

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms: so small you had to back out to change your mind -- soft market

Idiom	Meaning	Example
so small you had to back out to change your mind	very small, tiny, as small as a phone booth	I've seen small apartments, but this one was so small you had back out to change your mind.
so-so	neither good nor bad, fair, <a href="#">fair to middling</a>	"How's the wife, Byron?" "Just so-so, not much better. The doctor says she needs rest."
so to speak	using expressions or metaphors when speaking, to use the vernacular	Ron was up the creek, so to speak. He'd promised to marry Suzy, but he was already married to Joan.
so what	what is the difference, what does it matter, <a href="#">who cares</a>	So we lost the game. So what! It doesn't matter.
soap box	(See <a href="#">get off your soap box</a> )	
sob story	a sad story, a story about love lost or misfortune, <a href="#">cry the blues</a>	Have you heard Keiko's sob story? She lost her boyfriend and her cat on the same day.
sober up	become sober, wait until you are not drunk	Give him a few hours to sober up. He'll be okay after he has a rest.
sock it to me	tell me, give it to me, <a href="#">hit me</a> , <a href="#">shoot</a>	"It's bad news," he said. "Sock it to me," I said.
soft in the head	foolish, crazy	If you quit your job at Gulf Oil, you're soft in the head.
soft market	a period when sales are few and prices are low, <a href="#">buyer's market</a>	The real estate market is soft now. Don't try to sell your house.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: so small you had to back out to change your mind -- soft market

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: soft pedal -- soldier on

Idiom	Meaning	Example
soft pedal	say it is not important, <a href="#">downplay</a>	The government is trying to soft pedal their failures.
soft sell	not pressuring the customer, showing the product and letting the customer decide, <a href="#">hard sell</a>	I like the soft-sell guys - the ones who let you take a car for a drive and see if you like it.
soft spot	(See <a href="#">have a soft spot for</a> )	
soft-top	(See <a href="#">ragtop</a> )	
soften up	cause a person to be more cooperative	Ken is stubborn about his right to smoke. I can't soften him up.
soften your stance	cause you to change your opinion or position	If his friends go against him, he may soften his stance.
software	computer programs, <a href="#">courseware</a>	This accounting software is very easy to use.
software piracy	copying computer programs, <a href="#">bootleg</a>	Software piracy is a crime and we could "do time".
sold on	believe in, convinced of	I'm sold on this new herbal drink. It gives me energy.
soldier on	continue working; serving well; <a href="#">carry on</a>	When the others quit searching, the family soldiered on, hoping to find their lost girl.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: soft pedal -- soldier on

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: solid as the Rock of Gibraltar -- Sophie's choice

Idiom	Meaning	Example
solid as the Rock of Gibraltar	(See <a href="#">as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar</a> )	
some chick	beautiful <a href="#">chick</a> , great woman	Gloria is some chick! Will you introduce me to her?
something borrowed, something blue	two of the things required for a happy wedding and successful marriage	The bride borrowed a blue garter, so she has something borrowed, something blue!
something is haywire	something is wrong or broken, <a href="#">go haywire</a>	Something is haywire with my back. I can't move.
something is rotten...	(See <a href="#">there's something rotten in the state of Denmark</a> )	
something smells	something is wrong, something is not ethical, <a href="#">fishy</a> , <a href="#">there's something rotten in the state of Denmark</a>	Something smells about this case. Why would the police blow up an oil well?
something snapped	the brain broke, the mind failed	Something snapped when he was in the war. Now he can't speak.
sometimes life is a bucket of shit and the handle is inside [B]	sometimes life is very unpleasant, <a href="#">life is not all guns and roses</a>	The junk dealer had a poster on the wall of his shack: <i>Sometimes life is a bucket of shit, and the handle's inside!</i>
song and dance	typical answer, old routine, cliché	"I was late because I had a flat tire." "Don't give me that old song and dance!"
Sophie's choice	choosing between your death and the death of your child	He was facing a Sophie's choice: Lose his son or lose his own life.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Idioms: solid as the Rock of Gibraltar -- Sophie's choice

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: SOS -- sow wild oats

Idiom	Meaning	Example
SOS	"Save Our Ship" or "Save Our Souls", a distress call, a call for help, <a href="#">mayday</a>	When I was stranded in the North that winter, I tramped messages in the snow: H E L P and S O S.
soul mate	the person who is your natural and compatible mate	I thought Carson and I were soul mates, but we disagree a lot.
sound asleep	sleeping peacefully, <a href="#">dead to the world</a>	When Tara went to check the baby, he was sound asleep.
sound bite	radio advertisement, a few seconds of radio time	I advertise our hotel on the radio using ten-second sound bites.
sound off	complain, <a href="#">get it off your chest</a> , <a href="#">speak out</a>	He was sounding off about our papers - how bad they were.
sounding board	a person who listens to ideas or plans	Cliff used Linda as a sounding board for his business plans.
sour grapes	feeling negative because you did not win	If she loses, she complains about the referee. It's just sour grapes.
sour puss	one who is feeling sad, an unhappy person	Don't be such a sour puss. Let's have fun.
southpaw	left-handed person, <a href="#">lefty</a>	Our baseball team needs another pitcher - preferably a southpaw.
sow wild oats	live a wild life as a young person	As a youth he lived a reckless life. He sowed a few wild oats.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: SOS -- sow wild oats

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: spaced out -- speed up

Idiom	Meaning	Example
spaced out	feeling strange or unreal, <a href="#">stoned</a>	After falling, Jeff was spaced out. He looked dazed and limp.
spade work	first stage of the work, preparation for later work, <a href="#">pave the way</a>	Paul did the spade work for our food bank. He asked each of the merchants for a donation.
spare me	please do not tell me, do not bore me with	Spare me the gross details of your love affairs. I'm not interested.
speak highly of	praise, say that a person is great or excellent	Angela's former teachers speak very highly of her.
speak of the devil	the person we are speaking about has just arrived	As I walked into the room, Piotr said to Dorota, "Speaking of the devil, here he is now! Ha ha."
speak out	say what you think, <a href="#">speak your mind</a>	Did you speak out at the meeting? Did you tell them what is wrong?
speak up	speak louder, <a href="#">crank it up</a>	Please speak up so everyone can hear you.
speak volumes	tells a lot, reveals much	Your smile speaks volumes about your career. You like it.
speak your mind	say what you think or feel, <a href="#">speak out</a>	We want you to speak your mind on this issue. State your opinion.
speed up	go faster, accelerate, <a href="#">step on it</a>	Don't speed up when you come to an intersection. Slow down!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: spaced out -- speed up

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: babe -- back on your feet

Idiom	Meaning	Example
babe	darling, honey, girlfriend	"Hi, babe. Want to sit with me?" "Sure, honey. I'd love to."
babe in arms	(See <a href="#">a babe in arms</a> )	
babe in the woods	(See <a href="#">a babe in the woods</a> )	
baby blues	feeling sad when you are pregnant	After seven months, Karly had the baby blues. She was feeling sad.
baby boomer	a person born during the decade after World War II	Baby boomers will retire in the first decade of the 21st century.
back at it	having returned to a past habit or occupation, <a href="#">at it again</a>	"I was so glad to hear George quit drinking." "Well, he's back at it."
back at ya	I wish you the same as you wished me, <a href="#">ditto</a> , <a href="#">same to you</a>	"Merry Christmas, Val." "Back at ya, Wayne."
back down	yield, not challenge, not <a href="#">stand up to</a>	Ole won't back down from you. He's ready to fight.
back off	do not come closer, do not touch me	Back off, you animal! Don't touch me!
back on your feet	feeling better, recovered from an illness	When you're back on your feet, we want you to return to work.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: babe -- back on your feet

## Idioms: spell disaster -- spike a drink

Idiom	Meaning	Example
spell disaster	cause an accident, lead to a tragedy	An error in the design of a car could spell disaster for the driver.
spell out	explain carefully, explain each word or step	If I don't understand a question, I ask him to spell it out for me.
spell you off	do your job for you, allow you to rest	When you get tired of shoveling, I'll spell you off for awhile.
spend holidays	do during your holidays, go for your holidays	"How'd you spend your holidays?" "We drove to Texas and Tijuana."
spend time	wait, <a href="#">hang out</a> , <a href="#">put in time</a>	I spend a lot of time at her place. I'm there every day.
spending money	extra money, money for fun, <a href="#">pin money</a>	Wayne earns spending money by washing the neighbors' cars.
spice of life	(See <a href="#">the spice of life</a> )	
spice up	add spices or flavor, <a href="#">jazz up</a>	The chili tastes good, but let's spice it up a bit.
spiffy	clean and tidy, groomed, <a href="#">tiddly</a>	Grandpa, your car looks real spiffy. Did you polish it?
spike a drink	put alcohol in a drink of juice or pop or coffee	Somebody must have spiked my drink. I feel quite dizzy.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: spell disaster -- spike a drink

## Idioms: spike the ball -- spinork/spinorky

Idiom	Meaning	Example
spike the ball	hit the ball sharply over the net	Gary's ability to spike the ball gives our team an advantage.
spill the beans	tell a secret, tell others about it, <a href="#">spill your guts</a>	Don't tell Sammy about our plan. He'll spill the beans.
spill your guts	tell everything you know, <a href="#">spill the beans</a>	Don't spill your guts to mom. Don't tell her about our problems.
spin a yarn	tell a story, <a href="#">make up</a> a story	We love to hear Norman spin a yarn. His stories seem so real.
spin crew	speech-writing crew, hired writers	The spin crew will tell me if I should say <i>racial</i> or <i>ethnic</i> .
spin doctor	a speech writer, an advisor to a politician, <a href="#">put the right spin on it</a>	The spin doctor told us to say <i>disability</i> , not <i>handicap</i> .
spin the bottle	a game to decide who will kiss whom	When we played spin the bottle, Mavis always got to kiss Ron.
spin your wheels	waste effort, not progress	If you don't have a career goal you'll just spin your wheels.
spinnny	a little crazy, eccentric, <a href="#">drive me batty</a>	Their family is kind of weird. Even the cat is a little spinnny.
spinork/spinorky	attractive, <a href="#">cool</a> , <a href="#">groovy</a> , <a href="#">neat</a>	What a spinork sweater! It looks great on you.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: spike the ball -- spinork/spinorky

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: spirit away -- split the difference

Idiom	Meaning	Example
spirit away	take away mysteriously, steal secretly, <a href="#">into thin air</a>	Somebody or something spirits away my fingernail clippers. I wonder where they are.
spitting image	(See <a href="#">the spitting image</a> )	
spitting mad	very angry, <a href="#">pissed off</a> [B]	Mom was spitting mad when you ran across her flower garden.
spitting nails	very angry, very mad, <a href="#">hot</a> , <a href="#">pissed</a> [B]	Art was spitting nails when my dog scratched the paint on his car.
splashback	reaction from the public, <a href="#">fall-out</a> , <a href="#">feedback</a>	"Is there any splashback on the new income tax policy?" "Yes. It's all positive."
split	depart, go, leave	I gotta split. Class starts in two minutes.
split a gut	laugh very hard, <a href="#">crack me up</a>	I nearly split a gut watching a John Candy video - hilarious!
split hairs	be very fussy, notice small differences	Clyde likes to work on research that requires him to split hairs.
split second	small difference in time, a fraction of a second	Many Olympic athletes win their events by a split second.
split the difference	divide the difference between the prices	Your price is \$100. I'm offering \$80. Let's split the difference: \$90.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: spirit away -- split the difference

## Idioms: split up -- spread the word

Idiom	Meaning	Example
split up	separate, <a href="#">part company</a>	Charles and Di split up in the 90s. They've been separated for years.
spoil for a fight	try to begin a fight, <a href="#">chip on his shoulder</a> , <a href="#">cruising for a bruising</a>	Bud was spoiling for a fight with me. He said, "You're too chicken to fight, ain't you?"
spoiled brat	a child who always gets what he wants	Sure he's a spoiled brat. His mom gave him whatever he wanted.
spoilspout	one who will not play, <a href="#">party-pooper</a>	You spoilspout! Why won't you play strip poker with us?
spot of tea	(See <a href="#">a spot of tea</a> )	
spot on	correct, <a href="#">bang on</a> , <a href="#">dead on</a> , <a href="#">right on</a>	Your answer is spot on! There are 1000 meters in a kilometer.
spotcheck	check anytime, inspect whenever you wish	The prison guard did spotchecks on the men during the night.
spread like wildfire	spread quickly, <a href="#">go public</a>	News of the assassination spread like wildfire.
spread out	lie down with your arms and legs apart	When you spread out on the sofa, there's no room for me.
spread the word	tell everybody, <a href="#">get the word out</a>	The teacher asked us to spread the word about the school concert.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: split up -- spread the word

## Idioms: spring for -- square shooter

Idiom	Meaning	Example
spring for	pay for, <a href="#">pay the shot</a>	"Who will spring for the pizza?" "Jack will. He just got paid."
spruced up	(See <a href="#">all spruced up</a> )	
spur on	encourage, motivate	Her refusal of his gifts seemed to spur him on. It challenged him.
square	not sophisticated, not <a href="#">cool</a> , <a href="#">rube</a>	What a square! He thinks Rolex is some kind of cereal!
square	(See <a href="#">call it square</a> )	
square deal	fair to the purchaser, value for money spent	You get a square deal when you buy a tractor at Al's Machinery.
square meal	full meal: meat, bread, vegetables and milk	We need at least one square meal each day. Do you agree?
square off	face each other ready to fight, have a fight	If Joe and Bud square off, it will be an interesting fight.
square one	the beginning, <a href="#">back to square one</a>	If you answer incorrectly, you have to start at square one.
square shooter	fair dealer, honest person	Sidney is a square shooter. He won't cheat you.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: square up -- stag

Idiom	Meaning	Example
square up	pay a debt, pay your share	Cal told me you owe him \$50. He's wants you to square up.
square up	leave prostitution or life on the street	I've heard there's a group that helps prostitutes square up.
squat	a place to stay, a shelter for street people, a shack	"Where's your squat?" "Across the tracks in a deserted service station."
squeaky clean	very clean, innocent	I've checked Todd's record. He's clean - squeaky clean.
squeal	tell the police, <a href="#">rat on</a>	Robbie won't squeal on us. He'll never tell what we did.
squealer	one who tells the police or authorities, <a href="#">canary</a>	Jason, you squealer! You told the teacher I copied your work.
squirrel away	save, hide, put in a safe place, <a href="#">salt away</a>	You can have your own pension if you squirrel away a few dollars each month.
stack up	compare with, <a href="#">pale by comparison</a>	The Lincoln is a nice car, but how does it stack up against the Lexus?
stacked	having large breasts, having big <a href="#">boobs</a> , <a href="#">sweater girl</a>	"Please describe the woman." "She was tall, blond and, well, you might say she was stacked."
stag	party for a man who will soon be married	Let's have a stag for Greg. It's his last party as a single man.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: square up -- stag

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: stand away -- stand out

Idiom	Meaning	Example
stand away	turn away, shun, <a href="#">give you the cold shoulder</a>	I don't want to stand away, but you have hurt me deeply.
stand behind	repair or replace, guarantee	Our company stands behind its products. We offer a guarantee.
stand by me	be my friend, be loyal to me, <a href="#">be there for</a> me	I know you like me, but will you stand by me if I get in trouble?
stand corrected	admit a mistake or error, <a href="#">own up</a>	The square root of 4761 is 69, not 68. I stand corrected.
stand for	believe in and represent, be the symbol for	Vicki stands for social justice. She supports public health care.
stand for	permit, tolerate, <a href="#">put up with</a> , <a href="#">stand it</a>	My parents won't allow us to smoke. They won't stand for it.
stand in	replace, substitute, <a href="#">take my place</a>	I can't coach the soccer team today. Will you stand in for me?
stand it	endure it, bear it, <a href="#">put up with</a> it	There's a very strong gas odor in here. How can you stand it?
stand on ceremony	expect everyone to know manners and customs	Leave your cap on if you like. We don't stand on ceremony.
stand out	appear different, not be the same as the others	Dick's voice stands out because it is lower than the others.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: stand away -- stand out

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: stand to lose -- start from scratch

Idiom	Meaning	Example
stand to lose	may lose, could lose	If my son fails to make a loan payment, I stand to lose \$4000.
stand up	not meet you as planned, not attend an appointment	Jerry said he would take Rita to the movies, but he stood her up.
stand up and be counted	say you support and will vote for it, <a href="#">stand up for</a>	If you really believe in gay rights, you will stand up and be counted.
stand up for	support, protect, <a href="#">speak out</a> for	I'm not afraid to stand up for our rights. I'll ask to see a lawyer.
stand up to	challenge, not <a href="#">back down</a>	Please stand up to the bully. Tell him to stop hitting us.
standoffish	not friendly, not sociable	Brett appears to be standoffish, but he's really quite friendly.
stark naked	wearing nothing at all, <a href="#">naked as a jay bird</a> , <a href="#">without a stitch of clothes on</a>	The people on the beach were stark naked. They were members of a nudist colony.
stark raving mad	completely crazy, <a href="#">out of your mind</a>	Ophelia went stark raving mad after Hamlet rejected her.
start a fire under him	motivate him, get him started	Somebody started a fire under Kent. He's skating hard tonight.
start from scratch	start from the beginning, go <a href="#">back to square one</a>	After the flood, we all had to start from scratch - to rebuild our lives.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: stand to lose -- start from scratch

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: start out -- stay awake

Idiom	Meaning	Example
start out	start, begin, leave on a journey	Fill the tank with gas and check the oil before you start out.
start over	begin again, go to <a href="#">square one</a>	If I make a mistake, I start over. I go right back to the beginning.
start up	start, begin, organize, begin a business	Before you start up a business you should write a business plan.
start with a bang	start well, start fast, <a href="#">off to a good start</a>	The party will start with a bang if Elton arrives by hot-air balloon.
state of mind	mood, mental attitude, <a href="#">frame of mind</a>	My state of mind improves when I read a book by Northrop Frye.
state of the art	most advanced, <a href="#">cutting edge</a>	Many state-of-the-art devices use the LASER beam.
state secret	(See <a href="#">it's not a state secret</a> )	
stay abreast	be aware of developments, stay current, <a href="#">keep pace</a>	Can you stay abreast of changes in computer technology?
stay alive	win enough to continue, continue in a series	To stay alive, the Leafs must win the next two games.
stay awake	not sleep, be alert	I can't stay awake any longer. I can't keep my eyes open.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: start out -- stay awake

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: stay in line -- stem to stern

Idiom	Meaning	Example
stay in line	obey the rules, behave well	Stay in line, young man. We expect you to obey orders.
stay put	stay where you are, do not move	He took his dog out of the store and said, "Sit! Stay put!"
stay up	not go to sleep, <a href="#">wait up for</a>	We stay up until the kids come home - if it isn't too late.
steal the show	be the favorite performer, receive the most applause	The little Peterson girl stole the show with her fine tap dancing.
steal your heart	cause you to like or love, <a href="#">win the hearts</a>	The kittens will steal your heart. They're so cute and playful.
steal your thunder	tell your news, reveal your main message	If I mention the new product, will I steal your thunder?
steam up	upset, excited, worried	Poor Emil would get all steamed up when his car wouldn't start.
steamy	portraying lots of sex, full of love scenes	<i>Love In The Park</i> is a steamy movie. There's lots of action.
steer clear	avoid, not go there	I advise you to steer clear of the bridge. There's been a flood.
stem to stern	(See <a href="#">from stem to stern</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: stay in line -- stem to stern

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: back out -- backroom boys

Idiom	Meaning	Example
back out	decide not to do it, <a href="#">change your mind</a>	If you sign your name, you can't back out. You have to pay.
back teeth are floating	have to urinate, need to pee	Please watch for a rest room. My back teeth are floating.
back to square one	back to the first step, <a href="#">start from scratch</a>	If you forget to do one of the steps, it's back to square one.
back to the drawing board	back to the beginning, <a href="#">back to square one</a>	If this plan fails, it's back to the drawing board. We start again.
back to the grind	return to the job, go back to work	After New Year's, it's back to the grind - the old routine.
back up	go backwards, drive in reverse	I'll back up the truck so we can load it.
back you	support your decision, sign your application	His brother will back him if he needs financing.
back yourself into a corner	put yourself in a bad position, have no escape	If you buy what you can't afford you back yourself into a corner.
backpack (business)	support, be the parent company	First, GM backpacked Saab. Then they bought the company.
backroom boys	men who play poker and smoke in a room at the back of the store	When the police raided Gino's they arrested four of the backroom boys.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: back out -- backroom boys

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: step aside -- stick in my craw

Idiom	Meaning	Example
step aside	resign, quit so someone else can do the job	If Jon will step aside, Harvey can become president.
step down	resign, leave a position, <a href="#">bow out</a>	It was time for Pierre to step down - time for him to resign.
step on his dick	cause an error, <a href="#">screw up</a>	John really stepped on his dick when he lost that CD. It had all his customer accounts on it.
step on it	go faster, step on the gas, <a href="#">pedal to the metal</a>	Father said, "Step on it, son. We don't want to be late."
step on people	hurt people to get ahead, use people to succeed	I want wealth, but I don't want to step on people to get it.
step on their toes	offend them, upset them	When I mentioned their debt, did I step on their toes?
step on your dick	cause a problem for yourself, <a href="#">shoot yourself in the foot</a>	You really stepped on your dick when you told her about seeing your old girlfriend.
step out of line	do something bad, misbehave	If John steps out of line again, I'll remind him of the rules.
step up to the plate	do your best, <a href="#">take action</a> , "take your turn" ""	Pedro said, "It's time for me to act. It's time to step up to the plate."
stick in my craw	irritate me, <a href="#">get to me</a>	That decision really sticks in my craw. How could he sell Gretzky?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: step aside -- stick in my craw

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: stick-in-the-mud -- stickhandle

Idiom	Meaning	Example
stick-in-the-mud	one who does not go out, <a href="#">party-pooper</a>	Farley, that stick-in-the-mud! He never goes to a party.
stick it out	stay until you finish, <a href="#">hang in there</a>	Can you stick it out until six? Can you work until then?
stick it up your ass [B]	put it away, <a href="#">forget it</a> , <a href="#">shove it</a>	You can take your useless truck and stick it up your ass!
stick my neck out	risk my safety to help, <a href="#">put my neck on the line</a>	Why should I stick my neck out when you disobey your father?
stick out like a sore thumb	not fit or blend, look <a href="#">out of place</a>	The ugly painting stuck out like a sore thumb in the art gallery.
stick them up	put your hands above your head, <a href="#">hands up</a>	The man took out a gun and said to the clerk, "Stick 'em up!"
stick to it	stay at a tough job, <a href="#">hang in there</a>	If you stick to it - practice every day - you will be a fine pianist.
stick to your guns	not change your belief, be firm	If you testify in court, stick to your guns. Tell the same story.
stick up for	support, encourage	Will you stick up for me if I get in an argument?
stickhandle	maneuver, negotiate, <a href="#">deke you</a>	When the lawyer tried to trap me I just stickhandled around his question and talked about something else.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: stick-in-the-mud -- stickhandle

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: stiff -- stone unturned

Idiom	Meaning	Example
stiff	not pay for, leave without paying	The cab driver told a policeman that a lady had stiffed him.
stiff	person, man	You lucky stiff! You won a TV!
stiff upper lip	(See <a href="#">keep a stiff upper lip</a> )	
still wet behind the ears	still quite young, <a href="#">the tender age of</a>	When we moved to Boston, you were still wet behind the ears.
stink the joint out	play very poorly, perform badly	In Chicago, we stunk the joint out, losing 7-1 to the Hawks.
stitch in time	(See <a href="#">a stitch in time</a> )	
stitch of clothes on	(See <a href="#">without a stitch of clothes on</a> )	
stock in trade	main product, <a href="#">bread and butter</a>	Our stock in trade is tires. We sell more tires than oil or gas.
stone dead	very dead, no sign of life, <a href="#">dead as a doornail</a>	When we finally found the goose, it was stone dead.
stone unturned	(See <a href="#">leave no stone unturned</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: stone's throw -- straight cash

Idiom	Meaning	Example
stone's throw	(See <a href="#">a stone's throw</a> )	
stoned	drugged, <a href="#">natural high</a> on drugs, <a href="#">spaced out</a> , <a href="#">wasted</a>	If he's stoned, he shouldn't drive. Let's hide his keys.
stonewall	block, prevent, not allow	The president stonewalled every one of our plans. He said no.
stop at nothing	do anything to succeed, not stop until you win	The Indians will stop at nothing. They will get a reservation.
stop on a dime	stop very quickly, stop exactly where you wish	With disk brakes, this car can stop on a dime. See?
stop you cold	stop you quickly, <a href="#">grind to a halt</a>	One look from the old witch will stop you cold. What a fierce gaze!
stop you in your tracks	cause you to stop, prevent you from going further	You know what will stop you dead in your tracks? A bear, that's what.
straight	(See <a href="#">go straight</a> , <a href="#">square up</a> )	
straight away	(See <a href="#">right away</a> )	
straight cash	all cash, using only cash	When I go shopping I pay straight cash. I don't use my credit cards.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: straight dope -- straighten you out

Idiom	Meaning	Example
straight dope	(See <a href="#">the straight dope</a> )	
straight face	(See <a href="#">keep a straight face</a> )	
straight from the horse's mouth	directly from the person who said it or did it	I want to hear the story from Tomas, straight from the horse's mouth.
straight from the shoulder	directly, plainly, <a href="#">call a spade...</a> , <a href="#">doesn't mince words</a>	Richler spoke straight from the shoulder when addressing his own people - the way Jesus did with the money-changers.
straight goods	(See <a href="#">the straight goods</a> )	
straight man	the man who is not joking, the man who is honest or natural	When I began in comedy, my straight man was Jason. He would ask honest questions and I would give funny answers.
straight talk	the truth, the facts, the <a href="#">the straight goods</a>	My son and I believe in straight talk. We communicate.
straight up	without stopping, not reduced, <a href="#">full strength</a>	I do ten minutes of exercise; then I run 5 km straight up.
straight up	truthfully, the way it is	Give it to me straight up - exactly what she said.
straighten you out	tell you the facts or the truth, <a href="#">set you straight</a>	Talk to the teacher. She'll straighten you out.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: straight dope -- straighten you out

## Idioms: strapped -- strictly business

Idiom	Meaning	Example
strapped	having very little money, nearly <a href="#">flat broke</a>	I can't afford to go to a concert this month. I'm strapped.
straw horse	an idea to be discussed and refined, a draft proposal or motion	I have an idea that may work - kind of a straw horse. I'll tell you about it and we can discuss its potential.
straw that broke the camel's back	(See <a href="#">the last straw</a> )	
street smarts	knowing how to survive, <a href="#">worldly wise</a>	You need street smarts to be a police officer in Toronto.
street wise	wise about street life, <a href="#">been around</a>	Let's ask Sal to go downtown with us. He's street wise.
stretch the dollar	spend carefully, buy the most for each dollar	We have a large family. I stretch the dollar as far as I can.
stretch the envelope	extend the boundaries, <a href="#">expand your horizons</a>	I've set some goals that stretch my envelope - challenge me.
stretch the truth	add to a true story, include lies with the truth	Al was stretching the truth. He said the waves were 60 feet high.
stretching it	saying it was bigger or better than it was	To say the mosquitoes are as big as starlings is stretching it.
strictly business	very serious, not joking, <a href="#">no nonsense</a>	When he conducts the band, he's strictly business. He's serious.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: strapped -- strictly business

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: strictly for the birds -- strike your fancy

Idiom	Meaning	Example
strictly for the birds	(See <a href="#">for the birds</a> )	
strike a bargain	find a satisfactory deal or price	After discussing the price of the carpet, we struck a bargain: \$15.
strike it rich	earn or win a lot of money, find a gold mine	People came to the Yukon hoping to find gold - to strike it rich.
strike me	causes me to pause, impresses me	What strikes me is the color of the leaves. They're crimson.
strike out (baseball)	fail to hit the ball while at bat	This time he'll hit the ball. Last time at bat he struck out.
strike out on your own	leave home and support yourself, be independent	I was eighteen when I struck out on my own and found a job.
strike up a conversation	begin a conversation with a stranger	Uncle Ho is sociable. He strikes up a conversation with anyone.
strike up the band	begin conducting the band, give the downbeat	Maestro, strike up the band. We want to hear some music.
strike while the iron is hot	do it before it is too late, now is the time to act	In business, timing is important. You strike while the iron is hot.
strike your fancy	interest you, appeal to you, <a href="#">turn your crank</a>	Do you see anything on the menu that strikes your fancy? Lobster?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: strictly for the birds -- strike your fancy

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: string a line -- stroke your ego

Idiom	Meaning	Example
string a line	create a story, <a href="#">make up</a> a story	He was stringing you a line. A dog wasn't driving the car.
string along	pretend that you believe, <a href="#">go along with</a>	When Franz talks about shark fishing, I just string along.
string bean	thin person, <a href="#">bean pole</a>	You string bean, Kenny! You're too skinny to hit the ball!
string of good luck	a series of lucky events, <a href="#">lucky streak</a>	He isn't the best pitcher. He's just having a string of good luck this season.
strip	remove all your clothes, <a href="#">full Monty</a> , <a href="#">in the buff</a>	"I'd like to see you naked." "Okay. I'll strip if you will."
strip mall	a row of stores with a small parking lot in front	Does the Langdale strip mall have a video store?
stripped	(See <a href="#">bare bones</a> )	
stroke of genius	a very intelligent idea, a unique solution	Using laser light for surgery - now that's a stroke of genius.
stroke of good luck	a fortunate event, <a href="#">a lucky break</a> , <a href="#">the fickle finger of fate</a>	Then, by some stroke of good luck, a car horn scared the lion and it ran away.
stroke your ego	cause you to feel confident or proud	Compliments are wonderful because they stroke your ego.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: string a line -- stroke your ego

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: strung out -- suck eggs

Idiom	Meaning	Example
strung out	ill or weak because of drug abuse, <a href="#">hungover</a>	When she's strung out on cocaine she won't talk to her family.
stubblejumper	grain farmer, Saskatchewan folk	My uncle is a stubblejumper. He owns a farm near Kuroki.
stuck on	focused on, obsessed with	Jack is stuck on Vicki, but she doesn't care about him.
stuff it	put it away, <a href="#">forget it</a> , <a href="#">shove it</a> [B]	I don't want her money. She can stuff it!
stumbling block	obstacle, problem	A strip of land is in the way of peace. It is the stumbling block.
stump me	ask me a question I cannot answer, puzzle me	The question on the names of the Great Lakes stumped me.
such a card	quite a joker, such a clown	Greg tells the funniest stories. He is such a card!
suck	an immature person, <a href="#">wimp</a>	Chad, that suck! He tells his mother everything we say.
suck	is a poor quality, is not acceptable, <a href="#">shabby</a>	You chose to cheat your friend? That sucks!
suck eggs	go, leave, have a bad experience, <a href="#">up yours</a> [B]	When I told him not to swear, he said, "Go suck eggs, man."

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: strung out -- suck eggs

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: suck it up -- suffer a setback

Idiom	Meaning	Example
suck it up	get up and do it, be strong, do not be a quitter	"I can't do it, Kate. I've searched everywhere and I can't find it." "Suck it up, Wayne. I'm counting on you to define that idiom!"
suck off [B]	(See <a href="#">give head</a> )	
suck the hind tit [B]	receive less than others, not get as good service, <a href="#">the short end of the stick</a>	Who is sucking the hind tit of government services? Some people say it's the seniors.
suck up to	be nice for personal gain, <a href="#">brown nose</a> [B]	Why is Ken sucking up to me? Does he expect a raise in pay?
suckbucket	student's briefcase, valise	T think Zen carries a suckbucket to impress the teachers.
sucked in	deceived, cheated, <a href="#">led to believe</a> , <a href="#">taken in</a>	"You believed his story about working late at the office?" "Ya, I got sucked in."
sucker	a person who is gullible; easy to persuade	"Who will buy that painting?" "Oh, some sucker will come along."
sucker you	fool you, cheat you, "taken>/q>"	When you walk along the midway, don't listen to the men who want you to throw balls or darts. They're just trying to sucker you. Hear?
sucks	is poor quality, does not satisfy me	This radio sucks! I can't get my favorite station!
suffer a setback	lose a game, fail a test, become injured or ill	Italy's soccer team suffered a setback losing to Ireland.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: suck it up -- suffer a setback

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: backside -- bafflegab

Idiom	Meaning	Example
backside	buttocks, <a href="#">bum</a> , <a href="#">buns</a>	When I was learning to skate, I fell a lot. My backside was sore!
backup	saving information on a computer disk	Don't forget to make a backup disk of all your computer files.
bad apple	bad one, rotten one	He's the bad apple in that group. He's always in trouble.
bad blood	bad feelings, a negative relationship	John and Fred are bitter enemies. There's bad blood between them.
bad breath	unpleasant smell from the mouth, <a href="#">jungle mouth</a>	I've been eating garlic, so I may have bad breath.
bad date	a man who beats a prostitute, <a href="#">the john</a>	Viki had another bad date. A guy beat her and took her clothes.
bad news	troublemaker, someone who causes problems	Don't hire him. Everybody says he's bad news.
bad taste in my mouth	(See <a href="#">a bad taste in my mouth</a> )	
badmouth	criticize, say bad things about, <a href="#">put down</a>	Don't badmouth employers. Don't criticize your references.
bafflegab	confusing statements, jargon, political language	There was a lot of bafflegab in the speech, a lot of nonsense.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: backside -- bafflegab

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: suicide pass -- sure as hell

Idiom	Meaning	Example
suicide pass	(See <a href="#">a suicide pass</a> )	
suit yourself	you choose, choose what you like	"I prefer tea." "Suit yourself."
suits you	looks good on you, <a href="#">becomes you</a>	Red and black suit you. You look great in those colors.
Sunday best	best clothes, <a href="#">glad rags</a>	Father was in his Sunday best - in his three-piece, navy suit.
sunset years	senior years, over 65, <a href="#">golden years</a>	Will you still love me when I'm old - in my sunset years?
super-duper	very large, exciting or powerful, <a href="#">totally awesome</a>	After class, Julie went to the cafe and ordered a super-duper sundae with a cherry on top.
super mint	excellent, the best quality	The photograph of the baby is super mint! It's excellent!
supercharge	boost the power, <a href="#">hop up</a> , <a href="#">tweak</a>	We supercharged the engine in a Datsun 510, doubling its power.
superstar	very talented athlete or performer, the best player	Hockey's superstars include Richard, Howe, and Gretzky.
sure as hell	very sure, certain, <a href="#">a sure bet</a>	If you leave food around, the bears will come - sure as hell!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: suicide pass -- sure as hell

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: sure as shit -- sweat bullets

Idiom	Meaning	Example
sure as shit	certain to happen, predictable, <a href="#">a foregone conclusion</a>	Robert will come, sure as shit. He comes every day.
sure bet	(See <a href="#">a sure bet</a> )	
sure thing	(See <a href="#">a sure thing</a> )	
surf the Net	survey the <a href="#">Internet</a> or global computer network	Olga is surfing the Net again - looking for a boy in the US.
swallow that	believe that, <a href="#">buy that</a> , <a href="#">eat that</a>	He said the company is bankrupt, but don't swallow that!
swallow your pride	do not let your pride stop you, control your pride	Swallow your pride. Accept the offer to return to your old job.
swear by	believe in a product and say that it is good	Joel swears by Chrysler cars. He's driven a Dodge for years.
swear like a sailor	use vulgar language, use <a href="#">four-letter words</a> , <a href="#">the air was blue</a>	Grace won't take her boyfriend to church because he swears like a sailor.
swear off	quit using, abstain from	Zack has sworn off beer until Christmas. He's quit completely.
sweat bullets	worry, be very concerned or afraid or nervous	I was sweating bullets when I heard your plane went down.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: sure as shit -- sweat bullets

## Idioms: sweat it -- sweetie pie

Idiom	Meaning	Example
sweat it	(See <a href="#">don't sweat it</a> )	
sweat it out	wait and worry, <a href="#">on pins and needles</a>	While the jury discussed a verdict, the prisoner was sweating it out.
sweater girl	girl with big breasts who wears a tight sweater	Jody was the sweater girl in our class. She was sexy.
sweep under the carpet	hide problems, cover mistakes	Don't sweep your problems under the carpet. Try to solve them.
sweep you off your feet	impress you, cause you to love them quickly	Andre is very charming. He will sweep you off your feet.
sweet on	like, love, <a href="#">got a crush on</a> , <a href="#">stuck on</a>	You act kind of funny when Barb is here. Are you sweet on her?
sweet spot	(See <a href="#">the sweet spot</a> )	
sweet tooth	a need to eat candy, a craving for sweets	A piece of dark chocolate will satisfy my sweet tooth. Yum!
sweeten the pot	add more good things, make it worth more	If we sweeten the pot with a trip to Paris, we'll sell more tickets.
sweetie pie	dear, darling, <a href="#">honey</a>	How are you, sweetie pie? It's so good to see you! So good to hug you!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: sweat it -- sweetie pie

## Idioms: swell -- swift

Idiom	Meaning	Example
swell	great, wonderful, (often used sarcastically)	"How was your vacation?" "Oh swell. It rained every day."
swelled head	feeling too proud, <a href="#">let it go to your head</a>	If I win the talent contest, I promise not to get a swelled head.
swift	intelligent, smart, <a href="#">bright</a>	I'm not very swift when I try to do calculus. I usually fail.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: tail between his legs -- take a chance

Idiom	Meaning	Example
tail between his legs	running away in defeat or fear, retreating quickly	When the bear followed me, I ran with my tail between my legs!
tail lights	gone, departed, could not <a href="#">see me for dust</a>	When I heard the police siren, I was tail lights. I was gone.
tail wagging the dog	(See <a href="#">the tail wagging the dog</a> )	
tailgate	drive too close to the car in front, <a href="#">on his tail</a>	The instructor told me not to tailgate - to leave more space.
take a back seat	say you are not as good, <a href="#">play second fiddle</a>	You are good at chess. Don't take a back seat to anyone!
take a boo	look at, <a href="#">take a look</a>	Take a boo with my telescope. See the dust on the moon?
take a bow	bow to the audience, show you like applause	The crowd is clapping because you played well. Take a bow.
take a break	rest for a few minutes or days or weeks	You've been working hard. Do you want to take a break?
take a bullet	accept blame or injury to protect someone	Pat said she was responsible for our mistake - she took a bullet.
take a chance	gamble, <a href="#">try your luck</a>	I'm going to take a chance and buy gold. It's a gamble, but... .

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: tail between his legs -- take a chance

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: take a dive -- take a leak [B]

Idiom	Meaning	Example
take a dive	plan to lose, <a href="#">throw a game</a>	The boxer was paid to take a dive. He allowed his opponent to win.
take a drive/trip	travel, go for a drive, go on a trip	They take a drive in the country every Sunday afternoon.
take a dump [B]	shit, <a href="#">drop a log</a> [B], <a href="#">take a shit</a> [B]	I looked out the window and saw a dog taking a dump on my lawn.
take a flight	go, leave, <a href="#">take off</a>	If you don't like the way I live, you can take a flight.
take a flight	leave by plane, travel on a scheduled airline flight <a href="#">take off</a>	We're taking WestJet Flight 703 out of Toronto on Friday.
take a gander	look at, <a href="#">feast your eyes</a> , <a href="#">take a boo</a>	Take a gander at that valley! Just look at it!
take a guess	guess, try to answer, <a href="#">hazard a guess</a>	"How old are you?" "Take a guess."
take a hike	go, leave, <a href="#">get lost</a>	When her old boyfriend moved in with us, I told them to take a hike.
take a joke	not be mad if the joke is about you, <a href="#">a good sport</a>	Let's tell the story about Steve getting lost. He can take a joke.
take a leak [B]	urinate, <a href="#">take a pee</a> [B], <a href="#">take a whiz</a>	We asked the bus driver to stop so we could take a leak.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: take a dive -- take a leak [B]

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: take a load off your feet -- take a risk

Idiom	Meaning	Example
take a load off your feet	sit down, <a href="#">grab a chair</a> , <a href="#">have a seat</a>	Jim pointed to a chair and said, "Take a load off your feet."
take a look	look at, see that, <a href="#">take a boo</a>	Take a look at that pumpkin! It's monstrous!
take a pee [B]	urinate, <a href="#">take a leak</a> [B], <a href="#">take a whiz</a>	"Where can I take a pee?" she whispered to her friend.
take a picture	photograph, <a href="#">take a picture</a>	In Regina, he took a picture of the statue of Louis Riel.
take a piss [B]	urinate, <a href="#">take a leak</a> [B], <a href="#">take a pee</a> [B]	A drunk was taking a piss in the alley behind the hotel.
take a poke at	punch, hit with your fist	First he pushed Tom, then he took a poke at me.
take a poke at	say something negative in a humorous way	The speaker took a poke at women who want everything men have.
take a poll	record opinions, find out how people will vote	Take a poll before the election so you can predict the winner.
take a powder	leave quickly, <a href="#">flew the coop</a> , <a href="#">take a hike</a>	"Where's Louis?" "He took a powder when he heard the sirens."
take a risk	(See <a href="#">take risks</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: take a load off your feet -- take a risk

## Idioms: take a round out of -- take action

Idiom	Meaning	Example
take a round out of	defeat in a fight, win a fight	Johnny is a tough guy. He took a round out of Pete, you know.
take a shine to	like, show interest in	At the age of four, Raj took a shine to the piano. Now he's a great pianist.
take a shit [B]	have a bowel movement, <a href="#">take a dump</a> [B]	She wrote a book that explains how to take a shit in the woods.
take a shot	criticize or insult, <a href="#">put down</a> , <a href="#">take a poke at</a>	When he spoke about abortion, he took a shot at the government for not changing the laws.
take a shot	shoot a gun at, aim and shoot a rifle	Uncle was looking for a target, so he took a shot at a tin can.
take a snap shot	(See <a href="#">take a picture</a> )	
take a stand	say what you believe, state your position, <a href="#">take sides</a>	The teacher doesn't want to take a stand on the Young Offender Act until we've written our essays.
take a strip off	scold, lecture, <a href="#">give you hell</a>	The foreman took a strip off me for driving too fast. He was mad.
take a whiz	urinate, <a href="#">take a leak</a> [B], <a href="#">take a pee</a> [B]	I have to take a whiz before we get on the plane. I'll be right back.
take action	act in a deliberate way, act with a purpose	Before I take action, I'll ask Bing if he was aware of the rules.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: take a round out of -- take action

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: take advantage of -- take chances

Idiom	Meaning	Example
take advantage of	act at the best time, <a href="#">seize the opportunity</a>	I took advantage of the low price of gasoline. I bought 500 litres.
take advantage of	hurt or abuse someone who trusts you	I feel very angry toward people who take advantage of children.
take after	have similar traits, have the same personality	Kyle is calm; he takes after me. Kris is active, just like his dad.
take after	chase, try to catch	If he catches the football, you take after him as fast as you can.
take by storm	rush in, win by force, overwhelm	The Vikings landed on the beach and took the village by storm.
take calls	answer the phone, receive calls	Karen isn't taking calls because she's in a meeting.
take care	be careful	Take care. See you tomorrow.
take care of	care for someone or something, <a href="#">look after</a>	I'll take care of Taea while you go shopping. I'll stay with her.
take care of business	do what needs to be done, do my job	"You scored a beautiful goal!" "Just taking care of business."
take chances	live dangerously, risk something valuable, <a href="#">play with fire</a>	Don't take chances with our savings. We worked hard to earn that money.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: take advantage of -- take chances

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: take charge -- take him out

Idiom	Meaning	Example
take charge	be in control, supervise	Jim will take charge while I'm away. He'll be your supervisor.
take cover	hide, find a safe place	If the soldiers begin shooting, you guys take cover.
take drugs	use drugs, <a href="#">do drugs</a>	When I take that drug, I feel sick at my stomach.
take effect	have an effect, cause a change	In two minutes the drug will take effect and you will feel sleepy.
take exception to	be upset about, object to, complain about	Vern will take exception to any questions about ethnic origin.
take five	rest for five minutes, <a href="#">take a break</a>	We've been working hard this morning. Let's take five.
take for granted	expect, assume	His support cannot be taken for granted. We must ask him.
take heart	have courage, be strong	When we had troubles, Grandpa said, "Take heart, my children."
take him down a peg	push him to a lower place, <a href="#">get off your high horse</a>	Ali was too proud. Somebody had to take him down a peg.
take him out	defeat him, eliminate him	Wei entered the tournament, but Jo took her out in the first round.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: take charge -- take him out

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms: bag and baggage -- balderdash

Idiom	Meaning	Example
bag and baggage	everything you own, all of one's possessions	The next day, he moved into her apartment - bag and baggage.
bag lady	a lady who looks for food and bottles in the streets	Behind the restaurant, a bag lady was digging in the garbage cans.
bag of tricks	skills, methods, plans; devices to entertain	You need a large bag of tricks to teach the Grade 8 class.
bag some rays	sit or lie in the sunshine, have a sun bath	While you're swimming, I'm going to bag some rays.
bagel	(See <a href="#">get bageled</a> )	
bah	nonsense, it is not true	Bah! There is no tooth fairy!
bail me out	help me solve a problem, pay to get me out of jail	If they arrest me, will you bail me out - pay the bail money?
bail out	quit, leave a project, resign	Tom bailed out when Lan became Project Manager.
balance of power	(See <a href="#">the balance of power</a> )	
balderdash	verbose nonsense	"Please switch off the talk show. It's just balderdash."

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: take in -- take it in stride

Idiom	Meaning	Example
take in	make smaller, tighten	These pants need to be taken in at the waist. They're too large.
take in	attend, visit	When you come to Calgary, be sure to take in the Stampede.
take it	endure it, accept it, <a href="#">stand it</a>	He treats you very badly. Why do you take it?
take it	understand it is true, believe it is this way	I take it you want the whole class to write a report. Is that right?
take it and run	accept the offer and be happy, be satisfied	He offered to pay \$200 for the damage, so I took it and ran.
take it back	not mean to say it, withdraw what you said	I said you were a turkey, but I take it back. You're a rat!
take it easy	do not try so hard, do not work so hard	When you jog, take it easy. Rest often.
take it easy on	be less demanding, <a href="#">go easy on</a>	When you train the dogs, take it easy on Taffy. She's just a pup.
take it for a spin	drive it, <a href="#">test drive</a> it	Al has a new motorcycle. I hope he lets me take it for a spin.
take it in stride	continue without delay, cope with	Lilian is so steady. If there's a problem, she takes it in stride.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: take in -- take it in stride

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: take it like a man -- take me seriously

Idiom	Meaning	Example
take it like a man	be brave when hurt, do not complain about problems	They told him not to cry when he was hurt - to take it like a man.
take it or leave it	take this offer or refuse it; no bargaining	I'll give you \$150 for the sofa - take it or leave it.
take it out on	express anger toward an innocent person	Vince gets angry at work; then he takes it out on his kids.
take it personally	believe you are being attacked or accused	He was criticizing the whole class; don't take it personally.
take it the wrong way	misunderstand, feel bad; <a href="#">no offense, but...</a>	He stares because he is curious. Don't take it the wrong way.
take it to heart	believe it is said to you, feel it is meant for you	When he said we'll burn in hell, Ella cried. She took it to heart.
take it with a grain of salt	do not believe all of it, some of it is not true	When Brian talks, take it with a grain of salt. Believe very little.
take its course	develop naturally, go through a process, <a href="#">willy-nilly</a>	We can control many parts of our environment, but the weather just takes its course.
take leave of your senses	act like a fool, not think clearly, <a href="#">off your rocker</a>	If you wear your bathing suit to church, people will think you've taken leave of your senses.
take me seriously	be serious about me and what I say and do	I'm not joking about going to a psychic. Please take me seriously.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: take it like a man -- take me seriously

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: take my hat off to -- take on

Idiom	Meaning	Example
take my hat off to	show respect for someone, praise a person's work	I take my hat off to Roger. He has promoted business in our town.
take my head off	shout at me, say angry words to me	You don't have to take my head off when I ask where you're going.
take my place	sit or park where I usually sit or park	Mommy, he took my place! He's sitting in my seat!
take oath	say that something is true, give my <a href="#">word of honor</a>	He took an oath that he is the child's father. I believe him.
take off	leave by plane, depart on a plane	Our plane takes off at 10:35. We have to go to the airport.
take off, eh	go, leave, <a href="#">beat it</a> , <a href="#">buzz off</a> , <a href="#">get lost</a>	When he asked for my phone number, I said, "Take off, eh."
take offense	be hurt, feel offended	Jan takes offense easily. Don't be critical of her poetry.
take on	fight, challenge	Mac wanted to take on Ted, but Ted didn't want to fight.
take on	agree to do, accept a responsibility	I'm very busy. I can't take on any more work right now.
take on	employ, hire, <a href="#">hire on</a>	AmCorp is taking on workers. Should we apply for a job?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: take my hat off to -- take on

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: take on a new light -- take risks

Idiom	Meaning	Example
take on a new light	have a new meaning, see a different meaning	The music takes on a new light if you know the composer.
take out	court, date, <a href="#">go out with</a> , <a href="#">see</a>	He was taking her out when they went to college. They were lovers.
take-out restaurant	a restaurant that serves food to be taken outside	There's a take-out restaurant. Let's buy some food and go to the park.
take over	do someone's job, become the new manager	Please take over the bookkeeping while I'm away. Thank you.
take pains	try hard, take extra time or care	Mr. and Mrs. Wilson take pains to find families that are truly in need.
take part in	join, be a worker or a participant	She takes part in many activities, including gardening.
take place	happen, occur	The race will take place at the university track at 10 a.m.
take possession	receive the keys as the new owner	"We bought a house in Parkland." "When do you take possession?"
take revenge	hurt one who hurt you, <a href="#">get even</a>	If your car is stolen, report it to the police. Don't take revenge.
take risks	accept challenge and change, welcome uncertainty, <a href="#">push the envelope</a>	By taking risks we can discover our potential - what is possible!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: take on a new light -- take risks

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: take sides -- take the heat

Idiom	Meaning	Example
take sides	support one person or group in an argument	The mayor refused to take sides in the fight to save the hospital.
take solace	find peace, find comfort	It was a bad fire, but I take solace in the fact that no one died.
take that	you deserve that, you <a href="#">have it coming</a>	Take that, you devil! And that! I'm very angry at you!
take the blame	receive the blame, accept the blame, <a href="#">take the rap</a>	Sometimes innocent people offer to take the blame for crimes.
take the bull by the horns	control the problem, be firm, <a href="#">take charge</a>	If the class is noisy, the teacher must take the bull by the horns.
take the bus/plane	ride on the bus or plane, <a href="#">catch a plane</a>	Lee never takes the bus. He prefers to ride his bicycle.
take the cake	is the worst or the weirdest or the funniest etc.	Of all the people I've met, you take the cake! You're the wildest!
take the chill off	make the room warmer, start the furnace/fireplace	An electric heater will take the chill off in the evening.
take the flack	listen to the complaints, <a href="#">take the heat</a>	When children cause trouble, their parents take the flack.
take the heat	listen to the questions from the police or public	Vern took the heat, but Al stole the drugs. They blamed Vern.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: take sides -- take the heat

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: take the pulse -- take up cudgels

Idiom	Meaning	Example
take the pulse	discover the feelings of the people	Before you change the flag, see how people feel. Take their pulse.
take the rap	receive the blame, <a href="#">take the blame</a>	Jeremy took the rap for the crime. He alone was sent to prison.
take the stage	go onto the stage, be the performer on the stage	When Bob Goulet took the stage we heard some great singing.
take the stand	sit in the witness chair in a courtroom	You witnessed the crime, so you will have to take the stand.
take the trouble	do extra work, do special tasks, <a href="#">take pains</a>	Maria always takes the trouble to bake my favorite pie.
take this job and shove it [B]	I quit, you can keep this job	Jim said to the boss, "Take this job and shove it! I'm outa here!"
take time to smell the roses	use some time to relax and enjoy the scenery	Yes, pursue your goals, but take time to smell the roses.
take umbrage	feel hurt, feel offended, <a href="#">take offense</a>	If you refuse her invitation to her party, she'll take umbrage.
take up	begin a hobby or activity, learn a skill	First, Alice took up karate. Then she learned how to meditate.
take up cudgels	pick up weapons, prepare to defend or attack	We may have to take up cudgels against people who invent and spread viruses on the Internet.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: take the pulse -- take up cudgels

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: take up the slack -- take your pick

Idiom	Meaning	Example
take up the slack	do somebody's work, <a href="#">fill in</a>	When I'm away, Hal takes up the slack. He does my job.
take with a grain of salt	(See <a href="#">take it with a grain of salt</a> )	
take you down a peg	(See <a href="#">knock you down a peg</a> )	
take you for all you've got	take all your money by suing you or cheating you	If she divorces you, she could take you for all you've got.
take you in	give you shelter and food, <a href="#">take care of</a>	Will your relatives take you in if you lose your job?
take you to court	sue you, bring a lawsuit against you	If you don't pay for the damage, they could take you to court.
take you to task	ask you to explain, haul you up <a href="#">on the carpet</a>	Did Reverend Klinck take you to task for drinking beer? Did he tell you drinking is a sin?
take you to the cleaners	defeat you badly, win by many points	If you play checkers with Lars, he'll take you to the cleaners.
take your lumps	endure bumps and hits, suffer through injuries	To play hockey, you have to learn to take your lumps.
take your pick	choose one, say which one you prefer	You can have Coke or Pepsi. Take your pick.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: take up the slack -- take your pick

## Idioms: take your pulse -- takeoff on

Idiom	Meaning	Example
take your pulse	measure your heart rate, check your pulse	When you visit the health clinic, the doctor will take your pulse.
take your seat	sit in your chair or desk, be seated	Judy, please take your seat so we can begin the exam.
take your time	do not rush, do it when you have enough time, <a href="#">no rush</a>	"When do you need it?" "It's not urgent. Take your time."
take your sweet time	you are too slow, you could work faster, <a href="#">pick up the pace</a>	"You took your sweet time to do this job. It could have been done much faster!" "Yes, but would it have been done well?"
take your turn	act or speak when your name is called, <a href="#">it's your turn</a>	You're up to bat, Buddy. Take your turn, knock it outa here!
take your word for it	believe what you say, not ask for proof, <a href="#">the benefit of the doubt</a>	You say you are eighteen. Since you don't have your ID card, we'll have to take your word for it.
taken	cheated, <a href="#">ripped off</a>	If he paid \$1500 for that car, he got taken.
taken for a ride	tricked, deceived, <a href="#">taken in</a>	We were taken for a ride. We lost thousands of dollars.
taken in	deceived, fooled, <a href="#">taken for a ride</a>	I was taken in by their ads. I believed what they said.
takeoff on	(See <a href="#">a takeoff on</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: take your pulse -- takeoff on

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: takes one to know one -- talk it over

Idiom	Meaning	Example
takes one to know one	(See <a href="#">it takes one to know one</a> )	
takes two to tango	(See <a href="#">it takes two to tango</a> )	
talk a mile a minute	talk fast, talk quickly	Mimi talks a mile a minute. It's hard to understand her.
talk about	if we are talking about, if you want to discuss	Talk about cold! Last winter it was -43°
talk away	continue talking, talk and talk	The baby was talking away, but no one could understand her.
talk back	reply without respect, <a href="#">lip off</a>	In China, kids don't talk back to their parents, do they?
talk big	brag, exaggerate, promise a lot	Bert talks big <i>before</i> a game. He's more humble afterwards.
talk into	persuade, convince	Try to talk him into buying a new car. His Fiat is rusty.
talk is cheap	talk is not action, saying is easier than doing	He says he's going to pay his debt, but talk is cheap.
talk it over	discuss it, <a href="#">hash it over</a>	I don't agree with you, but let's talk it over before we decide.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: takes one to know one -- talk it over

## Idioms: talk it up -- tall tale

Idiom	Meaning	Example
talk it up	talk with enthusiasm, tell people about it	If we want to build an arena, we have to talk it up with the people.
talk shop	talk about jobs, talk about what we do at work	I don't like to talk shop when we have visitors. It's too boring.
talk the leg off the lamb of God	talk a lot; persuasively; have <a href="#">the gift of the gab</a>	Minerva was a talker. She could talk the leg off the lamb of God!
talk through your hat	talk without logic, say unbelievable things, <a href="#">hot air</a>	If you tell Dad about building a house in outer space, he'll say you're talking through your hat.
talk to the hand	I am not listening to you, I am not interested in your comment	"But he hit me first!" "Talk to the hand."
talk turkey	discuss a fair deal, negotiate seriously	If the owner really wants to sell, he'll talk turkey.
talk your ear off	talk too much, talk all the time	Polly is only three years old, but she can talk your ear off.
talk your head off	talk a lot, say too much	You can talk your head off, but I won't change my opinion.
tall one	(See <a href="#">a tall one</a> )	
tall tale	a story that is partly true, an exaggerated story	Fishermen love to tell tall tales. They lie a little, eh.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: talk it up -- tall tale

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms: a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush -- a blackout (war)

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush	having one is better than seeing many	When searching for a better job, remember A <i>bird in the hand...</i>
a bit at sea	a bit unsure, uncertain	He seems a bit at sea since his brother died. They were close.
a bit dense	(See <a href="#">dense</a> )	
a bit off/a bit mental	not rational, unbalanced, <a href="#">one brick short</a>	Kate talks to the birds. Do you think she's a bit off?
a bitch [B]	a complaining woman, a woman who <a href="#">nags</a>	What a bitch! She complains to us and criticizes her kids.
a bite to eat	a lunch, a snack	We can grab a bite to eat at the arena. They sell snacks there.
a bitter pill	a negative event, a loss, a painful experience	Divorce is a bitter pill for her. She believed in her marriage.
a black mark	a mark beside your name means you are bad	If you cause an accident, you get a black mark beside your name.
a blackout (TV)	refusal to broadcast an event during that event	A blackout is intended to encourage fans to attend an event.
a blackout (war)	a policy that requires lights to be turned off	Blackouts prevented bombers from seeing their targets at night.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush -- a blackout (war)

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: ball her [B] -- bang for your buck

Idiom	Meaning	Example
ball her [B]	have sex with her, <a href="#">lay</a> her	"Hey, Ted. Did you ball her?" "No. All you think about is sex!"
ball-park figure	(See <a href="#">a ball-park figure</a> )	
ball's in your court	(See <a href="#">the ball's in your court</a> )	
ballistic	(See <a href="#">go ballistic</a> )	
baloney	false statements, <a href="#">bull</a> , <a href="#">bunk</a> , <a href="#">hogwash</a>	Most of what the speaker said is a lot of baloney - untrue.
bam	a word to describe a hit or collision, <a href="#">pow</a>	The car rolled down the hill and into the wall - bam!
bananas	very excited, nearly crazy	When we won the cup, the crowd went bananas.
bandwidth	mental capacity, mental energy, brain cells	We need a person with bandwidth, someone who understands complex management relationships.
bang [B]	have sex with, <a href="#">lay</a>	"Did you bang her, Ted?" "If I did, I wouldn't tell you."
bang for your buck	fun for your money, value for your dollar	You get more bang for your buck at garage sales. They're fun!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: ball her [B] -- bang for your buck

## Idioms: tangle with -- team up

Idiom	Meaning	Example
tangle with	fight against, have a fight with	I wouldn't want to tangle with Vince. He's strong - and mean!
tank	a drunk, an alcoholic, <a href="#">lush</a> , <a href="#">wino</a>	Percy - that tank! He drinks a case of beer every day.
tank	(See <a href="#">in the tank</a> )	
tanked/tanked up	drunk, <a href="#">polluted</a> , <a href="#">sloshed</a> , <a href="#">wasted</a>	After an evening at the tavern, the sailors were tanked.
tar with the same brush	(See <a href="#">paint with the same brush</a> )	
taste of his own...	(See <a href="#">give him a taste of his own medicine</a> )	
teach an old dog...	(See <a href="#">you can't teach an old dog new tricks</a> )	
teach you the tricks of the trade	teach you how to do it, teach you the easy way, <a href="#">learn the ropes</a>	Welcome to the company, Ken. Paul will work with you and teach you the tricks of the trade.
team player	an employee who works well with other employees	Team players - that's what we need in our company.
team up	play together, form a team	If you team up with Lana, we can play bridge, okay?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: tangle with -- team up

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: tear a strip off -- tell him a thing or two

Idiom	Meaning	Example
tear a strip off	scold, lecture, criticize, <a href="#">give you hell</a> [B]	Kasan's father tore a strip off him for missing a day of school.
tear around	go fast, run here and there, drive around	When Ty was young, he liked to tear around town in his car.
tear me apart	criticize me or my work, find all my faults	If you waste tax dollars, the voters will tear you apart.
tearjerker	a sad story, a story or song that causes tears, <a href="#">move you to tears</a>	Have you seen <i>For Whom The Bell Tolls</i> ? It's sad - a real tearjerker!
teed off	upset, cross, <a href="#">ticked off</a>	She was teed off about the errors in the balance sheet.
teed up	ready to operate, ready to use	"Is your presentation ready?" "Yes. All teed up, ready to go."
teeny-weeny	very small, tiny, <a href="#">itsy-bitsy</a>	Look at its teeny-weeny tail! It's so cute!
tell a soul	(See <a href="#">won't tell a soul</a> )	
tell all	tell everything you know, <a href="#">pour out your soul</a>	In a job interview, I answer their questions, but I don't tell all.
tell him a thing or two	tell him he caused a problem, <a href="#">tell him off</a>	If Sid took my keys, I'm going to tell him a thing or two.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: tear a strip off -- tell him a thing or two

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: tell him off -- tender age of

Idiom	Meaning	Example
tell him off	tell him you are angry, tell him he is wrong	If he mentions my toupee once more, I'm going to tell him off.
tell him where to get off	tell him what you think of him, <a href="#">tell him off</a>	If he complains about the meals, tell him where to get off.
tell him where to go	tell him to <a href="#">go to hell</a> [B], <a href="#">tell him off</a>	If he criticizes the way I drive, I'll tell him where to go!
tell me another one	tell me another excuse, tell me another lie	You say the spaceship took you away. Sure. Tell me another one.
tell me straight	(See <a href="#">give it to me straight</a> )	
tell on	tell a secret, tell about a crime, <a href="#">squeal</a>	Will Robbie tell on us? What if he tells the police we did it?
tempest in a teapot	(See <a href="#">a tempest in a teapot</a> )	
tempt fate	act without caution, act as though you are immortal, <a href="#">don't push your luck</a> , <a href="#">take chances</a>	To swim with sharks is dangerous; to do it alone is to tempt fate.
ten-four (CB radio)	yes, I hear you, <a href="#">okay</a>	"See you in Memphis, big fella." "Ten-four, good buddy."
tender age of	(See <a href="#">the tender age of</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: tell him off -- tender age of

## Idioms: test drive -- thanks a million

Idiom	Meaning	Example
test drive	drive to evaluate, <a href="#">try it out</a>	I test drove the new Harley on Saturday. What a bike!
test the water	check people's feelings, <a href="#">take a poll</a>	Wilson always tests the water before he introduces a budget.
test your metal	test your strength or will or skill, <a href="#">run the gauntlet</a>	If your team is losing by three runs, the bases are loaded, and you are the final batter - that will test your metal!
TGIF	Thank Goodness It's Friday, I am glad it is the last day of work this week	"Remember, we're going to a party tonight." "Yes! TGIF!"
thank goodness	I am thankful or relieved, <a href="#">thank heavens</a>	Thank goodness you're here. We were worried about you.
Thank Goodness It's Friday	(See <a href="#">TGIF</a> )	
thank heavens	thank the gods, <a href="#">thank goodness</a>	When we phoned Mom, she said, "Thank heavens you're safe!"
thank your lucky stars	(See <a href="#">you can thank your lucky stars</a> )	
thanks a bunch	thanks very much, thanks a lot	When I deliver the groceries, she says, "Thanks a bunch, Teddy."
thanks a million	thanks very much, thanks a lot	Thanks a million for all you've done for us. We do appreciate it.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: test drive -- thanks a million

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: that a boy/that a girl -- that's his bible

Idiom	Meaning	Example
that a boy/that a girl	good work, well done, <a href="#">'at a boy</a> , <a href="#">'at a girl</a>	Whenever I get a good grade, she says, "That a boy, Reid!"
that is that	(See <a href="#">and that's that</a> )	
that takes the cake	that is the strangest or loudest or wildest etc.	I've seen big pumpkins, but that takes the cake! It's fifty pounds!
that'll be the day	that will never happen, <a href="#">not on your life</a>	Me? Wear a ring in my nose? That'll be the day!
that'll be the frosty Friday	that day will never come, <a href="#">don't hold your breath</a>	Canada become part of the US? That'll be the frosty Friday!
that's a corker	that is unusual, that is amazing	"The baby weighed 12 pounds." "Wow, that's a corker!"
that's a crock (of shit) [B]	that is not true; <a href="#">bullshit</a> ; <a href="#">crap</a>	A Mustang is faster than a Corvette? That's a crock!
that's all she wrote	that is the end of the story, there is no more	At the end of the lesson he said, "And that's all she wrote. Any questions?"
that's cool	that is good/fine/OK, that is <a href="#">groovy</a>	When we gave Fonzie a leather tie, he said, "That's cool."
that's his bible	that is his rule book, code or main reference	The Oxford English Dictionary - that's her bible.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: that a boy/that a girl -- that's his bible

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: that's life -- the air was blue

Idiom	Meaning	Example
that's life	that is the way life goes, <a href="#">c'est la vie</a>	Whenever Maurice has bad luck, he says, "Ah, that's life."
that's stretching it	that is adding to the story, <a href="#">stretching it</a>	Did he say there were fifty flying saucers? That's stretching it.
that's that	(See <a href="#">and that's that</a> )	
that's the spirit	good work, good attitude, <a href="#">way to go</a>	"That's the spirit," the Captain shouted as we scrubbed the deck.
that's the ticket	that is the answer, that is the solution	I said, "Can we share the job?" Mr. Tse said, "That's the ticket!"
that's the way the ball bounces	that is fate, <a href="#">that's life</a>	If Jon got the job, good for him. That's the way the ball bounces.
that's the way the cookie crumbles	that is fate, that is the way things happen	You didn't win the prize? That's the way the cookie crumbles.
the acid test	the ultimate trial for someone's credibility	Your readiness to support me during the examination was the acid test of our relationship.
the age of majority	the age when you can vote, between 16 and 21 years, <a href="#">come of age</a>	Dad said that when I reach the age of majority I can buy my own car!
the air was blue	there was much swearing, someone said bad words, <a href="#">swear like a sailor</a>	When Dad discovered the dent in his Cadillac, the air was blue!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: that's life -- the air was blue

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms: the apple doesn't fall far from the tree -- the best things in life are free

Idiom	Meaning	Example
the apple doesn't fall far from the tree	kids are like their parents; <a href="#">a chip off the old block</a> ; <a href="#">like father, like son</a>	I looked at the father, then at the son, and I thought, <i>The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.</i>
the apple of his eye	his favorite girl, the girl he desires	Susie was Don's sweetheart, the apple of his eye.
the balance of power	the deciding votes; votes that cause the winner, <a href="#">tip the scales</a>	He will try to get the support of the workers because they hold the balance of power.
the ball's in your court	you speak or act now, <a href="#">it's your turn</a>	She offered to pay \$1900 for your car, so the ball's in your court.
the be-all, end-all	the best, the greatest, <a href="#">his nibs</a> , <a href="#">world beater</a>	Brian believes he's the be-all, end-all in politics, but wait until he loses the next election.
the bee's knees	the best, superior, <a href="#">the cat's meow</a>	Kay was voted best citizen. Now she thinks she's the bee's knees.
the benefit of the doubt	fair judgement when some of the facts are not known, <a href="#">take your word for it</a>	If money is missing, we give you the benefit of the doubt. We assume you didn't take it.
the best-laid plans of mice and men go oft astray	plans are not guaranteed, plans sometimes do not <a href="#">work out</a>	If this boat sinks, we'll say, "The best-laid plans of mice and men go oft astray."
the best of both worlds	the best parts of two cultures or styles etc., <a href="#">two heads are better...</a>	If you have Italian design and German engineering, you have the best of both worlds, eh.
the best things in life are free	the sun, the stars, the ocean, etc. are free; <a href="#">Mother Nature</a> belongs to all of us	We went on a camping trip and discovered that the best things in life are free.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:  
[B] bad language

Be interactive:  
[Comment on this idiom](#)  
[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)  
[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Idioms: the apple doesn't fall far from the tree -- the best things in life are free

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: The Big Apple -- the bottom line

Idiom	Meaning	Example
The Big Apple	New York City, New York, USA	Guess what! My friend and I are going to live in The Big Apple!
the big cheese	the boss, <a href="#">chief cook and bottle washer</a> , <a href="#">head honcho</a>	If you've got a complaint, see the big cheese - our manager.
The Big O	Olympic Stadium in Montreal	We watched Diane compete in the pentathlon at The Big O.
the big 0	zero, nothing, <a href="#">zip</a>	You won a car. I got the big 0.
the big picture	all parts together, the whole plan, <a href="#">can't see the forest...</a>	Look at the big picture. Doing two jobs will have a negative effect on your family.
the bigger they are the harder they fall	we can beat the big guys, big players fall harder, <a href="#">mind over matter</a>	"Look at all their big players!" "Don't worry. The bigger they are, the harder they fall!"
the bitter end	the end of a long struggle, the end of a difficult time	On a ranch you work till a job is done. You stay till the bitter end.
the blind leading the blind	the leader is ignorant or incompetent	With Filbert as President, it's the blind leading the blind.
the bottom fell out	the project stopped, the business failed, <a href="#">the wheels fall off</a>	When the price of oil dropped, the bottom fell out of the oil industry in Alberta.
the bottom line	the final number, the conclusion	The bottom line is this: we can't afford to buy another store.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: The Big Apple -- the bottom line

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: the breaking point -- the can

Idiom	Meaning	Example
the breaking point	the time you cannot go on, the point where you quit	My job was so stressful I reached the breaking point. I had to quit.
the brush-off	refusal, rejection	The first time he asked her for a date, she gave him the brush-off.
the buck stops here	I am responsible for what we do - no one else; <a href="#">pass the buck</a>	"The buck stops here," the new manager said to us. "We don't blame others for our problems."
the bum's rush	being chased away, <a href="#">run out of town</a>	If you tell us to pay more tax we'll give you the bum's rush.
the burbs	the suburbs; outlying residential districts	That's Jan's dream: two children and a home in the burbs.
the burning question	the main question, what we all want to know	Who drove the car into the lake? That's the burning question.
the butt of the joke	the person who is laughed at, <a href="#">the goat</a>	Frank is so sensitive. He hates to be the butt of a joke.
the call of duty	the feeling that you have to work, <a href="#">duty calls</a>	When the group needs a secretary I answer the call of duty.
the calm before the storm	the quiet time just before anger or an attack	The enemy is planning an attack. This is the calm before the storm.
the can	toilet, washroom, <a href="#">the john</a> , <a href="#">the loo</a>	Who's in the can? Please hurry! I have to go!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: the breaking point -- the can

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms: the cart before the horse -- the day of the family farm

Idiom	Meaning	Example
the cart before the horse	backwards, back to front	Having dessert before dinner is putting the cart before the horse.
the cat's ass [B]	the best, <a href="#">number one</a> , <a href="#">the bee's knees</a>	Since Val won the beauty contest, she thinks she's the cat's ass!
the cat's meow	somebody special, <a href="#">a hotshot</a>	When Vi wears diamonds, she thinks she's the cat's meow.
the cat's out of the bag	the secret has been told, people know the secret	We know about your affair with Brad. The cat's out of the bag.
the crack of dawn	(See <a href="#">at the crack of dawn</a> )	
the crunch	the difficult time, the day we have less money	The crunch is coming - when we have one salary instead of two.
the crux of the matter	the main point, the real issue	Uncle Bert is too old to drive the car. That's the crux of the matter.
the customer is always right	satisfy the customer, agree with the customer	Now let's discuss an old saying: <i>The Customer's Always Right</i> .
the cutting edge	the latest technology, <a href="#">state of the art</a>	Compact discs are no longer the cutting edge in recorded music.
the day of the family farm	the time when most farms were family owned	The day of the family farm is nearly over. They can't survive.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: the cart before the horse -- the day of the family farm

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: bang on -- bare-faced lie

Idiom	Meaning	Example
bang on	exactly right, very true, correct, <a href="#">spot on</a>	Your answer to Question 3 was bang on. It was correct.
bank on	depend on, <a href="#">count on</a>	We were banking on more sales to pay for our marketing costs.
bankroll	provide the money to begin, <a href="#">front me</a>	If you'll bankroll me, I'll open a bistro on Mars.
baptism by fire	harsh introduction, rigorous initiation, <a href="#">hit the ground running</a>	On my first day of football camp I had to tackle a 200-pound fullback charging straight at me. It was baptism by fire!
bar fly	(See <a href="#">a bar fly</a> )	
bar hop	drink at many bars in one evening, <a href="#">pub crawl</a>	Our wives were out late last night. They were bar hopping.
bar none	including all products or people, no exceptions	Apex is the best detergent, bar none.
bar star	(See <a href="#">a bar star</a> )	
bare bones	only the necessary things, no extras, <a href="#">bare bones</a>	ACTION CLEAN is a bare-bones operation - a family business.
bare-faced lie	(See <a href="#">a bare-faced lie</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:  
[B] bad language

Be interactive:  
[Comment on this idiom](#)  
[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)  
[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:  
 Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson  
 The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books  
 Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email  
[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: bang on -- bare-faced lie

# Idioms: the devil makes work for idle hands -- the eye of a needle

Idiom	Meaning	Example
the devil makes work for idle hands	if a person is not busy he will do evil things, <a href="#">work ethic</a>	Protestants believe children should be busy because the devil makes work for idle hands.
the devil you say	that is amazing, <a href="#">how about that, you don't say</a>	"I caught a thirty-pound trout." "The devil you say!"
the dickens you say	that is unbelievable, <a href="#">gadzooks, say what</a>	"Ping, you won a car!" "The dickens you say!"
the downside	the negative side, the disadvantages, the bad points	The downside of abortion is that some women use it as a method of birth control.
the dying seconds	the last few seconds in a game	The score was tied 3 - 3 in the dying seconds of the third period.
the early bird gets the worm	the one who arrives first gets the reward etc.	I want to go to the sale at 8 a.m. The early bird gets the worm!
the end-all, be-all	(See <a href="#">the be-all, end-all</a> )	
the end justifies the means	any method is fine if the result is good	If a person steals food to survive, does the end justify the means?
the end of the line	the time to leave, the place to get off	When the group began to gossip, it was the end of the line for me.
the eye of a needle	the hole in a needle, the opening for the thread	The hole in the tube was smaller than the eye of a needle.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: the devil makes work for idle hands -- the eye of a needle

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms: the eye of the storm -- the gift of the gab (the gift of gab)

Idiom	Meaning	Example
the eye of the storm	the center of the storm, the middle of the storm	The eye of the storm is directly over Lake Simcoe.
the F-word	fuck [B], <a href="#">friggin</a>	Mommy, Mommy! Charles said the F-word!
the family jewels	the male genitals (the source of future progeny)	Sure I wear a jockstrap - to protect the family jewels!
the fat hit the fire	the trouble got worse, people began fighting	Kate accused Maude of lying - that's when the fat hit the fire.
the fickle finger of fate	the chances in life, the way life changes unpredictably, <a href="#">that's life</a>	Our lives were saved because a dog barked. We were saved by the fickle finger of fate.
the fifth column	the column in a newspaper that tells about the media	The fifth column often comments on the need for fair reporting.
the first leg	the first part (of a journey), <a href="#">a leg up</a>	The first leg will take us to Paris. Then we'll go on to Rome.
the first pancake is always spoiled	the first attempt or product is usually a failure	When Mr. Putin heard about the problems in the Olympics under the new president, he said, "The first pancake is always spoiled!"
the full Monty	fully nude, completely naked, <a href="#">stark naked</a> , <a href="#">strip</a>	"Should I take off <i>all</i> my clothes?" "Yes, we want the full Monty!"
the gift of the gab (the gift of gab)	the ability to talk, <a href="#">a way with words</a>	Bev can speak to the parents. She has the gift of the gab.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: the eye of the storm -- the gift of the gab (the gift of gab)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: the gloves are off -- The Great White North

Idiom	Meaning	Example
the gloves are off	the fight is beginning, <a href="#">play hardball</a>	The candidates have insulted each other. The gloves are off!
the goat	the person who is blamed for a problem	Ken is the goat, but all he did was open the door for the students.
the going gets rough	the task becomes harder, it is a <a href="#">rocky road</a>	In the second year, you study law. That's when the going gets rough.
the going rate	the standard price or fee, the usual price	The going rate for car repairs is about \$60 an hour.
The Golden Rule	<i>Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.</i>	If everyone lived by The Golden Rule, you may not like the way you are treated.
the gospel truth	the real truth, as true as the gospel	I opened the package to count the cookies - that's the gospel truth!
the grass is greener on the other side of the fence	things look better from a distance, it is natural to desire a neighbor's things	When you look at other homes, the grass is often greener on the other side of the fence.
The Great One	Wayne Gretzky, "Gretz"	The Great One was the heart of the Edmonton Oilers.
The Great White Hope	Caucasian boxer who could win the heavyweight title	In the 1970s, George Chuvallo was The Great White Hope.
The Great White North	Canada, <i>the true north...</i>	Millions of Americans enjoy their holidays in The Great White North.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: the gloves are off -- The Great White North

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms: The Grim Reaper -- the inside story

Idiom	Meaning	Example
The Grim Reaper	an executioner; a person who decides your fate, position, grades, etc.	Old Mason was The Grim Reaper. He showed no mercy when he failed students.
The Group of Five/The Regina Five	artists K. Lockhead, A. McKay, D. Morton, T. Godwin, R. Bloore	The Group of Five are famous for their bold, abstract paintings.
The Group of Seven	Canadian painters who formed a group in 1917	Do you know the names of the artists in The Group of Seven?
the handwriting is on the wall	the message is clear, the conclusion is obvious	I tell my students the handwriting is on the wall: <i>learn how to learn.</i>
the hard way	the difficult method, the <a href="#">rocky road</a>	If we plan, we can avoid doing our work the hard way.
the heat is on	there is pressure to win, we must succeed	When you compete for a career position, the heat is on.
the hell you say	I do not believe it, <a href="#">get out, go on</a>	Harper won the election? The hell you say!
the in-crowd	a few special people, a clique	Cleo's part of the in-crowd - the girls who play on the basketball team.
the in's and out's	knowledge and experience, <a href="#">knowing the ropes</a>	He knows the in's and out's of the car business. He's experienced.
the inside story	the personal story, the story that is not published	Greg knows the inside story on the Lawson murders. He's married to Marcia Lawson.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: The Grim Reaper -- the inside story

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: the inside track -- the last word

Idiom	Meaning	Example
the inside track	being close to the person who has power, <a href="#">Bob's your uncle</a>	If your uncle works at Sears, you should have the inside track on the new job in Men's Wear.
the jig's up	we know what you do, we know your secret	The jig's up, ladies. We know why you buy those vibrators.
the john	the toilet, the <a href="#">biffy</a> , <a href="#">the can</a>	Where's the john? I have to wash my hands.
the joke is on you	you are the one we are laughing at, <a href="#">play a joke</a>	You got the book with blank pages. The joke's on you!
the key to success	the most important factor, best way to succeed	He said the key to success in business is customer service.
the knock against	his worst fault, his main problem	Phil is a great teacher. The only knock against him is his temper.
the lap of luxury	a lifestyle that includes the finest house etc.	Flo married a rich realtor and now lives in the lap of luxury.
the last of it	the end of it, no more of it	We've had a week of -40 weather. I hope we've seen the last of it.
the last straw	one too many problems, the one that ruins it	The break-in was the last straw. We decided to move.
the last word	the most informed statement, the most knowledge	The last word in media is Marshall McLuhan (1911-1980). His ideas are still quoted, still respected.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: the inside track -- the last word

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: the last word -- the long and the short of it

Idiom	Meaning	Example
the last word	the last statement in a discussion or argument	"You always want to have the last word, don't you. Well not this time! There!"
the laughing stock	the person everybody is laughing at	If you ride a camel to work, we'll be the laughing stock of the town.
the lay of the land	(See <a href="#">get the lay of the land</a> )	
the life of Riley	a good life, a life with choices, <a href="#">the best things in life are free</a>	David quit his job, bought a small farm, and he's living the life of Riley!
the life of the party	a lively, funny person who causes people to laugh	Jerry was the life of the party - singing, joking and laughing.
the lights are on but nobody's home	the eyes are open but lifeless, <a href="#">not all there</a>	"Hello! Hello, Pat! His lights are on but nobody's home. Ha ha."
the lion's share	the largest part, the biggest piece	Thanks to the mothers for doing the lion's share of the work.
the living daylight	the life, the consciousness	When that dog barked, it scared the living daylight out of me.
the living end	the very best, the greatest, the most beautiful	Have you heard K.D. Lang sing? She's the livin' end.
the long and the short of it	everything I know, the whole story	He ended his report with, "That's the long and the short of it."

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: the last word -- the long and the short of it

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: the long arm of the law -- the middleman

Idiom	Meaning	Example
the long arm of the law	the police, police methods	Thanks to the long arm of the law, a thief's in jail and I have my car.
the loo	the toilet, <a href="#">the can</a> , <a href="#">the john</a>	I'll see the kitchen later, thanks. Where's the loo?
the Lord helps those who help themselves	if you work to help yourself God will help you	If you pray, remember, the Lord helps those who help themselves.
the lowdown	the facts, the real story	Did you get the lowdown on how he died? What really happened?
the luck of the draw	the chance that your name or number will be chosen	Plan your future. Don't depend on the luck of the draw.
the luck of the Irish	the good luck of Irish people	When Kerry wins a prize, he says, "Aye, it's the luck of the Irish."
the makings of	the potential to become, the ability to develop	Look at Debi dance. She has the makings of a ballerina.
the man in the middle	the person between two enemies	When hockey players fight, the linesman is the man in the middle.
the Man in the Moon	a myth that the moon is the face of a man	"Who will help me find my dog?" "I know. The Man in the Moon!"
the middleman	a person who buys from the producer and sells to the merchant	If we can buy from the producer, we can save the money we pay to the middleman.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: the long arm of the law -- the middleman

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: the moment of truth -- the once-over

Idiom	Meaning	Example
the moment of truth	the time when you receive a very important message	The moment of truth has arrived. My grades are in this envelope.
the more the merrier	if more people come, we will have a better party	Tell everybody the party's at my place - the more the merrier!
the most	the greatest, the best etc., <a href="#">way cool</a>	You are the most, man. You paint great stuff - like it's real!
the naked eye	without binoculars or field glasses	We can see Mars with the naked eye. We don't need a telescope.
the nitty-gritty	very important matters, <a href="#">the crunch</a>	The nitty-gritty of an election is the vote itself - the numbers!
the odd one	one of a few remaining, <a href="#">few and far between</a>	"Do you ever see any buffalo?" "Oh, the odd one."
the odds-on favorite	the one who is favored to win, the one to bet on	Orlando was the odds-on favorite but they lost the series.
the old college try	a good effort, trying hard like a college student	Let's give it the old college try, boys. We can win this boat race!
the old man	father or husband, <a href="#">my old man</a>	Jenny said, "I'll ask the old man if I can use the car."
the once-over	(See <a href="#">give it the once-over</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: the moment of truth -- the once-over

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: the one that got away -- the pope's nose

Idiom	Meaning	Example
the one that got away	the fish that got away, the friend you lost	Have I told you about the one that got away? Her name was Lana.
the past is slipping by without a trace	in order to have a significant past we need to create a significant present; the present is the past and vice versa	If you are dissatisfied with your life, it is because you are a spectator, not a player, and the past is slipping by without a trace!
the Peter Principle	people are promoted to a job they cannot do well	Our store manager is an example of the Peter Principle. He's hopeless!
the pick of the litter	the best pup/kitten/cub of the litter, (compare) <a href="#">the runt of the litter</a>	In the Bentley family, Max was the pick of the litter. At least he was the best hockey player.
the picture of health	looking very healthy, <a href="#">fit as a fiddle</a>	Rick looks very well these days. He's the picture of health.
the pill	a contraceptive pill, a contraceptive drug	Bev has religious reasons for not taking the pill.
the pit of my stomach	bottom of my stomach, deep in my belly	From the pit of my stomach came a growling sound. I was hungry.
the pits	poor quality, not good value	The music was the pits. The violins played badly.
the point of no return	a time when it is too late to stop or turn back, <a href="#">change horses in...</a>	Our offer to purchase the business has been accepted. We've reached the point of no return.
the pope's nose	the tail of a roasted chicken	The pope's nose is too greasy. I prefer a piece of breast meat.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Idioms: the one that got away -- the pope's nose

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: the powers that be -- The Rock

Idiom	Meaning	Example
the powers that be	the people in power, the power brokers	I applied for a liquor license, but the powers that be said no.
the price you have to pay	what you must endure or pay or lose	Loneliness is the price you have to pay for being famous.
the proof of the pudding is in the eating	do not judge until you test the finished product, do not <a href="#">jump to conclusions</a>	She drew a cartoon of a boy with a plum on his thumb. Then she wrote <i>The proof of the pudding...</i>
the rabbit died	according to myth, a sign that a woman is pregnant	When Pop heard I was pregnant he said, "So the rabbit died, eh."
the real McCoy	the real thing, the genuine one	This painting is the real McCoy. It's the original!
the rest is gravy	the rest is free, the rest of the money is profit	When we get the grain check, we pay our bills, and the rest is gravy!
the rest is history	the rest of the story is well known; you know the rest; <a href="#">that's all she wrote</a>	Fleury took a pass from Suter, went around a defenceman, and the rest is history.
the right stuff	effective skills; the right words or actions	Harry is persuasive. He has the right stuff to become a salesman.
the road to hell is paved with good intentions	good intentions achieve nothing without action, <a href="#">actions speak louder...</a>	Convert your charitable feelings into action! <i>The road to hell is paved with good intentions!</i>
The Rock	Newfoundland, Canada; (on the east coast)	We know a girl from The Rock. Her name is Sherry Sooley.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: the powers that be -- The Rock

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: bare your soul -- bat an eye

Idiom	Meaning	Example
bare your soul	tell the public about your private experiences	To write a good novel, you may have to bare your soul.
barf	vomit, puke, <a href="#">hork</a> , <a href="#">throw up</a>	If I eat another hotdog, I'll barf. I'll be sick.
bark is worse than his bite	he sounds angry but he is not; do not be afraid of him	Baxter sounds mad, but his bark is worse than his bite.
bark up the wrong tree	look in the wrong place, do not expect it	If you expect money from him, you're barking up the wrong tree.
barnburner	(See <a href="#">a barnburner</a> )	
bash	a wild party, a party where people are drunk and noisy	"Did you go to Tina's party?" "Ya. It was a noisy bash."
basket case	(See <a href="#">a basket case</a> )	
basta la musica	stop the music, do not play the music	"Basta la musica!" Papa shouted. "It's too loud!"
bat a thousand	hit every time at bat, win every competition	I've had two interviews and two offers. I'm batting a thousand!
bat an eye	flinch or blink, show a sign of guilt or shame	When they asked him about the crime, he didn't bat an eye. His expression didn't change.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: The Rock -- the short end of the stick

Idiom	Meaning	Example
The Rock	a Federal prison on Alcatraz, a rocky island in San Francisco Bay	Do you remember <i>Birdman of Alcatraz</i> ? Burt Lancaster plays a "lifer" who escapes from The Rock by swimming across the bay.
The Rock	a prison on Riker's Island, New York; <a href="#">in the slammer</a>	After Willie left The Rock he vowed to "go straight".
the room is so small you have to go outside turn around	the room is very small; <a href="#">so small you could barely swing a cat</a>	It's not a large apartment. The bathroom is so small I have to go outside to turn around.
the root of the problem	the cause of the problem, the reason for the problem	Students don't do enough reading - that's the root of the problem.
the runaround	an indirect answer, <a href="#">pass the buck</a> , <a href="#">what a rigmarole</a>	I complained about the dryer, but they gave me the runaround. They blamed the delivery man.
the runt of the litter	the smallest and weakest in a group of animal siblings born at the same time	When it comes to mathematics, I am the runt of the litter. My scores on math tests are very low.
the salt of the earth	common people; honest, hard-working people	The Swensons are plain, decent people - the salt of the earth.
the school of hard knocks	life's hard lessons, learning from mistakes, <a href="#">roll with the punches</a>	Teachers taught me what I <i>should</i> know; the school of hard knocks taught me what I <i>must</i> know.
the shit hit the fan	people become angry, somebody starts a fight	It was a good party until Ed started a fight. Then the shit hit the fan!
the short end of the stick	the worst job, the least pay, <a href="#">dump on</a>	When I work with Ken, I always get the short end of the stick. He gives me the hard jobs.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Idioms: The Rock -- the short end of the stick

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: the sin bin (hockey) -- the tail wagging the dog

Idiom	Meaning	Example
the sin bin (hockey)	the penalty box, <a href="#">cool your heels</a>	For tripping, hooking or holding you get two minutes in the sin bin.
the sky isn't blue	something is wrong, there is a problem, <a href="#">clouds on the horizon</a>	One look at Jenner's face told me the sky wasn't blue. "What's wrong?" I asked.
the spice of life	things that make life exciting	Romance - for many people, it's the spice of life!
the spitting image	one who looks like someone, <a href="#">a dead ringer</a>	Patty is the spitting image of her mother - same face, same hair.
the squeaky wheel gets the grease	the person who complains loudest gets service	Our clerks put up this sign: <i>The squeaky wheel gets the grease!</i>
the straight dope	the truth, the facts, <a href="#">get to the point</a>	The cop said, "Gimme the straight dope, Shorty. I haven't got time for your stories today."
the straight goods	the truth, the facts, <a href="#">straight talk</a>	Gimme the straight goods - the truth, that's all.
the strong, silent type	a quiet and rugged-looking man	Doris loves men like Jeff - the strong, silent type.
the sweet spot	the best spot to touch, the spot that feels good	Keep rubbing. When you find my sweet spot, I'll purr like a kitten.
the tail wagging the dog	minority controlling the majority	If criminals get more rights, the tail will be wagging the dog.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: the sin bin (hockey) -- the tail wagging the dog

## Idioms: the take -- the underground

Idiom	Meaning	Example
the take	the cash, the amount of money received	The take from the New Year's dance was over \$2000.
the talk of the town	what everybody is talking about, <a href="#">a hot topic</a>	If a preacher has an affair with a hooker, it's the talk of the town.
the tender age of	the young age of, <a href="#">still wet behind the ears</a>	He was the tender age of three when his mother died.
the third degree	careful questioning, <a href="#">on the carpet</a>	If I'm late, I get the third degree. Mom asks me a lot of questions.
the tide turned	there was a change, <a href="#">the turning point</a>	The tide turned when the baby began to nurse. He grew stronger.
the tip of the iceberg	a small part of it, about one-tenth of it	This invoice is only part of the debt - the tip of the iceberg.
the tricks of the trade	skills of an occupation, <a href="#">learn the ropes</a>	I know the printing business. I'll show you the tricks of the trade.
the turn of the century	the beginning of a new century: the year 2000	By the turn of the century we will know the aliens who visit earth.
the turning point	the second or minute when things go better or worse, <a href="#">tip the scales</a>	When Tanya hit the ball over the fence - that was the turning point in the game.
the underground	the hidden actions of those who fight a law or an enemy	Some Canadians fought the GST through the underground.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: the take -- the underground

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: the upper hand -- the whole shooting match

Idiom	Meaning	Example
the upper hand	the advantage, <a href="#">get the jump on</a>	Because you have graduated from college, you have the upper hand.
the way I see it	my view of it, my opinion	The way I see it, men and women aren't equal physically, eh.
the way to a man's heart is through his stomach	feeding a man good food will cause him to love you, <a href="#">beauty is only skin deep</a>	"Do you believe the way to your heart is through your stomach?" "No, but you <i>are</i> a great cook!"
the way you hold your mouth	it is a mystery; it could be the shape of your mouth; <a href="#">hold your mouth...</a>	"Why does the lock open for you but not for Joan?" "It's the way I hold my mouth."
the wheels fall off	it breaks, it fails, <a href="#">fall apart</a>	When the coach is away, our team loses. The wheels fall off!
the whole ball of wax	all related things, <a href="#">all that jazz</a> , <a href="#">the whole nine yards</a>	Being in love means commitment, sacrifice, patience, understanding - the whole ball of wax.
the whole caboodle	(See <a href="#">kit and caboodle</a> )	
the whole nine yards	including all the work, doing the whole job, <a href="#">the whole ball of wax</a>	My goals include a degree, career, marriage, children - the whole nine yards.
the whole shebang	everything, every bit/piece/person	When the cable broke, the whole shebang fell in the river.
the whole shooting match	everything, every bit/piece/person	Wagon, horses, load - the whole shootin' match disappeared.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: the upper hand -- the whole shooting match

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms: the whole works -- there's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip

Idiom	Meaning	Example
the whole works	the whole building, all the equipment, everything	The warehouse and stock - the whole works burned in the fire.
the wolf is at the door	poverty is coming, <a href="#">keep the wolf...</a>	A month after my husband lost his job, the wolf was at the door.
the wolf knocking	(See <a href="#">the wolf is at the door</a> )	
the world is your oyster	the world is small beside your talent and skill	With imagination - our greatest gift - the world is our oyster.
then and there	immediately, at that time and place, <a href="#">on the spot</a>	She didn't wait for an explanation. She left him, then and there, and never came back to him.
there are two sides to every story	two people tell different stories of the same event, <a href="#">compare notes</a>	If you compare Mary's story with Sam's, you'll know there are two sides to every story.
there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so	nothing is good or bad in and of itself; humans impose their morality on objects, actions and events William Shakespeare, <i>Hamlet</i> , Act 2, Scene 2	Hamlet, the Prince of Denmark, says to Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, "There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so."
there you go	you are correct, there is your example, <a href="#">how about that</a>	"Everything is green - the grass, the trees. There's a green bird!" "Well, there you go."
there's a catch to it	there is a hidden cost or condition	If we buy the bed, we get a TV? There must be a catch to it.
there's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip	it is easy to spill what you are drinking; it is easy to make mistakes	On the side of the beer mug were these words: <i>There's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip.</i>

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further

Idioms: the whole works -- there's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip

rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: there's more than meets the eye -- there's something fishy

Idiom	Meaning	Example
there's more than meets the eye	part of the story has not been told	In a government scandal, there's always more than meets the eye.
there's more than one way to skin a cat	there are many ways to do it, I know another method	For math problems, there's more than one way to skin a cat.
there's no love lost	they do not like each other, <a href="#">bad blood</a> , <a href="#">hold a grudge</a>	There's no love lost between Jay and Pete. They've been fighting since they were boys.
there's no tomorrow	we have to win today; if we lose, we are out; <a href="#">do or die</a>	The Bruins will be eliminated if they lose tonight. There's no tomorrow.
there's no two ways about it	there is only one answer; cannot have two meanings	We have to get you on that plane. There's no two ways about it.
there's not much to choose between them	they are nearly equal, <a href="#">it's a toss-up</a>	A Ford or a Mercury - there's not much to choose between them.
there's nothing to it	it is easy to do, <a href="#">it's a snap</a>	I can solve this math problem. There's nothing to it.
there's nothing to it	it is not true, it is a lie	I heard that Pearl had left Carlos, but there's nothing to it.
there's one born every minute	there are lots of people who will believe anything, there are lots of <a href="#">suckers</a>	"Only a sucker would buy this car." "Right, and there's one born every minute."
there's something fishy	there is something wrong, there is something strange	There's something fishy about a 1970 car with only 5000 km.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: there's more than meets the eye -- there's something fishy

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms: there's something rotten in the state of Denmark -- think over

Idiom	Meaning	Example
there's something rotten in the state of Denmark	something is wrong, something is strange, <a href="#">there's something fishy</a>	Father knew I was tricking him. He said, "Something is rotten in the state of Denmark."
these parts	these parts of the country; <a href="#">neck of the woods</a>	In these parts, folks don't like federal politicians.
thick	(See <a href="#">a little thick</a> )	
thick as a brick	slow to understand, slow to learn	We're all thick as a brick in at least one subject, eh?
thing-a-ma-bob / thing-a-ma-jig	name for a strange part, <a href="#">what-cha-ma-call-it</a>	If I can get the thing-a-ma-jig in the right hole, this car may start.
things are looking up	we are feeling positive, life is better	Now that Vic has a job, things are looking up. We feel positive.
think better of it	change my decision, decide not to do it	We were going to buy a trailer, but we thought better of it.
think nothing of it	my help was nothing, <a href="#">no problem</a> , <a href="#">not at all</a>	"Thank you for helping us find our lost puppy." "Think nothing of it."
think outside the box	think in new ways, imagine, <a href="#">big-sky thinking</a> , <a href="#">think tank</a>	Our methods are not working. We need different, innovative ideas - we need to think outside the box.
think over	think more about, consider	I'm going to think over what you said about keeping the baby.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: there's something rotten in the state of Denmark -- think over

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: think straight -- thrash

Idiom	Meaning	Example
think straight	think clearly, be rational	I'm so tired I can't think straight. Let me rest; then we can talk.
think tank	people thinking together, <a href="#">big-sky thinking</a> , <a href="#">brain storm</a>	Our company think tank will solve the problem.
think the world of	admire greatly, <a href="#">worship the ground...</a>	Samson thinks the world of you. He would do anything for you.
think through	think in steps, think carefully	Before you go to the manager with an idea, think it through.
think up	imagine, create	My story is finished. Now I have to think up a title.
third degree	(See <a href="#">the third degree</a> )	
this mortal coil	the difficulties of life on earth, <a href="#">vale of tears</a>	When your soul departs this mortal coil, will you welcome the transformation, or will you cling to the physical state?
this one is on me	I will pay for this one (drink, lunch, etc.)	"This one's on me," Mr. Kirby said as he paid for my lunch.
thorn in my side	(See <a href="#">a thorn in my side</a> )	
thrash	driven hard and fast, used carelessly	That car has been thrashed. Don't buy it.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: think straight -- thrash

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: threads -- throw a curve

Idiom	Meaning	Example
threads	clothes, <a href="#">glad rags</a> , <a href="#">rags</a>	Hey, Lucy. Nice threads! I love your jacket.
three-bagger	(See <a href="#">a three-bagger</a> )	
three sheets to the wind	very drunk, <a href="#">plastered</a> , <a href="#">pissed to the gills</a>	The Captain was three sheets to the wind - staggering.
three slices short (of a full loaf)	mentally disabled, <a href="#">one brick short...</a>	If you order worm soup, they'll think you're three slices short.
through the grapevine	through gossip, <a href="#">bush telegraph</a>	"How did you know I moved?" "I heard it through the grapevine."
through the mill	used a lot, nearly <a href="#">worn out</a> , <a href="#">put you through the mill</a>	These jeans have been through the mill. They're ragged.
through the roof	(See <a href="#">go through the roof</a> )	
through the wringer	experienced a lot of personal problems	Hey, I'm tough. I've been through the wringer a few times.
through thick and thin	during good and bad times, <a href="#">for better or worse</a>	My dog Pal stays with me through thick and thin. He's a true friend.
throw a curve	confuse, deceive, surprise	Dad threw a curve at me when he asked if he could borrow \$1000.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: throw a game -- throw down your arms

Idiom	Meaning	Example
throw a game	deliberately lose a game, cause your team to lose, <a href="#">take a dive</a>	They said that Red threw his last game of pool, but I think he's too honest to do that.
throw a kiss	kiss your hand and wave, <a href="#">blow a kiss</a>	When Madonna threw a kiss to her fans, they cheered.
throw a monkey wrench into the works	wreck a project, <a href="#">monkeywrenching</a> , <a href="#">piss in the pickles</a>	The report that coffee causes cancer threw a monkey wrench into our plans to import coffee.
throw a party	invite people to a party, have a party	Connie throws the best parties. Everybody has a great time.
throw a tantrum	show your bad temper, <a href="#">make a scene</a>	When I refused to buy candy for Reggie, he threw a tantrum.
throw away	put in the garbage, <a href="#">throw out</a>	I threw away those old magazines. I hope you didn't want them.
throw caution to the wind	live or act carelessly, not be cautious	Let's throw caution to the wind and buy ten dresses!
throw chunks	vomit, puke, <a href="#">barf</a> , <a href="#">hurl</a> , <a href="#">woof your cookies</a>	One look at those oysters and she started throwing chunks. Yuk!
throw cold water on	discourage, cause you to lose interest	Don't be negative. Don't throw cold water on our travel plans.
throw down your arms	stop fighting or arguing, <a href="#">bury the hatchet</a>	It's time to throw down your arms and forgive him.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: throw a game -- throw down your arms

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: bat five hundred -- be off

Idiom	Meaning	Example
bat five hundred	hit half the times at bat, win half the competitions	If you solve five problems out of ten, you're batting five hundred.
bat her eyes	blink the eyes, blink in a sexy way	Verna just stood there batting her eyes, trying to look sexy.
bated breath	(See <a href="#">with bated breath</a> )	
battleaxe	cranky woman, <a href="#">a bitch [B]</a>	Marlene - that old battleaxe - is spreading lies about me.
batty	(See <a href="#">drive me batty</a> )	
bawl me out	tell me I have been bad, scold me	If I fail math, Dad will bawl me out. He'll give me a lecture.
be-all, end-all	trying to be too great, <a href="#">world beater</a>	The new manager thinks he's the greatest - the be-all, end-all.
be my guest	have this chair, have that drink, <a href="#">help yourself</a>	Be my guest. Sit here. I can find another chair.
be my undoing	be the cause of my failure; my <a href="#">Achilles heel</a>	Credit cards may be my undoing. My VISA balance is over \$5000!
be off	leave, go, <a href="#">off with you</a>	Be off, my dear, or you'll be late for work.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: throw good money after bad -- throw the book at

Idiom	Meaning	Example
throw good money after bad	spend more on a failure, repair a poor product	If we fix that TV again, we'll be throwing good money after bad.
throw in the towel	quit fighting, <a href="#">give up</a>	Don't throw in the towel. One more year and you'll graduate.
throw insults	say rude things, insult someone	When you don't get what you want, you start throwing insults.
throw me for a loop	confuse me, <a href="#">it phased me out</a>	The question on parliamentary procedure threw me for a loop.
throw on a dog for you	cook a wiener for you, make a <a href="#">a hotdog</a> for you	Hal was cooking wieners on the barbecue. "Can I throw on a dog for you?" he asked.
throw out	put in the garbage, discard, <a href="#">throw away</a>	Do you want these old magazines, or should I throw them out?
throw some light on	explain, give information, <a href="#">shed a little light on</a>	Martin, can you throw some light on the DNA? Explain it to us?
throw that in	mention that, suggest that	Don't forget to add the sales tax - just thought I'd throw that in.
throw the baby out with the bath water	throw away something good with the waste, discard everything	Keep the good subjects when you revise the course. Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!
throw the book at	punish to the maximum, <a href="#">come down hard</a>	Drunk drivers deserve the full penalty. Throw the book at them!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: throw good money after bad -- throw the book at

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: throw up -- tickety-boo

Idiom	Meaning	Example
throw up	vomit, puke, <a href="#">barf</a> , <a href="#">ralph</a> , <a href="#">upchuck</a>	The baby will throw up if you bounce him after he's eaten.
throw you	cause you to forget or stumble	Don't let the large crowd throw you. Focus on your music.
throw you to the dogs	let you fight alone, let you fight the bad guys	Let us help you. The pimps will throw you to the dogs.
throw your weight around	use power to scare you, <a href="#">power trip</a>	Bud throws his weight around - tells everybody what to do.
throw yourself at him	try too hard to impress him, push your love on him	Be a little reserved, not so obvious. Don't throw yourself at him.
thrown in	added to a list, recipe, etc.; included afterwards	The weather will be cloudy, with a shower or two thrown in.
tick over	running well, working well, <a href="#">hit on all cylinders</a>	Sandro tuned the motor, and now it's ticking over beautifully.
ticked off	a little upset, annoyed, <a href="#">teed off</a>	Fred gets ticked off at people who throw butts out the window.
ticketed	known as, named, labeled	If you do something funny, you'll be ticketed as the team clown.
tickety-boo	operating well, <a href="#">A-OK</a>	After they gave him insulin, everything was tickety-boo.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: throw up -- tickety-boo

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: tickled pink -- tied to your mother's apron strings

Idiom	Meaning	Example
tickled pink	happy, very pleased	Aunt Sophia was tickled pink to receive a photo of the family.
tiddly	neat, tidy, clean and shiny, <a href="#">spiffy</a>	The ship is ready for inspection. Everything is tiddly.
tide me over	supply me for a few days, provide money until payday, <a href="#">last me</a>	Jane gave me a few dollars to tide me over until I get paid.
tide turned	(See <a href="#">the tide turned</a> )	
tie in	connect, relate	Can you tell me how lasers tie in? How do lasers apply to surgery?
tie into	scold, lecture, <a href="#">give you hell</a> [B]	When we were alone, he tied into me. He said I caused the problem.
tie one on	drink a lot of liquor, become very drunk	At Cayla's wedding, Uncle Ben tied one on. He got really drunk.
tie up	tie a string or piece of rope around	If you tie up the parcel I'll take it to the post office.
tie up loose ends	finish a project, complete the details of some work, <a href="#">finishing touch</a>	"Have you finished the survey?" "Just about. I have to tie up some loose ends and print the report."
tied to your mother's apron strings	still dependent on mom, needing your mom's help	He has to ask his mother. He's still tied to her apron strings.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: tickled pink -- tied to your mother's apron strings

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: tied up -- time and again

Idiom	Meaning	Example
tied up	busy, unable to help	I'm tied up right now. I'm busy with a client.
tight-ass [B]	stingy person; <a href="#">tight fisted</a>	Mason is a tight-ass! He collects rent from his old grandmother.
tight race	close race, <a href="#">down to the wire</a>	It was a tight race for the mayor's position. Kutz won by ten votes.
tight spot	uncomfortable position, <a href="#">between a rock and a hard place</a>	At the interview Vic was in a tight spot. They asked him, "Why were you dismissed from three jobs?"
tight/tight fisted	not generous, unwilling to spend, <a href="#">cheap</a>	People say he's so tight he'd sell a gift and bank the money.
tighten our belts	not spend as much, be careful with our money	We'll have to tighten our belts when Stan goes on pension.
till hell freezes over	until the end of time, until the end of the world	You can wait till hell freezes over but they won't pay their bill.
till the cows come home	for a long time, for days or weeks	A letter from Dave? You'll be waiting till the cows come home!
till you're blue in the face	until you are very tired, until you look sick	You can train a flea till you're blue in the face, but he won't learn.
time and again	many times, repeatedly	I've told that boy time and again not to fight, but he won't listen.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: tied up -- time and again

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: time flies when you're having fun -- time to time

Idiom	Meaning	Example
time flies when you're having fun	time goes quickly when you are playing, <a href="#">how time flies</a>	Ho looked at his watch, yawned and said, "Time flies when you're having fun, eh."
time is money	time is valuable, time is equal to money	Employers who pay hourly wages know that time is money.
time is of the essence	it is important to work as quickly as possible, <a href="#">make hay while...</a>	When you're paying \$75 an hour for a lawyer's services, time is of the essence.
time off	days off work, holidays	I've been working too hard. I think I need some time off.
time on your hands	time to relax or do what you wish, <a href="#">time to kill</a>	If you have time on your hands, read the novel <i>Fifth Business</i> .
time out	stop for a minute to discuss or plan	We need a time out to look at the map. I think we're lost.
time ran out	there was no more time allowed for the game etc.	Time ran out before I could complete the exam.
time stands still	everything seems to slow down or stop moving, <a href="#">slo mo</a>	When the towers went down, time stood still.
time to kill	time to relax or rest, <a href="#">kill time</a>	We had some time to kill while the car was being repaired.
time to time	(See <a href="#">from time to time</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: time flies when you're having fun -- time to time

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: time's a wasting -- tip the scales

Idiom	Meaning	Example
time's a wasting	we are wasting time, we should be working	Time's a wasting. Let's finish our work and then rest.
time's up	there is no more time for the test or game etc.	The coach checked his watch and said, "Time's up. Stop running."
times were hard	it was a time of poverty, <a href="#">hard times</a>	It was 1850. Times were hard in Sweden then.
tin ear	unmusical ear, unable to appreciate music	With my tin ear, I couldn't say if she was singing flat.
tin Lizzie	car, old car	You can park your tin Lizzie over there beside the barn.
tip a few	drink a few beer etc., <a href="#">bend your elbow</a>	Chuck used to tip a few when he was younger. He drank with us.
tip of my tongue	(See <a href="#">on the tip of my tongue</a> )	
tip of the hat	a compliment, a bit of praise, recognition, <a href="#">here's to</a>	A tip of the hat to Junko for his contribution. Thank you, Junko!
tip of the iceberg	a small part of it, about one-tenth of it	This invoice is only part of the debt - the tip of the iceberg.
tip the scales	change or influence a decision, <a href="#">the upper hand</a>	If you speak two languages, it could tip the scales in your favor when you apply for a job.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: time's a wasting -- tip the scales

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: tip the scales at -- tits up [B]

Idiom	Meaning	Example
tip the scales at	cause the scale to go up, <a href="#">weigh in at</a>	Elmer tips the scales at 135 kilos. He's a heavyweight.
tip your hand	reveal your plan, show your strategy	Don't tip your hand in a game of chess. Surprise the opponent.
tipsy	a little bit drunk, slightly drunk, <a href="#">buzzed</a>	After her third glass of sherry, Mona was a little tipsy.
tired of	bored, not interested	I'm tired of that song. I hear it every morning.
tired out	tired, weary, <a href="#">dog tired</a>	When our visitors left, I was tired out. I slept for hours.
tit for tat	equal response, <a href="#">an eye for an eye</a>	Gerry hit Ross. Then Ross hit Gerry, and it was tit for tat.
titch	(See <a href="#">just a titch</a> )	
tits and ass (T & A) [B]	sexual stimuli for men, <a href="#">cheesecake</a>	The men's parties have a lot of T & A - dancing girls.
tits in a wringer	(See <a href="#">get your tits in a wringer</a> )	
tits up [B]	dead, not operating, <a href="#">kaput</a>	The tractor's tits up again - the clutch is broken.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: to a fault -- to each his own

Idiom	Meaning	Example
to a fault	doing it too much, <a href="#">go overboard</a>	May gives most of her money to charity. She's generous to a fault.
to a man	every man or person, not one person disagreed	We asked the team who should be coach. To a man, they chose you.
to a T	perfectly, accurately, <a href="#">down to a T</a> , <a href="#">to perfection</a>	That guy looks exactly like Liam! It's Liam to a T!
to be perfectly honest	to tell you the truth, to tell you exactly how I feel, <a href="#">as a matter of fact</a>	"Your cat's up in the tree again." "To be perfectly honest, I don't care. Let him come down alone."
to beat the band	with lots of energy, <a href="#">like crazy</a> , <a href="#">like mad</a>	Aunt Jemima was making pancakes to beat the band.
to blame	at fault, guilty	Who's to blame for starting the fire? Who did it?
to boot	in addition to, plus	We'll trade you the car for the truck and give you \$500 to boot.
to coin a phrase	to create a new phrase, to <a href="#">make up</a> a phrase	To coin a phrase, "Life is just book of idioms!"
to-do	(See <a href="#">make a big to-do</a> )	
to each his own	we like different things, <a href="#">one man's garbage...</a>	She likes the Rolling Stones, but he likes Mozart - to each his own.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: to a fault -- to each his own

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: to go -- to top it off

Idiom	Meaning	Example
to go	remaining, left to do	We've cleaned five rooms. Just one to go.
to go	to take with you	One large pizza - to go, please.
to heart	(See <a href="#">take it to heart</a> )	
to hell and gone	a long distance away, far away, <a href="#">all around Robin Hood's barn</a>	"Where do you live?" "To hell and gone across the lake."
to hell with that [B]	that is not a good idea, <a href="#">no way</a>	"You could plead guilty." "To hell with that!"
to perfection	perfectly, without a flaw, <a href="#">to a T</a> , <a href="#">to the nth degree</a>	"You can imitate Elvis to perfection!" "Thank you. Thank you very much."
to the best of my knowledge	I believe this is true, <a href="#">as far as I know</a>	To the best of my knowledge, Barrie and Bonnie are twins.
to the max	to the greatest amount, <a href="#">groaty to the max</a>	You should see this video. It's grungy to the max!
to the nth degree	to the very last detail, <a href="#">to the max</a>	If you have an accounting problem, give it to Michael. He analyzes problems to the nth degree.
to top it off	to complete it, to finish it	To top it off, they presented us with Olympic pins.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: toast -- tongue-lashing

Idiom	Meaning	Example
toast	in a lot of trouble, <a href="#">catch hell</a> [B], <a href="#">history</a>	Ferris, if you drive your father's Porsche, you're toast.
toe the line	do what you are told to do, <a href="#">follow the rules</a>	The Military expects you to toe the line - to do as you are told.
together	happy, successful; <a href="#">get it together</a> , <a href="#">with it</a>	Cathy is really together. She's knows how she wants to live and she's doing it.
toke up	smoke marijuana, smoke pot	Does it matter if some of our politicians used to toke up?
token gesture	(See <a href="#">a token gesture</a> )	
ton of bricks	(See <a href="#">like a ton of bricks</a> )	
tone down	make softer or nicer; not so harsh	"What do you think of the letter?" "I'd tone it down. It's too harsh."
toney neighborhood	a district that has expensive houses	The Kitigawas bought a large house in a toney neighborhood.
tongue in cheek	fooling, joking, <a href="#">kidding</a>	Most of what Bob said was tongue in cheek. He was joking.
tongue-lashing	(See <a href="#">a tongue-lashing</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: be there -- beat around the bush

Idiom	Meaning	Example
be there	be ready, be alert, <a href="#">up for it</a>	The captain of the hockey team shouted to his mates, "Be there, guys! We have to win this game."
be there for me	help me when I need it, be supportive, <a href="#">stand by me</a>	"Will you be there for me?" she asked. "I need your support."
be there or be square	if you do not come we will think you are <a href="#">call it square</a>	We're having a party at 7 on Saturday. Be there or be square!
be yourself	be natural, behave normally	Don't worry about what to say at the party. Just be yourself.
bean pole	tall and thin, <a href="#">string bean</a>	Carl is a bean pole - tall and skinny - just like his father.
bear down	try harder, <a href="#">bite the bullet</a>	If you bear down a little, you can graduate this year.
bear the brunt	accept the most blame or responsibility	When we got in trouble, Ed bore the brunt of the blame.
beat a dead horse	continue to ask or try when there is no hope	They won't refund your money. You're beating a dead horse.
beat a hasty retreat	run away from, leave quickly	When the boys heard the siren they beat a hasty retreat.
beat around the bush	talk without telling the main point	Politicians often beat around the bush. They talk a lot but say little.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: be there -- beat around the bush

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: tons -- too many cooks spoil the broth

Idiom	Meaning	Example
tons	lots, very much/many, <a href="#">a holy pile</a>	There were tons of people at the wedding - and tons of food!
tonsil hockey	conversation, <a href="#">a chin wag</a>	They were just standing around playing tonsil hockey so Jimmy walks up and says, "Whatcha doin' girls?"
too bad	a little bit sad, unfortunate	Too bad Annie won't be home when I visit. I'd like to see her.
too big for his britches	too proud, <a href="#">cocky</a> , <a href="#">swelled head</a>	I promise not to get too big for my britches if I win the award.
too deep for me	too complicated, too complex	The DNA theory is too deep for me. I can't understand it.
too far gone	not able to stop a disease, <a href="#">a goner</a>	Several doctors tried to treat the cancer, but it was too far gone.
too hot to handle		too dangerous, "hot goods", "hot stuff"  Trine dropped him because he was too hot to handle. He was sexy but scary!
too little too late	not enough effort or work when it was needed, <a href="#">make hay while...</a>	The Roughriders scored two touchdowns in the fourth quarter, but it was too little too late. They lost.
too many chiefs and not enough Indians	too many directors and not enough workers, <a href="#">too many cooks...</a>	Everybody tried to be the boss. We had too many chiefs and not enough Indians.
too many cooks spoil the broth	too many managers cause problems, <a href="#">too many chiefs...</a>	The structure failed because it was designed by a group of architects. Too many cooks spoil the broth.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Idioms: tons -- too many cooks spoil the broth

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: toodles/toodle-oo -- top of the morning

Idiom	Meaning	Example
toodles/toodle-oo	bye, goodbye, <a href="#">ciao</a> , <a href="#">so long</a>	"Toodle-oo," she said, smiling. "I must go now."
tool around	play, <a href="#">fool around</a> , <a href="#">goof off</a>	The students were tooling around because they had no assignment.
toot your own horn	brag, talk about your own success	Since Ted won the bowling trophy he's been tooting his own horn.
tooth and nail	(See <a href="#">fight tooth and nail</a> )	
top dog	boss, leader, <a href="#">head honcho</a>	Kruger is top dog now, but he could lose the next election.
top drawer	excellent, <a href="#">first class</a>	Amy's report is top drawer. It deserves a high grade.
top it off	finish it, add the last piece or statement	He topped it off by saying we would get a big bonus this year.
top it up	fill it to the top, fill it to the mark	Check the oil every week and top it up if necessary.
top notch	very good quality, <a href="#">first class</a>	Claret Sol is a top notch wine, but it's very dry.
top of the morning	good morning, have a good morning, the best of the morning	Old Tweedsmuir would say, "Top o' the morning to you," as we walked to school.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: toodles/toodle-oo -- top of the morning

## Idioms: top secret -- touch base

Idiom	Meaning	Example
top secret	very private information, not public, <a href="#">it's not a state secret</a>	This computer program is top secret. Don't show it to anyone!
top that	do better than that, improve on that	"Top that!" the farmer said, holding up a six-pound potato.
toss it around	discuss it, consider it	We like your idea. Can we toss it around for awhile? Discuss it?
toss-up	(See <a href="#">it's a toss-up</a> )	
total stranger	(See <a href="#">a total stranger</a> )	
totally awesome	excellent, fantastic, <a href="#">far out</a>	The Band was totally awesome! They were excellent!
totem pole	(See <a href="#">low on the totem pole</a> )	
touch a drop	drink a drop of liquor, have a drink of liquor	Steve was a heavy drinker, but he hasn't touched a drop in years.
touch and go	between life and death, <a href="#">nip and tuck</a>	I recovered from my heart attack, but it was touch and go for awhile.
touch base	contact again, <a href="#">keep in touch</a>	Touch base with me in a month or so. Call me about May 10.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: touch it with a ten-foot pole -- touchy

Idiom	Meaning	Example
touch it with a ten-foot pole	reply, answer, comment on it, <a href="#">beat around the bush</a>	If anyone in your audience asks a question about religion, don't touch it with a ten-foot pole.
touch of	(See <a href="#">a touch of</a> )	
touch off	start an argument or a fight, <a href="#">set off</a>	His remark about gun control touched off a heated discussion.
touch on	speak briefly about, mention	Ms. Lee spoke on sales, then touched briefly on service.
touch up	add details, make small changes	I touched up the painting in a few places. Does it look better?
touch wood	hoping that our good luck continues	We've never had a flat tire on this car - touch wood.
touch you	cause you to feel love or sorrow or regret	Did Mom's letter touch you? Do you feel sorry for her?
touched	(See <a href="#">touched in the head</a> )	
touched in the head	a bit crazy, <a href="#">a bit off</a> , <a href="#">funny in the head</a>	People will think you're touched in the head if you wear that Superman suit to work.
touchy	sensitive, ready to argue, <a href="#">edgy</a>	Barb is kind of touchy about her weight. Don't comment on it.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: touch it with a ten-foot pole -- touchy

## Idioms: tough act to follow -- tough tarts

Idiom	Meaning	Example
tough act to follow	(See <a href="#">a tough act to follow</a> )	
tough bananas	it is a problem for you, <a href="#">too bad</a> , <a href="#">tough luck</a>	"I had to <i>walk</i> to school!" "Well, tough bananas!"
tough call	(See <a href="#">a tough call</a> )	
tough customer	a determined person, one who fights hard	Remember John Ferguson? He was one tough customer.
tough going	(See <a href="#">heavy going</a> )	
tough luck	that is bad luck for you, <a href="#">tough bananas</a>	"I lost \$100 betting on Tyson." "Tough luck, guy."
tough on me	makes me work hard, <a href="#">hard on me</a>	My supervisor is tough on me - never satisfied with my work.
tough row to hoe	(See <a href="#">a hard row to hoe</a> )	
tough sledding	hard work, slow progress, <a href="#">heavy going</a> , <a href="#">rough going</a>	We've had tough sledding on our building projects. Rainy weather has caused a lot of problems.
tough tarts	(See <a href="#">tough bananas</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: tough times -- train of thought

Idiom	Meaning	Example
tough times	hard times	When Sue gave birth to twins and Dave lost his job, they lived through tough times.
tough titty	(See <a href="#">tough luck</a> )	
toughen up	become tougher, grow stronger	The army will toughen him up. They'll develop his stamina.
tower of strength	(See <a href="#">a tower of strength</a> )	
toy with	not be serious about me, not <a href="#">take me seriously</a>	I love her, but she's just toying with me - playing with me.
track record	list of achievements, summary of career work	Lou's track record is excellent. She was top seller last year.
trade insults	insult each other, say rude things to each other, <a href="#">mudsling</a>	When the two men couldn't agree on the cause of the problem, they began trading insults.
trade secret	a business secret, a special recipe or formula	I won't tell how Paula makes her pizza. It's a trade secret.
traffic jam	traffic that is not moving, many vehicles on one road	I was late for class because of a traffic jam. Honest!
train of thought	(See <a href="#">lose my train of thought</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: tranny -- tried and true

Idiom	Meaning	Example
tranny	transmission of a car or truck	When you buy a used car, check the condition of the tranny, eh.
trash	wreck, ruin, <a href="#">ratch</a>	That puppy trashed one of my slippers - chewed it to pieces!
trash the place	wreck a room or building, <a href="#">a bull in a china shop</a>	If you invite the Casey boys, they'll trash the place.
trendy	fashionable, at the beginning of a trend	That's a trendy coat she's wearing. I've seen it in fashion magazines.
trial and error	learn by correcting errors, <a href="#">hit and miss</a>	We learned to make pizza by trial and error. We gradually improved.
trial balloon	proposed program, planned policy, <a href="#">pilot project</a>	If you want to know public opinion, send up a trial balloon and listen to what they say.
trial run	doing the steps to see if your procedure is correct, <a href="#">try it out</a>	Let's do a trial run to see if we know how to make espresso coffee.
trickle-down economics	a system that depends on government spending to help the economy	Private enterprise is better than trickle-down economics because profit motivates people.
tricks of the trade	(See <a href="#">the tricks of the trade</a> )	
tried and true	tested and proven, reliable, <a href="#">true blue</a>	When Sven chops wood, he uses a Sandvik axe. It's tried and true.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: tranny -- tried and true

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: trifle with me -- try that on for size

Idiom	Meaning	Example
trifle with me	be careless about my feelings, <a href="#">mind games</a> , <a href="#">toy with</a> me	When John forgot that he asked me to go to the dance, I felt he was trifling with me.
true blue	loyal, faithful	Moe is true blue. We've been good friends for forty years.
true colors	real beliefs, true values, principles	In the debate on abortion we'll see her true colors - her beliefs.
try it	try to do it, <a href="#">try your hand at</a>	After I sing the song, you try it. See if you can sing it.
try it on	wear a garment to see if it fits	If you like that dress, you can try it on in one of our fitting rooms.
try it out	use it for awhile, test it, <a href="#">test drive</a>	This is our new life-time pen. Would you like to try it out?
try me	ask me, see what I say; challenge me, <a href="#">find out</a>	"You wouldn't call the police, would you?" "Just try me."
try out	try to become a member of a team	Let's try out for soccer this year. Let's play on the team.
try that	try to do that, <a href="#">pull that</a>	When I reached for the phone, the thief said, "Don't try that."
try that on for size	see if you like that, consider that	This TV has a 48" screen. Try that on for size.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: trifle with me -- try that on for size

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: try your darndest -- tune in

Idiom	Meaning	Example
try your darndest	try very hard, <a href="#">bend over backwards</a> , <a href="#">go the extra mile</a>	I try my darndest to be fair to customers, but some are never satisfied.
try your hand at	try to do, <a href="#">try it</a>	Would you like to try your hand at washing dishes? It's fun!
try your luck	see if you can win, you <a href="#">take a chance</a>	They won a prize. Do you want to try your luck?
tub of guts	fat person, <a href="#">lard butt</a>	Santa? Why, he's just a tub of guts in a red suit!
tube head	a person who watches TV a lot, <a href="#">couch potato</a>	In the winter he's a tube head - always watching hockey on TV.
tube him	leave him, <a href="#">drop him</a>	He was a bore so I tubed him.
tubular	nice, fun, <a href="#">cool</a>	The lounge was totally tubular, a great place to take her friends.
tuckered out	short of breath, panting, puffing	Timmy was tuckered out after jogging with his father.
tump	tip, roll, flip	Andy! Slow down, man. You gonna tump over!
tune in	adjust the tuning knob on a radio or receiver	The announcer said, "Tune in tonight at 8 for our Talk Show."

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: tune me out -- turn down

Idiom	Meaning	Example
tune me out	stop listening to me, not <a href="#">pay attention</a> to me	If you speak in a boring way, students will tune you out.
tune up	improve the operation, improve performance	After Fred tunes up the Mercedes the motor will run smoother.
tuned in	able to understand, <a href="#">on the same wavelength</a>	If you're tuned in, you know who I've been talking about.
tunnel vision	looking straight ahead, not seeing other directions	Our president has tunnel vision. He believes in only one plan.
turf it	cut it, delete it, <a href="#">throw out</a>	If students don't enrol in the program, we'll have to turf it.
turkey	fool, <a href="#">dumbo</a> , <a href="#">jerk</a>	You turkey! Why did you put Jello on my pizza?
turn a blind eye	see a problem but not act, <a href="#">look the other way</a>	The teacher knows that I come in late, but she turns a blind eye.
turn a profit	profit from, <a href="#">make money</a>	It will be a year before we turn a profit on this new product.
turn about is fair play	you get what you give, <a href="#">what goes around...</a>	If you give pain you'll feel pain. Turn about is fair play.
turn down	refuse, not accept	Sal turned me down when I asked her to go to a movie. She refused.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: tune me out -- turn down

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: beat it -- beauty is only skin deep

Idiom	Meaning	Example
beat it	go, <a href="#">get lost</a>	Beat it, kid! Get going! Leave!
beat the pants off	defeat by a large score, <a href="#">blow you away</a>	Ho plays table tennis very well; she'll beat the pants off you.
beat the rap	have the charges removed or dropped, <a href="#">get off</a>	Every time the burglar was caught he was able to beat the rap.
beat up	hit and injure, defeat badly	She cared for him when he got beat up, trying to ease his pain.
beat up on	hit and injure, defeat in a fight	"Why does he beat up on people?" "Because his dad beat up on him."
beat your head against a stone wall	try an impossible task, work on a futile project	Preventing war is like beating your head against a stone wall.
beat your time	take away your girlfriend or boyfriend	I can't believe that your <i>friend</i> would beat your time.
beater	a car that is in poor condition, <a href="#">clunker</a>	Why does he drive that old beater? He could buy a new car.
beauty is in the eye of the beholder	each person has a different idea of what is beautiful, <a href="#">one man's garbage...</a>	To him, the statue is elegant; to me, it's ugly. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder!
beauty is only skin deep	do not judge a person by physical features, <a href="#">you can't tell a book...</a>	If you want to date a beauty queen, remember that beauty is only skin deep.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: beat it -- beauty is only skin deep

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: turn in -- turn over a new leaf

Idiom	Meaning	Example
turn in	give to the manager, <a href="#">hand in</a>	When you leave our company, please turn in your uniform.
turn in	go to bed, <a href="#">crash</a> , <a href="#">hit the hay</a>	I'm going to turn in now. I'm very tired.
turn into	become, change into, convert	If you eat any more hotdogs you'll turn into a wiener!
turn of the century	(See <a href="#">the turn of the century</a> )	
turn-on	something that excites or arouses you	Her voice was a turn-on for me. She has a sexy voice.
turn on a dime	turn sharply, turn quickly, <a href="#">do a 180</a>	An Alfa Romeo has excellent steering. It can turn on a dime.
turn on you	turn against you, change from friend to enemy	If you preach your religion, they may get mad and turn on you.
turn out	happen, develop, <a href="#">end up</a>	How did your cake turn out? Is it a good recipe?
turn out	attend, <a href="#">show up</a>	Only 40% of the population turned out to vote.
turn over a new leaf	begin living by a new set of rules or values	Since Bob stopped drinking he's turned over a new leaf.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: turn the air blue -- turn you around

Idiom	Meaning	Example
turn the air blue	(See <a href="#">the air was blue</a> )	
turn the corner	achieve part of a goal, progress toward a goal	Lan was very ill, but she's turned the corner. She's recovering.
turn the other cheek	accept hurt twice, not fight back	He is a passive man. He will turn the other cheek instead of fight.
turn the other way	look away or ignore, <a href="#">look the other way</a>	When I come in late, he turns the other way. He tries not to notice.
turn the tables on	begin to defeat the person who was defeating you, <a href="#">mount a comeback</a>	When I learned how to return his serve, I turned the tables on him and won the set.
turn ugly	become uncivilized, begin fighting	When Buddy insulted Ted's wife, things turned ugly.
turn up	attend a meeting, <a href="#">show up</a>	Only fifteen people turned up at the Block Parents' meeting.
turn up	be found, be seen	We can't find the ring now, but I'm sure it will turn up soon.
turn up your nose at	say it is not good enough, reject it	If you turn up your nose at country music, you may lose some friends.
turn you around	help you begin a new life, <a href="#">turn over a new leaf</a>	His new friends helped to turn him around. He's much nicer now.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: turn the air blue -- turn you around

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: turn you on -- twerp

Idiom	Meaning	Example
turn you on	arouse you, cause you to feel excited	"What turns you on?" "Good books and nice girls."
turn your back on	turn away from, reject, <a href="#">turncoat</a>	When he became president, he turned his back on his friends.
turn your crank	interest you, inspire you	Classical music turns his crank. He likes the great symphonies.
turn your stomach	make you feel sick, cause you to feel ill	Watching you eat those oysters turns my stomach. Yuk!
turn yourself in	walk into a police station to tell them what you did, <a href="#">own up</a>	If you tell your counselor about the shooting, he'll advise you to turn yourself in.
turncoat	one who goes to work/fight/play for the opposing side, traitor	That turncoat! He went to work for the competition - Sears.
turning point	(See <a href="#">the turning point</a> )	
turnout	the number of people, the size of the group	There was a good turnout at the Writers' Club today: 20 people.
tweak	increase the power, <a href="#">hop up</a> , <a href="#">supercharge</a>	If we tweak the engine in this old Cortina, we'll have a sports car.
twerp	small child or person, <a href="#">knee high to a grass...</a>	Ricky is just a twerp. He can ride on Grandpa's knee.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: turn you on -- twerp

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: twig to that -- two bits

Idiom	Meaning	Example
twig to that	think of that, realize that	His uncle Ralph is the Premier! I just twigged to that.
twiggy	slim person, as slim as a twig on a branch	Kim is a gymnast. She's slim and agile - a real twiggy.
twilight years	senior years, over 70, <a href="#">golden years</a>	Grandma wants to keep her own home during her twilight years.
twinkle toes	a dancer, a person who dances with great skill	I saw you dance at the Junior Ballet concert. You're a real twinkle toes!
twist my arm	persuade me, convince me	I really don't like pie, but if you twist my arm, I'll have a piece.
twist of fate	the way fate works, the way things happen	Then, by a twist of fate, a plane flew over and the pilot saw us.
twist your words	change the meaning of what you say, <a href="#">put a different slant...</a>	When she gave her testimony in court, the lawyer tried to twist her words to mean something else.
twit	fool, <a href="#">an airhead</a> , <a href="#">dipstick</a>	What a twit! He thinks a busboy is a kid who rides the bus!
two abreast	two people standing or walking side by side	The children were walking two abreast on the way home.
two bits	25¢, twenty-five cents, a quarter	Can you lend me two bits? I have to phone home.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: twig to that -- two bits

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: two cents' worth -- typo

Idiom	Meaning	Example
two cents' worth	opinion, comment, <a href="#">chime in</a>	Want to hear my two cents' worth? Want my opinion?
two-fisted attack	strong verbal attack, much argument, <a href="#">fight tooth and nail</a>	If you protect the wolves, you can expect a two-fisted attack from the ranchers.
two for one	two products for the price of one	Want a milk shake? We can buy two for one at Toy's Ice Cream.
two heads are better than one	listen to more than one opinion	"Let's ask Alice first. Two heads are better than one."
two left feet	awkwardness, poor coordination	When it comes to dancing, I have two left feet. I stumble a lot.
two pee holes in the snow	small holes, tiny holes	He looks very tired. His eyes are like two pee holes in the snow.
two sides to every story	(See <a href="#">there are two sides to every story</a> )	
two's company, three's a crowd	two people are happier than three, the third person is not welcome	Jill asked, "Can I invite Ginger?" Jack replied, "Two's company, three's a crowd."
typo	error in typing, <a href="#">nitpick</a>	The interviewer said my letter of application has a few typos.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: two cents' worth -- typo

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: U-turn -- under my breath

Idiom	Meaning	Example
U-turn	turn and go the opposite direction, <a href="#">do a 180</a>	The driver of the truck made a U-turn and drove back into town.
uh-huh	yes, <a href="#">yep</a>	"Do you want a piece of cake?" "Uh-huh."
uh-uh	no, <a href="#">nope</a>	"Have you done your homework?" "Uh-uh."
under a spell	controlled by a spirit or magic, <a href="#">cast a spell</a>	She danced when she saw the cat. She seemed to be under a spell.
under arrest	stopped and taken away by the police, <a href="#">busted</a>	"Jean, you are under arrest." "What for, sir?" "For stealing a loaf of bread."
under control	order restored, control returned	The prisoners caused a riot, but things are now under control.
under fire	being asked many difficult questions	After your speech, you will be under fire from reporters.
under his own steam	by himself, without help	Although Don was injured, he left the field under his own steam.
under my belt	completed, finished	With an accounting course under my belt, I can do the bookkeeping.
under my breath	whispered, not spoken loud enough to hear	When the teacher asks questions, I often answer under my breath.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: U-turn -- under my breath

## Idioms: under my care -- under the wire

Idiom	Meaning	Example
under my care	cared for by me, <a href="#">look after</a>	The house is under my care until the owner returns from Europe.
under my nose	easy to see, close and visible, <a href="#">in plain view</a>	Isn't that the way! I've been looking for a partner all my life, and then I found Lila - she was right under my nose all the time!
under my skin	in my thoughts, in my feelings	I can't stop thinking about Paul. I've got him under my skin.
under my wing	having my protection and help and guidance	I am Anna's guardian. She'll be under my wing until she's 18.
under oath	after promising to tell the truth in court, <a href="#">cross my heart and...</a>	At the trial you will be asked to tell your story under oath.
under pressure	feeling of too much to do, feeling a lot of stress	Gabor is under a lot of pressure now. He's working at two jobs.
under the influence of alcohol	partly drunk, <a href="#">buzzed</a>	Is he under the influence now? Is he drunk?
under the table	hidden, not recorded, not <a href="#">above board</a> , <a href="#">on the side</a>	"Do you get paid for bringing customers to the store?" "I don't get a check - just a little money under the table."
under the weather	not feeling well, ill, sick, <a href="#">not feeling myself</a>	Dan's been under the weather lately - sick with the flu.
under the wire	just before the end, before closing, <a href="#">just in time</a>	"Did you receive my application?" "It arrived on the last day of the competition, just under the wire."

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

Idioms: under my care -- under the wire

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: under way -- up against it

Idiom	Meaning	Example
under way	started, commenced	The concert is under way. The band is playing <i>O Canada</i> .
under wraps	secret, not advertised, <a href="#">on the QT</a>	I know the name of the winner, but I have to keep it under wraps until tonight.
under your thumb	under your control, doing your wishes	Willie is under your thumb now. He does what you tell him to do.
underdog	the player or team that is not likely to win	The Sharks are underdogs this year. People say they won't win.
underhanded	not legal, not according to rules, not <a href="#">above board</a>	Some people say the government was underhanded in dealing with the Indians.
unsung hero	great person who has not been honored or praised, <a href="#">behind the scenes</a>	The mothers of the graduates are the unsung heroes. The mothers are Homework Supervisors!
until you're blue...	(See <a href="#">till you're blue in the face</a> )	
up a storm	(See <a href="#">sing up a storm</a> )	
up against	competing against, trying to defeat	"Who were you up against?" "Gaetan Boucher, the Champion."
up against it	poor, not able to pay the bills, <a href="#">hard up</a>	We were up against it that year. The crop had failed, we had lots of bills, and none of us had a job.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: under way -- up against it

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: up and coming -- up on

Idiom	Meaning	Example
up and coming	starting to develop ability, showing potential	Lisel has won six junior trophies. She's an up-and-coming athlete.
up and running	operating, working	Andre is repairing the copier. It will soon be up and running.
up for grabs	available, can be bought	The estate will be sold by auction. Even the antiques are up for grabs.
up for it	ready, prepared to play, <a href="#">pumped</a>	Tonight's game is important. Every player has to be up for it.
up for sale	advertised for sale, <a href="#">on the market</a>	The Wongs must be moving. Their house is up for sale.
up front	at the beginning, <a href="#">level with</a> beforehand	He was up front with me. He told me about the interest charges <i>first</i> .
up in arms	angry, ready to fight, <a href="#">hot</a>	The smokers are up in arms about the no-smoking bylaw.
up in smoke	burned, destroyed by fire	The barn went up in smoke before the fire truck arrived.
up in the air	not decided, not settled	They aren't sure who killed the President. It's still up in the air.
up on	aware of, informed about, <a href="#">on top of</a>	Are you up on the latest computer games? Have you played UFOX?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: up and coming -- up on

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: up shit creek [B] -- up to no good

Idiom	Meaning	Example
up shit creek [B]	in a bad situation, <a href="#">in a fix</a>	If we lose our matches, we're up shit creek. We need a campfire.
up the ante	increase the payment, increase the deposit	If they up the ante to \$50, I won't enter the hockey pool this year.
up the creek	in a predicament, in difficulty, <a href="#">in a jam</a>	Without insurance, you could be up the creek if there's a fire.
up the stump [B]	pregnant, <a href="#">a bun in the oven</a>	She didn't use a contraceptive, so she's up the stump again.
up the wahoozey	a lot, more than needed, <a href="#">coming out of our ears</a>	The Burnsidés are so rich they have money up the wahoozey!
up to	planning, doing	What are you up to? Are you planning another fishing trip?
up to date	recent, current	The radio reports events as they happen. The news is up to date.
up to it	have enough energy to do it, <a href="#">up for it</a>	"Would you like to play another game of badminton?" "No, I don't think I'm up to it."
up to my ears	have too many, <a href="#">coming out of our ears</a>	You're selling books? I'm up to my ears in books!
up to no good	doing bad things, causing problems	Tom's up to no good these days - stealing drugs and selling them.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: up shit creek [B] -- up to no good

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: beck and call -- before you can say Jack Robinson

Idiom	Meaning	Example
beck and call	(See <a href="#">at your beck and call</a> )	
become of	happen to, <a href="#">end up</a>	What became of Ko after he moved? How's he doing?
becomes you	looks good on you, is right for you, <a href="#">suits you</a>	That perfume becomes you. It smells good on you.
bed down	lie down and sleep, find a place to sleep	After grazing in the valley, the deer will bed down on the hill.
beef it up	add more bulk, increase the size	"Does this doll look like Santa?" "Yes, if you beef it up a little."
beehive of activity	(See <a href="#">a beehive of activity</a> )	
beeline	(See <a href="#">make a beeline</a> )	
been around	experienced, not naive, <a href="#">wasn't born yesterday</a>	Margo's been around; she can work with the convicts.
been had	cheated, swindled, <a href="#">taken in</a>	If he paid a hundred dollars for that radio, he's been had.
before you can say Jack Robinson	very quickly, <a href="#">in a split second</a> , <a href="#">in no time</a>	Before you could say Jack Robinson, the ghost was gone!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: up to par -- up yours [B]

Idiom	Meaning	Example
up to par	good enough to pass, up to a standard	This woodwork is not up to par. It's below our standard.
up to scratch	good enough, <a href="#">up to par</a>	The cloth in these jeans is poor quality. It's not up to scratch.
up to snuff	good quality, <a href="#">measure up</a>	We expect quality photographs - every picture must be up to snuff.
up to something	trying to make a deal, planning a joke	David is up to something. He has a look of mischief in his eye.
up to speed	at normal speed, feeling healthy again	Tim's recovered from his surgery but he's not up to speed yet.
up to you	your choice, your decision	Whether you go or stay is up to you. It's your decision.
up with	support it, this is good	Millie was waving a flag and shouting, "Up with fluoride!"
up your alley	what you like to do, what interests you	Sewing - that's right up your alley. It's one of your hobbies.
up your sleeve	hidden, ready to use if asked	When I write an exam, I like to have a topic up my sleeve.
up yours [B]	I hope you have an accident, <a href="#">screw you</a>	When she told him to get out of the house, he said, "Up yours!"

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: up to par -- up yours [B]

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: upchuck -- uptight

Idiom	Meaning	Example
upchuck	vomit, puke, <a href="#">barf</a> , <a href="#">hork</a>	Please hand me the paper towel. Baby upchucked on my sweater.
uphill battle	difficult work, <a href="#">rough going</a> , <a href="#">tough sledding</a>	We've asked the government to protect children's rights, but it's an uphill battle all the way.
upon my word	believe me, this is the truth, <a href="#">honestly</a>	Upon my word, I don't know why they hate me so.
upon the words offhandedly spoken	upon words spoken casually or carelessly, <a href="#">offhand</a>	Upon the words offhandedly spoken by a lover we often rely, only to feel the sweetness of their promise disappear.
upper crust	upper class, high class, aristocracy	Kurt acts like upper crust because his ancestor was a German baron.
upper hand	(See <a href="#">the upper hand</a> )	
upset the apple cart	cause a major problem, stop progress	You will upset the apple cart if you tell your folks we're moving.
upside	positive side, good news	If war has an upside, it would be that it's good for the economy.
uptalk	ending statements with your voice rising slightly, inflecting the tone of your voice upwards	Uptalking sounds weak - like the speaker lacks confidence.
uptight	tense, nervous, not relaxed, <a href="#">worried sick</a>	"What are you uptight about?" "I'm not sure. It could be fear of losing my job."

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: upchuck -- uptight

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: use up -- Uzi

Idiom	Meaning	Example
use up	use all of it, use all you have	We've used up all the shampoo. Please buy some more.
used to	accustomed to, having felt it often	Lynn is used to being alone. Henry is away from home a lot.
useless as a fifth wheel	(See <a href="#">as useless as a fifth wheel</a> )	
useless as the tits...	(See <a href="#">as useless as tits on a boar</a> )	
user friendly	easy to learn or use, easy to operate	Cars with automatic transmission are user friendly - easy to drive.
Uzi	(See <a href="#">pack Uzis</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: vale of tears (valley of tears) -- vote of thanks

Idiom	Meaning	Example
vale of tears (valley of tears)	a place of trials and troubles, life on earth, <a href="#">this mortal coil</a>	Brothers and sisters, our burden is heavy tonight - heavy with the passing of dear Jesse, who has departed this vale of tears.
vamoose	leave quickly, go, <a href="#">get going</a> , <a href="#">hit the road</a>	We better vamoose, my friend, or we'll be late for our appointment.
variety is the spice of life	a variety of experiences makes life interesting, <a href="#">to each his own</a>	On the sign above the door were these words: GENERAL STORE <i>Variety is the spice of life!</i>
vegetate (veg out)	not do anything, be a <a href="#">couch potato</a>	After work he just vegetates - just sits there and says nothing.
VIP	Very Important Person, <a href="#">big boys</a> , <a href="#">big wig</a>	Only the VIP's - the president, and members of the board - are invited to the dinner.
virgin territory	untouched or unexplored area	The island was virgin territory. There were no signs of humans.
virtual reality	a "real" experience created on a computer	Virtual reality allowed me to experience space travel.
visit a spell	visit for awhile, <a href="#">set a spell</a>	Well hello, Charlie. Come in and visit a spell.
vote of thanks	an expression of thanks from a group, <a href="#">tip of the hat</a>	When our president spoke, she gave a vote of thanks to the volunteers.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: vale of tears (valley of tears) -- vote of thanks

## Idioms: wack -- wait on you hand and foot

Idiom	Meaning	Example
wack	hip-hop slang word meaning bad	That book is wack. I can't understand it.
wacko	crazy, <a href="#">bonkers</a> , <a href="#">spinny</a>	If I eat worms, will people think I'm wacko?
wacky	silly, foolish, <a href="#">kooky</a> , <a href="#">nutty as a fruit cake</a>	Lucy sometimes does wacky things - like, one time she sent ice cream in the mail.
wait a minute	pause for a short time, think about this, <a href="#">hold it</a>	Wait a minute. Before we visit Doris, let's phone her.
wait a sec	wait for a second, <a href="#">wait up</a>	Wait a sec, Mag. I'll be right there.
wait around	wait to see what will happen, <a href="#">hang around</a>	Let's wait around and see if the bird returns to its nest.
wait for the other shoe to drop	wait for the final step, wait for the conclusion, <a href="#">leave me hanging</a>	He said he'd make two changes. First, he resigned. I'm waiting for the other shoe to drop.
wait on customers	serve customers in a restaurant or store	Please wait on the customers in the lounge. Take their orders.
wait on tables	(See <a href="#">wait on customers</a> )	
wait on you hand and foot	serve you, bring everything you want, <a href="#">suck up to</a>	Anna says she's tired of waiting on you hand and foot. She won't be your slave anymore.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: wack -- wait on you hand and foot

## Idioms: wait up -- walk

Idiom	Meaning	Example
wait up	wait for me, wait until I <a href="#">catch up</a>	Danny, wait up. I want to talk to you.
wait up for	not go to bed until the kids come home at night	Mom always waits up for us when we go to a party.
wait with bated breath	wait with suspense, want to know what happens	We waited with bated breath for news of the fallen climber.
wake up	awaken, rouse from sleep	On Saturday I usually wake up around noon. I "sleep in".
wake up	be alert, stop daydreaming	Wake up, Walter. It's your turn to deal the cards.
wake up and smell the coffee	be more aware, <a href="#">get with it</a>	You don't know about the Net? Wake up and smell the coffee!
wake-up call	(See <a href="#">a wake-up call</a> )	
wake up on the wrong side of bed	(See <a href="#">get up on the wrong side of bed</a> )	
wake with a start	wake suddenly, jump out of bed	I woke with a start when Santa Claus landed on our roof.
walk	not have to pay a fine or go to jail, <a href="#">get off</a>	They couldn't prove that Don was guilty, so he walked.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: walk a straight line -- wall flower

Idiom	Meaning	Example
walk a straight line	walk without staggering, show that you are sober	If you can't walk a straight line, don't drive a vehicle.
walk down	walk along, walk on	We walked down the road to the lake. It was a nice day for a walk.
walk of life	lifestyle, occupation, vocation	People from all walks of life eat at Fabio's Restaurants.
walk on eggshells	be very careful, <a href="#">on tenterhooks</a> , <a href="#">watch your step</a>	Your son is so afraid of making a mistake he's walking on eggshells.
walk the plank	be forced to jump overboard or be killed, be forced to leave or quit	If you get caught stealing from the company, you'll have to walk the plank.
walk the talk	do what you talk about doing, <a href="#">practice what you preach</a>	If we advise people to recycle, we should recycle. We have to walk the talk.
walk through	read or perform slowly, practice slowly	At our first rehearsal we walked through the first act of the play.
walk-through	inspect the house you are buying just before you become the owner	The day before we moved into our new home, we did a walk-through with the real estate agent.
walk up	walk along, walk on, walk in	They walked up and down the hall, waiting for the doctor.
wall flower	a girl who is not invited to dance, <a href="#">no shrinking violet</a>	I won't go to the party because I feel like a wall flower when the boys don't ask me to dance.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: walk a straight line -- wall flower

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: want a piece of me -- wash it off

Idiom	Meaning	Example
want a piece of me	want to hurt me, want revenge, <a href="#">have at me</a>	I wrote a letter to the local paper criticizing the hockey team. Now everybody wants a piece of me.
want it so bad I can taste it	want it very much, <a href="#">die for</a>	I want that trophy. I want it so bad I can taste it.
want to make something of it	do you want to argue or fight about it?	Yes, I did kiss Millie Watkins. Wanna make something of it?
warm up	begin to exercise, exercise slowly	To warm up, she walks about a kilometer; then she jogs.
warmed over	warmed on a stove, reheated	For supper we had warmed-over waffles. They tasted okay.
warped sense of humor	thinking that weird things are funny	If you laugh at cruelty, you have a warped sense of humor.
wash	(See <a href="#">a wash</a> )	
wash down	wash by letting water run down, <a href="#">hose it down</a>	If the kids play in the bathroom I'll have to wash down the walls.
wash it down	drink to help you swallow, drink after eating	Have a donut - and some coffee to wash it down.
wash it off	spray water to clean it, <a href="#">hose it off</a>	If you spill latex paint, you can wash it off with water.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: want a piece of me -- wash it off

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: wash out -- wasted

Idiom	Meaning	Example
wash out	become clean, <a href="#">clean up</a>	"Will this stain wash out?" "Yes, if you use bleach."
wash-out	(See <a href="#">a wash-out</a> )	
wash your hands of it	not be involved anymore, withdraw from a project	If you don't believe in the union, wash your hands of it.
washed up	ruined, unable to continue in business	I can't believe Max is washed up. He was a successful businessman.
wasn't born yesterday	wise from experience, <a href="#">been around</a>	Pat can survive in the workplace. She wasn't born yesterday.
WASP	White Anglo-Saxon Protestant	Don's a WASP and I'm a WASP, but we have different beliefs.
waste no time	hurry to do it, do not delay	After the meeting, I left. I wasted no time leaving that dirty city.
waste not, want not	if you do not waste, you will not be needy	Melinda's motto is <i>Waste Not, Want Not</i> . She's very efficient.
wasted	drugged, <a href="#">natural high</a> , <a href="#">stoned</a>	He acts weird when he's wasted. Drugs do strange things to him.
wasted	badly injured, bruised, <a href="#">beat up</a>	Tom was wasted by the C-Train Gang. He's in the hospital.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: wash out -- wasted

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: watch me like a hawk -- watch your step

Idiom	Meaning	Example
watch me like a hawk	watch me carefully, <a href="#">on my case</a> , <a href="#">watch your every move</a>	I couldn't do anything. The teacher was watching me like a hawk!
watch out	be careful, <a href="#">look out</a>	Watch out! There's a truck!
watch out for	watch and care for, <a href="#">keep an eye on</a>	Jamie, you watch out for Cathy. Hold her hand at the crosswalk.
watch over	care for, protect, <a href="#">look after</a>	"Who watches over you, Kari?" "My Guardian Angel, that's who."
watch over like a mother hawk	watch carefully and protect, <a href="#">keep an eye on</a>	She's a good babysitter. She watches over Katia like a mother hawk!
watch your every move	watch to see if you do something wrong, <a href="#">watch me like a hawk</a>	If the police think you are a suspect, they watch your every move.
watch your language	do not swear, do not use crude language	Watch your language. There are children in the room.
watch your P's and Q's	be polite, <a href="#">mind your manners</a>	At the banquet, remember your manners. Watch your P's and Q's.
watch your step	watch where you step, be careful	Watch your step, Grandfather. The sidewalk is icy.
watch your step	stay out of trouble, <a href="#">keep your nose clean</a>	The referee told me not to fight. "Watch your step," he said.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: watch me like a hawk -- watch your step

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: beg off -- behind the scenes

Idiom	Meaning	Example
beg off	ask to be excused from duty, <a href="#">get out of</a> a task	Some people volunteer to work and then they beg off.
beg to differ	have a different opinion, disagree with	When I stated the cause of the loss, he said, "I beg to differ."
beg your pardon	excuse me, please do not be offended	I beg your pardon, but I am using this phone booth.
beg your pardon	what did you say? will you repeat what you said?	Beg your pardon? Did you say you are Paul Newman?
beggars can't be choosers	people who receive free things should not expect the best	When they complained about the shabby coats, he said, "Beggars can't be choosers."
begs the question	suggests this question, leaves this question unanswered	"That's a fine idea," said the Head Mouse, "but it begs the question: Which one of us will put the bell on the cat?"
behind bars	in jail, in prison, <a href="#">in the slammer</a>	Behind bars, she didn't have much of a social life.
behind the curve	having lower than average test scores, having a low performance	I was behind the curve when I wrote that test. I'll probably get a low grade.
	the bell curve - a line graph of test scores	
behind the eight ball	in a difficult position, in a predicament, <a href="#">between the devil and...</a>	I'm behind the eight ball with the Tax Department. I deducted college tuition fees from my taxable income, but I didn't pay the fees!
behind the scenes	out of sight, unnoticed, <a href="#">unsung hero</a>	This organization has many people who work behind the scenes helping us to succeed.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:  
[B] bad language

Be interactive:  
[Comment on this idiom](#)  
[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)  
[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:  
 Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson  
 The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further

rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: water-cooler talk -- way out of line (away out of line)

Idiom	Meaning	Example
water-cooler talk	office news, gossip	I believe water-cooler talk - unless it's about me.
water down	add water to make it weaker, dilute	The cherry drink is too strong. It should be watered down.
water under the bridge	the past, history	That failure is water under the bridge. Let's not live in the past.
watering hole	bar, pub, licensed premises	The St. Louis Hotel is Ralph's favorite watering hole.
watershed mark	(See <a href="#">mark a watershed</a> )	
wax eloquent	speak beautifully, make a speech using nice words	When we talk about art, Uncle Jonas begins to wax eloquent.
wax poetic	become poetic, begin to recite poems  Wax is also an intransitive verb. In one sense it means to increase, as in <i>the moon waxes full this evening</i> , and in another sense to pass into a mood or state. In the latter sense we can understand the phrase <i>wax poetic</i> (or <i>eloquent</i> , <i>lyrical</i> , <i>philosophical</i> or <i>sarcastic</i> ) and this raises doubt about its status as an idiom, i.e., it can be taken literally. The <i>Canadian Oxford Dictionary</i> suggests that wax has a Germanic origin: <i>wachsen</i> (to grow). The interesting thing about this relationship is that <i>wachsen</i> never has an attribute, i.e. neither <i>wax poetic</i> nor <i>grow old</i> translate.	Whenever you read the Psalms, Andy begins to wax poetic.
way cool	very nice, very <a href="#">cool</a>	His voice is way cool, eh. I love listening to him.
way out (away out)	not close to the answer, wrong by a large amount	Your guess was way out. My age is 49, not 41.
way out of line (away out of line)	very inappropriate, not acceptable	When the teacher hit you, he was way out of line.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further

Idioms: water-cooler talk -- way out of line (away out of line)

rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: way to go -- weasel word

Idiom	Meaning	Example
way to go	good work, <a href="#">good for you</a> , <a href="#">good going</a>	When Kelly scores a goal, we yell, "Way to go, man!"
way you hold your...	(See <a href="#">the way you hold your mouth</a> )	
weak-kneed	not strong in character, lacking will power	Marvin yields to temptation, but I wouldn't say he's weak-kneed.
wear down	become dull or weak, use until worn	Confinement in a prison began to wear down his spirit.
wear off	not have as much effect, not affect as much	The effects of the drug began to wear off, and the pain returned.
wear out	use until thin or full of holes, <a href="#">shabby</a>	If you wear out your gloves, we'll provide a new pair.
wear out your welcome	stay or visit too long, not be welcome anymore	If we stay more than three days, we'll wear out our welcome.
wear the pants	make the decisions, control everything	Betty wears the pants in the Cheong family. She's the boss.
wear your heart on your sleeve	show your emotions, reveal your true feelings	If you wear your heart on your sleeve, he'll know you love him.
weasel word	vague or ambiguous word (used intentionally)	Show that contract to your lawyer. She can find the weasel words.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: way to go -- weasel word

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: weather the storm -- well to do

Idiom	Meaning	Example
weather the storm	survive a crisis, live through <a href="#">tough times</a>	Pat lost his job and I had surgery, but we weathered the storm.
weed out	remove, delete, <a href="#">get rid of</a> , <a href="#">turf it</a>	We have to weed out the courses that people don't need, such as <i>Caring For Your Polar Bear</i> .
weigh in at	measure the weight of a person, <a href="#">tip the scales</a>	Teddy weighed in at one hundred kilograms. He's a heavy man.
weirdo	strange person, pervert, <a href="#">creep</a>	This weirdo started following us around the park. It was scary!
wekabi	personal evil spirit, personal devil	His wekabi told him to steal the statue of the Ethiopian ruler.
well heeled	wealthy, rich, <a href="#">well off</a>	The Clarks were well heeled, wealthy enough to hire servants.
well hung [B]	having a large penis and testicles	That stallion is well hung. He's very well equipped.
well off	wealthy, <a href="#">well to do</a>	Ken's family is fairly well off. They can afford a few luxuries.
well taken	true, significant	Your statement is well taken. The Canadian family <i>has</i> changed.
well to do	wealthy, rich, <a href="#">loaded</a>	Many well-to-do families send their children to private schools.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: weather the storm -- well to do

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: went through the roof -- whale of a game

Idiom	Meaning	Example
went through the roof	(See <a href="#">go through the roof</a> )	
went to bat for	(See <a href="#">go to bat for</a> )	
went under	(See <a href="#">go under</a> )	
went wild	(See <a href="#">go wild</a> )	
wet behind the ears	(See <a href="#">still wet behind the ears</a> )	
wet the bed	urinate while in bed, urinate during sleep	Some kids wet the bed because they have emotional problems.
wet your whistle	have a drink, quench your thirst	If you're thirsty, have some apple cider to wet your whistle.
whack	a lot, a bunch, <a href="#">tons</a>	A million quid? That's a whack o' money, my friend.
whack off [B]	(See <a href="#">jerk off</a> )	
whale of a game	(See <a href="#">a whale of a game</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: what a brain -- what if

Idiom	Meaning	Example
what a brain	what an intelligent person, what a <a href="#">bright</a> girl	What a brain! She got 98% on her math test.
what a dish	what a beautiful girl, cute <a href="#">chick</a>	Wynona Rider - what a dish!
what a rigmarole	what a process, what a <a href="#">hassle</a>	To get a refund, I had to answer 50 questions. What a rigmarole!
what a rush	what a thrill, what a great feeling	After riding in Paul's Corvette, Rita said, "What a rush!"
what came over me	what happened to me, what caused me to change	I couldn't remember my name. I don't know what came over me.
what-cha-ma-call-it	what do you call it, <a href="#">thing-a-ma-jig</a>	To finish the job, I need a what-cha-ma-call-it. A trowel!
what did I do to deserve this	why am I being punished? <a href="#">no rest for the wicked</a>	Working in the sewers, I thought, "What did I do to deserve this?"
what gives	what is happening, <a href="#">what's going on</a>	Jerry walks in and says, "What gives? Where is everybody?"
what goes around comes around	you get what you give; our actions are passed on until they return to us	Wise folks have learned that you eventually get what you give - what goes around comes around.
what if	(See <a href="#">what-if</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: what a brain -- what if

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: what-if -- what the Sam Hill

Idiom	Meaning	Example
what-if	plan, theory, hypothesis	We did a what-if on the computer to see when the world will die from pollution.
what in tarnation	what is this? <a href="#">what the hell</a> [B]	What in tarnation? Where did you get that dinosaur?
what in the name of heaven	what is that? <a href="#">what's going on</a>	You built a gazebo? What in the name of heaven is that?
what in the world	what is happening, what is it?	What in the world is that? It looks like a space ship!
what it boils down to	what it really means, <a href="#">the bottom line</a>	What it boils down to is this: we don't have enough money.
what the dickens	where did it go? how do you explain it?	What the dickens did you do to your hair? Who cut it off?
what the hay	who cares? why worry?	The hood blew off my car, but what the hay - who needs a hood?
what the heck	why bother? it does not matter	Bing and Ko are getting married. What the heck! I don't care.
what the hell [B]	why? how? <a href="#">what the heck</a>	What the hell is he doing with my diary? Where did he get it?
what the Sam Hill	what happened, <a href="#">what the hell</a> , what is it?	What the Sam Hill did you do to my bike? The gears won't shift.
	<i>Sam Hill</i> is considered to be a soft replacement for <i>hell</i> or <i>damn</i> .	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: what-if -- what the Sam Hill

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: what was I thinking of -- what's in it for me

Idiom	Meaning	Example
what was I thinking of	why did I do that? I wish I had not done that	I got my head shaved! What was I thinking of!
what you don't know won't hurt you	if you do not know about a problem, you do not worry	Don't tell Dad I'm gay. What he doesn't know won't hurt him.
whatever floats your boat	(See <a href="#">float your boat</a> )	
what's cooking	what is happening, <a href="#">what's going down</a>	What's cooking with the kids? They're too quiet.
what's eating you	what is bothering you? are you upset?	What's eating you, Darryl? You look kind of mad.
what's going down	what is happening, what is going to happen, <a href="#">down the pike</a>	The students want to know what's going down - where the teacher went.
what's going on	what is happening, <a href="#">down the pike</a> , <a href="#">what's going down</a>	I want to know what's going on. Who wrote this note?
what's good for the goose is good for the gander	rules that apply to the wife also apply to the husband, <a href="#">tit for tat</a>	If you need a holiday, so do I! What's good for the goose is good for the gander.
what's-his-face	what is his name, I cannot remember his name	Nobody can park here, not even old what's-his-face - the judge.
what's in it for me	what will I receive? how will I benefit?	Before I give you the information, what's in it for me. Do I get paid?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: what was I thinking of -- what's in it for me

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: what's new -- wheels

Idiom	Meaning	Example
what's new	what is new in your life? what is happening	"Hi, Pearl. What's new?" "Lots. I have a baby!"
what's the big idea	why are you doing that? who said you could do that?	What's the big idea? Who said you could chop down that tree?
what's the poop	what is the news? what did you hear? <a href="#">what's going down</a>	When Holly wants to know what happened, she says, "Well, what's the poop?"
what's up	what is happening what is the latest news?	Bugs Bunny says to Elmer Fudd, "A bee 'n a bee! What's up, Doc?"
what's what	what is the truth, what are the facts, <a href="#">the straight goods</a>	I want to know what's what before I go to court. I want to know what happened.
what's your beef	what is your complaint? why are you upset?	What's your beef, Mark? I can see that you're upset.
what's your poison	what do you like to drink? which liquor do you like?	Come over to the bar and I'll buy you a drink. What's your poison?
wheatbelt	wheat-producing area, <a href="#">breadbasket</a>	Farmers in the wheatbelt pray for rain for their crops.
wheeler-dealer	a person who is good at making sales and deals, a <a href="#">wheeler-dealer</a>	Cliff is a wheeler-dealer in the energy industry. He brings buyers and sellers together.
wheels	vehicle (car, truck etc.), <a href="#">set of wheels</a>	Jeff, can I borrow your wheels? My sister needs a ride to the mall.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: what's new -- wheels

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: wheels fall off -- where angels fear to tread

Idiom	Meaning	Example
wheels fall off	(See <a href="#">the wheels fall off</a> )	
when in Rome, do as the Romans do	when you are a visitor do the same things as your hosts do	When I visit an Asian country, I learn the customs, and do as the "Romans" do.
when it comes to	when this is the topic, when we talk about this	When it comes to cars, I like GM. I would buy a Chev or a Pontiac.
when it rains it pours	when it comes we get too much, <a href="#">feast or famine</a>	"Tonight we don't have enough chairs for everybody." "When it rains it pours!"
when push comes to shove	when people fight, when the fighting begins, <a href="#">when the going gets tough</a>	The workers are demanding a fair wage. When push comes to shove, we may have to call the police.
when the chips are down	when the right decision must be made, when you must win	When the chips are down - when we are losing - we play better. We need to be challenged.
when the crunch comes	when there is less money, when the economy fails	When the crunch comes, we'll have our mortgage paid off!
when the dust settles	when the fight is finished, when it is calm again, when the lights go on	Abortion is a serious issue, but when the dust settles, women will be able to choose.
when the going gets tough	when there are problems, when progress is difficult	When the going gets tough, we need people with a good attitude.
where angels fear to tread	where even the angels fear to go, where danger is	They were using a ouija board - going where angels fear to tread!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: wheels fall off -- where angels fear to tread

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: where do they get off -- white elephant

Idiom	Meaning	Example
where do they get off	where do they get the right? <a href="#">how come</a> ?	Where do they get off telling me to slow down? Who asked them?
where it's at	where important things are happening, where the action is	China - that's where it's at today. Their society is changing; their economy is growing.
where the rubber hits the road	where the theory is tested, when the action begins; <a href="#">the nitty-gritty</a>	In the workplace, you apply what you've learned - that's where the rubber hits the road.
where there's a will, there's a way	when we are determined we find a way to succeed, <a href="#">when the going gets tough</a>	The manager of the charity held up this sign: WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY!
where's the loo	where is the bathroom? where is <a href="#">the can</a> ?	When Bev is looking for a bathroom she says, "Where's the loo?"
whet your appetite	improve your appetite, cause you to be hungry	How about an aphrodisiac to whet your appetite?
whew	expression of relief after escaping danger, <a href="#">thank goodness</a>	Whew! That was close! I nearly lost my false teeth!
whip you	defeat you, beat you in a game, <a href="#">wipe you</a>	Jason says he can whip you in a game of tennis. Can he beat you?
whip you into shape	help you become fit, improve your fitness	These aerobic exercises will whip you into shape.
white elephant	a purchase that was not used, a useless object	Should we take the statue of Stalin to the White Elephant Sale?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

Idioms: where do they get off -- white elephant

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: behind your back -- belt you

Idiom	Meaning	Example
behind your back	where you cannot see, when you are not here	He says nice things to you, but criticizes you behind your back.
being there	being where good things happen, being in the right place at the right time	Caleb seems to succeed by just being there. Good things happen to him wherever he is.
believe my ears	(See <a href="#">can't believe my ears</a> )	
believe my eyes	(See <a href="#">can't believe my eyes</a> )	
bells and whistles	(See <a href="#">all the bells and whistles</a> )	
belly up	not operating, bankrupt, <a href="#">tits up</a>	Four car dealers went belly up during the recession.
belly up to the bar	sit close to the bar, find a chair at the bar	Belly up to the bar, boys. I'd like to buy you a drink.
bellyache	complain, whine	Don't bellyache about the referee. Just play your best.
below the poverty line	not earning enough to survive, very poor, <a href="#">as poor as a church mouse</a>	If husband and wife are earning minimum wage, they're living below the poverty line.
belt you	hit you, punch you	I should belt you for saying that my sister looks like a dog.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: behind your back -- belt you

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: white knuckles -- whup you

Idiom	Meaning	Example
white knuckles	a tense feeling, acute worry	Driving through fog is scary - it's white knuckles all the way.
white lie	a small lie, a <a href="#">fib</a>	"You said you were 39, not 40." "Yes. I told a white lie."
whiz	urinate, pee, piss,[B] <a href="#">have to go</a> , <a href="#">take a leak</a> [B]	A few minutes after the concert began, my daughter whispered, "Mommy, I have to whiz."
who cares	does anyone care, does it matter, <a href="#">so what</a>	"So my car pollutes the air - who cares?" "I do. I care."
who do you think you are	do you think you are famous? do you think you are a superstar?	You said <i>Hi Dubbya</i> to President Bush! Who do you think you are!
whole hog	every effort, all your energy, <a href="#">gung ho</a>	When I play racquetball, I work hard. I go whole hog.
whole shebang	(See <a href="#">the whole shebang</a> )	
whole shooting match	(See <a href="#">the whole shooting match</a> )	
whore blossom	pimple, cold sore, <a href="#">zit</a>	Every time I eat shortbread, I get whore blossoms on my chin.
whup you	defeat you in a fight or game	Ali said, "I can whup you with one arm tied behind my back!"

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: white knuckles -- whup you

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: whup your ass -- willy-nilly

Idiom	Meaning	Example
whup your ass	defeat you badly, win decisively, <a href="#">wipe you</a>	On the chessboard you can defeat Gilles, but on the racetrack he'll whup your ass!
why in the name of...	why, <a href="#">why in the world</a>	I want to know why in the name of heaven she bought that gun.
why in the world	why, why is it? <a href="#">for the life of me</a>	Why in the world would anyone want to live in the desert?
wicked	exciting, terrific, <a href="#">cool</a>	"Wicked!" Dawn said when she saw my haircut. "It looks great."
wide awake	fully awake, alert	After the bear stuck his head in our tent, I was wide awake.
wild	exciting, awesome, <a href="#">rad</a>	"Do you like my new shirt?" "Ya, man. It's wild."
wild about	like a lot, <a href="#">crazy about</a> , <a href="#">mad about</a>	I'm just wild about Harry, but he doesn't care about me.
wild and woolly	uncivilized, like an animal	When cowboys are on the range, they become wild and woolly.
wild goose chase	(See <a href="#">a wild goose chase</a> )	
willy-nilly	whether you want it or not, without choice	I continue to receive junk mail - willy-nilly - like it or not!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: whup your ass -- willy-nilly

## Idioms: wimp -- winded

Idiom	Meaning	Example
wimp	weak person, <a href="#">chicken</a>	Tiny Tim is not a wimp, but he looks thin and weak.
wimpy	weak, lacking courage, like a <a href="#">wimp</a>	Sean acts kind of wimpy, but he's a strong, decisive leader.
win big	win a big prize, win a lot of money	You can win big with Lotto 649. You can win millions!
win by a nose	barely win, win by one point or part of a second	In the final race, we won by a nose. Our boat was just in front.
win going away	win by going ahead near the end of a race or game	Scoring four goals in the third period, the Leafs won going away.
win the hearts	win the approval, cause people to like you	Elvis won the hearts of the crowd when he sang <i>Love Me Tender</i> .
wind up	conclude, finish, <a href="#">end up</a>	What time will the meeting wind up? When should I pick you up?
wind up	see this result, see that ending, <a href="#">end up</a>	If you are a strong leader, you could wind up as our president.
windbag	a person who talks a lot, a person who brags	Kerry is bragging about Ireland again. What a windbag!
winded	(See <a href="#">out of breath</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: wimp -- winded

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: window of opportunity -- wino

Idiom	Meaning	Example
window of opportunity	(See <a href="#">a window of opportunity</a> )	
window on the world	the place where you can see the world	For some people, TV is their only window on the world.
wing it	improvise, change your plans, <a href="#">play it by ear</a>	If I am asked strange questions at an interview, I wing it. I give the best answers I can think of.
wingding	wild party, <a href="#">bash</a>	We went to Happy Harry's wingding. It was a great party.
wingnut	a person who acts crazy, a <a href="#">nut</a>	Jerry, you wingnut! How did you get that horse in the elevator?
wingy	wild, crazy, <a href="#">wacko</a>	Leon drove his car into the lake again. That guy is really wingy!
winner take all	the winner of the game gets all the money	Bert said, "Let's play one more game of poker, winner take all."
winning isn't everything; it's the only thing	winning is the only thing that matters, <a href="#">get it straight</a>	It was Vince Lombardi, a football coach, who said, "Winning isn't everything - it's the only thing."
winning streak	winning game after game, <a href="#">make a clean sweep</a>	The Expos have won nine games - their longest winning streak.
wino	an alcoholic, a drunk, <a href="#">in the tank</a>	See that wino over there. He used to be the president of GASCO.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: window of opportunity -- wino

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: wipe out -- with bated breath

Idiom	Meaning	Example
wipe out	lose control of a car/bike so that it spins or rolls	Larry wiped out on the last corner. His car is in the ditch.
wipe that smile off your face	stop smiling, do not smile, <a href="#">cut it out</a>	Rick, tell Peter you're sorry and give him a big kiss. Gail, wipe that smile off your face.
wipe you	defeat you by many points, <a href="#">blow you away</a>	Tran has won every spelling contest. She'll wipe you.
wired	very excited, <a href="#">pumped</a>	Jay didn't sleep last night. She's really wired for her exam today.
wired for sound	ready to operate, prepared for use	"Is the hall decorated and ready?" "Yep. It's wired for sound."
wise to us	know what we are doing, <a href="#">onto us</a>	Your husband knows you're seeing me. He's wise to us.
wishful thinking	believing it is true because you wish it was true	Roy says that he is going to marry Dawn, but it's wishful thinking.
wishy-washy	not able to decide, saying yes and no	I like you because you're decisive, because you're not wishy-washy.
with all my heart	with all my feeling	I love Canada with all my heart.
with bated breath	with worry and tension, with suspense, <a href="#">leave me hanging</a>	With bated breath, they waited for news of the men who were trapped in the mine.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: wipe out -- with bated breath

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: with bells on -- without a stitch of clothes on

Idiom	Meaning	Example
with bells on	happy to come, ready to have fun	I'd love to come to your wedding. I'll be there with bells on!
with his tail between his legs	running away in fear, retreating like a coward, <a href="#">run for the hills</a>	When he saw the bear, he turned around and ran with his tail between his legs.
with it	informed, sophisticated, <a href="#">cool</a> , <a href="#">in the know</a>	In the fashion world, Brad's really with it. He knows fashion.
with the naked eye	without binoculars or a telescope	The comet cannot be seen with the naked eye. It is too small.
with wings	to take out, to take with you, <a href="#">to go</a>	"Can I take your order?" "I'll have a Big Mac, a large fries and a Coke - with wings."
within earshot	close enough to hear, <a href="#">under my breath</a>	Lil was within earshot of the radio during the newscast. She heard it.
without a doubt	for sure, <a href="#">without question</a>	Without a doubt, Toyota has the best record. It's the most reliable.
without a full deck	mentally unbalanced, <a href="#">one brick short...</a>	At times he acts strange - like he's playing without a full deck.
without a hitch	without a problem, <a href="#">smooth sailing</a>	Except for one flat tire, the trip went without a hitch.
without a stitch of clothes on	nude, <a href="#">naked as a jay bird</a> , <a href="#">stark naked</a>	She stood there, ankle deep in water, without a stitch of clothes on.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: with bells on -- without a stitch of clothes on

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: without a word of a lie -- won't tell a soul

Idiom	Meaning	Example
without a word of a lie	without any lies, <a href="#">the gospel truth</a>	Without a word of a lie, that fish was five feet long.
without batting an eye	without pausing, looking calm and natural	Without batting an eye, she gave him a false name and address.
without question	certain, <a href="#">no doubt</a>	Lee sang best, without question. She has an excellent voice.
without turning a hair	without a sign of fear or stress, <a href="#">cool</a> , <a href="#">without batting an eye</a>	Without turning a hair, Adriana told them she was Madonna's manager!
wolf down	eat quickly, <a href="#">inhale</a>	The boys wolfed down their lunch and ran out to play soccer.
wolf in sheep's clothing	(See <a href="#">a wolf in sheep's clothing</a> )	
wonder of wonders	amazingly, surprisingly, <a href="#">lo and behold</a>	Wonder of wonders, you're "on time"! It's a miracle!
wonky	dizzy, confused, <a href="#">woozy</a>	After falling off the horse, Pedro was feeling a little wonky.
won't see you stuck	will help if necessary, will not refuse firmly, <a href="#">leave the door open</a>	"Will you judge our pie contest?" "I'd rather not do it, but I won't see you stuck."
won't tell a soul	will not tell anyone, <a href="#">keep it to yourself</a>	You can tell me your secret. I won't tell a soul.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: without a word of a lie -- won't tell a soul

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: woof your cookies -- work

Idiom	Meaning	Example
woof your cookies	vomit, puke, <a href="#">barf</a> , <a href="#">hork</a>	If you eat bananas, anchovies and cheese, you'll woof your cookies.
woozy	feeling a little bit sick in your stomach, <a href="#">wonky</a>	I've had the flu and my stomach is still a bit woozy.
word for word	quoted exactly, verbatim	He repeated her message word for word - exactly as she had said it.
word is good	you can believe it, you can count on it	Arturo's word is good. You can believe what he says.
word is out	I have heard, people are saying, <a href="#">rumor has it</a>	Word is out that you're moving to Denver. Is it true?
word of honor	solemn promise, <a href="#">take oath</a>	He gave me his word of honor that he will pay me on Friday.
word of mouth	(See <a href="#">by word of mouth</a> )	
word to the wise	(See <a href="#">a word to the wise</a> )	
wordsmith	(See <a href="#">a wordsmith</a> )	
work	is right, is fine, is appropriate	<i>Plaintive</i> - that's the right word! It works!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: work cut out for -- work the room

Idiom	Meaning	Example
work cut out for	a lot of work to do, difficult tasks to do, <a href="#">a hard row to hoe</a>	If you want to be a chartered accountant, you have your work cut out for you.
work ethic	belief that you must work; that work is good for you	Do you believe that Canadians have a strong work ethic?
work it out	solve it, try to agree	My teacher and I disagree about my grade, but we can work it out.
work my buns off	work hard every day, <a href="#">work your ass off</a> [B]	I work my buns off while he sits around and makes phone calls!
work my fingers to the bone	work so hard that I become thin and weak	I worked my fingers to the bone to help my kids get an education.
work of art	beautiful painting or carving etc.	Every rug she weaves is a work of art.
work off	exercise to reduce stress or emotion or fat	Cycling is a good way to work off stress.
work out	succeed, go as planned, <a href="#">pan out</a>	Did the recipe work out? Did the cake taste good?
work out	exercise to become fit or to prepare for competition, <a href="#">workout</a>	Come down to my exercise room. I'll show you where I work out.
work the room	move around the room trying to meet people who can help you in your career or business, <a href="#">shmooze</a>	We watched Tony work the room - glass in hand, smiling and chatting with anybody who might become a client or an ally.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: work cut out for -- work the room

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: work things out -- world beater

Idiom	Meaning	Example
work things out	discuss a problem and find a solution, <a href="#">work it out</a>	Maria and Paulo had a fight, but they worked things out.
work to rule	do only as much work as you have to do, <a href="#">draw the line</a>	The teachers are working to rule because they are not satisfied with their salaries.
work up a sweat	work or exercise hard, perspire, <a href="#">break a sweat</a>	When I skip, it takes me ten minutes to work up a sweat.
work up a thirst	become thirsty, work or play until you are thirsty	Digging trenches at midday, the men soon worked up a thirst.
work your ass off [B]	work very hard, <a href="#">work my buns off</a>	Why do you work your ass off for such a small salary?
work your buns off	work hard, work steadily	If you work your buns off, you can learn these idioms!
workaholic	one who loves to work; who is addicted to work	Gary is a workaholic. He even works on weekends!
worked up	excited, upset	Now, Dad. Don't get worked up about the war. Don't get upset.
workout	exercising, practicing a sport, weight training, <a href="#">work out</a>	I feel good after a workout - after jogging or swimming.
world beater	a person who tries to be the best in the world, <a href="#">set the world on fire</a>	My coach said, "You don't have to be a world beater. Just be the best you can be."

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: work things out -- world beater

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: bend over backwards -- best laid plans

Idiom	Meaning	Example
bend over backwards	do anything to help, try to please, <a href="#">go the extra mile</a>	They'll bend over backwards to find a room for you. They give excellent service.
bend the rules	change the rules to help, <a href="#">look the other way</a>	Ed won't accept late reports. He won't bend the rules.
bend your ear	ask you to listen, <a href="#">buttonhole you</a>	Carl, can I bend your ear for a minute? I have some news.
bend your elbow	drink beer or liquor, <a href="#">tip a few</a>	Your eyes look red and tired. Bend your elbow last night?
benefit of the doubt	(See <a href="#">the benefit of the doubt</a> )	
beside myself	very upset, very worried, <a href="#">at loose ends</a>	She was beside herself with grief when her sister died.
beside the point	off topic, not related, irrelevant	The brand of cigarette is beside the point. Smoking is the issue.
best foot forward	(See <a href="#">put your best foot forward</a> )	
best interests at heart	thinking of a person's needs, <a href="#">in mind</a>	When I give low grades, I still have your best interests at heart.
best laid plans	(See <a href="#">the best-laid plans</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: world is your oyster -- worth their weight in gold

Idiom	Meaning	Example
world is your oyster	(See <a href="#">the world is your oyster</a> )	
World Wide Web (www)	a network of computers in all parts of the world, <a href="#">Internet</a>	Some people use the Web to find information; others use it to find friends.
worldly wise	knowing how to survive, having <a href="#">street smarts</a>	You've lived on the streets of LA. You're worldly wise. You're "hip".
worlds apart	not close to agreement, very different	Israel and Palestine are neighbors but they're worlds apart.
worn out	(See <a href="#">wear out</a> )	
worn out	very tired, <a href="#">bushed</a>	Whew! I'm worn out from all that walking! How far did we walk?
worried sick	very worried, extremely anxious	Velma is worried sick about her son. He's using cocaine.
worse for wear	(See <a href="#">none the worse for wear</a> )	
worship the ground she walks on	love her very, very much; <a href="#">crawl on my hands...</a> , <a href="#">mad about</a> her	"Does Anthony love Cleopatra?" "He adores her. He worships the ground she walks on!"
worth their weight in gold	worth a lot, invaluable, priceless	Our volunteers are worth their weight in gold. They help us in ways that money can't buy!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: wouldn't be caught dead -- wrap your mind around

Idiom	Meaning	Example
wouldn't be caught dead	would not like to do it, would rather die than do it	Have you seen Lulu's miniskirt? I wouldn't be caught dead in that.
wouldn't miss it for the world	I would rather attend it than see the world	"Are you coming to my wedding?" "I wouldn't miss it for the world!"
wouldn't say shit if her mouth was full of it [B]	would not say a bad word, would not swear	Vi is so sweet. She wouldn't say shit if her mouth was full of it.
wound up	excited, <a href="#">pumped</a>	Before Nadia sings, she gets all wound up. She can't relax.
wow	oh, awesome, <a href="#">gee whiz</a>	Wow! I can see every star in the universe tonight.
wrap around his finger	controlled by him, <a href="#">on a string</a>	I do whatever she wants. She's got me wrapped around her finger.
wrap it up	finish it, end it, <a href="#">bring to a close</a>	They played some new songs but they wrapped it up with a hit.
wrap up	end, conclude	The Olympics wrap up on Sunday. Closing ceremonies are at 1 p.m.
wrap-up	closing, conclusion	During the wrap-up, the speaker thanked everyone for coming.
wrap your mind around	understand, comprehend, <a href="#">get your mind around</a>	Val's niece is also her half sister. Wrap your mind around that!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: wouldn't be caught dead -- wrap your mind around

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: wreak havoc -- wysiwyg

Idiom	Meaning	Example
wreak havoc	damage, destroy, <a href="#">lay waste</a> , <a href="#">trash the place</a>	If the workers get mad, they'll wreak havoc in the warehouse. They'll wreck the place.
write it off	say it is a financial loss, call it a business expense, deduct it from income	Don't worry about the cost of my plane ticket. I can write it off as a business expense.
write up	record in writing, prepare a written account	I've been asked to write up a list of the winners for the newspaper.
writer's block	being unable to think of something to write	I told the teacher I couldn't do the paper because of writer's block.
written all over your face	showing on your face, <a href="#">body language</a> , <a href="#">read you</a>	When you heard that Italy lost the World Cup, disappointment was written all over your face.
written in blood	like a law, binding, cannot be changed	Now that his name is written in blood, he's a member of our gang.
written in stone	written in final form, like a commandment	Our agreement isn't written in stone; it can be changed.
wuss	weak person, <a href="#">chicken</a> , <a href="#">wimp</a>	"Who is the most famous wuss?" "Mr. Bean?" "Right!"
wysiwyg	what you see <i>is</i> what you get (if you are lucky)	The printer is supposed to print what you see on the computer screen - wysiwyg!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: wreak havoc -- wysiwyg

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: X Generation -- XL

Idiom	Meaning	Example
X Generation	(See <a href="#">Generation X</a> )	
x marks the spot	look for x, begin at x, x is important	Someone had written on the map "X marks the spot where we were abducted by aliens."
x-rated	for adults, for a mature audience	<i>Born Loose</i> is an x-rated video. It contains nudity and sex.
XL	extra large or very large, extra luxury or extra power; shirt - size XL, car - 300XL	"This shirt is marked XL. What does that mean?" "It means extra large. On cars, XL means extra luxury or power."

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: ya -- yikes

Idiom	Meaning	Example
ya	yes, <a href="#">yep</a> , <a href="#">yo</a> , <a href="#">uh-uh</a>	"Did you graduate from high school?" "Ya. I got a diploma."
yada	idle talk, chatter, <a href="#">yak</a>	He's always talking - yada, yada!
yak	talk a lot, visit, <a href="#">a chin wag</a>	When I went to bed, Kate and Mom were still yakking away about the children.
yawner	(See <a href="#">a yawner</a> )	
yellow	lacking courage, afraid to defend, <a href="#">chicken</a>	Some fans think he's yellow because he doesn't fight.
yellow belly	a coward, a person who is afraid to do something	Smith, you yellow belly! Jump in the water and swim!
yeow	oh, <a href="#">wow</a> , <a href="#">yikes</a>	Yeow! That stove is hot!
yep	yes, <a href="#">uh-huh</a> , <a href="#">ya</a> , <a href="#">yo</a>	"Do you like country music?" "Yep. I like the hurtin' songs."
yeppers	yes, <a href="#">afraid so</a> , <a href="#">uh-huh</a> , <a href="#">ya</a> , <a href="#">yo</a>	"Do I <i>have</i> to come home by 9?" "Yeppers, that's what we agreed."
yikes	oh, <a href="#">gee</a> , <a href="#">gosh</a> , <a href="#">yeow</a>	Yikes! There's a spider on me!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: yin yang -- you can run but you can't hide

Idiom	Meaning	Example
yin yang	an opening or space, everywhere, <a href="#">all over hell's half acre</a>	Australia has too many rabbits. They have rabbits coming out of their yin yang.
yo	yes, hello, I hear you, <a href="#">okay</a>	When they call to you, just answer, "Yo!"
yokel	(See <a href="#">local yokel</a> )	
yonder over there	the direction I am pointing, that direction, that way	You're looking for wild geese? They're yonder over there, feeding in the corn fields.
you and the horse you rode in on	you and your horse go, both you and your horse, <a href="#">screw you and the horse</a>	"Did you say I should leave?" "Ya, you and the horse you rode in on. Git goin!"
you bet your boots	believe it, certainly, you can <a href="#">count on</a> it	The cowboy said, "You bet your boots I'm going to the rodeo."
you betcha	that is correct, right; <a href="#">you got it</a>	When I asked, "Are you coming?" she said, "You betcha."
you can bet your bottom dollar	you can be sure of it, you can bet your last dollar on it	If Terry knows about the dance, you can bet your bottom dollar he'll be there.
you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink	you can provide what they need but you cannot force them to use it	We provide information, but I wonder if they read it. You can lead a horse to water... .
you can run but you can't hide	you can run away but you cannot hide from your past or your problems	When I told a priest I was going away to forget my past, he said, "You can run, but you can't hide."

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

Idioms: yin yang -- you can run but you can't hide

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms: you can thank your lucky stars -- you have to be good to be lucky

Idiom	Meaning	Example
you can thank your lucky stars	you were lucky, be thankful you are safe	He can thank his lucky stars that a doctor was there. He nearly died.
you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear	you cannot improve the quality of junk; cannot make gold from iron	When Hal put a Mercedes star on his Ford, I said, "You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear."
you can't sell anybody if you don't love everybody	you will be more successful if you have love in your heart	"So you're going into sales?" "Yes. Do you have any advice?" "Well, a saying from <i>Beverly Hills Cop</i> may be helpful in sales - or any occupation: <i>You can't sell anybody if you don't love everybody!</i> "
you can't teach an old dog new tricks	old dogs and old people do not like to change or learn, <a href="#">die hard</a>	Our senior employees don't like computer training - you can't teach an old dog new tricks.
you can't tell a book by its cover	the cover or surface does not reveal its contents, <a href="#">beauty is only skin deep</a>	If you buy a car because it looks nice, remember this: you can't tell a book by its cover.
you don't miss the water till the well runs dry	you do not appreciate some things until they go away or become extinct	Now we have only memories of our song birds. You don't miss the water till the well runs dry.
you don't say	that is surprising, <a href="#">how about that</a>	"We have ten kids," the man said. "You don't say!" my mom replied.
you got it	you have the answer, you are doing it right	"You got it, kid!" the coach said. "That's the way to score!"
you had to be there	to understand, you should have been there with me; it was funny then	When I said, "Goo!" everybody laughed and clapped. I guess you had to be there.
you have to be good to be lucky	people with ability cause their own good luck, <a href="#">prepare like crazy</a>	Athletes don't wait for good luck. They try to improve, knowing you have to be good to be lucky.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:  
[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

Idioms: you can thank your lucky stars -- you have to be good to be lucky

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: you need money to make money -- young at heart

Idiom	Meaning	Example
you need money to make money	you have to spend money to make a profit, <a href="#">nothing succeeds like...</a>	If I had money, I would invest in real estate. It's true that you need money to make money.
you reap whatsoever you sow	you will see the long-term effects of your actions, <a href="#">chickens come home...</a>	Youthful passion can produce a lifetime of consequences. We reap whatsoever we sow.
you snooze, you lose	if you are not alert you will lose an opportunity, <a href="#">seize the opportunity</a>	Store clerks sometimes charge too much for a product. If you snooze, you lose.
you're full of it [B]	you are a liar, you are full of shit [B]	If you think I'm joining that cult, you're full of it.
you're kidding	you are joking, you are not serious	You're kidding. Jen wouldn't take off her clothes and climb a tree.
you're not kidding/ you aren't kidding	you are right, you are not joking	"It's really cold today," Jen said. "You aren't kidding!" he replied.
you're on	you have a deal, you have a date	When she suggested they go out for dinner, he said, "You're on."
you're only as good as your last shift	you are judged by your most recent work, don't <a href="#">rest on your laurels</a>	If you believe that you're only as good as your last shift, you should do your best every day.
you've got to be kidding	you must be telling me a joke, <a href="#">get out of town, you're kidding</a>	"The manager wants me to give him a massage every afternoon." "You've got to be kidding!"
young at heart	feeling or thinking that you are young, youthful	Sarah is over sixty, but she's young at heart.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Idioms: you need money to make money -- young at heart

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: your goose is cooked -- yummy

Idiom	Meaning	Example
your goose is cooked	(See <a href="#">goose is cooked</a> )	
your lip	your sharp words, your bad replies	I don't want any more of your lip, Son. Don't say <i>no</i> to me.
your number is up	the time has come, it is your turn to die	When your number's up, you go. That's how I feel about dying.
your own worst enemy	hurt yourself, <a href="#">shoot yourself in the foot</a>	If you use cocaine, you'll be your own worst enemy.
your turn	your chance, your try	The clerk said, "Wait your turn. Wait until I can serve you."
yours truly	me, myself, the writer or speaker	The announcer said, "This is yours truly, Danny Burrows, saying goodbye for now."
yoyo	fool, <a href="#">dipstick</a> , <a href="#">jerk</a> , <a href="#">nerd</a>	I was parking my car when this yoyo on a motorcycle started driving in circles around me.
yuk	awful, gross, ugly	When Jenny cooks beef liver, the kids say, "Yuk!"
yum	it tastes good, I like it	Yum! This soup is good!
yummy	delicious, tasty	I don't like J-Bars, but the kids think they're yummy.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:  
[B] bad language

Be interactive:  
[Comment on this idiom](#)  
[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)  
[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:  
 Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson  
 The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books  
 Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email  
[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: your goose is cooked -- yummy

## Idioms: yuppie -- yuppie

Idiom	Meaning	Example
yuppie	young, upwardly-mobile, professional person	The yuppies are buying BMW's, but can they afford them?

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a blank look -- a brick

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a blank look	eyes show that a person does not understand, <a href="#">the lights are on but...</a>	When I called her name, she gave me a blank look, as though she didn't know me.
a blast	a great time, a lot of fun	The students were having a blast until the teacher walked in.
a blessing in disguise	a problem that becomes a benefit or advantage	The rainstorm was a blessing in disguise. It stopped the fire.
a blow job [B]	giving oral sex to a man, fellatio	If you want a blow job, you'll have to shower first.
a blowout	to win by a large score, <a href="#">no contest</a>	"Did the Flames win?" "Ya, 11-2. It was a blowout."
a blowout	a flat tire, a tire that breaks suddenly	We were late because our van had a blowout on the freeway.
a bone to pick	something to argue about, a matter to discuss	Joe sounded angry when he said, "I have a bone to pick with you."
a breath of fresh air	a nice change, a new presence	Having Lan around the house is a breath of fresh air - she's so nice.
a breath of wind	a breeze, a light wind	In the evening, the lake was calm. There wasn't a breath of wind.
a brick	a dependable person, a friend who always helps	Parveen helped me get through my divorce. She's a real brick!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: a blank look -- a brick

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: best of both worlds -- better the devil you know...

Idiom	Meaning	Example
best of both worlds	(See <a href="#">the best of both worlds</a> )	
bet on	place a bet, gamble	I bet on the bay mare, and she won! I bet \$20 on her.
bet on a lame rooster	bet on a loser, <a href="#">fall for that</a>	If you vote for that guy, you're betting on a lame rooster.
bet you dollars to donuts	I will bet dollars, you bet donuts; <a href="#">give you odds</a>	Ben is the fastest runner. I'll bet you dollars to donuts he wins.
better half	spouse, wife or husband	Bring your better half when you visit us. We'd like to meet her.
better late than never	it is better to arrive late than not to arrive	"You're an hour late," he said. "Better late than never," I replied.
better off	in better conditions: healthier or wealthier etc.	Are you better off renting an apartment than buying a house?
better than a kick in the ass [B]	better than punishment, not as bad as it could be, <a href="#">don't knock it</a>	When I told him we had won \$10 in the Lotto, he said, "It's better than a kick in the ass."
better than sex	very good, excellent, fantastic	"Hey, James. How was skydiving?" "Great! Better than sex!"
better the devil you know...	a new devil could be worse than the old devil	"Should we fire the coach?" "No - better the devil we know than the one we don't."

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: best of both worlds -- better the devil you know...

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: zap -- zonked

Idiom	Meaning	Example
zap	heat in the microwave oven, <a href="#">nuke</a>	I zapped my hotdog. It was ready in 30 seconds!
zig when you should zag	move the wrong way, move left instead of right	I had an accident because I zigged when I should've zagged.
zilch	zero, none, nothing, <a href="#">diddly-squat</a> , <a href="#">nada</a> , <a href="#">zip</a>	"How much did you win?" "Zilch. Not a penny."
zinger	strong statement, sarcastic words, <a href="#">get off a few good ones</a>	Randi says kind things, except for the occasional zinger. Like today, she called Tom a beast.
zip	close, shut tight	Mom told me to zip my lips while the preacher is talking.
zip	go quickly, run	After we deliver the flowers we can zip over to the bank.
zip/zippo	nothing, zero, <a href="#">nada</a>	The Smiths have paid nothing on their account - zippo.
zipperhead	business person, administrator	What musicians hate is to have a zipperhead controlling the arts.
zit	pimple, blemish	I'm not going to the party because I have zits on my face.
zonked	tired, exhausted, <a href="#">falling asleep</a>	After playing soccer in the park, I needed a rest. I was zonked.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: zap -- zonked

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: zoo -- zoom in

Idiom	Meaning	Example
zoo	(See <a href="#">it's a zoo in there</a> )	
zoom	the sound of fast-moving cars	<i>Zoom</i> go the cars on the autobahn! <i>Zoom, zoom!</i>
zoom in	move the camera closer, magnify the subject	Now zoom in for a photo of the baby. Get a close-up of her face.

[Previous page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: better to have loved... -- beyond the call of duty

Idiom	Meaning	Example
better to have loved...	(See <a href="#">it is better to have loved and lost...</a> )	
between a rock and a hard place	in a difficult position, making a difficult choice, <a href="#">Sophie's choice</a>	If I told the truth, I would lose my friend. I was between a rock and a hard place.
between sixes and sevens	(See <a href="#">at sixes and sevens</a> )	
between the devil and the deep blue sea	in a difficult position, no place to go, <a href="#">between a rock...</a> , <a href="#">Sophie's choice</a>	If he ran, they would shoot him; if he stayed in the shop, the gas would kill him. He was between the devil and the deep blue sea.
betwixt and between	not able to choose one or the other, ambivalent	Which should I choose - PC or Mac? I'm betwixt and between.
bevy of beauties	a group of beautiful women, a few <a href="#">lovelies</a>	Mr. Gable returned to Hollywood and his bevy of beauties.
beyond help	lost, cannot be saved	Some addicts are beyond help. They don't want to be helped.
beyond me	(See <a href="#">it's beyond me</a> )	
beyond repair	ruined, cannot be repaired, <a href="#">a lost cause</a>	That copier is wrecked. It's beyond repair.
beyond the call of duty	(See <a href="#">above and beyond the call of duty</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: better to have loved... -- beyond the call of duty

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: beyond the pale -- big picture

Idiom	Meaning	Example
beyond the pale	beyond the limit, over the boundary	His comment went beyond the pale of respect. It was vulgar.
biff/biffy	washroom, bathroom, <a href="#">the can</a> , <a href="#">the john</a> , <a href="#">the loo</a>	"Is there a biffy on the bus?" "Yes. There, at the back."
Big Apple	(See <a href="#">The Big Apple</a> )	
big boys	powerful men in business, moguls, <a href="#">big shots</a>	If you want to do business with the big boys, you need money.
big break	big chance, <a href="#">a lucky break</a>	She got her big break when a talent scout heard her sing.
big bucks	a lot of money, a high price	You'll pay big bucks to rent an apartment near the university.
big cheese	the boss, <a href="#">chief cook and bottle washer</a> , <a href="#">head honcho</a>	If you've got a complaint, see the big cheese. He's our manager.
big deal	important event, major happening	A small fire is a big deal because it can cause a lot of damage.
big hairy deal	not an important matter, do not make it an issue, <a href="#">big deal</a>	"The teacher's coming!" "So big hairy deal!"
big picture	(See <a href="#">the big picture</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).



## Idioms: big rig -- bigger they are...

Idiom	Meaning	Example
big rig	(See <a href="#">a big rig</a> )	
big shot	rich or important person, <a href="#">VIP</a> , <a href="#">big boys</a>	Randy's a big shot in the movie industry. He owns four studios.
big-sky thinking	thinking that includes everything, from horizon to horizon; <a href="#">think outside the box</a> coined by Jeffery Phillips	Yes, we need to make common-sense decisions, but first let's do some big-sky thinking.
big time	a lot, very much, <a href="#">heavy duty</a>	You've helped me so much. I owe you big time.
big wheel	(See <a href="#">a big wheel</a> )	
big wigs	important persons: judges, presidents etc., <a href="#">VIP</a>	We've asked the big wigs to change their decision.
Bigfoot	a large ape-man living in the forests of western N. America; <a href="#">Sasquatch</a>	Gary told me he saw Bigfoot's tracks in the sand along the Kootenay River.
bigger fish to fry	more important people to meet or do business with	Don't bother fighting with him. You've got bigger fish to fry.
bigger than life	heroic: stronger, wiser, uglier; <a href="#">larger than life</a>	The characters in most novels seem to be bigger than life.
bigger they are...	(See <a href="#">the bigger they are...</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: big rig -- bigger they are...

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: bigmouth -- bit off

Idiom	Meaning	Example
bigmouth	someone who talks too loud, <a href="#">loud mouth</a>	Every crowd has a bigmouth - some guy who yells at the cops.
bilk	cheat, defraud, <a href="#">ripped off</a> , <a href="#">taken</a>	He bilked me. I gave him \$100 for the tickets and he kept the change!
bimbo	(See <a href="#">a bimbo</a> )	
binner	a person who scavenges in garbage bins, <a href="#">Dumpster diving</a>	Some bidders work in pairs. One guy climbs into the bin and hands the stuff to his partner waiting outside.
birdbrain	a person with a tiny brain, <a href="#">dumbo</a>	Hey, birdbrain. Why are you throwing money in the river?
birder	a bird watcher, one whose hobby is watching birds	Some birders were looking at an oriole in a poplar tree.
birds of a feather flock together	people with similar feelings and attitudes	Art and Don are birds of a feather. They like cars and football.
birthday suit	naked, nude, <a href="#">in the buff</a>	"Do you wear pajamas in bed?" "No. Just my birthday suit."
bit by bit	doing a small amount each time, <a href="#">little by little</a>	Bit by bit, they rebuilt a church that was destroyed by bombs.
bit off	(See <a href="#">a bit off</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: bigmouth -- bit off

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: bitch -- bits and pieces

Idiom	Meaning	Example
bitch	complain, <a href="#">grouse</a>	He tells me I'm always bitching, but I don't complain very much.
bitch [B]	(See <a href="#">a bitch</a> )	
bite me [B]	I have no respect for you, <a href="#">kiss off</a> , <a href="#">blow me</a>	"Bite me! Take your list of whores and live with them!"
bite off more than you can chew	begin more tasks than you can complete	When I took the night class, I bit off more than I could chew.
bite the bullet	try harder, be tougher	Bite the bullet during exam week. Don't party; just study.
bite the dust	die, quit, lose, <a href="#">kick the bucket</a>	Pete was 98 when he bit the dust. He lived for nearly a century.
bite the hand that feeds you	be unkind to the one who cares for you or pays you	If you criticize your employer, you bite the hand that feeds you.
bite your tongue	do not say that, you should not have said that	When I mention Dad's temper Mom says, "Bite your tongue."
biter (curling)	a rock that is touching the twelve-foot circle	The Heidt rink is lying four - one is a biter.
bits and pieces	small pieces, <a href="#">odds and ends</a>	Jack built our cabin with bits and pieces - leftover materials.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: bitch -- bits and pieces

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: bitten by the same bug -- black out

Idiom	Meaning	Example
bitten by the same bug	have the same interest or hobby	My cousin and I were bitten by the same bug. We collect coins.
bitter end	(See <a href="#">the bitter end</a> )	
bitter pill	(See <a href="#">a bitter pill</a> )	
blab	tell everybody, tell secrets	I told you I like Kevin, and you blabbed it to everybody.
blabbermouth	a person who tells everything, <a href="#">loud mouth</a>	Sharon - that blabbermouth! She told the whole class I love Bill.
black eye	an eye injury that causes the skin to turn black	"How'd you get the black eye?" "Fighting - in a hockey game."
Black Friday	the day the stock market crashed (failed) in 1929	In the 1980s, there were days to remind us of Black Friday.
black-listed	excluded, not be invited, not allowed to join	Gore was black-listed because he led the demonstration.
black mark	(See <a href="#">a black mark</a> )	
black out	become unconscious, faint, <a href="#">pass out</a>	If I bend over for a long time, I nearly black out when I stand up.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: black out -- blessing in disguise

Idiom	Meaning	Example
black out	remove the nameplate and trim from a vehicle	James Dean drove a blacked-out Merc in <i>Rebel Without A Cause</i> .
black sheep	the bad one, the one who does bad things	He's the black sheep in that family - always in trouble.
blackout	(See <a href="#">a blackout</a> )	
blank	defeat by preventing any goals, <a href="#">skunk</a>	In soccer, Italy blanked Ireland 2-nil.
blast	(See <a href="#">a blast</a> )	
blast you	scold you, yell at you	Ms. Zank blasted me for using her computer. She was angry.
blasted	<a href="#">dad-blamed</a> , <a href="#">darn</a> , <a href="#">doggone</a>	Where's the blasted hammer? It's never here when I need it!
blasted	drunk, <a href="#">loaded</a> , <a href="#">plastered</a>	On her 40th birthday, she went to the bar and got blasted.
bleeding heart	one who begs for sympathy for victims, <a href="#">have a soft spot...</a>	Hector is a bleeding heart for wolves. "Save the wolves," he tells people in his speeches.
blessing in disguise	(See <a href="#">a blessing in disguise</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: blind date -- blow a kiss

Idiom	Meaning	Example
blind date	going out with a boy or girl you have not met	Kate met Jeff on a blind date. They got married a year later.
blind leading the blind	(See <a href="#">the blind leading the blind</a> )	
blood from a stone	(See <a href="#">get blood from a stone</a> )	
blood is thicker than water	blood relationships are stronger than a marriage ceremony	When my wife supported her dad in a fight with me, I said, "So blood <i>is</i> thicker than water."
blood is up	excited, angry, ready to fight	Kerry is friendly, but when his blood is up, he's dangerous.
blood money	money paid to the relative of a murdered person, <a href="#">dirty money</a>	The widow refused to take blood money from the men who murdered her husband.
bloody well	very truly, damn well	He bloody well knows my name because I bloody well told him.
blotto	exhausted, <a href="#">bushed</a>	After studying for twelve hours, she was blotto - very tired.
blow a bundle	spend a lot of money, lose a lot of money gambling	When Al went to Vegas, he blew a bundle - he lost a lot of money.
blow a kiss	kiss your hand and blow across it, <a href="#">throw a kiss</a>	Taea can blow a kiss, and she's only eighteen months old!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: blind date -- blow a kiss

## Idioms: blow chunks -- blow my cover

Idiom	Meaning	Example
blow chunks	puke, vomit, <a href="#">barf</a> , <a href="#">throw chunks</a>	Juan, my boy, if you go for a ride on that Ferris wheel right after dinner, you'll blow chunks!
blow it	cause a big mistake, ruin it, <a href="#">screw up</a>	Karen won't blow it this time. She'll skate a perfect program.
blow it out of proportion	exaggerate it, make it bigger than it should be	When Gretzky was traded, the media blew it out of proportion.
blow it out your ear	throw it away, it is meaningless or worthless	When I asked Jack about the leader's latest statement, he said, "You can blow it out your ear. He's already changed it."
blow it up (photo)	enlarge it, magnify it	If you want to see details in the photo, blow it up.
blow job [B]	(See <a href="#">a blow job</a> )	
blow me [B]	you are worth nothing, kiss my ass, <a href="#">fuck off</a>	"You want me to support you by stealing? Blow me!"
blow me down	I am very surprised, I do not believe it	Well, blow me down, Olive. You can cook spinach, too!
blow me over	it is unbelievable; <a href="#">far out</a>	He's over 50? Well, blow me over!
blow my cover	reveal my true identity, reveal my hiding place	With a false passport, I can enter Bali, if nobody blows my cover.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: blow chunks -- blow my cover

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a brick short -- a case of

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a brick short	(See <a href="#">one brick short of a full load</a> )	
a budding genius	a child who appears to be very intelligent	The newspaper described Pam as "a budding genius" on the violin.
a bull in a china shop	a big, reckless person in a room full of fragile things; <a href="#">cramp your style</a>	Imagine a 300-pound football player at a tea party, and you have a bull in a china shop.
a bum rap	unfair blame, unjust sentence, <a href="#">take the rap</a>	It was a bum rap. Eddie didn't steal those paintings.
a bummer	an unfortunate event, bad luck, <a href="#">too bad</a>	"Somebody broke a window in his car and stole his stereo." "That's a bummer."
a bun in the oven	pregnant, expecting a baby	Mabel has a bun in the oven. The baby's due in April.
a bunch of malarkey	an untrue story, <a href="#">a lot of bunk</a> , <a href="#">bull</a>	"Do you believe what the psychic said about your future?" "No. It's a bunch of malarkey."
a bundle of nerves	a very nervous person; <a href="#">uptight</a> person	May has so many problems - she's just a bundle of nerves.
a card	(See <a href="#">such a card</a> )	
a case of	an example of, <a href="#">it's a case of</a>	Look at Bosnia. That's a case of ethnic civil war.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: a brick short -- a case of

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: blow sky high -- blow up

Idiom	Meaning	Example
blow sky high	upset a lot of people, cause a scandal or riot	This government will blow sky high if people hear these tapes.
blow snakes (music)	play great jazz, improvise creatively	I went to hear jazz at the club, and Guido was blowing snakes.
blow the lid off	reveal a story, tell some news, <a href="#">break a story</a>	When the defendant confessed, it blew the lid off the murder trial.
blow the whistle	tell the teacher or the police, <a href="#">squeal</a>	Jimmy knows we stole the keys, but he won't blow the whistle.
blow them away	defeat them badly, <a href="#">kick butt</a>	The Russians blew them away in the first game of the series.
blow this joint	leave this building, <a href="#">quit this place</a>	I'm sick of playing billiards. Let's blow this joint.
blow this Popsicle stand	leave this place, <a href="#">quit this place</a>	What a boring town! Let's blow this Popsicle stand!
blow to kingdom come	explode and destroy, <a href="#">blow up</a>	There's enough gas in the well to blow us kingdom come!
blow up	explode using a bomb or dynamite	They plan to blow up that old building because it's unsafe.
blow up	become angry, <a href="#">lose your temper</a>	If you criticize AI, he'll blow up. He's very sensitive.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: blow sky high -- blow up

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: blow you away -- blue in the face

Idiom	Meaning	Example
blow you away	defeat you easily, <a href="#">beat the pants off</a>	You're going to play chess with Boris? He'll blow you away.
blow you out of the water	defeat you, humiliate you	If you challenge his leadership, he'll blow you out of the water.
blow your lid/stack/top	become very angry, shout, <a href="#">lose your cool</a>	Don't blow your stack in front of the kids. It's a bad example.
blow your mind	amaze you, astound you, shock you	Watching films of the holocaust will blow your mind.
blow your stones [B]	ejaculate, <a href="#">come</a>	There's more to it than blowing your stones. Sex is an art form.
blow your wad	spend all your money, <a href="#">blow a bundle</a>	He blew his wad on some handmade boots. They cost \$700!
blowout	(See <a href="#">a blowout</a> )	
blue	sad, depressed, <a href="#">down</a> , <a href="#">low</a>	"Are you blue, Dear?" "Yes. Jack left me."
blue-collar worker	someone who works at a trade, e.g., a plumber	The blue-collar workers will vote for Ed. He's a tradesman.
blue in the face	weakened, tired after trying many times	I called that dog until I was blue in the face. He would not come in.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: blow you away -- blue in the face

## Idioms: blue moon -- boiling mad

Idiom	Meaning	Example
blue moon	rare event, unusual happening, <a href="#">that'll be the frosty Friday</a>	If he ever says <i>thank you</i> there'll be a blue moon in the sky!
blue sky	great opportunity, easy life, <a href="#">smooth sailing</a>	We made T-shirts, and people loved them and bought them. From then on, it was blue sky!
blurt out	say without thinking, reply quickly	"I did it!" the boy blurted out, and he began to cry.
boarding (hockey)	checking into the boards, <a href="#">chairman of the boards</a>	Boarding causes serious injuries to hockey players.
Bob's your uncle	no problem as "Bob," a powerful friend or relative, will do it or have it done	When I asked her to give your application to the president, she said, "Bob's your uncle!"
bodacious	bold, daring, defying the rules, like <a href="#">a daredevil</a>	He's bodacious alright. He rode his skateboard right through traffic!
body language	body movements that show feelings	Your body language tells me that you're tense. Please relax.
boggle your mind	confuse you, <a href="#">make your head spin</a>	These numbers boggle my mind. I don't understand them.
bogof	buy one get one free, marketing method, <a href="#">loss leader</a>	If you shop for bogof items you get two for the price of one!
boiling mad	very angry, very upset, <a href="#">hopping mad</a>	By the time the car started, Emil was boiling mad.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

Idioms: blue moon -- boiling mad

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: bolt from the blue -- bonzer

Idiom	Meaning	Example
bolt from the blue	(See <a href="#">like a bolt from the blue</a> )	
bomb around	drive around, drive your car for fun, <a href="#">cruise</a>	"Where have you been?" "Bombin' around in Rod's car."
bomb out	fail, not succeed	Most engineers say the electric car is a failure. It bombed out.
bombed	drunk, <a href="#">hammered</a> , <a href="#">sloshed to the gills</a>	Fay was bombed before she got to the party. She was drunk.
bone dry	very dry, as dry as an old bone	Someone had drained the pool. It was bone dry.
bone of contention	point of disagreement, controversial point	Job security is the bone of contention in our discussions.
bone to pick	(See <a href="#">a bone to pick</a> with you)	
bone up on	study, learn, practise	I have to bone up on my French if we're going to Paris.
bonkers	crazy, insane, <a href="#">nuts</a> , <a href="#">wacko</a>	If you watch professional wrestling you must be bonkers!
bonzer	good, fine, super, <a href="#">awesome</a>	"Did you enjoy your holiday?" "It was bonzer, mate! We had a great time!"

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: booboo -- bootleg

Idiom	Meaning	Example
booboo	(See <a href="#">make a booboo</a> )	
boobs [B]	breasts, tits	Okay, she has lovely boobs. What about her personality?
boogie	go, walk, drive	Let's boogie on down to the store and rent a video.
book worm	one who reads a lot, <a href="#">geek</a>	Sarah is quite a book worm. She loves to read history books.
booked/booked up	no more space or rooms, no vacancy	The Royal Hotel is booked up. Every room is reserved.
boom box	portable radio, <a href="#">ghetto blaster</a>	We can have music at the beach if you bring your boom box.
boom or bust	either large profits or large losses, rich or poor, <a href="#">feast or famine</a>	In the oil business, it's boom or bust. Some years it's worth more than gold; other years it isn't worth the cost of production!
boot it	drive fast, <a href="#">highball it</a> , <a href="#">pedal to the metal</a>	If you boot it, Betty won't ride with you. She hates going fast.
boot up	start or switch on a computer	Wait until I boot up the Mac. Then we can print your letter.
bootleg	produced illegally, not authorized, <a href="#">software piracy</a>	If someone offers you bootleg software, don't accept it! You could be sued!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: booboo -- bootleg

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: booze -- bottom fell out

Idiom	Meaning	Example
booze	liquor, <a href="#">hooch</a> , <a href="#">moonshine</a>	I think Gus has been drinking. His breath smells of booze.
boozing buddies	friends who drink liquor and party together	In those days, Billy and I were boozin' buddies - pals.
born tired	tired since birth, always tired	My dad says I was born tired. When the doctor slapped my bum, I just yawned!
born with a silver spoon in his mouth	born into a rich family, accustomed to wealth	Jason won't look for a job; he was born with a silver spoon... .
bosom buddy	close friends, friends who grew up together	Don't criticize Brad, eh. He's my bosom buddy.
botch it	ruin it, do it wrong, <a href="#">blow it</a>	When you bake bread for the first time, it's easy to botch it.
bottle drive	going to houses asking for pop and liquor bottles	The bottle drive was a success. The girls earned \$350.
bottle man	a man who finds bottles in garbage cans or Dumpsters	The bottle man walked down the alley pushing a cart full of junk.
bottle up	not talk about, keep in your mind	Don't keep all those feelings bottled up inside you. Talk!
bottom fell out	(See <a href="#">the bottom fell out</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: booze -- bottom fell out

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: bottom line -- bozo

Idiom	Meaning	Example
bottom line	the final number, the conclusion	The bottom line is this: we can't afford to expand.
bottom out	go down to the bottom, arrive at the low point	The recession will bottom out by the end of the year.
bottom rung	the first step, the lowest position	Jerry, my boy, in this company you start at the bottom rung.
bottoms up	finish your drinks, drink the remainder	"Bottoms up," said his friend. "It's time to go."
bounce back	recover from failure or sickness, try again	Lana has the flu, but she bounces back quickly.
bow out	resign so someone else can serve, <a href="#">step down</a>	When Dad sees that I can manage the firm, he will bow out.
bowl me over	surprise me, <a href="#">blow me down</a>	Well, bowl me over! You've done your homework!
boy, oh boy	wow, oh man, <a href="#">holy cow</a>	Boy, oh boy! I'm glad to see you!
boys will be boys	all boys are the same; boys are rough and noisy, <a href="#">a chip off the old...</a>	When Steve came home with his shirt torn and nose bleeding, his father said, "Boys will be boys."
bozo	a person who does unusual things, a <a href="#">nerd</a>	Lenny is kind of a bozo. He laughs at the wrong time.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: brain -- bread

Idiom	Meaning	Example
brain	(See <a href="#">what a brain</a> )	
brain drain	emigration of intelligent people	If Canada's best professors move away, it's called a brain drain.
brain is fried	brain is very tired or ruined by drug abuse	After writing six exams, my brain was fried - too much studying!
brain storm	think of ideas together, <a href="#">think tank</a>	Our family decided to brain storm the problem of wasting food.
brain traffic	thoughts and information moving through the brain	I wish I could turn off my mind when brain traffic is too heavy.
branch office	an office in another location or city	Please contact our branch office in your town or city.
branch out	open a second office/store, expand a company	Business is very good. It may be time for us to branch out.
brand new/ brand spanking new	not used <a href="#">at all</a> , just off the assembly line	Imagine a brand new Mercedes in an accident. What a shame!
bravo	great, wonderful, more, encore	"Bravo! Bravo!" the audience roared. They loved Heppner's singing and were shouting for more.
bread	money, cash, <a href="#">dough</a>	Hey, man, we need more bread if we're gonna buy cigarettes.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: brain -- bread

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: bread and butter -- break and enter

Idiom	Meaning	Example
bread and butter	the main product, the source of profit	We sell a variety of parts, but the oil filter is our bread and butter.
breadbasket	stomach, belly	The ball hit him just below his chest - right in the breadbasket.
breadbasket	an area that produces grain, <a href="#">wheatbelt</a>	Saskatchewan is a major wheat producer: Canada's breadbasket.
break a habit	stop doing a daily activity: drinking coffee, smoking	Laurie can't seem to break her habit of writing on her hands.
break a leg	good luck, have a good performance	"Break a leg!" she whispered as he walked on the stage.
break a promise	not do as you promised, <a href="#">go back on</a> your word	Trudy never breaks a promise. She is very dependable.
break a spell	cause a spell to stop, not be <a href="#">under a spell</a>	I was captivated by her until she smoked. That broke the spell.
break a story	be first to tell a story, be first to tell some news	<i>The London Times</i> broke the story of Charles's confessions.
break a sweat	begin to sweat or perspire, <a href="#">work up a sweat</a>	For exercise to be beneficial, the athlete must break a sweat.
break and enter	break a lock or window to enter illegally, B&E	They were charged with break and enter. They stole some cash.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: bread and butter -- break and enter

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: break away -- break out in a rash

Idiom	Meaning	Example
break away	move away, go away from, stop doing or using	She tried to break away when the cult leader asked for her savings.
break curfew	stay out later than the rules allow	If you break curfew, the coach will remind you of the rules.
break down	fail, not operate, <a href="#">out of order</a>	If that copier breaks down again I'm going to give it away.
break in	operate or drive slowly when it is new	When I bought my first new car, Dad said to break it in carefully.
break into	break a door or window to enter, <a href="#">break and enter</a>	I couldn't believe that my son would break into a store.
break into song	begin to sing suddenly, sing without warning	One of our teachers used to break into song when he taught poetry.
break off	tell a friend that you wish to stop seeing him	She wonders if she should break off her relationship with Liam.
break out	escape, get away, <a href="#">bust out</a>	He was shot trying to break out of prison - trying to escape.
break out	happen suddenly, erupt	A riot will break out if you don't talk to the strikers.
break out in a rash	have a rash appear on your skin	When the temperature goes over 30° the baby breaks out in a rash.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: break away -- break out in a rash

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: a caution -- a close call

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a caution	a bold or shocking person, <a href="#">no shrinking violet</a>	She <i>is</i> a caution! She told the judge he was all wrong.
a cheap drunk	a person who gets drunk on one or two drinks	Jo admits she's a cheap drunk. Her limit is two drinks.
a checkup	a doctor's examination, a medical examination	If you aren't feeling well, go to the doctor for a checkup.
a chicken in every pot	enough food for every family	No one will be hungry if there's a chicken in every pot.
a chin wag	a conversation, a visit	The grandmothers were talking happily - having a chin wag.
a chip off the old block	a boy who is like his dad, <a href="#">the apple doesn't...</a>	Eric is a chip off the old block. He's just like his dad.
a chunk of change	a large amount of money, a few <a href="#">grand</a> , <a href="#">big bucks</a>	I bet that condo cost him a chunk o' change - 300 "grand" at least.
a clean bill of health	a good report from the doctor, <a href="#">a good checkup</a>	You'll never get a clean bill of health if you eat fat meat!
a cliff-hanger	a game that is close until the end, <a href="#">a barnburner</a>	Every election in this town is a real cliff-hanger - a close race.
a close call	close to danger or an accident	That was a close call. The train nearly hit the bus!

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: a caution -- a close call

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: break the bank -- breakup

Idiom	Meaning	Example
break the bank	spend all savings, leave no balance	One more expense this month will break the bank.
break the ice	relieve the tension, <a href="#">put you at ease</a>	Andy likes to tell a joke to break the ice - to help everybody relax.
break the law/rules	not obey the law, commit a crime	If you rob a store, you are breaking the law.
break the record	do better than the previous record	The coach believes Bev can break the record in long jump.
break the silence	talk about a secret, tell people the truth	When he accused us of the crime, my brother broke the silence.
break up	not date anymore, not be lovers anymore, <a href="#">breakup</a>	Lan and Chan broke up last night. They had a bad quarrel.
break your fall	prevent serious injury when you fall	He fell from the roof, but a tree helped to break his fall.
break your heart	cause you to feel very sad and lonely	Marilyn broke my heart. She left me for a younger man.
breakdown	sudden health failure, <a href="#">fall apart</a>	After his breakdown, he found an occupation with less stress.
breakup	separation, divorce, not being partners anymore, <a href="#">break up</a>	Since their breakup, I don't know where to send my Christmas cards.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: break the bank -- breakup

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: breath of fresh air -- bring an end to

Idiom	Meaning	Example
breath of fresh air	(See <a href="#">a breath of fresh air</a> )	
breath of wind	(See <a href="#">a breath of wind</a> )	
breathe a sigh of relief	feel relieved after a time of worry	When we saw the children were safe, we breathed a sigh of relief.
breathe down my neck	watch everything I do, follow me as I work	It's difficult to work with him breathing down my neck.
breathe easy	relax, breathe slower, stop worrying	Mother said, "I won't breathe easy until this plane is on the ground!"
brick	(See <a href="#">a brick</a> )	
bridge the gap	help people communicate, mediate	When the staff and the manager fight, I try to bridge the gap.
bright	intelligent, brainy, <a href="#">sharp</a>	I left the water running. That wasn't a very bright thing to do.
bright-eyed and bushy-tailed	frisky, lively, full of life	Perry is bright-eyed and bushy-tailed tonight. He looks rested.
bring an end to	(See <a href="#">put an end to</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: bring home the bacon -- broke

Idiom	Meaning	Example
bring home the bacon	bring home a paycheck, support a family	Stan is disabled, so Louise brings home the bacon.
bring it off	manage it successfully, <a href="#">carry it off</a>	Don't worry about the project. Mr. Ho can bring it off.
bring the house down	cause a lot of cheering or applause or laughter	If Kurt skates well in Calgary he'll bring the house down.
bring to a close	conclude, finish, <a href="#">wrap up</a>	Now, to bring my presentation to a close, I'll tell you a story.
bring up	introduce, begin to talk about	Please bring up that point at the meeting. We can discuss it then.
bring up	vomit, puke	Did the baby bring up his breakfast? Let me wipe it up.
bring you up short	cause you to stop and think, rebuke you	When I began to criticize Jan, Mother brought me up short.
broad	girl, <a href="#">chick</a> , prostitute	"Where's Mark?" "Over there, with the broads, as usual."
broad daylight	(See <a href="#">in broad daylight</a> )	
broke	(See <a href="#">flat broke</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: bring home the bacon -- broke

## Idioms: broken dreams -- brush-off

Idiom	Meaning	Example
broken dreams	plans that did not work, hopes that died	Their divorce will mean broken dreams for both of them.
broken record	(See <a href="#">like a broken record</a> )	
brouhaha	shouting and fighting, melee, <a href="#">Donnybrook</a>	After the dance, there was a brouhaha in the schoolyard.
browbeat	force you to work, harass, <a href="#">hound</a> , <a href="#">on my case</a>	He browbeats his employees. He shouts, "You! Get to work!"
brown nose [B]	try to please the manager, <a href="#">suck up to</a>	Some guys brown nose their way to success. But is it success?
browned off	unhappy, a little bit angry, <a href="#">ticked off</a>	Tran was browned off because we were late. She didn't like that.
brownie points	points for doing extra work for the manager	Bruno earns brownie points by offering to help the manager.
brush cut	short, level haircut - like a brush on top	Your brush cut looks great - nice and flat on top.
brush it off	not let it bother you, not be concerned	When Erik criticizes my family, I just brush it off and walk away.
brush-off	(See <a href="#">give him the brush-off</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).



## Idioms: brush up on -- buckle up

Idiom	Meaning	Example
brush up on	review, relearn or practise; <a href="#">bone up on</a>	The teacher said I should brush up on my spelling - try to improve.
brush with death	nearly die, <a href="#">at death's door</a> , <a href="#">on my deathbed</a>	After a close brush with death you'll think that life is precious.
brush with the law	an illegal act, a minor crime	Judd told me about his brush with the law - a shoplifting charge.
buck	dollar, <a href="#">greenback</a> , <a href="#">loonie</a>	When I earn some bucks, I'm going to buy a stereo.
buck fever	nervous, unable to perform well, <a href="#">choke</a>	Every time I play in a competition I get buck fever. I get so nervous.
buck stops here	(See <a href="#">the buck stops here</a> )	
buck up	be strong, be positive	Buck up, my friend. You will soon be finished with exams.
buckle down	work harder, try harder, <a href="#">bite the bullet</a>	Next term I'm going to buckle down and get good grades.
buckle under	quit, lose, not try, <a href="#">give up</a>	We're losing, but we won't buckle under. We won't quit.
buckle up	fasten your seat belt, buckle your seat belt	Buckle up. Dad won't drive away until we fasten our seat belts.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: brush up on -- buckle up

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: buckstop (military) -- bull/bullshit/BS [B]

Idiom	Meaning	Example
buckstop (military)	brass marker placed on the wardroom table in a warship	When Ken wants to be served he sits nearest the buckstop.
budding genius	(See <a href="#">a budding genius</a> )	
buffalo	frighten, bluff, intimidate	The director shouts a lot, but don't let him buffalo you.
bug (someone)	bother, irritate, <a href="#">get to me</a>	That scraping noise bugs me. It's quite annoying.
bugger all [B]	nothing, <a href="#">diddly-squat</a> , <a href="#">fuck all</a>	"Hey Giulio, what did you win?" "Bugger all - nothing!"
build a better mousetrap	improve a common product	If you're not an inventor, you try to build a better mousetrap.
build up	increase, raise	Talking with Rudy will build up your confidence. He's positive.
built like a brick shithouse [B]	have a strong body, have a sturdy build	Tyronne plays football. He's built like a brick shithouse.
bull in a china shop	(See <a href="#">a bull in a china shop</a> )	
bull/bullshit/BS [B]	a story that is not all true, <a href="#">balderdash</a>	His explanation is a lot of bull. Don't believe it.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

Idioms: buckstop (military) -- bull/bullshit/BS [B]

## Idioms: bully for you -- bun in the oven

Idiom	Meaning	Example
bully for you	you were lucky, <a href="#">good for you</a>	When I beat Ed at cribbage, he says, "Bully for you!"
bum	buttocks, <a href="#">backside</a> , <a href="#">butt</a> , <a href="#">rear end</a>	"Why did she slap your face?" "Because I pinched her bum."
bum rap	(See <a href="#">a bum rap</a> )	
bum's rush	(See <a href="#">the bum's rush</a> )	
bummer	(See <a href="#">a bummer</a> )	
bump and grind (hockey)	bump other players and work to get the puck	To win hockey games we need players who bump and grind.
bump and grind	walk or dance in a sexy way	A seminude dancer was bumping and grinding under red lights.
bump into	meet by chance, <a href="#">run into</a>	Do you know who I bumped into yesterday? Larry Mason.
bumper to bumper	a lane of vehicles with the bumpers nearly touching	Traffic on Memorial Drive was bumper to bumper at 4:30 today.
bun in the oven	(See <a href="#">a bun in the oven</a> )	

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: bundle -- burn the midnight oil

Idiom	Meaning	Example
bundle	(See <a href="#">make a bundle</a> )	
bundle of nerves	(See <a href="#">a bundle of nerves</a> )	
bundle up	dress warmly, put on winter clothes, <a href="#">rug up</a>	Be sure to bundle up if you go skating on the lake. It's cold!
bunk	false statements, rumors, <a href="#">baloney</a> , <a href="#">bull</a>	They claim that computers can think, but that's a lot of bunk!
buns	buttocks, <a href="#">bum</a>	Tony said Rita has great buns.
burbs	(See <a href="#">the burbs</a> )	
burn a hole in your pocket	feel that you have to spend your money	If money burns a hole in your pocket, invest it.
burn it in	throw the ball hard to the catcher, <a href="#">fastball</a>	My hand hurts when you throw so hard. Don't burn it in, eh.
burn out	use too much emotional energy, <a href="#">breakdown</a>	Working too hard can cause a person to burn out.
burn the midnight oil	work or study very late at night	To become a doctor, you have to burn the midnight oil.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: burn up -- business as usual

Idiom	Meaning	Example
burn up	become angry, <a href="#">lose your cool</a>	The coach was burned up when I got a penalty for holding.
burn your ass [B]	bother you, irritate you, <a href="#">bug</a> you	You know what burns my ass? Doing my income tax.
burn your bridges	resign without notice, leave no way to return	He can't return to the company. He's burned his bridges.
burned	convicted or punished while involved in crime	Tony got burned when he was a drug dealer. He went to jail.
burning question	(See <a href="#">the burning question</a> )	
bury the hatchet	stop arguing or fighting, <a href="#">throw down your arms</a>	When will the English and the French bury the hatchet?
bush telegraph	street gossip, <a href="#">through the grapevine</a>	Arne gets the news through the bush telegraph. People tell him.
bushed	very tired, <a href="#">worn out</a>	After caring for five kids all day, Mom's bushed. She's exhausted.
bushwhack	stop you and rob you, <a href="#">jump</a> , <a href="#">mugged</a>	When he stopped to camp by the stream, two guys bushwhacked him - stole his money and horse.
business as usual	everything is normal, nothing has changed	The morning after the holdup, it was business as usual at the bank.

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Idioms: burn up -- business as usual

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms: bust my butt -- butter fingers

Idiom	Meaning	Example
bust my butt	work very hard, <a href="#">work my fingers to the bone</a>	She busts her butt to earn a good wage, and he spends it.
bust out	escape, get away, <a href="#">break out</a>	Hey, man. I can bust out of here if you have a rope.
busted	charged by the police, arrested	Shane got busted for trafficking. He sold cocaine to some kids.
busy as a beaver	(See <a href="#">as busy as a beaver</a> )	
but good	completely, thoroughly, <a href="#">and how</a>	If somebody hurts her, she'll get revenge, but good!
butt	buttocks, <a href="#">backside</a> , <a href="#">bum</a>	If you tell anybody that I like her, I'll kick your butt.
butt in	intrude, interrupt	When a salesman butts in, tell him to butt out.
butt of the joke	(See <a href="#">the butt of the joke</a> )	
butt out	go away, <a href="#">beat it</a> , <a href="#">get lost</a>	We asked him to butt out so we could have a private talk.
butter fingers	unable to catch or hold, <a href="#">cement hands</a>	When Anna dropped the ball, Shelly said, "Butter fingers!"

[Previous page](#) [Next page](#) [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Index A

a-ok	
	<a href="#">A-OK</a>
about	
	<a href="#">about time</a> <a href="#">crazy about</a> <a href="#">don't know the first thing about it</a> <a href="#">go on about</a> <a href="#">how about that</a> <a href="#">just about</a> <a href="#">mad about</a> <a href="#">make no bones about it</a> <a href="#">no bones about it</a> <a href="#">nothing to write home about</a> <a href="#">nuts about</a> <a href="#">on about</a> <a href="#">put out about</a> <a href="#">see a man about a dog</a> <a href="#">set about</a> <a href="#">talk about</a> <a href="#">there's no two ways about it</a> <a href="#">turn about is fair play</a> <a href="#">wild about</a>
above	
	<a href="#">a cut above</a> <a href="#">above and beyond the call of duty</a> <a href="#">above board</a> <a href="#">above the law</a> <a href="#">cut above</a> <a href="#">keep your head above water</a>
abreast	
	<a href="#">stay abreast</a> <a href="#">two abreast</a>
absence	
	<a href="#">absence makes the heart grow fonder</a>
according	

[according to Hoyle](#)

account

[account for](#)

[call into account](#)

[pad an expense account](#)

ace

[ace in the hole](#)

[an ace up your sleeve](#)

achilles

[Achilles heel](#)

acid

[acid test](#)

[the acid test](#)

acorn

[even a blind pig can find an acorn](#)

acre

[all over hell's half acre](#)

[hell's half acre \[B\]](#)

across

[across the board](#)

[come across](#)

[come across \[B\]](#)

[run across](#)

act

[a tough act to follow](#)

[act out](#)

[act up](#)

[caught in the act](#)

[class act](#)

[clean up your act](#)

[get your act together](#)

[tough act to follow](#)

action

[a piece of the action](#)

[actions speak louder than words](#)

[all talk and no action](#)

[take action](#)

activity

[a beehive of activity](#)

[beehive of activity](#)

ad

[ad lib \(ad libitum\)](#)

adam

	<a href="#">don't know him from Adam</a>
add	
	<a href="#">add fuel to the fire</a> <a href="#">add insult to injury</a> <a href="#">doesn't add up</a>
advances	
	<a href="#">make advances</a>
advantage	
	<a href="#">take advantage of</a>
affair	
	<a href="#">have an affair</a>
afraid	
	<a href="#">afraid so</a> <a href="#">I'm afraid so</a>
afro	
	<a href="#">slap my afro / slap my fro</a>
after	
	<a href="#">after all</a> <a href="#">fish and company stink after three days</a> <a href="#">get after</a> <a href="#">look after</a> <a href="#">take after</a> <a href="#">throw good money after bad</a>
afternoon	
	<a href="#">good afternoon</a>
again	
	<a href="#">at it again</a> <a href="#">come again</a> <a href="#">everything old is new again</a> <a href="#">how's that again</a> <a href="#">run it by me again</a> <a href="#">time and again</a>
against	
	<a href="#">against all odds</a> <a href="#">against the grain</a> <a href="#">beat your head against a stone wall</a> <a href="#">dead set against</a> <a href="#">go against the grain</a> <a href="#">if you're not with us you're against us</a> <a href="#">knock against</a> <a href="#">raise your hand against</a> <a href="#">the knock against</a>

[up against](#)  
[up against it](#)

age

[a coon's age](#)  
[a dog's age](#)  
[age before beauty](#)  
[age of majority](#)  
[at the ripe old age](#)  
[come of age](#)  
[coon's age](#)  
[dog's age](#)  
[for a dog's age](#)  
[golden age](#)  
[in a coon's age](#)  
[tender age of](#)  
[the age of majority](#)  
[the tender age of](#)

agenda

[hidden agenda](#)

agreement

[in agreement](#)

ahead

[ahead of the curve](#)  
[ahead of the game](#)  
[full steam ahead](#)  
[get ahead](#)  
[quit while you're ahead](#)

ain't

[ain't](#)  
[ain't half-bad](#)  
[is you is, or is you ain't my baby](#)  
[it ain't over till it's over](#)  
[it ain't over till the fat lady sings](#)

air

[a breath of fresh air](#)  
[air rage](#)  
[air was blue](#)  
[breath of fresh air](#)  
[clear the air](#)  
[hot air](#)  
[into thin air](#)  
[put on airs](#)

[the air was blue](#)

[turn the air blue](#)

[up in the air](#)

airhead

[airhead](#)

[an airhead](#)

airy-fairy

[airy-fairy](#)

aisles

[rolling in the aisles](#)

aka

[a.k.a. \(aka\)](#)

alcohol

[under the influence of alcohol](#)

alive

[come alive](#)

[stay alive](#)

all

[after all](#)

[against all odds](#)

[all around Robin Hood's barn](#)

[all decked out](#)

[all ears](#)

[all eyes](#)

[all fired up](#)

[all get-out](#)

[all goes well](#)

[all hat and no cattle](#)

[all hell broke loose](#)

[all his marbles](#)

[all in](#)

[all in a day's work](#)

[all in all](#)

[all it's cracked up to be](#)

[all joking aside](#)

[all over but the shouting](#)

[all over hell's half acre](#)

[all set](#)

[all she wrote](#)

[all shook up](#)

[all show](#)

[all spruced up](#)

[all talk and no action](#)  
[all teed up](#)  
[all that jazz](#)  
[all the bells and whistles](#)  
[all the livelong day](#)  
[all the marbles](#)  
[all the tea in China](#)  
[all the way to Egery and back](#)  
[all the world's a stage](#)  
[all things being equal](#)  
[all things to all people](#)  
[all thumbs](#)  
[all walks of life](#)  
[all washed up](#)  
[all wet](#)  
[all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy](#)  
[all your eggs in one basket](#)  
[all's fair in love and war](#)  
[all's well that ends well](#)  
[as all get-out](#)  
[at all](#)  
[bugger all \[B\]](#)  
[by all means](#)  
[don't put all your eggs in one basket](#)  
[done it all](#)  
[for all the tea in China](#)  
[fuck all](#)  
[give it all you've got](#)  
[go all the way \(sex\)](#)  
[go all the way \(sports\)](#)  
[hit on all cylinders](#)  
[if that doesn't beat all](#)  
[it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all](#)  
[it's all over but the crying](#)  
[it's all over but the shouting](#)  
[jack of all trades](#)  
[let it all hang out](#)  
[life is not all guns and roses](#)  
[love conquers all](#)  
[money is the root of all evil](#)  
[not all it's cracked up...](#)  
[not all there](#)

[not at all](#)  
[not for all the tea in China](#)  
[on all fours](#)  
[play it for all it's worth](#)  
[pull out all the stops](#)  
[put all your eggs in...](#)  
[take you for all you've got](#)  
[tell all](#)  
[that's all she wrote](#)  
[winner take all](#)  
[with all my heart](#)  
[written all over your face](#)

all-out

[all-out](#)  
[go all-out](#)

alley

[up your alley](#)

alone

[leave well enough alone](#)

along

[along for the ride](#)  
[along those lines](#)  
[get along](#)  
[go along for the ride](#)  
[go along with](#)  
[how are you getting along](#)  
[play along](#)  
[read along](#)  
[string along](#)

always

[first pancake is always spoiled](#)  
[the customer is always right](#)  
[the first pancake is always spoiled](#)

amends

[make amends](#)

american

[American as apple pie](#)  
[as American as apple pie](#)

amuck

[run amuck](#)

anal

[anal retentive](#)

anchor	<a href="#">anchor you</a>
angels	<a href="#">angels fear to tread</a> <a href="#">where angels fear to tread</a>
another	<a href="#">another nail in your coffin</a> <a href="#">one man's garbage is another man's art</a> <a href="#">one man's meat is another man's poison</a> <a href="#">tell me another one</a>
answer	<a href="#">a pat answer</a> <a href="#">pat answer</a>
ante	<a href="#">ante up</a> <a href="#">up the ante</a>
any	<a href="#">any old thing</a> <a href="#">any way you slice it</a> <a href="#">any word</a> <a href="#">by any means</a> <a href="#">by any stretch...</a> <a href="#">don't give me any of your lip</a> <a href="#">go to any trouble</a> <a href="#">go to great lengths/ go to any lengths</a> <a href="#">in any way, shape or form</a> <a href="#">not by any stretch of the imagination</a>
anybody	<a href="#">you can't sell anybody if you don't love everybody</a>
anything	<a href="#">anything goes</a> <a href="#">game for anything</a>
apart	<a href="#">fall apart (at the seams)</a> <a href="#">tear me apart</a> <a href="#">worlds apart</a>
ape	<a href="#">go ape</a>
appears	<a href="#">it appears to me</a>
appetite	<a href="#">lose your appetite</a> <a href="#">whet your appetite</a>

apple	<a href="#">American as apple pie</a> <a href="#">an apple a day keeps the doctor away</a> <a href="#">apple a day...</a> <a href="#">apple of his eye</a> <a href="#">as American as apple pie</a> <a href="#">bad apple</a> <a href="#">Big Apple</a> <a href="#">how do you like them apples</a> <a href="#">motherhood and apple pie</a> <a href="#">road apple</a> <a href="#">shit fire and apple butter</a> <a href="#">the apple doesn't fall far from the tree</a> <a href="#">the apple of his eye</a> <a href="#">The Big Apple</a> <a href="#">upset the apple cart</a>
apple-pie	<a href="#">apple-pie order</a>
approval	<a href="#">on approval</a>
apron	<a href="#">tied to your mother's apron strings</a>
are	<a href="#">you're not kidding/ you aren't kidding</a>
area	<a href="#">grey area</a>
argyle	<a href="#">God bless the Duke of Argyle</a>
arm	<a href="#">a babe in arms</a> <a href="#">a good arm</a> <a href="#">a shot in the arm</a> <a href="#">babe in arms</a> <a href="#">cost an arm and a leg</a> <a href="#">give an arm and a leg</a> <a href="#">give my right arm</a> <a href="#">good arm</a> <a href="#">lay down your arms</a> <a href="#">long arm of the law</a> <a href="#">shot in the arm</a> <a href="#">the long arm of the law</a> <a href="#">throw down your arms</a>

[twist my arm](#)

[up in arms](#)

armed

[armed to the teeth](#)

around

[all around Robin Hood's barn](#)

[around Robin Hood's barn](#)

[around the bend](#)

[around the clock](#)

[beat around the bush](#)

[been around](#)

[bomb around](#)

[circles around you](#)

[come around](#)

[drive around](#)

[fart around \[B\]](#)

[find a way around](#)

[fool around](#)

[get around](#)

[get around it](#)

[get around to](#)

[get your mind around](#)

[go around the bend](#)

[go around with](#)

[hang around](#)

[horse around](#)

[jack me around](#)

[jerk me around](#)

[joke around](#)

[kicking around](#)

[knock around with](#)

[know your way around](#)

[pass around](#)

[play around](#)

[pussyfoot around](#)

[roll around](#)

[run circles around you](#)

[show you around](#)

[sleep around \[B\]](#)

[tear around](#)

[the room is so small you have to go outside turn around](#)

[throw your weight around](#)

[tool around](#)  
[toss it around](#)  
[turn you around](#)  
[wait around](#)  
[what goes around comes around](#)  
[wrap around his finger](#)  
[wrap your mind around](#)

arrest

[under arrest](#)

art

[one man's garbage is another man's art](#)  
[state of the art](#)  
[work of art](#)

aside

[all joking aside](#)  
[joking aside](#)  
[step aside](#)

ask

[ask for it](#)  
[ask for the moon](#)

asked

[no questions asked](#)

asking

[asking price](#)

asleep

[asleep at the switch](#)  
[fall asleep](#)  
[sound asleep](#)

ass

[a horse's ass \[B\]](#)  
[a pain in the ass \[B\]](#)  
[a piece of ass \[B\]](#)  
[ass](#)  
[ass \[B\]](#)  
[ass into gear](#)  
[ass on the line](#)  
[ass over teakettle](#)  
[better than a kick in the ass \[B\]](#)  
[burn your ass \[B\]](#)  
[cat's ass](#)  
[cover your ass \[B\]](#)  
[don't know your ass from a hole in the ground \[B\]](#)

[haul ass \[B\]](#)  
[horse shoes up his ass \[B\]](#)  
[horse's ass \[B\]](#)  
[in a pig's ass \[B\]](#)  
[jive ass \[B\]](#)  
[kick ass \[B\]](#)  
[kick ass](#)  
[kick some ass](#)  
[kiss ass \[B\]](#)  
[lard butt/lard ass \[B\]](#)  
[look up a dead horse's ass \[B\]](#)  
[move your ass](#)  
[my ass](#)  
[on your ass \[B\]](#)  
[pain in the ass \[B\]](#)  
[pedal her ass \[B\]](#)  
[piano tied to your ass \[B\]](#)  
[piece of ass \[B\]](#)  
[stick it up your ass \[B\]](#)  
[the cat's ass \[B\]](#)  
[tits and ass \(T & A\) \[B\]](#)  
[whup your ass](#)  
[work your ass off \[B\]](#)

assassination

[character assassination](#)

assured

[rest assured](#)

astray

[the best-laid plans of mice and men go oft astray](#)

at

[a bit at sea](#)

[an old hand at](#)

[asleep at the switch](#)

[at a glance](#)

[at a good clip](#)

[at a loss for words](#)

[at a moment's notice](#)

[at all](#)

[at bay](#)

[at death's door](#)

[at ease](#)

[at face value](#)

[at fault](#)

[at first glance](#)

[at first light](#)

[at heart](#)

[at it again](#)

[at least](#)

[at liberty](#)

[at loggerheads](#)

[at loose ends](#)

[at my wits' end](#)

[at odds](#)

[at one fell swoop](#)

[at once](#)

[at one time](#)

[at peace](#)

[at rest](#)

[at sixes and sevens](#)

[at stake](#)

[at the crack of dawn](#)

[at the drop of a hat](#)

[at the end of my rope/ at the end of my tether](#)

[at the hands of](#)

[at the ripe old age](#)

[at the top of her game](#)

[at the top of his voice](#)

[at the wheel](#)

[at this point in time](#)

[at will](#)

[at your beck and call](#)

[at your fingertips](#)

[back at it](#)

[back at ya](#)

[best interests at heart](#)

[catch you at a bad time](#)

[charity begins at home](#)

[chomping at the bit](#)

[fall apart \(at the seams\)](#)

[first crack at](#)

[get a shot at](#)

[get at](#)

[get at it](#)

[get back at](#)

[go at a good clip](#)  
[hard at it](#)  
[have a shot at](#)  
[have at me](#)  
[it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all](#)  
[jump at the chance](#)  
[kick at the cat](#)  
[light at the end of the tunnel](#)  
[look down your nose at](#)  
[love at first sight](#)  
[make yourself at home](#)  
[more than you can shake a stick at](#)  
[not at all](#)  
[nothing to sneeze at](#)  
[one at a time](#)  
[pluck at the heart strings](#)  
[point a finger at](#)  
[poke fun at](#)  
[put you at ease](#)  
[run off at the mouth](#)  
[set your mind at ease](#)  
[shake a stick at](#)  
[sick at heart](#)  
[snap at](#)  
[stop at nothing](#)  
[take a poke at](#)  
[the wolf is at the door](#)  
[throw the book at](#)  
[throw yourself at him](#)  
[tip the scales at](#)  
[try your hand at](#)  
[turn up your nose at](#)  
[weigh in at](#)  
[where it's at](#)  
[young at heart](#)

attaboy	
---------	--

	<a href="#">attaboy (that a boy)</a>
--	--------------------------------------

attack	
--------	--

	<a href="#">have an attack</a> <a href="#">two-fisted attack</a>
--	---

attagirl	
----------	--

	<a href="#">attagirl (that a girl)</a>
--	--

attention

[call attention to](#)  
[draw attention to](#)  
[draw it to my attention](#)  
[get your attention](#)  
[pay attention](#)

attitude

[an attitude](#)

authority

[line of authority](#)

awake

[stay awake](#)  
[wide awake](#)

away

[an apple a day keeps the doctor away](#)  
[away out](#)  
[away out of line](#)  
[away to the races](#)  
[blow them away](#)  
[blow you away](#)  
[break away](#)  
[do away with](#)  
[don't go away mad; just go away](#)  
[fire away](#)  
[get away with](#)  
[get carried away](#)  
[pass away](#)  
[piss away \[B\]](#)  
[plug away](#)  
[put away](#)  
[put you away](#)  
[right away](#)  
[salt away](#)  
[slip away](#)  
[slug away](#)  
[spirit away](#)  
[squirrel away](#)  
[stand away](#)  
[straight away](#)  
[talk away](#)  
[the one that got away](#)  
[throw away](#)

[way out \(away out\)](#)  
[way out of line \(away out of line\)](#)  
[win going away](#)

awesome

[awesome](#)  
[totally awesome](#)

awful

[god awful](#)

axe

[an axe to grind](#)  
[axe to grind](#)  
[give you the axe](#)

axed

[get axed](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Index B

babe

[a babe in arms](#)  
[a babe in the woods](#)  
[babe](#)  
[babe in arms](#)  
[babe in the woods](#)

baby

[baby blues](#)  
[baby boomer](#)  
[is you is, or is you ain't my baby](#)  
[throw the baby out with the bath water](#)

back

[all the way to Egery and back](#)  
[back at it](#)  
[back at ya](#)  
[back down](#)  
[back off](#)  
[back on your feet](#)  
[back out](#)  
[back teeth are floating](#)  
[back to square one](#)  
[back to the drawing board](#)  
[back to the grind](#)  
[back up](#)  
[back you](#)  
[back yourself into a corner](#)  
[behind your back](#)  
[bounce back](#)  
[come back to haunt you](#)  
[drop back](#)  
[ears pinned back](#)  
[get back at](#)  
[get him back](#)  
[get off my back](#)  
[get this monkey off my back](#)

[get you back](#)  
[get your back up](#)  
[get your ears pinned back](#)  
[give you the shirt off his back](#)  
[go back on](#)  
[in the back of my mind](#)  
[kick back](#)  
[know like the back of your hand](#)  
[laid back](#)  
[monkey off my back](#)  
[off my back](#)  
[on my back](#)  
[on the back burner](#)  
[pat on the back](#)  
[pay back](#)  
[pay him back](#)  
[set you back](#)  
[so small you had to back out to change your mind](#)  
[straw that broke the camel's back](#)  
[take a back seat](#)  
[take it back](#)  
[talk back](#)  
[turn your back on](#)

backpack

[backpack \(business\)](#)

backroom

[backroom boys](#)

backside

[backside](#)

backup

[backup](#)

backwards

[bend over backwards](#)

bacon

[bring home the bacon](#)[save your bacon](#)

bad

[a bad taste in my mouth](#)[a bad time](#)[bad apple](#)[bad blood](#)[bad breath](#)

[bad date](#)[bad news](#)[bad taste in my mouth](#)[catch you at a bad time](#)[Dear Dad, No mon, no fun, your son! Dear Son, So sad, too bad, your dad!](#)[give me a bad time](#)[go bad](#)[got it bad](#)[in a bad way](#)[in bad faith](#)[in bad shape](#)[in your bad books](#)[not half bad](#)[off to a bad start](#)[put you in a bad mood](#)[there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so](#)[throw good money after bad](#)[too bad](#)[want it so bad I can taste it](#)

badmouth

[badmouth](#)

bafflegab

[bafflegab](#)

bag

[a doggy bag](#)[bag and baggage](#)[bag lady](#)[bag of tricks](#)[bag some rays](#)[cat's out of the bag](#)[check your bags](#)[doggy bag](#)[holding the bag](#)[in the bag](#)[it's in the bag](#)[leave you holding the bag](#)[left holding the bag](#)[let the cat out of the bag](#)[the cat's out of the bag](#)

bagel

[bagel](#)

bageled

[get bageled](#)

baggage

[bag and baggage](#)

bah

[bah](#)

bail

[bail me out](#)

[bail out](#)

bait

[fish or cut bait](#)

balance

[balance of power](#)

[the balance of power](#)

balderdash

[balderdash](#)

ball

[a lot on the ball](#)

[ball her \[B\]](#)

[ball's in your court](#)

[behind the eight ball](#)

[drop the ball](#)

[got the balls \[B\]](#)

[got you by the balls \[B\]](#)

[have a ball](#)

[have the balls \[B\]](#)

[in the ball park](#)

[keep the ball rolling](#)

[on the ball](#)

[out of the ball park](#)

[spike the ball](#)

[that's the way the ball bounces](#)

[the ball's in your court](#)

[the whole ball of wax](#)

ball-park

[a ball-park figure](#)

[ball-park figure](#)

ballistic

[ballistic](#)

[go ballistic](#)

balloon

[trial balloon](#)

baloney

[baloney](#)

bam	<a href="#">bam</a>
bananas	<a href="#">bananas</a> <a href="#">fingers the size of bananas</a> <a href="#">go bananas</a> <a href="#">tough bananas</a>
band	<a href="#">strike up the band</a> <a href="#">to beat the band</a>
bandwagon	<a href="#">on the bandwagon</a>
bandwidth	<a href="#">bandwidth</a>
bang	<a href="#">bang [B]</a> <a href="#">bang for your buck</a> <a href="#">bang on</a> <a href="#">get a bang out of</a> <a href="#">start with a bang</a>
bank	<a href="#">bank on</a> <a href="#">break the bank</a> <a href="#">piggy bank</a>
bankroll	<a href="#">bankroll</a>
baptism	<a href="#">baptism by fire</a>
bar	<a href="#">a bar fly</a> <a href="#">a bar star</a> <a href="#">bar fly</a> <a href="#">bar hop</a> <a href="#">bar none</a> <a href="#">bar star</a> <a href="#">behind bars</a> <a href="#">belly up to the bar</a> <a href="#">hit the bar</a> <a href="#">kitty bar the door</a> <a href="#">nut bar, nut case</a> <a href="#">raise the bar</a>
bare	

[bare bones](#)

[bare your soul](#)

[laid bare](#)

bare-faced

[a bare-faced lie](#)

[bare-faced lie](#)

barely

[so small you could barely swing a cat](#)

barf

[barf](#)

bargain

[drive a hard bargain](#)

[strike a bargain](#)

bark

[bark is worse than his bite](#)

[bark up the wrong tree](#)

barn

[all around Robin Hood's barn](#)

[around Robin Hood's barn](#)

barnburner

[a barnburner](#)

[barnburner](#)

barred

[no holds barred](#)

barrel

[a barrel of laughs](#)

[lock, stock and barrel](#)

[scrape the bottom of the barrel](#)

[shooting fish in a barrel](#)

barrelhead

[cash on the barrelhead](#)

base

[get to first base](#)

[touch base](#)

baseball

[a clutch hitter \(baseball\)](#)

[a three-bagger \(baseball\)](#)

[clutch hitter \(baseball\)](#)

[hit and run \(baseball\)](#)

[home run \(baseball\)](#)

[pinch-hitter \(baseball\)](#)

[strike out \(baseball\)](#)

bash

[bash](#)

basket

[a basket case](#)

[all your eggs in one basket](#)

[basket case](#)

[don't put all your eggs in one basket](#)

basketful

[grinning like a bushel basketful of possum heads](#)

basta

[basta la musica](#)

bat

[bat a thousand](#)

[bat an eye](#)

[bat five hundred](#)

[bat her eyes](#)

[go to bat for](#)

[like a bat out of hell](#)

[off the bat](#)

[right off the bat](#)

[went to bat for](#)

bated

[bated breath](#)

[wait with bated breath](#)

[with bated breath](#)

bath

[throw the baby out with the bath water](#)

batting

[without batting an eye](#)

battle

[half the battle](#)

[how goes the battle](#)

[uphill battle](#)

battleaxe

[battleaxe](#)

batty

[batty](#)

[drive me batty](#)

bawl

[bawl me out](#)

bawling

[a bawling out](#)

bay

[at bay](#)  
[in sick bay](#)

be-all

[be-all, end-all](#)  
[the be-all, end-all](#)  
[the end-all, be-all](#)

bean

[a hill of beans](#)  
[bean pole](#)  
[cool beans](#)  
[hill of beans](#)  
[row of beans](#)  
[spill the beans](#)  
[string bean](#)

bear

[bear down](#)  
[bear the brunt](#)

beat

[beat a dead horse](#)  
[beat a hasty retreat](#)  
[beat around the bush](#)  
[beat it](#)  
[beat the pants off](#)  
[beat the rap](#)  
[beat up](#)  
[beat up on](#)  
[beat your head against a stone wall](#)  
[beat your time](#)  
[if that doesn't beat all](#)  
[on the beat](#)  
[to beat the band](#)

beaten

[off the beaten track](#)

beater

[beater](#)  
[world beater](#)

beauties

[bevy of beauties](#)

beauty

[age before beauty](#)  
[beauty is in the eye of the beholder](#)  
[beauty is only skin deep](#)

beaver

[as busy as a beaver](#)[busy as a beaver](#)[eager beaver](#)

beck

[at your beck and call](#)[beck and call](#)

become

[become of](#)[becomes you](#)

bed

[a bed of roses](#)[bed down](#)[get up on the wrong side of bed](#)[make the bed](#)[put to bed \(print media\)](#)[wake up on the wrong side of bed](#)[wet the bed](#)

bee

[a bee in her bonnet](#)[the bee's knees](#)

beef

[beef it up](#)[what's your beef](#)

beehive

[a beehive of activity](#)[beehive of activity](#)

beeline

[beeline](#)[make a beeline](#)

been

[been around](#)[been had](#)[it's been a slice \(of life\)](#)

beer

[cry in your beer](#)

before

[age before beauty](#)[before you can say Jack Robinson](#)[calm before the storm](#)[cart before the horse](#)[count your chickens before they hatch](#)[don't count your chickens before they hatch](#)

[pride goeth before a fall](#)  
[right before my eyes](#)  
[the calm before the storm](#)  
[the cart before the horse](#)

beg

[beg off](#)  
[beg to differ](#)  
[beg your pardon](#)  
[begs the question](#)

beggars

[beggars can't be choosers](#)

begins

[charity begins at home](#)

behalf

[on behalf of](#)

behavior

[on my best behavior](#)

behind

[behind bars](#)  
[behind the curve](#)  
[behind the eight ball](#)  
[behind the scenes](#)  
[behind your back](#)  
[drop behind](#)  
[fall behind](#)  
[stand behind](#)  
[still wet behind the ears](#)  
[wet behind the ears](#)

behold

[lo and behold](#)

beholder

[beauty is in the eye of the beholder](#)

being

[all things being equal](#)  
[being there](#)

believe

[believe my ears](#)  
[believe my eyes](#)  
[can't believe my ears](#)  
[can't believe my eyes](#)  
[couldn't believe my ears](#)  
[hard to believe](#)

[led to believe](#)  
[make believe](#)

bell

[all the bells and whistles](#)  
[bells and whistles](#)  
[clear as a bell](#)  
[had his bell rung](#)  
[hell's bells](#)  
[ring a bell](#)  
[with bells on](#)

belly

[belly up](#)  
[belly up to the bar](#)  
[yellow belly](#)

bellyache

[bellyache](#)

bellyful

[had a bellyful](#)

below

[a notch below](#)  
[below the poverty line](#)  
[notch below](#)

belt

[belt you](#)  
[grain belt](#)  
[had a belt](#)  
[tighten our belts](#)  
[under my belt](#)

bend

[around the bend](#)  
[bend over backwards](#)  
[bend the rules](#)  
[bend your ear](#)  
[bend your elbow](#)  
[go around the bend](#)

bender

[fender bender](#)

benefit

[benefit of the doubt](#)  
[give you the benefit...](#)  
[the benefit of the doubt](#)

bent

[hell bent for election](#)

berserk

[go berserk](#)

beside

[beside myself](#)

[beside the point](#)

best

[best foot forward](#)

[best interests at heart](#)

[best laid plans](#)

[best of both worlds](#)

[give it your best shot](#)

[give your best](#)

[hit me with your best shot](#)

[honesty is the best policy](#)

[on my best behavior](#)

[put your best foot forward](#)

[Sunday best](#)

[the best of both worlds](#)

[the best things in life are free](#)

[to the best of my knowledge](#)

best-laid

[the best-laid plans of mice and men go oft astray](#)

bet

[a sure bet](#)

[bet on](#)

[bet on a lame rooster](#)

[bet you dollars to donuts](#)

[good bet](#)

[hedge your bets](#)

[sure bet](#)

[you bet your boots](#)

[you can bet your bottom dollar](#)

betcha

[you betcha](#)

betsy

[heavens to Betsy](#)

better

[better half](#)

[better late than never](#)

[better off](#)

[better than a kick in the ass \[B\]](#)

[better than sex](#)  
[better the devil you know...](#)  
[better to have loved...](#)  
[build a better mousetrap](#)  
[change for the better](#)  
[discretion is the better part of valor](#)  
[for better or worse](#)  
[go one better](#)  
[had better](#)  
[it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all](#)  
[know better](#)  
[make it better](#)  
[seen better days](#)  
[think better of it](#)  
[two heads are better than one](#)

between

[between a rock and a hard place](#)  
[between sixes and sevens](#)  
[between the devil and the deep blue sea](#)  
[betwixt and between](#)  
[fall between the cracks](#)  
[fall between two stools](#)  
[few and far between](#)  
[read between the lines](#)  
[tail between his legs](#)  
[there's not much to choose between them](#)  
[with his tail between his legs](#)

betwixt

[betwixt and between](#)

bevy

[bevy of beauties](#)

beyond

[above and beyond the call of duty](#)  
[beyond help](#)  
[beyond me](#)  
[beyond repair](#)  
[beyond the call of duty](#)  
[beyond the pale](#)  
[it's beyond me](#)

bible

[that's his bible](#)

biffbiffy

[biff/biffy](#)

big

[a big rig](#)[a big shot](#)[a big wheel](#)[a big wig](#)[Big Apple](#)[big boys](#)[big break](#)[big bucks](#)[big cheese](#)[big deal](#)[big hairy deal](#)[big picture](#)[big rig](#)[big shot](#)[big time](#)[big wheel](#)[big wigs](#)[in a big way](#)[make a big deal of it](#)[make a big to-do](#)[make it big](#)[open up a big can of whoop-ass](#)[play a big part](#)[talk big](#)[The Big Apple](#)[the big cheese](#)[The Big O](#)[the big O](#)[the big picture](#)[too big for his britches](#)[what's the big idea](#)[win big](#)

big-sky

[big-sky thinking](#)

bigfoot

[Bigfoot](#)

bigger

[bigger fish to fry](#)[bigger than life](#)[bigger they are...](#)

[the bigger they are the harder they fall](#)

bigmouth

[bigmouth](#)

bilk

[bilk](#)

bill

[a clean bill of health](#)

[clean bill of health](#)

[fill the bill](#)

[foot the bill](#)

[put it on the bill](#)

bimbo

[a bimbo](#)

[bimbo](#)

bin

[loony bin](#)

[sin bin \(hockey\)](#)

[the sin bin \(hockey\)](#)

binner

[binner](#)

bird

[a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush](#)

[a little bird told me](#)

[birds of a feather flock together](#)

[early bird](#)

[for the birds](#)

[get the finger \[B\] \(get the bird\)](#)

[had the bird](#)

[happy as a box of birds](#)

[have a bird](#)

[kill two birds \(with one stone\)](#)

[little bird told me](#)

[naked as a jay bird](#)

[strictly for the birds](#)

[the early bird gets the worm](#)

birdbrain

[birdbrain](#)

birder

[birder](#)

birthday

[birthday suit](#)

bit

[a bit at sea](#)

[a bit dense](#)  
[a bit off/a bit mental](#)  
[bit by bit](#)  
[bit off](#)  
[bits and pieces](#)  
[chomping at the bit](#)  
[hair off the dog that bit you](#)  
[in a bit](#)  
[six bits](#)  
[two bits](#)

bit-part

[play a bit-part](#)

bitch

[a bitch \[B\]](#)

[bitch](#)

[bitch \[B\]](#)

bite

[a bite to eat](#)

[bark is worse than his bite](#)

[bite me \[B\]](#)

[bite off more than you can chew](#)

[bite the bullet](#)

[bite the dust](#)

[bite the hand that feeds you](#)

[bite your tongue](#)

[grab a bite to eat](#)

[have a bite](#)

[sound bite](#)

biter

[biter \(curling\)](#)

bitten

[bitten by the same bug](#)

bitter

[a bitter pill](#)

[bitter end](#)

[bitter pill](#)

[the bitter end](#)

blab

[blab](#)

blabbermouth

[blabbermouth](#)

black

[a black mark](#)  
[black eye](#)  
[Black Friday](#)  
[black mark](#)  
[black out](#)  
[black sheep](#)  
[give a black eye](#)  
[in black and white](#)  
[in the black](#)  
[pot calling the kettle black](#)

black-listed

[black-listed](#)

blackout

[a blackout \(TV\)](#)  
[a blackout \(war\)](#)  
[blackout](#)

blame

[lay the blame](#)  
[shoulder the blame](#)  
[take the blame](#)  
[to blame](#)

blank

[a blank look](#)  
[blank](#)  
[draw a blank](#)  
[mind go blank](#)

blarney

[kiss the blarney stone](#)

blast

[a blast](#)  
[blast](#)  
[blast you](#)  
[full blast](#)  
[have a blast](#)

blasted

[blasted](#)

blaster

[ghetto blaster](#)

bleeding

[bleeding heart](#)

bless

[God bless the Duke of Argyle](#)

blessing

[a blessing in disguise](#)

[blessing in disguise](#)

blind

[blind date](#)

[blind leading the blind](#)

[even a blind pig can find an acorn](#)

[love is blind](#)

[the blind leading the blind](#)

[turn a blind eye](#)

bliss

[ignorance is bliss](#)

blizzard

[a howling blizzard](#)

block

[a chip off the old block](#)

[a mental block](#)

[chip off the old block](#)

[mental block](#)

[new kid on the block](#)

[stumbling block](#)

[writer's block](#)

blood

[bad blood](#)

[blood from a stone](#)

[blood is thicker than water](#)

[blood is up](#)

[blood money](#)

[draw first blood](#)

[get blood from a stone](#)

[in cold blood](#)

[in his blood](#)

[new blood](#)

[out for blood](#)

[smell blood](#)

[written in blood](#)

bloody

[bloody well](#)

[no bloody way](#)

bloomer

[late bloomer](#)

blossom

[whore blossom](#)

blotto	<a href="#">blotto</a>
blow	<a href="#">a blow job [B]</a> <a href="#">blow a bundle</a> <a href="#">blow a kiss</a> <a href="#">blow chunks</a> <a href="#">blow it</a> <a href="#">blow it out of proportion</a> <a href="#">blow it out your ear</a> <a href="#">blow it up (photo)</a> <a href="#">blow job [B]</a> <a href="#">blow me [B]</a> <a href="#">blow me down</a> <a href="#">blow me over</a> <a href="#">blow my cover</a> <a href="#">blow sky high</a> <a href="#">blow snakes (music)</a> <a href="#">blow the lid off</a> <a href="#">blow the whistle</a> <a href="#">blow them away</a> <a href="#">blow this joint</a> <a href="#">blow this Popsicle stand</a> <a href="#">blow to kingdom come</a> <a href="#">blow up</a> <a href="#">blow you away</a> <a href="#">blow you out of the water</a> <a href="#">blow your lid/stack/top</a> <a href="#">blow your mind</a> <a href="#">blow your stones [B]</a> <a href="#">blow your wad</a>
blown	<a href="#">full blown</a>
blowout	<a href="#">a blowout</a> <a href="#">blowout</a>
blue	<a href="#">air was blue</a> <a href="#">baby blues</a> <a href="#">between the devil and the deep blue sea</a> <a href="#">blue</a> <a href="#">blue in the face</a>

[blue moon](#)  
[blue sky](#)  
[bolt from the blue](#)  
[cry the blues](#)  
[feel blue](#)  
[got the blues](#)  
[in a blue moon](#)  
[like a bolt from the blue](#)  
[once in a blue moon](#)  
[out of the blue](#)  
[sky isn't blue](#)  
[something borrowed, something blue](#)  
[the air was blue](#)  
[the sky isn't blue](#)  
[till you're blue in the face](#)  
[true blue](#)  
[turn the air blue](#)  
[until you're blue...](#)

blue-collar

[blue-collar worker](#)

blueline

[give up the blueline \(hockey\)](#)

bluff

[call his bluff](#)

blurt

[blurt out](#)

boar

[as useless as tits on a boar](#)

board

[above board](#)

[across the board](#)

[back to the drawing board](#)

[chairman of the boards \(hockey\)](#)

[go by the boards](#)

[on board](#)

[sounding board](#)

boarding

[boarding \(hockey\)](#)

boat

[don't rock the boat](#)

[float your boat](#)

[miss the boat](#)

[push the boat out](#)  
[rock the boat](#)  
[shoes like boats](#)  
[whatever floats your boat](#)

bob

[Bob's your uncle](#)

bodacious

[bodacious](#)

body

[body language](#)  
[over my dead body](#)

boggle

[boggle your mind](#)

boggling

[mind boggling](#)

bogof

[bogof](#)

boiling

[boiling mad](#)

boils

[what it boils down to](#)

bolt

[bolt from the blue](#)  
[like a bolt from the blue](#)

bomb

[bomb around](#)  
[bomb out](#)

bombed

[bombed](#)

bone

[a bone to pick](#)  
[bare bones](#)  
[bone dry](#)  
[bone of contention](#)  
[bone to pick](#)  
[bone up on](#)  
[hit my funny bone](#)  
[lazy bones](#)  
[make no bones about it](#)  
[no bones about it](#)  
[work my fingers to the bone](#)

bonkers

[bonkers](#)

[go bonkers](#)

bonnet

[a bee in her bonnet](#)

bonzer

[bonzer](#)

boo

[have a boo](#)

[take a boo](#)

booboo

[booboo](#)

[make a booboo](#)

boobs

[boobs \[B\]](#)

boogie

[boogie](#)

book

[book worm](#)

[crack a book](#)

[curl up with a good book](#)

[every trick in the book](#)

[hit the books](#)

[in his good books](#)

[in my good books](#)

[in your bad books](#)

[on the books](#)

[throw the book at](#)

[you can't tell a book by its cover](#)

bookedbooked

[booked/booked up](#)

boom

[boom box](#)

[boom or bust](#)

boomer

[baby boomer](#)

boonies

[in the boonies](#)

boost

[give you a boost](#)

boot

[boot it](#)

[boot up](#)

[Denver boot](#)

[give you the boot](#)  
[quake in his boots](#)  
[to boot](#)  
[you bet your boots](#)

bootleg

[bootleg](#)

booze

[booze](#)

boozing

[boozing buddies](#)

born

[born tired](#)  
[born with a silver spoon in his mouth](#)  
[if you're born to hang, you won't drown](#)  
[one born every minute](#)  
[there's one born every minute](#)  
[wasn't born yesterday](#)

borrow

[don't borrow trouble](#)

borrowed

[something borrowed, something blue](#)

borsch

[cheap like borsch](#)

bosom

[bosom buddy](#)

botch

[botch it](#)

both

[best of both worlds](#)  
[can't have it both ways](#)  
[have it both ways](#)  
[jump in with both feet](#)  
[the best of both worlds](#)

bothered

[hot and bothered](#)

bottle

[bottle drive](#)  
[bottle man](#)  
[bottle up](#)  
[chief cook and bottle washer](#)  
[hit the bottle](#)  
[spin the bottle](#)

bottom

[bottom fell out](#)  
[bottom line](#)  
[bottom out](#)  
[bottom rung](#)  
[bottoms up](#)  
[from the bottom of my heart](#)  
[get to the bottom of](#)  
[hit rock bottom](#)  
[rock bottom](#)  
[scrape the bottom of the barrel](#)  
[the bottom fell out](#)  
[the bottom line](#)  
[you can bet your bottom dollar](#)

bounce

[bounce back](#)  
[dead-cat bounce](#)  
[that's the way the ball bounces](#)

bounds

[by leaps and bounds](#)  
[out of bounds](#)

bouquet

[send a bouquet](#)

bow

[bow out](#)  
[take a bow](#)

bowl

[bowl me over](#)  
[life is just a bowl of cherries](#)

box

[boom box](#)  
[get off your soap box](#)  
[happy as a box of birds](#)  
[soap box](#)  
[think outside the box](#)

boy

['at a boy \(that a boy\)](#)  
[all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy](#)  
[attaboy \(that a boy\)](#)  
[backroom boys](#)  
[big boys](#)  
[boy, oh boy](#)  
[boys will be boys](#)

[fair-haired boy](#)  
[Old Boys' Club](#)  
[one of the boys](#)

boythat

[that a boy/that a girl](#)

bozo

[bozo](#)

brain

[brain](#)  
[brain drain](#)  
[brain is fried](#)  
[brain storm](#)  
[brain traffic](#)  
[more money than brains](#)  
[pick your brains](#)  
[popcorn brain](#)  
[rack my brain](#)  
[what a brain](#)

brakes

[hit the brakes](#)

branch

[branch office](#)  
[branch out](#)

brand

[brand new/ brand spanking new](#)

brass

[down to brass tacks](#)  
[get down to brass tacks](#)

brat

[spoiled brat](#)

bravo

[bravo](#)

bread

[bread](#)  
[bread and butter](#)  
[don't know which side your bread is buttered on](#)  
[know which side your bread is buttered on](#)

breadbasket

[breadbasket](#)

break

[a lucky break](#)  
[big break](#)  
[break a habit](#)

[break a leg](#)  
[break a promise](#)  
[break a spell](#)  
[break a story](#)  
[break a sweat](#)  
[break and enter](#)  
[break away](#)  
[break curfew](#)  
[break down](#)  
[break in](#)  
[break into](#)  
[break into song](#)  
[break off](#)  
[break out](#)  
[break out in a rash](#)  
[break the bank](#)  
[break the ice](#)  
[break the law/rules](#)  
[break the record](#)  
[break the silence](#)  
[break up](#)  
[break your fall](#)  
[break your heart](#)  
[fever breaks](#)  
[gimme a break](#)  
[give me a break](#)  
[lucky break](#)  
[take a break](#)

breakdown

[breakdown](#)  
[nervous breakdown](#)

breakfast

[a dog's breakfast](#)  
[dog's breakfast](#)  
[eat you for breakfast](#)  
[have you for breakfast](#)

breaking

[the breaking point](#)

breakup

[breakup](#)

breast

[make a clean breast of it](#)

breath

[a breath of fresh air](#)  
[a breath of wind](#)  
[bad breath](#)  
[bated breath](#)  
[breath of fresh air](#)  
[breath of wind](#)  
[don't hold your breath](#)  
[draw a sober breath](#)  
[like dog's breath](#)  
[out of breath](#)  
[under my breath](#)  
[wait with bated breath](#)  
[with bated breath](#)

breathe

[breathe a sigh of relief](#)  
[breathe down my neck](#)  
[breathe easy](#)

breeds

[familiarity breeds contempt](#)

breeze

[shoot the breeze](#)

brewing

[a scandal is brewing](#)  
[scandal is brewing](#)

brick

[a brick](#)  
[a brick short](#)  
[a few bricks short of a full load](#)  
[brick](#)  
[built like a brick shithouse \[B\]](#)  
[come down on like a ton of bricks](#)  
[hit the bricks](#)  
[like a ton of bricks](#)  
[one brick short of a full load](#)  
[shitting bricks \[B\]](#)  
[thick as a brick](#)  
[ton of bricks](#)

bridge

[bridge the gap](#)  
[burn your bridges](#)  
[cross that bridge when I come to it](#)

[water under the bridge](#)

brief

[in brief](#)

bright

[bright](#)

[future looks bright](#)

[on the bright side](#)

bright-eyed

[bright-eyed and bushy-tailed](#)

bring

[bring an end to](#)

[bring home the bacon](#)

[bring it off](#)

[bring the house down](#)

[bring to a close](#)

[bring up](#)

[bring you up short](#)

brink

[on the brink](#)

britches

[too big for his britches](#)

broad

[broad](#)

[broad daylight](#)

[in broad daylight](#)

broke

[all hell broke loose](#)

[broke](#)

[flat broke](#)

[go for broke](#)

[straw that broke the camel's back](#)

broken

[broken dreams](#)

[broken record](#)

[crawl on my hands and knees over broken glass just to see her photo](#)

[like a broken record](#)

broom

[a new broom sweeps clean](#)

broth

[too many cooks spoil the broth](#)

brought

[dance with the one who brought you](#)

brouhaha

[brouhaha](#)

browbeat

[browbeat](#)

brown

[brown nose \[B\]](#)

browed

[browed off](#)

brownie

[brownie points](#)

bruising

[cruising for a bruising](#)

brunt

[bear the brunt](#)

brush

[brush cut](#)[brush it off](#)[brush up on](#)[brush with death](#)[brush with the law](#)[paint with the same brush](#)[tar with the same brush](#)

brush-off

[brush-off](#)[give him the brush-off](#)[the brush-off](#)

bubble

[on the bubble](#)

buck

[bang for your buck](#)[big bucks](#)[buck](#)[buck fever](#)[buck stops here](#)[buck up](#)[pass the buck](#)[the buck stops here](#)

bucket

[a drop in the bucket](#)[drop in the bucket](#)[kick the bucket](#)[sometimes life is a bucket of shit and the handle is inside \[B\]](#)

buckle

[buckle down](#)

[buckle under](#)

[buckle up](#)

buckstop

[buckstop \(military\)](#)

bud

[nip it in the bud](#)

buddies

[boozing buddies](#)

budding

[a budding genius](#)

[budding genius](#)

buddy

[bosom buddy](#)

buff

[car buff](#)

[in the buff](#)

buffalo

[buffalo](#)

bug

[bitten by the same bug](#)

[bug \(someone\)](#)

[chicken on a June bug](#)

[cute as a bug's ear](#)

[like a chicken on a June bug](#)

[Love Bug](#)

[put a bug in my ear](#)

[snug as a bug in a rug](#)

bugger

[bugger all \[B\]](#)

build

[build a better mousetrap](#)

[build up](#)

building

[a sick building](#)

[sick building](#)

built

[built like a brick shithouse \[B\]](#)

bull

[a bull in a china shop](#)

[bull in a china shop](#)

[cock and bull \[B\]](#)

[take the bull by the horns](#)

bullbullshitbs

[bull/bullshit/BS \[B\]](#)

bullet

[bite the bullet](#)

[dodge a bullet](#)

[faster than a speeding bullet](#)

[sweat bullets](#)

[take a bullet](#)

bully

[bully for you](#)

bum

[a bum rap](#)

[bum](#)

[bum rap](#)

[bum's rush](#)

[feeling bum](#)

[make your bum hum](#)

[the bum's rush](#)

bummer

[a bummer](#)

[bummer](#)

bump

[bump and grind \(hockey\)](#)

[bump and grind](#)

[bump into](#)

bumper

[bumper to bumper](#)

bun

[a bun in the oven](#)

[bun in the oven](#)

[buns](#)

[get your buns over here](#)

[work my buns off](#)

[work your buns off](#)

bunch

[a bunch of malarkey](#)

[thanks a bunch](#)

bundle

[a bundle of nerves](#)

[blow a bundle](#)

[bundle](#)

[bundle of nerves](#)

[bundle up](#)  
[drop a bundle](#)  
[make a bundle](#)  
[save a bundle](#)

bunk

[a lot of bunk](#)  
[bunk](#)

bunny

[dust bunny](#)  
[quick like a bunny](#)

burbs

[burbs](#)  
[the burbs](#)

burn

[burn a hole in your pocket](#)  
[burn it in](#)  
[burn out](#)  
[burn the midnight oil](#)  
[burn up](#)  
[burn your ass \[B\]](#)  
[burn your bridges](#)  
[money to burn](#)  
[power to burn](#)  
[slash and burn](#)

burned

[burned](#)  
[get burned](#)

burner

[on the back burner](#)

burning

[burning question](#)  
[ears are burning](#)  
[the burning question](#)

bury

[bury the hatchet](#)

bush

[a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush](#)  
[beat around the bush](#)  
[bush telegraph](#)

bushed

[bushed](#)

bushel

[grinning like a bushel basketful of possum heads](#)

bushwhack	<a href="#">bushwhack</a>
bushy-tailed	<a href="#">bright-eyed and bushy-tailed</a>
business	<a href="#">backpack (business)</a> <a href="#">business as usual</a> <a href="#">cascade (business)</a> <a href="#">fifth business</a> <a href="#">get down to business</a> <a href="#">got no business</a> <a href="#">like nobody's business</a> <a href="#">mean business</a> <a href="#">mind your own business</a> <a href="#">monkey business</a> <a href="#">no business</a> <a href="#">power play (business)</a> <a href="#">risky business</a> <a href="#">strictly business</a> <a href="#">take care of business</a>
busplane	<a href="#">take the bus/plane</a>
bust	<a href="#">boom or bust</a> <a href="#">bust my butt</a> <a href="#">bust out</a> <a href="#">go bust</a>
busted	<a href="#">busted</a>
busy	<a href="#">as busy as a beaver</a> <a href="#">busy as a beaver</a> <a href="#">get busy</a>
but	<a href="#">all over but the shouting</a> <a href="#">but good</a> <a href="#">everything but the kitchen sink</a> <a href="#">it never rains but it pours</a> <a href="#">it's all over but the crying</a> <a href="#">it's all over but the shouting</a> <a href="#">last but not least</a> <a href="#">lights are on but...</a>

[no offense, but...](#)

[the lights are on but nobody's home](#)

[there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so](#)

[you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink](#)

[you can run but you can't hide](#)

butt

[a pain in the butt](#)

[bust my butt](#)

[butt](#)

[butt in](#)

[butt of the joke](#)

[butt out](#)

[kick butt](#)

[pain in the butt](#)

[the butt of the joke](#)

butter

[bread and butter](#)

[butter fingers](#)

[butter up](#)

[butter wouldn't melt in his mouth](#)

[shit fire and apple butter](#)

buttered

[don't know which side your bread is buttered on](#)

[know which side your bread is buttered on](#)

buttlard

[lard butt/lard ass \[B\]](#)

button

[button your lip](#)

[on the button](#)

[pop your buttons](#)

[press the panic button](#)

[push the right buttons](#)

buttonhole

[buttonhole you](#)

buy

[buy a round](#)

[buy into](#)

[buy out](#)

[buy that](#)

[buy the farm](#)

[buy time](#)

[buy up](#)

buyer	<a href="#">buyer's market</a>
buzz	<a href="#">buzz off</a> <a href="#">catch a buzz</a>
buzz-kill	<a href="#">buzz-kill</a>
buzzed	<a href="#">buzzed</a>
buzzword	<a href="#">buzzword</a>
by	<a href="#">baptism by fire</a> <a href="#">bit by bit</a> <a href="#">bitten by the same bug</a> <a href="#">by a country mile</a> <a href="#">by a long shot</a> <a href="#">by all means</a> <a href="#">by and large</a> <a href="#">by any means</a> <a href="#">by any stretch...</a> <a href="#">by cracky</a> <a href="#">by dint of</a> <a href="#">by golly</a> <a href="#">by gosh</a> <a href="#">by guess or by gosh</a> <a href="#">by heart</a> <a href="#">by hook or by crook</a> <a href="#">by its very nature</a> <a href="#">by jove</a> <a href="#">by leaps and bounds</a> <a href="#">by no means</a> <a href="#">by the by</a> <a href="#">by the same token</a> <a href="#">by the seat of your pants</a> <a href="#">by the short hairs</a> <a href="#">by the skin of their teeth</a> <a href="#">by the way</a> <a href="#">by word of mouth</a> <a href="#">catch me by surprise</a> <a href="#">cheek by jowl</a> <a href="#">come by</a>

[fly by the seat of your...](#)  
[fucked by the fickle finger of fate \[B\]](#)  
[get by/scrape by](#)  
[go by the boards](#)  
[go by the name of](#)  
[got you by the balls \[B\]](#)  
[got you by the short hairs](#)  
[hard done by](#)  
[in the pipe five by five](#)  
[let this chance go by](#)  
[little by little](#)  
[live by](#)  
[not by a long shot](#)  
[not by any stretch of the imagination](#)  
[one by one](#)  
[pale by comparison](#)  
[past is slipping by without a trace](#)  
[play it by ear](#)  
[run it by me again](#)  
[scrape by](#)  
[side by side](#)  
[stand by me](#)  
[swear by](#)  
[take by storm](#)  
[take the bull by the horns](#)  
[the past is slipping by without a trace](#)  
[win by a nose](#)  
[you can't tell a book by its cover](#)

bye

[bye](#)

[bye for now](#)

byscrape

[get by/scrape by](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Index C

c'est	<a href="#">c'est la vie</a>
cab	<a href="#">flag a cab</a> <a href="#">hail a cab</a>
cabbagetown	<a href="#">Cabbagetown</a>
cabin	<a href="#">cabin fever</a>
caboodle	<a href="#">kit and caboodle</a> <a href="#">the whole caboodle</a>
cackleberries	<a href="#">cackleberries</a>
cahoots	<a href="#">in cahoots</a>
cain	<a href="#">raise Cain</a>
cake	<a href="#">a piece of cake</a> <a href="#">have your cake and eat it, too</a> <a href="#">icing on the cake</a> <a href="#">nutty as a fruit cake</a> <a href="#">piece of cake</a> <a href="#">take the cake</a> <a href="#">that takes the cake</a>
call	<a href="#">a close call</a> <a href="#">a tough call</a> <a href="#">a wake-up call</a> <a href="#">above and beyond the call of duty</a> <a href="#">at your beck and call</a> <a href="#">beck and call</a> <a href="#">beyond the call of duty</a> <a href="#">call a spade a spade</a>

[call attention to](#)  
[call for](#)  
[call his bluff](#)  
[call into account](#)  
[call it a day](#)  
[call it quits](#)  
[call it square](#)  
[call off](#)  
[call off the dogs](#)  
[call on](#)  
[call tabs](#)  
[call the shots](#)  
[call up](#)  
[close call](#)  
[cold call](#)  
[duty calls](#)  
[give me a call](#)  
[last call](#)  
[nature calls](#)  
[take calls](#)  
[the call of duty](#)  
[tough call](#)  
[wake-up call](#)

calling

[pot calling the kettle black](#)

calm

[calm before the storm](#)  
[calm down](#)  
[the calm before the storm](#)

came

[what came over me](#)

camel

[camel toes \[B\]](#)  
[straw that broke the camel's back](#)

camper

[happy camper](#)

can

[before you can say Jack Robinson](#)  
[beggars can't be choosers](#)  
[bite off more than you can chew](#)  
[can](#)  
[can help it](#)

[can it](#)  
[can of worms](#)  
[can't believe my ears](#)  
[can't believe my eyes](#)  
[can't have it both ways](#)  
[can't help](#)  
[can't hold a candle](#)  
[can't put my finger on it](#)  
[can't put my hands on it](#)  
[can't see for looking](#)  
[can't see the forest for the trees](#)  
[can't stand](#)  
[carry the can](#)  
[catch as catch can](#)  
[course you can](#)  
[even a blind pig can find an acorn](#)  
[faster than a minnow can swim a dipper](#)  
[if you can't cut it, you can't stay](#)  
[if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen](#)  
[more than you can shake a stick at](#)  
[no can do](#)  
[of course you can](#)  
[open a can of worms](#)  
[open up a big can of whoop-ass](#)  
[quicker than you can say Jack Robinson](#)  
[so quiet you can hear a pin drop](#)  
[the can](#)  
[want it so bad I can taste it](#)  
[you can bet your bottom dollar](#)  
[you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink](#)  
[you can run but you can't hide](#)  
[you can thank your lucky stars](#)  
[you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear](#)  
[you can't sell anybody if you don't love everybody](#)  
[you can't teach an old dog new tricks](#)  
[you can't tell a book by its cover](#)

canada

[Canada goose](#)

canary

[canary](#)

candle

[can't hold a candle](#)

[hold a candle](#)

candy

[ear candy](#)

[eye candy](#)

candy-ass

[candy-ass](#)

canned

[canned](#)

cannon

[a loose cannon](#)

[loose cannon](#)

canoe

[paddle your own canoe](#)

canuck

[Canuck](#)

[Johnny Canuck](#)

cap

[a feather in your cap](#)

[feather in your cap](#)

[pop a cap \[B\]](#)

capture

[capture the imagination](#)

car

[car buff](#)

card

[a card](#)

[a full house \(cards\)](#)

[card](#)

[drawing card](#)

[hit me \(card games\)](#)

[play my cards right](#)

[such a card](#)

card-carrying

[card-carrying member](#)

care

[could care less](#)

[couldn't care less](#)

[in my care](#)

[take care](#)

[take care of](#)

[take care of business](#)

[under my care](#)

[who cares](#)

career	<a href="#">checkered career</a>
caribouboo	<a href="#">caribouboo</a>
carpet	<a href="#">haul up on the carpet</a> <a href="#">on the carpet</a> <a href="#">red carpet</a> <a href="#">roll out the red carpet</a> <a href="#">sweep under the carpet</a>
carried	<a href="#">get carried away</a>
carry	<a href="#">carry a tune</a> <a href="#">carry it off</a> <a href="#">carry on</a> <a href="#">carry out</a> <a href="#">carry the can</a> <a href="#">carry the conversation</a> <a href="#">carry the day</a> <a href="#">carry weight</a> <a href="#">carry your weight</a> <a href="#">cash and carry</a>
cart	<a href="#">cart before the horse</a> <a href="#">the cart before the horse</a> <a href="#">upset the apple cart</a>
cascade	<a href="#">cascade (business)</a>
case	<a href="#">a basket case</a> <a href="#">a case of</a> <a href="#">a nut case</a> <a href="#">basket case</a> <a href="#">case in point</a> <a href="#">case of</a> <a href="#">crack this case</a> <a href="#">get off my case</a> <a href="#">have a case of</a> <a href="#">it's a case of</a> <a href="#">make a federal case of it</a> <a href="#">nut bar, nut case</a>

[on my case](#)  
[rest my case](#)

cash

[cash and carry](#)  
[cash cow](#)  
[cash flow](#)  
[cash in](#)  
[cash on the barrelhead](#)  
[cash on the line](#)  
[cash up/cash out](#)  
[cold, hard cash](#)  
[straight cash](#)

cast

[cast a spell](#)  
[cast your vote](#)

castle

[a man's home is his castle](#)

cat

[cat got your tongue](#)  
[cat's ass](#)  
[cat's meow](#)  
[cat's out of the bag](#)  
[cool cat](#)  
[curiosity killed the cat](#)  
[fat cat](#)  
[fraidy cat](#)  
[has the cat got your...](#)  
[kick at the cat](#)  
[let the cat out of the bag](#)  
[raining cats and dogs](#)  
[scaredy cat](#)  
[so small you could barely swing a cat](#)  
[the cat's ass \[B\]](#)  
[the cat's meow](#)  
[the cat's out of the bag](#)  
[there's more than one way to skin a cat](#)

catcall

[catcall](#)

catch

[catch 22](#)  
[catch a buzz](#)  
[catch a cold \(catch cold\)](#)

[catch a glimpse](#)  
[catch a plane/bus/train](#)  
[catch a ride](#)  
[catch as catch can](#)  
[catch hell \[B\]](#)  
[catch it](#)  
[catch me by surprise](#)  
[catch me doing that](#)  
[catch on](#)  
[catch phrase](#)  
[catch some rays](#)  
[catch some z's](#)  
[catch the wave](#)  
[catch up](#)  
[catch up on](#)  
[catch up with](#)  
[catch you at a bad time](#)  
[catch you later](#)  
[catch you off guard](#)  
[catch your death](#)  
[catch your eye](#)  
[there's a catch to it](#)

catch-up

[catch-up](#)  
[play catch-up](#)

cattle

[all hat and no cattle](#)

caught

[caught dead](#)  
[caught flatfooted](#)  
[caught in the act](#)  
[caught looking](#)  
[caught red-handed](#)  
[caught up](#)  
[caught with his pants down](#)  
[get caught](#)  
[get caught up](#)  
[wouldn't be caught dead](#)

cauliflower

[cauliflower ear](#)

cause

[a lost cause](#)

[lost cause](#)

caution

[a caution](#)

[caution](#)

[throw caution to the wind](#)

cave

[cave in](#)

cb

[read me \(CB radio\)](#)

[ten-four \(CB radio\)](#)

ceiling

[hit the ceiling](#)

[scrape me off the ceiling](#)

cement

[cement hands](#)

center

[left, right and center](#)

[right, left and center](#)

cents

[two cents' worth](#)

century

[the turn of the century](#)

[turn of the century](#)

ceremony

[stand on ceremony](#)

certain

[dead certain](#)

chain

[chain letter](#)

[chain of command](#)

[chain reaction](#)

[chain smoker](#)

[pull your chain](#)

[rattle my chain](#)

chair

[grab a chair](#)

[have a chair](#)

[musical chairs](#)

[play musical chairs](#)

[shuffle the chairs on the deck](#)

chairman

[chairman of the boards \(hockey\)](#)

chalk

[chalk it up to](#)  
[chalk one up for you](#)

chance

[a fighting chance](#)  
[a ghost of a chance](#)  
[a slim chance](#)  
[a snowball's chance in hell](#)  
[chances are](#)  
[fat chance](#)  
[fighting chance](#)  
[jump at the chance](#)  
[let this chance go by](#)  
[miss your chance](#)  
[slim chance](#)  
[take a chance](#)  
[take chances](#)

chancy

[no chancy](#)

change

[a chunk of change](#)  
[change for the better](#)  
[change hands](#)  
[change horses in mid stream](#)  
[change of heart](#)  
[change your mind](#)  
[change your tune](#)  
[chunk of change](#)  
[so small you had to back out to change your mind](#)

character

[character assassination](#)  
[character density](#)

charge

[charge it](#)  
[drop charges](#)  
[get a charge out of](#)  
[in charge](#)  
[press charges](#)  
[take charge](#)

charity

[charity begins at home](#)

charley

[charley horse](#)

charming	<a href="#">Prince Charming</a>
chase	<a href="#">a wild goose chase</a> <a href="#">cut to the chase</a> <a href="#">wild goose chase</a>
chaser	<a href="#">chaser</a>
chasing	<a href="#">chasing rainbows</a>
chat	<a href="#">chat her up</a>
cheap	<a href="#">a cheap drunk</a> <a href="#">cheap</a> <a href="#">cheap drunk</a> <a href="#">cheap like borsch</a> <a href="#">cheap skate</a> <a href="#">dirt cheap</a> <a href="#">talk is cheap</a>
cheat	<a href="#">cheat on</a>
check	<a href="#">check it out</a> <a href="#">check out</a> <a href="#">check over</a> <a href="#">check that</a> <a href="#">check this out</a> <a href="#">check up on</a> <a href="#">check your bags</a> <a href="#">rain check</a>
check-out	<a href="#">check-out</a>
checkered	<a href="#">checkered career</a>
checkup	<a href="#">a checkup</a> <a href="#">checkup</a>
cheek	<a href="#">cheek</a> <a href="#">cheek by jowl</a> <a href="#">tongue in cheek</a> <a href="#">turn the other cheek</a>

cheeky	<a href="#">cheeky</a>
cheerio	<a href="#">cheerio</a>
cheers	<a href="#">cheers</a>
cheery-bye	<a href="#">cheery-bye</a>
cheese	<a href="#">big cheese</a> <a href="#">cut the cheese [B]</a> <a href="#">the big cheese</a>
cheesecake	<a href="#">cheesecake</a>
cheesed	<a href="#">cheesed off</a>
cheesy	<a href="#">cheesy</a>
cherries	<a href="#">life is just a bowl of cherries</a>
cherrypicker	<a href="#">cherrypicker (hockey)</a>
chest	<a href="#">get it off your chest</a>
chestnut	<a href="#">chestnut</a>
chew	<a href="#">bite off more than you can chew</a> <a href="#">chew him out</a> <a href="#">chew the fat/ chew the rag</a>
chick	<a href="#">chick</a> <a href="#">chick flick</a> <a href="#">some chick</a>
chicken	<a href="#">a chicken in every pot</a> <a href="#">chicken</a> <a href="#">chicken feed</a> <a href="#">chicken in every pot</a> <a href="#">chicken on a June bug</a> <a href="#">chickens come home to roost</a> <a href="#">count your chickens before they hatch</a> <a href="#">don't count your chickens before they hatch</a>

[like a chicken on a June bug](#)

chickenshit

[chickenshit \[B\]](#)

chief

[chief cook and bottle washer](#)[too many chiefs and not enough Indians](#)

chill

[chill out](#)[take the chill off](#)

chime

[chime in](#)

chimo

[chimo](#)

chin

[a chin wag](#)[chin wag](#)

china

[a bull in a china shop](#)[all the tea in China](#)[bull in a china shop](#)[for all the tea in China](#)[not for all the tea in China](#)

chintzy

[chintzy](#)

chip

[a chip off the old block](#)[chip in](#)[chip off the old block](#)[chip on his shoulder](#)[chips are down](#)[let the chips fall where they may](#)[when the chips are down](#)

chock

[chock full](#)

chockablock

[chockablock](#)

choice

[Hobson's choice](#)[Sophie's choice](#)

choirpreach

[preach to the choir/preach to the converted](#)

choke

[choke](#)

choked

[choked](#)

chomping

[chomping at the bit](#)

choose

[choose sides](#)

[choose up sides](#)

[there's not much to choose between them](#)

choosers

[beggars can't be choosers](#)

chops

[chops](#)

chow

[chow](#)

[chow down](#)

christmas

[Christmas graduate](#)

chromedome

[chromedome](#)

chuck

[chuck it](#)

chunk

[a chunk of change](#)

[blow chunks](#)

[chunk of change](#)

[saw off a chunk \[B\]](#)

[throw chunks](#)

church

[as poor as a church mouse](#)

[darken a church door](#)

[poor as a church mouse](#)

ciao

[ciao](#)

cinch

[lead pipe cinch](#)

circle

[circles around you](#)

[come full circle](#)

[go in circles](#)

[run circles around you](#)

circular

[circular file](#)

circulation	<a href="#">out of circulation</a>
claim	<a href="#">claim to fame</a>
clam	<a href="#">clam</a> <a href="#">clam up</a>
clam/lark	<a href="#">happy as a clam/lark</a>
claptrap	<a href="#">claptrap</a>
class	<a href="#">class act</a> <a href="#">first class</a>
classes	<a href="#">skip classes</a>
clause	<a href="#">grandfather clause</a>
claws	<a href="#">claws are showing</a>
clean	<a href="#">a clean bill of health</a> <a href="#">a new broom sweeps clean</a> <a href="#">as clean as a whistle</a> <a href="#">clean bill of health</a> <a href="#">clean cut</a> <a href="#">clean me out</a> <a href="#">clean up</a> <a href="#">clean up on</a> <a href="#">clean up your act</a> <a href="#">clean up your plate</a> <a href="#">come clean</a> <a href="#">keep your nose clean</a> <a href="#">make a clean breast of it</a> <a href="#">make a clean sweep</a> <a href="#">squeaky clean</a>
cleaners	<a href="#">take you to the cleaners</a>
clear	<a href="#">clear as a bell</a> <a href="#">clear as mud</a> <a href="#">clear out</a> <a href="#">clear sailing</a>

[clear the air](#)  
[clear up](#)  
[clear your head/mind](#)  
[crystal clear](#)  
[make myself clear](#)  
[steer clear](#)

cleared

[name is cleared](#)

click

[click in](#)

cliff-hanger

[a cliff-hanger](#)  
[cliff-hanger](#)

climb

[climb the walls](#)

clink

[in the clink](#)

clip

[at a good clip](#)  
[go at a good clip](#)

clock

['round the clock](#)  
[around the clock](#)  
[on the clock](#)  
[round the clock](#)

close

[a close call](#)  
[a close shave](#)  
[bring to a close](#)  
[close a deal/sale](#)  
[close call](#)  
[close shave](#)  
[close to the vest](#)

closer

[closer](#)

closet

[Fibber McGee's closet](#)  
[out of the closet](#)  
[skeleton in the closet](#)

cloth

[a man of the cloth](#)  
[cut from the same cloth](#)

[man of the cloth](#)

clothes

[a stitch of clothes](#)

[didn't have a stitch of clothes on](#)

[dress clothes](#)

[stitch of clothes on](#)

[without a stitch of clothes on](#)

clotheslined

[clotheslined \(hockey\)](#)

clothing

[a wolf in sheep's clothing](#)

[wolf in sheep's clothing](#)

cloud

[clouds on the horizon](#)

[every cloud has a silver lining](#)

[get your head out of the clouds](#)

[head in the clouds](#)

[on cloud nine](#)

clover

[in clover](#)

club

[Old Boys' Club](#)

clue

[have a clue](#)

clued

[clued in](#)

clueless

[clueless](#)

clunker

[clunker](#)

clutch

[a clutch hitter \(baseball\)](#)

[clutch hitter \(baseball\)](#)

[ride the clutch](#)

clutz

[clutz](#)

coals

[rake you over the coals](#)

coattails

[ride his coattails](#)

cock

[cock and bull \[B\]](#)

cocky

[cocky](#)

cocoon

[cocoon](#)

coffee

[coffee talk](#)

[wake up and smell the coffee](#)

coffin

[another nail in your coffin](#)

[nail in your coffin](#)

coil

[mortal coil](#)

[this mortal coil](#)

coin

[coin](#)

[coin a phrase](#)

[serious coin](#)

[to coin a phrase](#)

cold

[catch a cold \(catch cold\)](#)

[cold call](#)

[cold comfort](#)

[cold feet](#)

[cold shoulder](#)

[cold turkey](#)

[cold, hard cash](#)

[get cold feet](#)

[give you the cold shoulder](#)

[in a cold sweat](#)

[in cold blood](#)

[it's cold / it's hot](#)

[leave out in the cold](#)

[left out in the cold](#)

[out cold](#)

[out in the cold](#)

[stop you cold](#)

[throw cold water on](#)

coldcock

[coldcock](#)

collar

[hot under the collar](#)

collect

[collect my thoughts](#)

collecting	<a href="#">collecting dust</a>
college	<a href="#">put yourself through college</a> <a href="#">the old college try</a>
color	<a href="#">a horse of a different color</a> <a href="#">horse of a different color</a> <a href="#">off color</a> <a href="#">true colors</a>
column	<a href="#">fifth column</a> <a href="#">the fifth column</a>
comb	<a href="#">a fine-toothed comb</a> <a href="#">fine-toothed comb</a>
come	<a href="#">blow to kingdom come</a> <a href="#">chickens come home to roost</a> <a href="#">come [B]</a> <a href="#">come across</a> <a href="#">come across [B]</a> <a href="#">come again</a> <a href="#">come alive</a> <a href="#">come around</a> <a href="#">come back to haunt you</a> <a href="#">come by</a> <a href="#">come clean</a> <a href="#">come down hard</a> <a href="#">come down off your high horse</a> <a href="#">come down on like a ton of bricks</a> <a href="#">come down to earth</a> <a href="#">come down with</a> <a href="#">come full circle</a> <a href="#">come hell or high water</a> <a href="#">come home to roost</a> <a href="#">come into</a> <a href="#">come into play</a> <a href="#">come into your own</a> <a href="#">come naturally</a> <a href="#">come of</a> <a href="#">come of age</a>

[come off](#)  
[come off it](#)  
[come on](#)  
[come on strong](#)  
[come onside](#)  
[come onto](#)  
[come out in the wash](#)  
[come out with](#)  
[come through](#)  
[come to](#)  
[come to a head](#)  
[come to fruition](#)  
[come to grips with](#)  
[come to terms](#)  
[come to terms with](#)  
[come to the point](#)  
[come to think of it](#)  
[come true](#)  
[come undone](#)  
[come unglued](#)  
[come up](#)  
[come up with](#)  
[cross that bridge when I come to it](#)  
[easy come, easy go](#)  
[first come, first served](#)  
[how come](#)  
[seven come eleven](#)  
[till the cows come home](#)  
[what goes around comes around](#)  
[when it comes to](#)  
[when push comes to shove](#)  
[when the crunch comes](#)

come-on

[come-on](#)

comeback

[comeback kid](#)  
[make a comeback](#)  
[mount a comeback](#)

comeuppance

[comeuppance](#)

comfort

[cold comfort](#)

coming	<a href="#">coming out of our ears</a> <a href="#">coming out of your yin yang</a> <a href="#">coming up roses</a> <a href="#">don't know whether you're coming or going</a> <a href="#">got it coming</a> <a href="#">have it coming</a> <a href="#">see it coming</a> <a href="#">up and coming</a>
command	<a href="#">chain of command</a>
commission	<a href="#">out of commission</a>
common	<a href="#">a common thread</a> <a href="#">common sense</a>
company	<a href="#">fish and company stink after three days</a> <a href="#">misery loves company</a> <a href="#">part company</a> <a href="#">two's company, three's a crowd</a>
compare	<a href="#">compare notes</a>
comparison	<a href="#">pale by comparison</a>
compliment	<a href="#">fish for a compliment</a> <a href="#">pay a compliment</a>
comuppins	<a href="#">comuppins</a>
concern	<a href="#">a going concern.</a> <a href="#">going concern</a>
conclusion	<a href="#">a foregone conclusion</a> <a href="#">foregone conclusion</a> <a href="#">jump to conclusions</a>
condition	<a href="#">in mint condition</a> <a href="#">mint condition</a>
conk	<a href="#">conk out</a>
conniption	

[have a conniption](#)

conquers

[love conquers all](#)

consarned

[consarned](#)

contempt

[familiarity breeds contempt](#)

contention

[bone of contention](#)

contest

[no contest](#)

context

[out of context](#)

contract

[a contract out on](#)

[contract out on](#)

control

[in control](#)

[out of control](#)

[under control](#)

conversation

[carry the conversation](#)

[strike up a conversation](#)

converted

[preach to the choir/preach to the converted](#)

cook

[chief cook and bottle washer](#)

[cook](#)

[cook your goose](#)

[too many cooks spoil the broth](#)

cooked

[goose is cooked](#)

[your goose is cooked](#)

cookie

[that's the way the cookie crumbles](#)

[woof your cookies](#)

cooking

[what's cooking](#)

cool

[cool](#)

[cool beans](#)

[cool cat](#)

[cool it](#)

[cool off](#)  
[cool under pressure](#)  
[cool your heels](#)  
[keep your cool](#)  
[lose your cool](#)  
[play it cool](#)  
[that's cool](#)  
[way cool](#)

cooler

[cooler heads prevailed](#)

coon

[a coon's age](#)  
[a pinch of coon shit \[B\]](#)  
[coon's age](#)  
[in a coon's age](#)  
[pinch of coon shit \[B\]](#)

coop

[flew the coop](#)

coot

[old coot](#)

cop

[cop](#)  
[cop out](#)

copacetic

[copacetic](#)

copper

[copper](#)

copy

[hard copy](#)

core

[rotten to the core](#)

corked

[corked](#)

corker

[that's a corker](#)

corner

[back yourself into a corner](#)  
[corner the market](#)  
[corner you](#)  
[cut corners](#)  
[got a corner on](#)  
[in your corner](#)

[out of the corner of my eye](#)  
[turn the corner](#)

cornered

[got you cornered](#)

corny

[corny](#)

correct

[politically correct](#)

corrected

[stand corrected](#)

correctly

[if my memory serves me correctly](#)

cost

[cost a pretty penny](#)

[cost an arm and a leg](#)

[cost you](#)

cotton

[cotton to that](#)

cotton-picking

[cotton-picking](#)

couch

[couch potato](#)

cough

[cough up](#)

could

[could care less](#)

[if looks could kill](#)

[so small you could barely swing a cat](#)

couldn't

[an offer I couldn't refuse](#)

[couldn't believe my ears](#)

[couldn't care less](#)

[offer I couldn't refuse](#)

count

[count on](#)

[count your chickens before they hatch](#)

[don't count your chickens before they hatch](#)

[down for the count](#)

[lose count](#)

counted

[stand up and be counted](#)

country

[by a country mile](#)

couple	<a href="#">had a couple</a>
course	<a href="#">a crash course</a> <a href="#">course you can</a> <a href="#">crash course</a> <a href="#">of course you can</a> <a href="#">run its course</a> <a href="#">take its course</a>
courseware	<a href="#">courseware</a>
court	<a href="#">ball's in your court</a> <a href="#">take you to court</a> <a href="#">the ball's in your court</a>
courtesy	<a href="#">courtesy of</a>
cover	<a href="#">blow my cover</a> <a href="#">cover for me</a> <a href="#">cover up</a> <a href="#">cover your ass [B]</a> <a href="#">take cover</a> <a href="#">you can't tell a book by its cover</a>
cover-up	<a href="#">cover-up</a>
covered	<a href="#">got him covered</a>
cow	<a href="#">cash cow</a> <a href="#">don't have a cow</a> <a href="#">have a cow</a> <a href="#">holy cow</a> <a href="#">sacred cow</a> <a href="#">till the cows come home</a>
cow-pie	<a href="#">cow-pie</a>
cowboy	<a href="#">drugstore cowboy</a>
cowpoke	<a href="#">cowpoke</a>
cowtown	<a href="#">Cowtown</a>

crack	<a href="#">at the crack of dawn</a> <a href="#">crack a book</a> <a href="#">crack a joke</a> <a href="#">crack down on</a> <a href="#">crack me up</a> <a href="#">crack of dawn</a> <a href="#">crack shot/salesman etc.</a> <a href="#">crack the line-up</a> <a href="#">crack this case</a> <a href="#">crack under the strain</a> <a href="#">fall between the cracks</a> <a href="#">fall through the cracks</a> <a href="#">first crack at</a> <a href="#">the crack of dawn</a>
cracked	<a href="#">all it's cracked up to be</a> <a href="#">cracked</a> <a href="#">not all it's cracked up...</a>
crackers	<a href="#">crackers</a>
crackpot	<a href="#">crackpot</a>
crackup	<a href="#">crackup</a>
cracky	<a href="#">by cracky</a>
cradle	<a href="#">rob the cradle</a>
cramp	<a href="#">cramp your style</a>
crank	<a href="#">crank issue</a> <a href="#">crank it up</a> <a href="#">crank out</a> <a href="#">turn your crank</a>
crap	<a href="#">crap</a> <a href="#">cut the crap [B]</a> <a href="#">don't give a crap [B]</a>
crappy	<a href="#">crappy</a>

crash	<a href="#">a crash course</a> <a href="#">crash</a> <a href="#">crash a party</a> <a href="#">crash course</a>
craw	<a href="#">stick in my craw</a>
crawl	<a href="#">crawl on my hands and knees over broken glass just to see her photo</a> <a href="#">pub crawl</a>
crawling	<a href="#">crawling with</a>
crazy	<a href="#">crazy about</a> <a href="#">crazy like a fox</a> <a href="#">drive me crazy</a> <a href="#">go crazy</a> <a href="#">go like crazy</a> <a href="#">prepare like crazy</a>
crazylike	<a href="#">like crazy/like mad</a>
cream	<a href="#">cream of the crop</a> <a href="#">cream you</a>
credit	<a href="#">deserve credit</a> <a href="#">give her credit</a> <a href="#">major (credit)</a>
creek	<a href="#">up shit creek [B]</a> <a href="#">up the creek</a>
creep	<a href="#">creep</a> <a href="#">give me the creeps</a>
crew	<a href="#">spin crew</a>
crickets	<a href="#">jimminy crickets</a>
crime	<a href="#">partners in crime</a>
criticism	<a href="#">open to criticism</a>
crock	

[crock](#)

[it's a crock](#)

[that's a crock \(of shit\) \[B\]](#)

crocodile

[crocodile tears](#)

crook

[by hook or by crook](#)

crop

[cream of the crop](#)

[crop up](#)

cross

[cross my heart and hope to die](#)

[cross over Jordan](#)

[cross over to the other side](#)

[cross paths](#)

[cross someone](#)

[cross that bridge when I come to it](#)

[cross your fingers](#)

[paths will cross](#)

crossed

[get your wires crossed](#)

[keep your fingers crossed](#)

crow

[as the crow flies](#)

[eat crow](#)

crowd

[play to the crowd](#)

[two's company, three's a crowd](#)

cruise

[cruise](#)

cruising

[cruising for a bruising](#)

crumbles

[that's the way the cookie crumbles](#)

crummy

[crummy](#)

crunch

[crunch](#)

[the crunch](#)

[when the crunch comes](#)

crush

[a crush on](#)

[crush on](#)

[got a crush on](#)  
[have a crush on](#)

crust

[upper crust](#)

crux

[crux of the matter](#)  
[the crux of the matter](#)

cry

[a far cry](#)  
[cry her heart out](#)  
[cry in your beer](#)  
[cry me a river](#)  
[cry over spilt milk](#)  
[cry the blues](#)  
[cry your eyes out](#)  
[far cry](#)

crying

[a crying shame](#)  
[crying shame](#)  
[for crying out loud](#)  
[it's all over but the crying](#)

crystal

[crystal clear](#)

cudgels

[take up cudgels](#)

cuff

[off the cuff](#)

cup

[cup of tea](#)  
[cup runneth over](#)  
[there's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip](#)

cure

[an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure](#)

curfew

[break curfew](#)

curiosity

[curiosity killed the cat](#)

curl

[curl up with a good book](#)  
[curl your hair](#)  
[kiss curls \(hair style\)](#)

curling

[biter \(curling\)](#)

curtains

[curtains](#)

curve

[ahead of the curve](#)

[behind the curve](#)

[throw a curve](#)

cushy

[cushy](#)

cuss

[cuss](#)

customer

[the customer is always right](#)

[tough customer](#)

[wait on customers](#)

cut

[a cut above](#)

[brush cut](#)

[clean cut](#)

[cut](#)

[cut a fine figure](#)

[cut a wide swath](#)

[cut above](#)

[cut and dried](#)

[cut corners](#)

[cut from the same cloth](#)

[cut him off \[B\]](#)

[cut it](#)

[cut it a little fine](#)

[cut it out](#)

[cut losses](#)

[cut me some slack](#)

[cut me to the quick](#)

[cut my teeth on](#)

[cut off](#)

[cut off your nose to spite your face](#)

[cut out for](#)

[cut rate](#)

[cut the cheese \[B\]](#)

[cut the crap \[B\]](#)

[cut the mustard](#)

[cut to the chase](#)

[cut you down to size](#)  
[cut you to ribbons](#)  
[cut your own throat](#)  
[fish or cut bait](#)  
[have my work cut out](#)  
[if you can't cut it, you can't stay](#)  
[short cut](#)  
[work cut out for](#)

cut-up

[a cut-up](#)  
[cut-up](#)

cute

[cute as a bug's ear](#)

cutting

[cutting edge](#)  
[on the cutting edge](#)  
[the cutting edge](#)

cylinders

[hit on all cylinders](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Index D

dab	<a href="#">smack dab in the middle</a>
dad	<a href="#">Dear Dad, No mon, no fun, your son! Dear Son, So sad, too bad, your dad!</a>
dad-blamed	<a href="#">dad-blamed</a>
daggers	<a href="#">look daggers</a>
daisies	<a href="#">pushing up daisies</a>
damaged	<a href="#">damaged goods</a>
damn	<a href="#">damn it [B]</a> <a href="#">damn the luck [B]</a> <a href="#">damn you [B]</a> <a href="#">don't give a damn [B]</a> <a href="#">give a damn / give a shit / give a fuck [B]</a>
damned	<a href="#">damned if you do and damned if you don't</a>
dampen	<a href="#">dampen your spirits</a>
dan	<a href="#">dapper Dan</a>
dance	<a href="#">dance with the one who brought you song and dance</a>
dander	<a href="#">get your dander up</a>
dandy	<a href="#">a jim dandy</a> <a href="#">jim dandy</a>
danggol	<a href="#">gol dang/gol darn</a>
dapper	

[dapper Dan](#)

daredevil

[a daredevil](#)

[daredevil](#)

dark

[a shot in the dark](#)

[dark horse](#)

[dark side](#)

[deep, dark secret](#)

[in the dark](#)

[shot in the dark](#)

darken

[darken a church door](#)

darn

[darn](#)

[darn it](#)

[darn my luck](#)

[darn right](#)

[darn tooting](#)

[gol dang/gol darn](#)

[gosh darn \(gol darn\)](#)

darndest

[try your darndest](#)

dasein

[dasein](#)

dash

[dash off a note/letter](#)

dashed

[hopes dashed](#)

date

[bad date](#)

[blind date](#)

[date](#)

[dates you](#)

[up to date](#)

dawn

[at the crack of dawn](#)

[crack of dawn](#)

[dawn on me](#)

[the crack of dawn](#)

day

[a hard day](#)

[a heavy day](#)

[a red-letter day](#)  
[a slow day](#)  
[all in a day's work](#)  
[all the livelong day](#)  
[an apple a day keeps the doctor away](#)  
[apple a day...](#)  
[as plain as day](#)  
[call it a day](#)  
[carry the day](#)  
[day in, day out](#)  
[day of the family farm](#)  
[day one](#)  
[dog days of summer](#)  
[fish and company stink after three days](#)  
[forever and a day](#)  
[from day one](#)  
[good day](#)  
[hard day](#)  
[heavy day](#)  
[hump day](#)  
[make my day](#)  
[plain as day](#)  
[put in a hard day](#)  
[red-letter day](#)  
[save for a rainy day](#)  
[see the light of day](#)  
[seen better days](#)  
[slow day](#)  
[that'll be the day](#)  
[the day of the family farm](#)

daylight

[broad daylight](#)  
[in broad daylight](#)  
[living daylight](#)  
[the living daylight](#)

dead

[a dead giveaway](#)  
[a dead heat](#)  
[a dead loss](#)  
[a dead ringer](#)  
[as slow as a dead snail](#)  
[beat a dead horse](#)

[caught dead](#)  
[dead as a doornail](#)  
[dead certain](#)  
[dead duck](#)  
[dead even](#)  
[dead giveaway](#)  
[dead heat](#)  
[dead in the water](#)  
[dead last](#)  
[dead loss](#)  
[dead meat](#)  
[dead on](#)  
[dead ringer](#)  
[dead set against](#)  
[dead tired](#)  
[dead to the world](#)  
[dead wrong](#)  
[drop dead](#)  
[flog a dead horse](#)  
[look up a dead horse's ass \[B\]](#)  
[over my dead body](#)  
[play dead](#)  
[roll over and play dead](#)  
[seen dead in](#)  
[slow as a dead snail](#)  
[stone dead](#)  
[wouldn't be caught dead](#)

dead-cat

[dead-cat bounce](#)

dead-eye

[dead-eye Dick](#)

deadbeat

[deadbeat](#)

deadhead

[deadhead](#)

deadmadsick

[good and dead/mad/sick](#)

deaf

[fall on deaf ears](#)

[really deaf](#)

deal

[a raw deal](#)

[big deal](#)  
[big hairy deal](#)  
[deal me in](#)  
[make a big deal of it](#)  
[raw deal](#)  
[shady deal](#)  
[square deal](#)

dealsale

[close a deal/sale](#)

dear

[Dear Dad, No mon, no fun, your son! Dear Son, So sad, too bad, your dad!](#)  
[for dear life](#)

death

[a matter of life and death](#)  
[at death's door](#)  
[brush with death](#)  
[catch your death](#)  
[death row](#)  
[death warmed over](#)  
[death wish](#)  
[frightened to death](#)  
[hang on like grim death](#)  
[it's a matter of life and death](#)  
[kiss of death](#)  
[look like death warmed over](#)  
[matter of life and death](#)  
[put to death](#)  
[scared to death](#)  
[sentence to death](#)  
[sick to death](#)

deathbed

[deathbed](#)  
[on my deathbed](#)  
[on your deathbed](#)

deck

[deck him](#)  
[deck out](#)  
[not playing with a full deck](#)  
[on deck](#)  
[shuffle the chairs on the deck](#)  
[without a full deck](#)

decked

[all decked out](#)

deep

[beauty is only skin deep](#)

[between the devil and the deep blue sea](#)

[deep, dark secret](#)

[deep pockets](#)

[deep six](#)

[deep sleep](#)

[dig deep](#)

[go off the deep end](#)

[have deep pockets](#)

[in deep doo-doo \[B\]](#)

[in deep shit \[B\]](#)

[in deep trouble](#)

[off the deep end](#)

[too deep for me](#)

deeper

[dig a little deeper](#)

[get in deeper](#)

defeat

[snatch victory from the jaws of defeat](#)

degree

[give me the third degree](#)

[the third degree](#)

[third degree](#)

[to the nth degree](#)

deke

[deke you](#)

deked

[deked out of his jock](#)

denmark

[there's something rotten in the state of Denmark](#)

dense

[a bit dense](#)

[dense](#)

density

[character density](#)

denver

[Denver boot](#)

depth

[out of my depth](#)

deserve

[deserve credit](#)

[what did I do to deserve this](#)

designs

[have designs on](#)

detail

[go into detail](#)

devil

[better the devil you know...](#)

[between the devil and the deep blue sea](#)

[devil you say](#)

[dust devil](#)

[like the devil](#)

[speak of the devil](#)

[the devil makes work for idle hands](#)

[the devil you say](#)

devil-may-care

[devil-may-care](#)

dibs

[dibs](#)

[first dibs](#)

dice

[no dice](#)

dick

[dead-eye Dick](#)

[dick \[B\]](#)

[dick](#)

[step on his dick](#)

[step on your dick](#)

dickens

[a dickens of a time](#)

[dickens of a time](#)

[dickens you say](#)

[the dickens you say](#)

[what the dickens](#)

did

[did good](#)

[did yourself proud](#)

[what did I do to deserve this](#)

diddly-squat

[diddly-squat](#)

didn't

[didn't have a stitch of clothes on](#)

die

[cross my heart and hope to die](#)

[die down](#)

[die for](#)

[die hard](#)

[die off](#)

[do or die](#)

[never say die](#)

died

[rabbit died](#)

[the rabbit died](#)

differ

[beg to differ](#)

difference

[it makes no difference](#)

[make a difference](#)

[makes no difference](#)

[split the difference](#)

different

[a different kettle of fish](#)

[a horse of a different color](#)

[different strokes for different folks](#)

[horse of a different color](#)

[put a different slant on it](#)

dig

[dig a little deeper](#)

[dig deep](#)

[dig in](#)

[dig in their heels](#)

[dig it up](#)

[dig me](#)

[dig your own grave](#)

[dig yourself in](#)

[digs](#)

digdig

[dig/dig it](#)

dildo

[a dildo \[B\]](#)

[dildo](#)

dilly

[dilly](#)

[it's a dilly](#)

dilly-dally

[dilly-dally](#)

dime

[a dime a dozen](#)

[dime a dozen](#)

[do a dime](#)

[stop on a dime](#)

[turn on a dime](#)

dimwit

[dimwit](#)

dinah

[hokey Dinah](#)

ding-a-ling

[ding-a-ling](#)

dingbatding-dong

[dingbat/ding-dong](#)

dingbusted

[dingbusted](#)

dingle

[dingle you](#)

[give me a dingle](#)

dink

[dink \[B\]](#)

[DINKS](#)

dint

[by dint of](#)

dip

[skinny dip](#)

dipper

[faster than a minnow can swim a dipper](#)

dipstick

[dipstick](#)

dire

[in dire straits](#)

dirt

[dirt cheap](#)

[dirt file](#)

dirty

[dirties](#)

dirty

[dirty dog/dirty rat](#)

[dirty laundry](#)

[dirty money](#)

[dirty thirties](#)

[dirty work](#)  
[down and dirty](#)  
[like a dirty shirt](#)  
[play dirty](#)  
[quick and dirty](#)

disaster

[spell disaster](#)

discombobulated

[discombobulated](#)

discretion

[discretion is the better part of valor](#)

disdiss

[dis/diss](#)

disguise

[a blessing in disguise](#)  
[blessing in disguise](#)

dish

[dish](#)  
[dish it out](#)  
[what a dish](#)

disk

[disk jockey \(DJ\)](#)

distance

[go the distance](#)  
[keep your distance](#)

distraction

[drive you to distraction](#)

disturber

[shit disturber \[B\]](#)

ditch

[ditch him](#)

ditto

[ditto](#)

ditz

[ditz](#)

dive

[take a dive](#)

diving

[Dumpster diving](#)

dj

[disk jockey \(DJ\)](#)

do

[damned if you do and damned if you don't](#)

[do \(a speed\)](#)

[do](#)

[do a 180](#)

[do a dime](#)

[do a favor](#)

[do a gig](#)

[do a number on](#)

[do away with](#)

[do drugs](#)

[do it the hard way](#)

[do lunch](#)

[do me](#)

[do me for/do me until](#)

[do me in](#)

[do or die](#)

[do the honors](#)

[do the town](#)

[do the trick](#)

[do time](#)

[do unto others as you would have them do unto you](#)

[do up](#)

[do with](#)

[do without](#)

[do you follow](#)

[do you mind](#)

[do your own thing](#)

[do your part](#)

[do your utmost](#)

[do yourself proud](#)

[doesn't add up](#)

[doesn't mince words](#)

[doesn't wash](#)

[don't borrow trouble](#)

[don't count your chickens before they hatch](#)

[don't eat that](#)

[don't get mad; get even](#)

[don't get me wrong](#)

[don't get smart with me](#)

[don't give a crap \[B\]](#)

[don't give a damn \[B\]](#)

[don't give me any of your lip](#)

[don't give me that line/story etc.](#)

[don't go away mad; just go away](#)  
[don't go there](#)  
[don't hand me that](#)  
[don't have a cow](#)  
[don't hold your breath](#)  
[don't knock it](#)  
[don't know him from Adam](#)  
[don't know the first thing about it](#)  
[don't know the half of it](#)  
[don't know whether you're coming or going](#)  
[don't know which end is up](#)  
[don't know which side your bread is buttered on](#)  
[don't know your ass from a hole in the ground \[B\]](#)  
[don't look a gift horse in the mouth](#)  
[don't make a mountain out of a molehill](#)  
[don't make me laugh](#)  
[don't make no nevermind](#)  
[don't make waves](#)  
[don't mention it](#)  
[don't push your luck](#)  
[don't put all your eggs in one basket](#)  
[don't rock the boat](#)  
[don't sweat it](#)  
[don't teach your grandmother how to suck eggs](#)  
[don't think so](#)  
[don't want to go there](#)  
[how do you do](#)  
[how do you like them apples](#)  
[if a mussel doesn't open don't eat it](#)  
[if that doesn't beat all](#)  
[it don't make no nevermind](#)  
[let George do it](#)  
[make do](#)  
[make me do it](#)  
[money doesn't grow on trees](#)  
[no can do](#)  
[the apple doesn't fall far from the tree](#)  
[well to do](#)  
[what did I do to deserve this](#)  
[what you don't know won't hurt you](#)  
[when in Rome, do as the Romans do](#)  
[where do they get off](#)

[who do you think you are](#)  
[you can't sell anybody if you don't love everybody](#)  
[you don't miss the water till the well runs dry](#)  
[you don't say](#)

do-dad

[do-dad](#)

do-funny

[do-funny](#)

doctor

[an apple a day keeps the doctor away](#)  
[doctor it/doctor it up](#)  
[spin doctor](#)

dodge

[dodge a bullet](#)

dodger

[draft dodger](#)

dodo

[dodo](#)  
[go the way of the dodo](#)

does

[how does that grab you](#)

dog

[a dog's age](#)  
[a dog's breakfast](#)  
[a dog's life](#)  
[a little hair off the dog](#)  
[as sick as a dog](#)  
[call off the dogs](#)  
[dog days of summer](#)  
[dog eat dog](#)  
[dog in the manger](#)  
[dog it](#)  
[dog me](#)  
[dog tired](#)  
[dog's age](#)  
[dog's breakfast](#)  
[dog's life](#)  
[for a dog's age](#)  
[gone to the dogs](#)  
[hair off the dog that bit you](#)  
[let sleeping dogs lie](#)  
[like dog's breath](#)

[lucky dog](#)  
[put on the dog](#)  
[raining cats and dogs](#)  
[see a man about a dog](#)  
[sick as a dog](#)  
[sicker than a dog](#)  
[tail wagging the dog](#)  
[teach an old dog...](#)  
[the tail wagging the dog](#)  
[throw on a dog for you](#)  
[throw you to the dogs](#)  
[top dog](#)  
[you can't teach an old dog new tricks](#)

dogan	<a href="#">dogan</a>
dogdirty	<a href="#">dirty dog/dirty rat</a>
doggone	<a href="#">doggone</a>
doggy	<a href="#">a doggy bag</a> <a href="#">doggy bag</a> <a href="#">doggy doo</a>
doghouse	<a href="#">in the doghouse</a>
doing	<a href="#">catch me doing that</a> <a href="#">how are you doing</a>
dollar	<a href="#">bet you dollars to donuts</a> <a href="#">dollars to donuts</a> <a href="#">penny wise, dollar dumb</a> <a href="#">stretch the dollar</a> <a href="#">you can bet your bottom dollar</a>
dolled	<a href="#">dolled up</a>
done	<a href="#">done for</a> <a href="#">done good</a> <a href="#">done in</a> <a href="#">done it all</a> <a href="#">done to a turn</a>

[done with it](#)  
[hard done by](#)  
[over and done with](#)

donna

[prima donna](#)

donnybrook

[Donnybrook](#)

donuts

[bet you dollars to donuts](#)  
[dollars to donuts](#)

doo

[doggy doo](#)

doo-doo

[doo-doo](#)  
[in deep doo-doo \[B\]](#)

door

[at death's door](#)  
[darken a church door](#)  
[door to door](#)  
[keep the wolf from the door](#)  
[kitty bar the door](#)  
[leave the door open](#)  
[open some doors](#)  
[the wolf is at the door](#)

doornail

[dead as a doornail](#)

dope

[straight dope](#)  
[the straight dope](#)

dork

[dork \[B\]](#)

dot

[on the dot](#)

double

[double or nothing](#)  
[double take](#)  
[double whammy](#)  
[on the double](#)

double-cross

[double-cross](#)

double-edged

[a double-edged sword](#)  
[double-edged sword](#)

double-talk

[double-talk](#)

doubt

[benefit of the doubt](#)

[no doubt](#)

[the benefit of the doubt](#)

[without a doubt](#)

dough

[dough](#)

[rake in the dough](#)

doughhead

[doughhead](#)

dove

[dove](#)

down

[a dressing down](#)

[back down](#)

[bear down](#)

[bed down](#)

[blow me down](#)

[break down](#)

[breathe down my neck](#)

[bring the house down](#)

[buckle down](#)

[calm down](#)

[caught with his pants down](#)

[chips are down](#)

[chow down](#)

[come down hard](#)

[come down off your high horse](#)

[come down on like a ton of bricks](#)

[come down to earth](#)

[come down with](#)

[crack down on](#)

[cut you down to size](#)

[die down](#)

[down](#)

[down a peg](#)

[down and dirty](#)

[down and out](#)

[down for the count](#)

[down home](#)

[down in the dumps](#)  
[down in the mouth](#)  
[down my throat](#)  
[down on his luck](#)  
[down pat](#)  
[down the drain](#)  
[down the garden path](#)  
[down the hatch](#)  
[down the line](#)  
[down the pike](#)  
[down the road](#)  
[down the tubes](#)  
[down to a T](#)  
[down to brass tacks](#)  
[down to earth](#)  
[down to the short strokes](#)  
[down to the wire](#)  
[down under](#)  
[down with](#)  
[dress down](#)  
[get down to brass tacks](#)  
[get down to business](#)  
[get me down](#)  
[get you down](#)  
[go down](#)  
[go down for the third time](#)  
[go down on \[B\]](#)  
[going down](#)  
[guard is down](#)  
[gun down](#)  
[hand down](#)  
[hand me down](#)  
[hands down](#)  
[head down there](#)  
[hold down](#)  
[hose it down/ hose it off](#)  
[hunker down](#)  
[keep it down](#)  
[knock them down, drag them out](#)  
[knock you down a peg](#)  
[knuckle down](#)  
[lay down your arms](#)

[lay down your life for](#)  
[lead you down the garden path](#)  
[let down](#)  
[let you down](#)  
[lie down on the job](#)  
[look down on](#)  
[look down your nose at](#)  
[nail down](#)  
[nail it down](#)  
[pay down](#)  
[pin down/pin him down](#)  
[pipe down](#)  
[put down](#)  
[put down roots](#)  
[put my foot down](#)  
[put the hammer down](#)  
[ram down your throat](#)  
[run down](#)  
[settle down](#)  
[shove down my throat](#)  
[shuck on down to the fraidy hole](#)  
[shut down](#)  
[simmer down](#)  
[slow down](#)  
[step down](#)  
[take him down a peg](#)  
[take you down a peg](#)  
[throw down your arms](#)  
[tone down](#)  
[turn down](#)  
[walk down](#)  
[wash down](#)  
[wash it down](#)  
[water down](#)  
[wear down](#)  
[what it boils down to](#)  
[what's going down](#)  
[when the chips are down](#)  
[wolf down](#)

downer

[a downer \(drug\)](#)  
[a downer \(sadness\)](#)

[downer \(drug\)](#)  
[downer \(sadness\)](#)

downfirst

[first down/first and ten](#)

downhearted

[downhearted](#)

downhill

[go downhill](#)

downpin

[pin down/pin him down](#)

downplay

[downplay](#)

downside

[downside](#)  
[the downside](#)

downtime

[downtime](#)

downtown

[go downtown \[B\]](#)

dozen

[a dime a dozen](#)  
[dime a dozen](#)  
[six of one, half a dozen of the other](#)

drabs

[dribs and drabs](#)  
[in dribs and drabs](#)

draft

[draft dodger](#)  
[feel a draft](#)

drag

[a drag](#)  
[drag](#)  
[drag it out](#)  
[drag on](#)  
[drag queen](#)  
[drag race](#)  
[drag your feet](#)  
[have a drag](#)  
[knock them down, drag them out](#)

dragged

[dragged through a...](#)  
[look like he was dragged through a knothole](#)

drain

[brain drain](#)  
[down the drain](#)  
[drain the swamp](#)

drat

[drat](#)

draw

[draw a blank](#)  
[draw a sober breath](#)  
[draw attention to](#)  
[draw first blood](#)  
[draw it to my attention](#)  
[draw the line](#)  
[draw their fire](#)  
[draw upon](#)  
[luck of the draw](#)  
[quick on the draw](#)  
[the luck of the draw](#)

drawer

[drop your drawers](#)  
[top drawer](#)

drawing

[back to the drawing board](#)  
[drawing card](#)

dream

[broken dreams](#)  
[dream on](#)  
[pipe dream](#)

dress

[dress clothes](#)  
[dress down](#)  
[dress rehearsal](#)  
[dress up](#)

dressed

[dressed fit to kill](#)  
[dressed to the nines](#)

dressing

[a dressing down](#)

drips

[drips and drabs](#)  
[in dribs and drabs](#)

dried

[cut and dried](#)

drift	<a href="#">get my drift</a>
drink	<a href="#">drink like a fish</a> <a href="#">drink up</a> <a href="#">drink you under the table</a> <a href="#">drive you to drink</a> <a href="#">hold your drinks</a> <a href="#">in the drink</a> <a href="#">spike a drink</a> <a href="#">you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink</a>
drive	<a href="#">bottle drive</a> <a href="#">drive a hard bargain</a> <a href="#">drive around</a> <a href="#">drive it home</a> <a href="#">drive me batty</a> <a href="#">drive me crazy</a> <a href="#">drive me to the edge</a> <a href="#">drive me up the wall</a> <a href="#">drive standard</a> <a href="#">drive you</a> <a href="#">drive you nuts</a> <a href="#">drive you to distraction</a> <a href="#">drive you to drink</a> <a href="#">test drive</a>
driver	<a href="#">in the driver's seat</a>
drivetriple	<a href="#">take a drive/trip</a>
drop	<a href="#">a drop in the bucket</a> <a href="#">at the drop of a hat</a> <a href="#">drop</a> <a href="#">drop a bundle</a> <a href="#">drop a hint</a> <a href="#">drop a line</a> <a href="#">drop a log [B]</a> <a href="#">drop a name / drop names</a> <a href="#">drop back</a> <a href="#">drop behind</a> <a href="#">drop charges</a>

[drop dead](#)  
[drop her/him](#)  
[drop him like a hot potato](#)  
[drop in](#)  
[drop in the bucket](#)  
[drop it](#)  
[drop like flies](#)  
[drop off](#)  
[drop out](#)  
[drop out of sight](#)  
[drop over](#)  
[drop the ball](#)  
[drop the other shoe](#)  
[drop your drawers](#)  
[drop your gloves \(hockey\)](#)  
[get the drop on](#)  
[so quiet you can hear a pin drop](#)  
[touch a drop](#)  
[wait for the other shoe to drop](#)

drop-in

[drop-in](#)

drown

[drown your sorrow](#)  
[if you're born to hang, you won't drown](#)

drug

[a downer \(drug\)](#)  
[do drugs](#)  
[downer \(drug\)](#)  
[on drugs](#)  
[take drugs](#)

drugstore

[drugstore cowboy](#)

drum

[drum up](#)

drunk

[a cheap drunk](#)  
[as drunk as a skunk](#)  
[cheap drunk](#)

dry

[bone dry](#)  
[dry out](#)  
[dry run](#)

[dry up](#)  
[hang you out to dry](#)  
[you don't miss the water till the well runs dry](#)

dubs

[dubs](#)

duck

[a sitting duck](#)  
[dead duck](#)  
[duck out](#)  
[duck soup](#)  
[duck's guts](#)  
[ducks in a row \(ducks in order\)](#)  
[it's the duck's guts](#)  
[lame duck](#)  
[sitting duck](#)

ducky

[ducky](#)  
[just ducky](#)

duddle

[fuddle duddle\\*](#)

dude

[dude](#)

due

[due north](#)  
[pay your dues](#)

duesey

[it's a Duesey](#)

duh

[duh](#)

duke

[a duke's mixture](#)  
[duke it out](#)  
[duke's mixture](#)  
[God bless the Duke of Argyle](#)

dull

[all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy](#)

dumb

[as dumb as a sack of hammers](#)  
[dumb as a sack of hammers](#)  
[penny wise, dollar dumb](#)  
[play dumb](#)

dumbbell

[dumbbell](#)

dumbo	<a href="#">dumbo</a>
dump	<a href="#">down in the dumps</a> <a href="#">dump her/him</a> <a href="#">dump on</a> <a href="#">take a dump [B]</a>
dumpster	<a href="#">Dumpster diving</a>
durn	<a href="#">durn</a>
dust	<a href="#">bite the dust</a> <a href="#">collecting dust</a> <a href="#">dust</a> <a href="#">dust bunny</a> <a href="#">dust devil</a> <a href="#">gathering dust</a> <a href="#">see me for dust</a> <a href="#">when the dust settles</a>
dust-up	<a href="#">a dust-up</a> <a href="#">dust-up</a>
dutch	<a href="#">Dutch treat</a>
duty	<a href="#">above and beyond the call of duty</a> <a href="#">beyond the call of duty</a> <a href="#">duty calls</a> <a href="#">heavy duty</a> <a href="#">the call of duty</a>
dyed	<a href="#">dyed in the wool</a>
dying	<a href="#">dying seconds</a> <a href="#">dying to know</a> <a href="#">the dying seconds</a>

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Index E

each	<a href="#">each to his own</a> <a href="#">made for each other</a> <a href="#">to each his own</a>
eager	<a href="#">eager beaver</a>
eagle	<a href="#">eagle eyes</a>
ear	<a href="#">all ears</a> <a href="#">believe my ears</a> <a href="#">bend your ear</a> <a href="#">blow it out your ear</a> <a href="#">can't believe my ears</a> <a href="#">cauliflower ear</a> <a href="#">coming out of our ears</a> <a href="#">couldn't believe my ears</a> <a href="#">cute as a bug's ear</a> <a href="#">ear candy</a> <a href="#">ear to the ground</a> <a href="#">ears are burning</a> <a href="#">ears lowered</a> <a href="#">ears pinned back</a> <a href="#">fall on deaf ears</a> <a href="#">get your ears pinned back</a> <a href="#">have my ears lowered</a> <a href="#">in one ear and out the other</a> <a href="#">keep your ear to the ground</a> <a href="#">music to my ears</a> <a href="#">play it by ear</a> <a href="#">put a bug in my ear</a> <a href="#">still wet behind the ears</a> <a href="#">talk your ear off</a> <a href="#">tin ear</a> <a href="#">up to my ears</a>

[wet behind the ears](#)  
[you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear](#)

earful

[an earful](#)  
[earful](#)

early

[early bird](#)  
[the early bird gets the worm](#)

earshot

[within earshot](#)

earth

[come down to earth](#)  
[down to earth](#)  
[salt of the earth](#)  
[the salt of the earth](#)

ease

[at ease](#)  
[ease up](#)  
[put you at ease](#)  
[set your mind at ease](#)

easy

[an easy mark](#)  
[breathe easy](#)  
[easy as pie](#)  
[easy come, easy go](#)  
[easy pickings](#)  
[easy street](#)  
[easy time of it](#)  
[go easy on](#)  
[over easy](#)  
[take it easy](#)  
[take it easy on](#)

eat

[a bite to eat](#)  
[dog eat dog](#)  
[don't eat that](#)  
[eat crow](#)  
[eat high off the hog](#)  
[eat humble pie](#)  
[eat it up](#)  
[eat like a horse](#)  
[eat my hat/shirt](#)

[eat out](#)  
[eat out of the palm of your hand](#)  
[eat that](#)  
[eat up](#)  
[eat you for breakfast](#)  
[eat you out of house and home](#)  
[eat your fill](#)  
[eat your heart out](#)  
[eat your words](#)  
[grab a bite to eat](#)  
[have your cake and eat it, too](#)  
[if a mussel doesn't open don't eat it](#)

eating

[eating you](#)  
[the proof of the pudding is in the eating](#)  
[what's eating you](#)

economics

[trickle-down economics](#)

edge

[cutting edge](#)  
[drive me to the edge](#)  
[life on the edge](#)  
[live on the edge](#)  
[on edge](#)  
[on the cutting edge](#)  
[on the edge of your seat](#)  
[over the edge](#)  
[set your teeth on edge](#)  
[the cutting edge](#)

edgy

[edgy](#)

eff

[eff 'im \[B\]](#)

effect

[take effect](#)

effort

[make every effort](#)

egery

[all the way to Egery and back](#)

egg

[a good egg](#)  
[all your eggs in one basket](#)

[don't put all your eggs in one basket](#)  
[don't teach your grandmother how to suck eggs](#)  
[egg me on](#)  
[egg on my face](#)  
[good egg](#)  
[goose egg](#)  
[kill the goose that lays the golden eggs](#)  
[nest egg](#)  
[put all your eggs in...](#)  
[suck eggs](#)

eggshells

[walk on eggshells](#)

ego

[ego trip](#)

[stroke your ego](#)

eh

[eh](#)

[take off, eh](#)

eight

[behind the eight ball](#)

eighty-six

[eighty-six it](#)

either

[there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so](#)

eke

[eke out a living](#)

elbow

[bend your elbow](#)

[elbow room](#)

[rub elbows](#)

election

[hell bent for election](#)

electronic

[electronic superhighway](#)

element

[out of his element](#)

elephant

[kill an elephant](#)

[white elephant](#)

eleven

[seven come eleven](#)

eloquent

[wax eloquent](#)

empty	<a href="#">on an empty stomach</a>
end	<a href="#">all's well that ends well</a> <a href="#">at loose ends</a> <a href="#">at my wits' end</a> <a href="#">at the end of my rope/ at the end of my tether</a> <a href="#">bitter end</a> <a href="#">bring an end to</a> <a href="#">don't know which end is up</a> <a href="#">end justifies the means</a> <a href="#">end of the line</a> <a href="#">end up</a> <a href="#">go off the deep end</a> <a href="#">hair stand on end</a> <a href="#">know which end is up</a> <a href="#">light at the end of the tunnel</a> <a href="#">loose ends</a> <a href="#">make ends meet</a> <a href="#">make your hair stand on end</a> <a href="#">odds and ends</a> <a href="#">off the deep end</a> <a href="#">put an end to</a> <a href="#">rear end</a> <a href="#">short end of the stick</a> <a href="#">the bitter end</a> <a href="#">the end justifies the means</a> <a href="#">the end of the line</a> <a href="#">the living end</a> <a href="#">the short end of the stick</a> <a href="#">tie up loose ends</a>
end-all	<a href="#">be-all, end-all</a> <a href="#">the be-all, end-all</a> <a href="#">the end-all, be-all</a>
enemy	<a href="#">own worst enemy</a> <a href="#">your own worst enemy</a>
enough	<a href="#">enough is enough</a> <a href="#">give him enough rope and he'll hang himself</a> <a href="#">had enough</a>

[leave well enough alone](#)  
[too many chiefs and not enough Indians](#)

enter

[break and enter](#)

entrance

[make an entrance](#)

envelope

[push the envelope](#)  
[stretch the envelope](#)

envy

[green with envy](#)

equal

[all things being equal](#)

errand

[run an errand](#)

error

[trial and error](#)

essence

[time is of the essence](#)

ethic

[work ethic](#)

even

[an even keel](#)  
[dead even](#)  
[don't get mad; get even](#)  
[even](#)  
[even a blind pig can find an acorn](#)  
[even keel](#)  
[even so](#)  
[even up](#)  
[get even](#)  
[keep an even keel](#)  
[on even terms](#)

even-steven

[even-steven](#)

every

[a chicken in every pot](#)  
[chicken in every pot](#)  
[every cloud has a silver lining](#)  
[every trick in the book](#)  
[every walk of life](#)  
[hang on every word](#)  
[make every effort](#)

[one born every minute](#)  
[there are two sides to every story](#)  
[there's one born every minute](#)  
[two sides to every story](#)  
[watch your every move](#)

everybody

[you can't sell anybody if you don't love everybody](#)

everything

[everything but the kitchen sink](#)  
[everything from soup to nuts](#)  
[everything old is new again](#)  
[winning isn't everything; it's the only thing](#)

evil

[give him the evil eye](#)  
[lesser of two evils](#)  
[money is the root of all evil](#)

ex

[ex](#)

exception

[take exception to](#)

exit

[exit stage left](#)

expand

[expand your horizons](#)

expense

[pad an expense account](#)

extra

[go the extra mile](#)

eye

[a fresh pair of eyes](#)  
[a sight for sore eyes](#)  
[all eyes](#)  
[an eye for an eye \(a tooth for a tooth\)](#)  
[apple of his eye](#)  
[bat an eye](#)  
[bat her eyes](#)  
[beauty is in the eye of the beholder](#)  
[believe my eyes](#)  
[black eye](#)  
[can't believe my eyes](#)  
[catch your eye](#)  
[cry your eyes out](#)

[eagle eyes](#)  
[eye candy](#)  
[eye for an eye](#)  
[eye of a needle](#)  
[eye of the storm](#)  
[eye to eye](#)  
[eyes glaze over](#)  
[eyes peeled](#)  
[feast your eyes on](#)  
[fresh pair of eyes](#)  
[give a black eye](#)  
[give her the eye](#)  
[give him the evil eye](#)  
[give my eye teeth](#)  
[got my eye on](#)  
[have my eye on](#)  
[here's mud in your eye](#)  
[in the wink of an eye](#)  
[in your mind's eye](#)  
[keep an eye on](#)  
[keep an eye open](#)  
[keep an eye out](#)  
[keep your eyes peeled](#)  
[lay eyes on](#)  
[more than meets the eye](#)  
[my eye](#)  
[naked eye](#)  
[out of the corner of my eye](#)  
[pull the wool over your eyes](#)  
[right before my eyes](#)  
[roll their eyes](#)  
[see eye to eye](#)  
[sight for sore eyes](#)  
[the apple of his eye](#)  
[the eye of a needle](#)  
[the eye of the storm](#)  
[the naked eye](#)  
[there's more than meets the eye](#)  
[turn a blind eye](#)  
[with the naked eye](#)  
[without batting an eye](#)

[eyeball this](#)

eyebrow

[raise an eyebrow](#)

[raised eyebrows](#)

eyed

[glassy eyed](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Index F

f-word	<a href="#">F-word</a> <a href="#">the F-word</a>
face	<a href="#">a poker face</a> <a href="#">as plain as the nose on your face</a> <a href="#">at face value</a> <a href="#">blue in the face</a> <a href="#">cut off your nose to spite your face</a> <a href="#">egg on my face</a> <a href="#">face facts</a> <a href="#">face the music</a> <a href="#">face up</a> <a href="#">fall flat on my face</a> <a href="#">fill your face</a> <a href="#">fly in the face of</a> <a href="#">get in my face</a> <a href="#">get out of my face</a> <a href="#">in your face</a> <a href="#">it's as plain as the nose on your face</a> <a href="#">keep a straight face</a> <a href="#">make a face</a> <a href="#">make faces</a> <a href="#">plain as the nose on your face</a> <a href="#">poker face</a> <a href="#">pull a face</a> <a href="#">save face</a> <a href="#">shut your face</a> <a href="#">straight face</a> <a href="#">till you're blue in the face</a> <a href="#">wipe that smile off your face</a> <a href="#">written all over your face</a>
fact	<a href="#">as a matter of fact</a> <a href="#">face facts</a>

[in fact](#)

[in point of fact](#)

fagfaggot

[fag/faggot](#)

fails

[it never fails](#)

faint

[faint of heart](#)

fair

[a fair shake](#)

[all's fair in love and war](#)

[fair game](#)

[fair shake](#)

[fair to middling](#)

[no fair](#)

[play fair](#)

[turn about is fair play](#)

fair-haired

[fair-haired boy](#)

fair-weather

[fair-weather friend](#)

faith

[in bad faith](#)

[in good faith](#)

[keep the faith](#)

fake

[fake it](#)

fall

[break your fall](#)

[fall apart \(at the seams\)](#)

[fall asleep](#)

[fall behind](#)

[fall between the cracks](#)

[fall between two stools](#)

[fall flat on my face](#)

[fall for](#)

[fall for that](#)

[fall head over heels](#)

[fall ill](#)

[fall in line](#)

[fall in love](#)

[fall into a trap](#)

[fall into my lap](#)  
[fall off the wagon](#)  
[fall on deaf ears](#)  
[fall on your sword](#)  
[fall short](#)  
[fall through](#)  
[fall through the cracks](#)  
[fall to pieces](#)  
[let the chips fall where they may](#)  
[pride goeth before a fall](#)  
[the apple doesn't fall far from the tree](#)  
[the bigger they are the harder they fall](#)  
[the wheels fall off](#)  
[wheels fall off](#)

fall-out

[fall-out](#)

fallen

[fallen woman](#)

falling

[a falling out](#)[falling in love](#)[falling out](#)

false

[a false move](#)[false move](#)[make a false move](#)[one false move](#)

fame

[claim to fame](#)

familiarity

[familiarity breeds contempt](#)

family

[day of the family farm](#)[family jewels](#)[family tree](#)[in a family way](#)[lose a family member](#)[the day of the family farm](#)[the family jewels](#)

famine

[feast or famine](#)

famous

famous last words

fan

[shit hit the fan \[B\]](#)

[the shit hit the fan](#)

fancy

[fancy footwork](#)

[footloose and fancy free](#)

[strike your fancy](#)

far

[a far cry](#)

[as far as I know](#)

[far cry](#)

[far out](#)

[few and far between](#)

[go too far](#)

[so far, so good](#)

[the apple doesn't fall far from the tree](#)

[too far gone](#)

faraway

[a faraway look](#)

farm

[buy the farm](#)

[day of the family farm](#)

[sell the farm](#)

[the day of the family farm](#)

fart

[a fart in a windstorm](#)

[fart around \[B\]](#)

[fart in a windstorm \[B\]](#)

[let a fart \[B\]](#)

fashion

[grunge \(fashion\)](#)

fast

[fast friends](#)

[fast lane](#)

[fast track](#)

[go nowhere fast](#)

[in the fast lane](#)

[life in the fast lane](#)

[lightning fast](#)

fastball

[fastball](#)

faster	<a href="#">faster than a minnow can swim a dipper</a> <a href="#">faster than a speeding bullet</a>
fat	<a href="#">a fat lip</a> <a href="#">chew the fat/ chew the rag</a> <a href="#">fat cat</a> <a href="#">fat chance</a> <a href="#">fat lip</a> <a href="#">it ain't over till the fat lady sings</a> <a href="#">the fat hit the fire</a>
fate	<a href="#">fate is sealed</a> <a href="#">fickle finger of fate</a> <a href="#">fucked by the fickle finger of fate [B]</a> <a href="#">tempt fate</a> <a href="#">the fickle finger of fate</a> <a href="#">twist of fate</a>
father	<a href="#">like father, like son</a>
fault	<a href="#">at fault</a> <a href="#">find fault</a> <a href="#">to a fault</a>
favor	<a href="#">do a favor</a> <a href="#">lose favor</a>
favorite	<a href="#">odds-on favorite</a> <a href="#">the odds-on favorite</a>
faze	<a href="#">faze me</a> <a href="#">faze me out</a>
fear	<a href="#">angels fear to tread</a> <a href="#">where angels fear to tread</a>
feast	<a href="#">feast or famine</a> <a href="#">feast your eyes on</a>
feather	<a href="#">a feather in your cap</a> <a href="#">birds of a feather flock together</a> <a href="#">feather a pass (hockey)</a>

[feather in your cap](#)  
[feather your nest](#)  
[horse feathers](#)  
[knock me over with a feather](#)  
[ruffle your feathers](#)

fed

[fed up](#)

federal

[make a federal case of it](#)

feed

[bite the hand that feeds you](#)

[chicken feed](#)

feedback

[feedback](#)

feel

[feel a draft](#)

[feel blue](#)

[feel for](#)

[feel free](#)

[feel myself](#)

[feel the pinch](#)

feelers

[put out feelers](#)

feeling

[feeling bum](#)

[feeling good](#)

[feeling his oats](#)

[feeling no pain](#)

[hard feelings](#)

[hurt my feelings](#)

[mixed feelings](#)

[no hard feelings](#)

[not feeling myself](#)

[sinking feeling](#)

feet

[back on your feet](#)

[cold feet](#)

[drag your feet](#)

[get cold feet](#)

[get your feet wet](#)

[itchy feet](#)

[jump in with both feet](#)

[land on your feet](#)  
[sweep you off your feet](#)  
[take a load off your feet](#)  
[two left feet](#)

fell

[at one fell swoop](#)  
[bottom fell out](#)  
[in one fell swoop](#)  
[one fell swoop](#)  
[the bottom fell out](#)

fellow

[jolly good fellow](#)

fence

[fence sitter](#)  
[mend fences](#)  
[on the fence](#)  
[sit the fence](#)  
[the grass is greener on the other side of the fence](#)

fend

[fend for yourself](#)

fender

[fender bender](#)

fever

[buck fever](#)  
[cabin fever](#)  
[fever breaks](#)

few

[a few bricks short of a full load](#)  
[a man of few words](#)  
[few and far between](#)  
[get off a few good ones](#)  
[had a few](#)  
[man of few words](#)  
[pull a few strings](#)  
[tip a few](#)

fib

[fib](#)

fibber

[Fibber McGee's closet](#)

fickle

[fickle finger of fate](#)  
[fucked by the fickle finger of fate \[B\]](#)

[the fickle finger of fate](#)

fiddle

[fit as a fiddle](#)

[play second fiddle](#)

[second fiddle](#)

fiddlesticks

[fiddlesticks](#)

fido

[fido](#)

field

[a level playing field](#)

[level the playing field](#)

[out in left field](#)

[play the field](#)

fifth

[a fifth wheel](#)

[as useless as a fifth wheel](#)

[fifth business](#)

[fifth column](#)

[fifth wheel](#)

[the fifth column](#)

[useless as a fifth wheel](#)

fifty

[pushing fifty](#)

fight

[fight fire with fire](#)

[fight tooth and nail](#)

[pick a fight](#)

[spoil for a fight](#)

fighting

[a fighting chance](#)

[fighting chance](#)

figure

[a ball-park figure](#)

[ball-park figure](#)

[cut a fine figure](#)

[figure out](#)

[go figure](#)

[it figures](#)

figurehead

[figurehead](#)

file

[circular file](#)

[dirt file](#)

[file 13](#)

[single file](#)

fill

[eat your fill](#)

[fill her up](#)

[fill his shoes](#)

[fill in](#)

[fill in for me](#)

[fill me in](#)

[fill out](#)

[fill the bill](#)

[fill the gap](#)

[fill up](#)

[fill your face](#)

fill-up

[a fill-up](#)

[fill-up](#)

filthy

[filthy lucre](#)

[filthy rich](#)

final

[have the final say](#)

find

[even a blind pig can find an acorn](#)

[find a way around](#)

[find fault](#)

[find my tongue](#)

[find out](#)

[find your voice](#)

[find your way](#)

[find yourself](#)

[love is where you find it](#)

fine

[a fine line](#)

[cut a fine figure](#)

[cut it a little fine](#)

[put too fine a point on](#)

fine-feathered

[fine-feathered friend](#)

fine-toothed

[a fine-toothed comb](#)

[fine-toothed comb](#)

fine-tune

[fine-tune](#)

finger

[butter fingers](#)

[can't put my finger on it](#)

[cross your fingers](#)

[fickle finger of fate](#)

[finger](#)

[fingers the size of bananas](#)

[fucked by the fickle finger of fate \[B\]](#)

[get the finger \[B\] \(get the bird\)](#)

[keep your fingers crossed](#)

[lift a finger](#)

[point a finger at](#)

[put my finger on it](#)

[the fickle finger of fate](#)

[work my fingers to the bone](#)

[wrap around his finger](#)

fingered

[get fingered](#)

fingertips

[at your fingertips](#)

finish

[finish off](#)

finishing

[finishing touch](#)

[put the finishing touches on](#)

fink

[fink](#)

[rat fink](#)

fire

[add fuel to the fire](#)

[baptism by fire](#)

[draw their fire](#)

[fight fire with fire](#)

[fire](#)

[fire away](#)

[from the frying pan into the fire](#)

[irons in the fire](#)

[on fire](#)

[play with fire](#)

[set fire](#)  
[set the world on fire](#)  
[shit fire and apple butter](#)  
[start a fire under him](#)  
[the fat hit the fire](#)  
[under fire](#)

fired

[all fired up](#)  
[fired up](#)

firm

[a firm hand](#)  
[firm hand](#)  
[firm market](#)

first

[at first glance](#)  
[at first light](#)  
[don't know the first thing about it](#)  
[draw first blood](#)  
[first and foremost](#)  
[first class](#)  
[first come, first served](#)  
[first crack at](#)  
[first dibs](#)  
[first down/first and ten](#)  
[first hand](#)  
[first light](#)  
[first off](#)  
[first pancake is always spoiled](#)  
[first up](#)  
[get to first base](#)  
[know the first thing...](#)  
[love at first sight](#)  
[the first leg](#)  
[the first pancake is always spoiled](#)

fish

[a different kettle of fish](#)  
[bigger fish to fry](#)  
[drink like a fish](#)  
[fish and company stink after three days](#)  
[fish for a compliment](#)  
[fish or cut bait](#)  
[kettle of fish](#)

[neither fish nor fowl](#)  
[other fish to fry](#)  
[shooting fish in a barrel](#)

fishy

[fishy](#)  
[there's something fishy](#)

fist

[hand over fist](#)

fisted

[tight/tight fisted](#)

fit

[dressed fit to kill](#)  
[fit as a fiddle](#)  
[fit to be tied](#)  
[fits and starts](#)  
[have a fit](#)  
[if the shoe fits, wear it](#)  
[keep fit](#)  
[see fit](#)

fitnessdancing

[into fitness/dancing etc.](#)

five

[bat five hundred](#)  
[five o'clock shadow](#)  
[Group of Five](#)  
[high five](#)  
[in the pipe five by five](#)  
[take five](#)  
[The Group of Five/The Regina Five](#)

fivethe

[The Group of Five/The Regina Five](#)

fix

[fix you](#)  
[fix your wagon](#)  
[get a fix](#)  
[get a fix on](#)  
[have a fix](#)  
[in a fix](#)

fixed

[how are you fixed for](#)

fixing

[fixing to](#)

flack

	<a href="#">give you flack</a> <a href="#">take the flack</a>
flag	
	<a href="#">flag a cab</a>
flake	
	<a href="#">flake</a> <a href="#">flake out</a>
flame	
	<a href="#">old flame</a>
flap	
	<a href="#">flap your gums</a> <a href="#">in a flap</a>
flash	
	<a href="#">a flash in the pan</a> <a href="#">flash a smile</a> <a href="#">flash in the pan</a> <a href="#">in a flash</a>
flat	
	<a href="#">fall flat on my face</a> <a href="#">flat</a> <a href="#">flat broke</a> <a href="#">flat out</a> <a href="#">have a flat</a> <a href="#">knock flat</a>
flatfoot	
	<a href="#">flatfoot</a>
flatfooted	
	<a href="#">caught flatfooted</a> <a href="#">flatfooted</a>
flatliner	
	<a href="#">flatliner</a>
flattery	
	<a href="#">flattery will get you nowhere</a>
fleeting	
	<a href="#">a fleeting glance</a> <a href="#">fleeting glance</a>
flesh	
	<a href="#">flesh out</a> <a href="#">in the flesh</a> <a href="#">pound of flesh</a>
fletcherize	
	<a href="#">Fletcherize your food</a>

flew	<a href="#">flew the coop</a>
flick	<a href="#">chick flick</a>
flies	<a href="#">as the crow flies</a> <a href="#">drop like flies</a> <a href="#">how time flies</a> <a href="#">time flies when you're having fun</a>
flight	<a href="#">in full flight</a> <a href="#">take a flight</a>
fling	<a href="#">have a fling</a>
flip	<a href="#">flip</a> <a href="#">flip you for it</a> <a href="#">flip your lid</a>
flip-flop	<a href="#">flip-flop</a>
flipping	<a href="#">flipping</a>
float	<a href="#">a pine float</a> <a href="#">float your boat</a> <a href="#">pine float</a> <a href="#">whatever floats your boat</a>
floating	<a href="#">back teeth are floating</a>
flock	<a href="#">birds of a feather flock together</a>
flog	<a href="#">flog a dead horse</a>
floor	<a href="#">floor it</a> <a href="#">floor you</a> <a href="#">get in on the ground floor</a> <a href="#">have the floor</a> <a href="#">mop the floor with us</a> <a href="#">on the ground floor</a>
florida	<a href="#">Florida green</a>
flow	

[cash flow](#)  
[go with the flow](#)

flower

[wall flower](#)

flunk

[flunk out](#)

flutter

[in a flutter](#)

fly

[a bar fly](#)  
[a fly on the wall](#)  
[bar fly](#)  
[fly by the seat of your...](#)  
[fly in the face of](#)  
[fly in the ointment](#)  
[fly low](#)  
[fly off the handle](#)  
[fly on the wall](#)

fly-by-night

[fly-by-night](#)

flying

[send him flying](#)

foggiest

[foggiest](#)  
[haven't the foggiest](#)

fold

[fold](#)

folderol

[a lot of folderol](#)  
[folderol](#)

folks

[different strokes for different folks](#)

follow

[a tough act to follow](#)  
[do you follow](#)  
[follow me](#)  
[follow the rules](#)  
[follow through](#)  
[tough act to follow](#)

fonder

[absence makes the heart grow fonder](#)

food

[Fletcherize your food](#)

[food for thought](#)

[junk food](#)

[rabbit food](#)

fool

[a fool and his money are soon parted](#)

[fool and his money...](#)

[fool around](#)

[fool you](#)

[nobody's fool](#)

[play the fool](#)

foolish

[penny wise, pound foolish](#)

foot

[best foot forward](#)

[foot the bill](#)

[heavy foot](#)

[lead foot](#)

[put my foot down](#)

[put your best foot forward](#)

[put your foot in it](#)

[put your foot in your mouth](#)

[set foot](#)

[shoot yourself in the foot](#)

[wait on you hand and foot](#)

football

[political football](#)

footloose

[footloose and fancy free](#)

footwork

[fancy footwork](#)

for

[a penny for your thoughts](#)

[a run for your money](#)

[a sight for sore eyes](#)

[a sucker for punishment](#)

[account for](#)

[along for the ride](#)

[an eye for an eye \(a tooth for a tooth\)](#)

[ask for it](#)

[ask for the moon](#)

[at a loss for words](#)

[bang for your buck](#)

[be there for me](#)  
[bully for you](#)  
[bye for now](#)  
[call for](#)  
[can't see for looking](#)  
[can't see the forest for the trees](#)  
[chalk one up for you](#)  
[change for the better](#)  
[cover for me](#)  
[cruising for a bruising](#)  
[cut out for](#)  
[die for](#)  
[different strokes for different folks](#)  
[done for](#)  
[down for the count](#)  
[eat you for breakfast](#)  
[eye for an eye](#)  
[fall for](#)  
[fall for that](#)  
[feel for](#)  
[fend for yourself](#)  
[fill in for me](#)  
[fish for a compliment](#)  
[flip you for it](#)  
[food for thought](#)  
[for a dog's age](#)  
[for a song](#)  
[for all the tea in China](#)  
[for better or worse](#)  
[for crying out loud](#)  
[for dear life](#)  
[for good](#)  
[for good measure](#)  
[for goodness sake](#)  
[for gosh sake](#)  
[for heaven's sake](#)  
[for kicks](#)  
[for laughs](#)  
[for long](#)  
[for love nor money](#)  
[for openers](#)  
[for Pete's sake](#)

[for sure](#)  
[for the birds](#)  
[for the fun of it](#)  
[for the life of me](#)  
[game for anything](#)  
[give them what for](#)  
[give you a run for your money](#)  
[give you what for](#)  
[go along for the ride](#)  
[go down for the third time](#)  
[go for](#)  
[go for a spin](#)  
[go for broke](#)  
[go for it](#)  
[go for the jugular](#)  
[go to bat for](#)  
[good for a loan](#)  
[good for you](#)  
[got it in for](#)  
[got the hots for](#)  
[have a soft spot for](#)  
[have it in for](#)  
[have you for breakfast](#)  
[haven't got the stomach for it](#)  
[hell bent for election](#)  
[hit me for a loan](#)  
[hold out for](#)  
[how are you fixed for](#)  
[in store for](#)  
[jump for joy](#)  
[kill for](#)  
[lay down your life for](#)  
[long for](#)  
[look out for](#)  
[look out for number one](#)  
[made for each other](#)  
[make a life for yourself](#)  
[make a name for yourself](#)  
[make up for](#)  
[no match for](#)  
[no rest for the wicked](#)  
[no use for](#)

[none the worse for wear](#)  
[not for all the tea in China](#)  
[not long for this world](#)  
[one for the money, two for the show...](#)  
[one for the road](#)  
[out for blood](#)  
[pass for](#)  
[penny for your thoughts](#)  
[play it for all it's worth](#)  
[pull for](#)  
[put in a good word for](#)  
[put in a plug for](#)  
[reach for the sky](#)  
[root for](#)  
[run for office](#)  
[run for the hills](#)  
[run for your money](#)  
[save for a rainy day](#)  
[see me for dust](#)  
[set for life](#)  
[set out for](#)  
[sight for sore eyes](#)  
[spoil for a fight](#)  
[spring for](#)  
[stand for](#)  
[stand up for](#)  
[stick up for](#)  
[strictly for the birds](#)  
[take for granted](#)  
[take it for a spin](#)  
[take you for all you've got](#)  
[take your word for it](#)  
[taken for a ride](#)  
[the devil makes work for idle hands](#)  
[throw me for a loop](#)  
[throw on a dog for you](#)  
[tit for tat](#)  
[too big for his britches](#)  
[too deep for me](#)  
[try that on for size](#)  
[two for one](#)  
[up for grabs](#)

[up for it](#)  
[up for sale](#)  
[wait for the other shoe to drop](#)  
[wait up for](#)  
[watch out for](#)  
[went to bat for](#)  
[what's good for the goose is good for the gander](#)  
[what's in it for me](#)  
[wired for sound](#)  
[word for word](#)  
[work cut out for](#)  
[worse for wear](#)  
[wouldn't miss it for the world](#)

forbid	<a href="#">heaven forbid</a>
force	<a href="#">force of habit</a>
fordo	<a href="#">do me for/do me until</a>
foregone	<a href="#">a foregone conclusion</a> <a href="#">foregone conclusion</a>
foremost	<a href="#">first and foremost</a>
forest	<a href="#">can't see the forest for the trees</a>
forever	<a href="#">forever and a day</a>
forget	<a href="#">forget it</a> <a href="#">forget your manners</a>
fork	<a href="#">fork over</a>
form	<a href="#">in any way, shape or form</a>
former	<a href="#">a shadow of his former self</a>
fort	<a href="#">hold the fort</a>
forth	<a href="#">hold forth</a>
forward	<a href="#">best foot forward</a>

[put your best foot forward](#)

found

[found money](#)

[found out](#)

four

[Gang of Four](#)

[on all fours](#)

four-letter

[four-letter words](#)

fowl

[neither fish nor fowl](#)

fox

[crazy like a fox](#)

fraidy

[fraidy cat](#)

[shuck on down to the fraidy hole](#)

frame

[frame](#)

[frame of mind](#)

frazzled

[frazzled](#)

freakfreak

[freak/freak out](#)

free

[a free hand](#)

[feel free](#)

[footloose and fancy free](#)

[home free](#)

[the best things in life are free](#)

free-for-all

[a free-for-all](#)

[free-for-all](#)

freebie

[freebie](#)

freeload

[freeload](#)

freeze

[a freeze on](#)

[freeze wages](#)

[till hell freezes over](#)

freeze-up

[freeze-up](#)

fresh

[a breath of fresh air](#)

[a fresh pair of eyes](#)

[a fresh start](#)

[breath of fresh air](#)

[fresh](#)

[fresh legs](#)

[fresh out](#)

[fresh pair of eyes](#)

[fresh start](#)

[get fresh](#)

freshen

[freshen up](#)

friday

[Black Friday](#)

[frosty Friday](#)

[girl Friday](#)

[Thank Goodness It's Friday](#)

[that'll be the frosty Friday](#)

fried

[brain is fried](#)

friend

[fair-weather friend](#)

[fast friends](#)

[fine-feathered friend](#)

[friends with](#)

[make friends](#)

friendly

[user friendly](#)

friggin

[friggin](#)

frightened

[frightened to death](#)

fringe

[on the fringe](#)

fritz

[on the fritz](#)

fro

[slap my afro / slap my fro](#)

from

[blood from a stone](#)

[bolt from the blue](#)

[cut from the same cloth](#)

[don't know him from Adam](#)  
[don't know your ass from a hole in the ground \[B\]](#)  
[everything from soup to nuts](#)  
[from day one](#)  
[from hand to mouth](#)  
[from hunger](#)  
[from pillar to post](#)  
[from rags to riches](#)  
[from scratch](#)  
[from soup to nuts](#)  
[from square one](#)  
[from stem to stern](#)  
[from the bottom of my heart](#)  
[from the frying pan into the fire](#)  
[from the get-go](#)  
[from the horse's mouth](#)  
[from the word go](#)  
[from time to time](#)  
[get blood from a stone](#)  
[keep the wolf from the door](#)  
[like a bolt from the blue](#)  
[shoot from the hip](#)  
[snatch victory from the jaws of defeat](#)  
[start from scratch](#)  
[straight from the horse's mouth](#)  
[straight from the shoulder](#)  
[the apple doesn't fall far from the tree](#)

front

[front man](#)  
[front me](#)  
[front runner](#)  
[up front](#)

frosty

[frosty Friday](#)  
[that'll be the frosty Friday](#)

fruit

[nutty as a fruit cake](#)

fruition

[come to fruition](#)

fry

[bigger fish to fry](#)  
[other fish to fry](#)

frying	<a href="#">from the frying pan into the fire</a>
fuck	<a href="#">fuck all</a> <a href="#">fuck off [B]</a> <a href="#">fuck that noise [B]</a> <a href="#">fuck up [B]</a> <a href="#">give a damn / give a shit / give a fuck [B]</a>
fucked	<a href="#">fucked by the fickle finger of fate [B]</a>
fucking	<a href="#">no fucking way [B]</a>
fuddle	<a href="#">fuddle duddle*</a>
fudge	<a href="#">fudge it</a>
fuel	<a href="#">add fuel to the fire</a>
full	<a href="#">a few bricks short of a full load</a> <a href="#">a full house (cards)</a> <a href="#">a full plate</a> <a href="#">as full as a tick</a> <a href="#">chock full</a> <a href="#">come full circle</a> <a href="#">full as a tick</a> <a href="#">full blast</a> <a href="#">full blown</a> <a href="#">full Monty</a> <a href="#">full of herself</a> <a href="#">full of it [B]</a> <a href="#">full of piss and vinegar [B]</a> <a href="#">full out</a> <a href="#">full plate</a> <a href="#">full steam ahead</a> <a href="#">full strength</a> <a href="#">full throttle</a> <a href="#">full tilt</a> <a href="#">full up</a> <a href="#">got my hands full</a> <a href="#">in full flight</a> <a href="#">not playing with a full deck</a>

[on a full stomach](#)  
[one brick short of a full load](#)  
[piss pot full \[B\]](#)  
[plate is full](#)  
[plump full](#)  
[the full Monty](#)  
[three slices short \(of a full loaf\)](#)  
[without a full deck](#)  
[wouldn't say shit if her mouth was full of it \[B\]](#)  
[you're full of it \[B\]](#)

fun

[Dear Dad, No mon, no fun, your son! Dear Son, So sad, too bad, your dad!](#)  
[for the fun of it](#)  
[fun and games](#)  
[have fun](#)  
[make fun of](#)  
[poke fun at](#)  
[time flies when you're having fun](#)

funk

[in a funk](#)

funny

[funny in the head](#)  
[funny money](#)  
[funny stuff](#)  
[hit my funny bone](#)

furnace

[smoke like a furnace](#)

fuss

[fuss over](#)  
[kick up a fuss](#)  
[make a fuss](#)

future

[future looks bright](#)

fuzz

[fuzz](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Index G

g	
	<a href="#">a into g</a>
gab	
	<a href="#">gab</a> <a href="#">gift of the gab (gift of gab)</a> <a href="#">the gift of the gab (the gift of gab)</a>
gadzooks	
	<a href="#">gadzooks</a>
gaggle	
	<a href="#">a gaggle of geese</a>
gain	
	<a href="#">no pain, no gain</a>
gained	
	<a href="#">nothing ventured, nothing gained</a>
game	
	<a href="#">a game one</a> <a href="#">a whale of a game</a> <a href="#">ahead of the game</a> <a href="#">at the top of her game</a> <a href="#">fair game</a> <a href="#">fun and games</a> <a href="#">game for anything</a> <a href="#">game one</a> <a href="#">game over</a> <a href="#">hit me (card games)</a> <a href="#">mind games</a> <a href="#">play a mean game</a> <a href="#">play games</a> <a href="#">put you off your game</a> <a href="#">skins game</a> <a href="#">throw a game</a> <a href="#">whale of a game</a>
gamut	
	<a href="#">run the gamut</a>
gander	

[take a gander](#)

[what's good for the goose is good for the gander](#)

gang

[Gang of Four](#)

[gang up on](#)

gap

[bridge the gap](#)

[fill the gap](#)

[geezer gap](#)

garage

[garage kept](#)

garbage

[one man's garbage is another man's art](#)

garden

[down the garden path](#)

[lead you down the garden path](#)

gas

[gas](#)

gash

[gash](#)

gathering

[gathering dust](#)

gathers

[a rolling stone gathers no moss](#)

gauntlet

[run the gauntlet](#)

gear

[ass into gear](#)

[gear up](#)

[give you the gears](#)

gee

[gee](#)

[gee willickers](#)

[gee whiz](#)

[golly gee](#)

geek

[geek](#)

geese

[a gaggle of geese](#)

geez

[geez](#)

geezer

[geezer](#)

[geezer gap](#)

generation

[Generation X](#)

[hip hop \(generation\)](#)

[X Generation](#)

genius

[a budding genius](#)

[budding genius](#)

[stroke of genius](#)

george

[let George do it](#)

gesture

[a token gesture](#)

[token gesture](#)

get

[don't get mad; get even](#)

[don't get me wrong](#)

[don't get smart with me](#)

[flattery will get you nowhere](#)

[get a bang out of](#)

[get a charge out of](#)

[get a fix](#)

[get a fix on](#)

[get a grip](#)

[get a grip on yourself](#)

[get a handle on](#)

[get a hold of](#)

[get a kick out of](#)

[get a laugh](#)

[get a life](#)

[get a lift](#)

[get a load of that](#)

[get a move on](#)

[get a rise](#)

[get a shot](#)

[get a shot at](#)

[get a ticket](#)

[get after](#)

[get ahead](#)

[get along](#)

[get around](#)

[get around it](#)

[get around to](#)  
[get at](#)  
[get at it](#)  
[get away with](#)  
[get axed](#)  
[get back at](#)  
[get bageled](#)  
[get blood from a stone](#)  
[get burned](#)  
[get busy](#)  
[get by/scrape by](#)  
[get carried away](#)  
[get caught](#)  
[get caught up](#)  
[get cold feet](#)  
[get down to brass tacks](#)  
[get down to business](#)  
[get even](#)  
[get fingered](#)  
[get fresh](#)  
[get going](#)  
[get good wood on](#)  
[get hell \[B\]](#)  
[get her way](#)  
[get high](#)  
[get him back](#)  
[get home](#)  
[get in deeper](#)  
[get in my face](#)  
[get in on it](#)  
[get in on the ground floor](#)  
[get in shape](#)  
[get in your hair](#)  
[get into her pants \[B\]](#)  
[get into trouble](#)  
[get it](#)  
[get it off your chest](#)  
[get it on](#)  
[get it over with](#)  
[get it straight](#)  
[get it together](#)  
[get laid \[B\]](#)

[get lost](#)  
[get mad](#)  
[get me down](#)  
[get my drift](#)  
[get my kicks](#)  
[get off](#)  
[get off a few good ones](#)  
[get off my back](#)  
[get off my case](#)  
[get off on](#)  
[get off the ground](#)  
[get off to a good start](#)  
[get off your high horse](#)  
[get off your soap box](#)  
[get on in years](#)  
[get on it](#)  
[get on my good side](#)  
[get on my nerves](#)  
[get on with it](#)  
[get on your horse](#)  
[get out](#)  
[get out of](#)  
[get out of my face](#)  
[get out of the road](#)  
[get out of town](#)  
[get out of your hair](#)  
[get over](#)  
[get real](#)  
[get reamed out](#)  
[get revenge](#)  
[get rid of](#)  
[get rolling](#)  
[get screwed](#)  
[get serious](#)  
[get shit \[B\]](#)  
[get something out of](#)  
[get the drop on](#)  
[get the finger \[B\] \(get the bird\)](#)  
[get the green light](#)  
[get the hang of](#)  
[get the jitters](#)  
[get the jump on](#)

[get the lay of the land](#)  
[get the lead out](#)  
[get the picture](#)  
[get the point](#)  
[get the word out](#)  
[get the wrinkles out](#)  
[get this monkey off my back](#)  
[get this show on the road](#)  
[get this straight](#)  
[get to first base](#)  
[get to it](#)  
[get to me](#)  
[get to the bottom of](#)  
[get to the point](#)  
[get to the root of the problem](#)  
[get together](#)  
[get under my skin](#)  
[get up a head of steam](#)  
[get up on the wrong side of bed](#)  
[get wind of](#)  
[get with it](#)  
[get worked up](#)  
[get you back](#)  
[get you down](#)  
[get your act together](#)  
[get your attention](#)  
[get your back up](#)  
[get your buns over here](#)  
[get your dander up](#)  
[get your ears pinned back](#)  
[get your feet wet](#)  
[get your goat](#)  
[get your head out of the clouds](#)  
[get your head together](#)  
[get your hopes up](#)  
[get your jollies](#)  
[get your kicks](#)  
[get your knuckles rapped](#)  
[get your mind around](#)  
[get your shirt in a knot/ get your shit in a knot \[B\]](#)  
[get your shit together \[B\]](#)  
[get your tits in a wringer](#)

[get your way](#)  
[get your wires crossed](#)  
[get yours](#)  
[going gets rough](#)  
[hard to get](#)  
[if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen](#)  
[out to get you](#)  
[play hard to get](#)  
[shit or get off the pot](#)  
[tell him where to get off](#)  
[the early bird gets the worm](#)  
[the going gets rough](#)  
[the squeaky wheel gets the grease](#)  
[when the going gets tough](#)  
[where do they get off](#)

get-go

[from the get-go](#)  
[get-go](#)

get-out

[all get-out](#)  
[as all get-out](#)

get-up

[get-up](#)

get-up-and-go

[get-up-and-go](#)

getalong

[have a hitch in your getalong](#)  
[hitch in your getalong](#)

getting

[getting on in years](#)  
[how are you getting along](#)

ghetto

[ghetto blaster](#)

ghost

[a ghost of a chance](#)  
[give up the ghost](#)

gibberish

[gibberish](#)

gibraltar

[as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar](#)  
[solid as the Rock of Gibraltar](#)

gift

[don't look a gift horse in the mouth](#)

[gift of the gab \(gift of gab\)](#)  
[the gift of the gab \(the gift of gab\)](#)

gig

[do a gig](#)

gild

[gild the lily](#)

gills

[pissed to the gills \[B\]](#)  
[sloshed to the gills](#)

gimme

[gimme a break](#)

girl

['at a girl \(that a girl\)](#)  
[attagirl \(that a girl\)](#)  
[girl Friday](#)  
[sweater girl](#)  
[that a boy/that a girl](#)

git

[git](#)

give

[don't give a crap \[B\]](#)  
[don't give a damn \[B\]](#)  
[don't give me any of your lip](#)  
[don't give me that line/story etc.](#)  
[give 110%](#)  
[give a black eye](#)  
[give a damn / give a shit / give a fuck \[B\]](#)  
[give a hoot](#)  
[give a little](#)  
[give a shit \[B\]](#)  
[give an arm and a leg](#)  
[give an inch](#)  
[give and take](#)  
[give head \[B\]](#)  
[give her](#)  
[give her credit](#)  
[give her shit \[B\]](#)  
[give her the eye](#)  
[give him a taste of his own medicine](#)  
[give him an inch and he'll take a mile](#)  
[give him enough rope and he'll hang himself](#)  
[give him the brush-off](#)

[give him the evil eye](#)  
[give him the slip](#)  
[give in](#)  
[give it a rest](#)  
[give it a whirl](#)  
[give it all you've got](#)  
[give it the once-over](#)  
[give it to him](#)  
[give it to me straight](#)  
[give it your best shot](#)  
[give me a bad time](#)  
[give me a break](#)  
[give me a call](#)  
[give me a dingle](#)  
[give me a hand](#)  
[give me a hint](#)  
[give me a lift](#)  
[give me a ring](#)  
[give me the creeps](#)  
[give me the third degree](#)  
[give my eye teeth](#)  
[give my right arm](#)  
[give no quarter](#)  
[give notice](#)  
[give off an odor](#)  
[give out](#)  
[give them a hand](#)  
[give them what for](#)  
[give up](#)  
[give up the blueline \(hockey\)](#)  
[give up the ghost](#)  
[give you a boost](#)  
[give you a hard time](#)  
[give you a line](#)  
[give you a ribbing](#)  
[give you a rough time](#)  
[give you a run for your money](#)  
[give you an out](#)  
[give you flack](#)  
[give you hell \[B\]](#)  
[give you odds](#)  
[give you shit \[B\]](#)

[give you static](#)  
[give you the axe](#)  
[give you the benefit...](#)  
[give you the boot](#)  
[give you the cold shoulder](#)  
[give you the gears](#)  
[give you the runaround](#)  
[give you the shirt off his back](#)  
[give you what for](#)  
[give your best](#)  
[give your word](#)  
[what gives](#)

giveaway

[a dead giveaway](#)  
[dead giveaway](#)

glad

[glad rags](#)

glance

[a fleeting glance](#)  
[at a glance](#)  
[at first glance](#)  
[fleeting glance](#)

glass

[crawl on my hands and knees over broken glass just to see her photo](#)  
[people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones](#)

glassy

[glassy eyed](#)

glaze

[eyes glaze over](#)

glimpse

[catch a glimpse](#)

glitch

[glitch](#)

glom

[glom onto](#)

gloss

[gloss over](#)

gloves

[drop your gloves \(hockey\)](#)  
[gloves are off](#)  
[the gloves are off](#)

glow

[a glow on](#)

[glow on](#)

glowing

[glowing terms](#)

[in glowing terms](#)

glued

[glued to the set](#)

gnashing

[gnashing of teeth](#)

go

[a go](#)

[don't go away mad; just go away](#)

[don't go there](#)

[don't want to go there](#)

[easy come, easy go](#)

[from the word go](#)

[go against the grain](#)

[go all-out](#)

[go all the way \(sex\)](#)

[go all the way \(sports\)](#)

[go along for the ride](#)

[go along with](#)

[go ape](#)

[go around the bend](#)

[go around with](#)

[go at a good clip](#)

[go back on](#)

[go bad](#)

[go ballistic](#)

[go bananas](#)

[go berserk](#)

[go bonkers](#)

[go bust](#)

[go by the boards](#)

[go by the name of](#)

[go crazy](#)

[go down](#)

[go down for the third time](#)

[go down on \[B\]](#)

[go downhill](#)

[go downtown \[B\]](#)

[go easy on](#)

[go figure](#)

[go for](#)  
[go for a spin](#)  
[go for broke](#)  
[go for it](#)  
[go for the jugular](#)  
[go great guns](#)  
[go haywire](#)  
[go hog wild](#)  
[go hungry](#)  
[go in circles](#)  
[go into detail](#)  
[go jump in the lake](#)  
[go like crazy](#)  
[go like stink](#)  
[go mad](#)  
[go nowhere fast](#)  
[go nuts](#)  
[go off half-cocked](#)  
[go off the deep end](#)  
[go on](#)  
[go on about](#)  
[go one better](#)  
[go out of your mind](#)  
[go out of your way](#)  
[go out on a limb](#)  
[go out with](#)  
[go over](#)  
[go overboard](#)  
[go places](#)  
[go pound salt](#)  
[go public](#)  
[go soft](#)  
[go steady](#)  
[go straight](#)  
[go strong](#)  
[go tell your mother she wants you](#)  
[go the distance](#)  
[go the extra mile](#)  
[go the way of the dodo](#)  
[go through](#)  
[go through the roof](#)  
[go to any trouble](#)

[go to bat for](#)  
[go to great lengths/ go to any lengths](#)  
[go to hell \[B\]](#)  
[go to hell in a handbasket](#)  
[go to pieces](#)  
[go to pot](#)  
[go to town](#)  
[go to trouble](#)  
[go to your head](#)  
[go too far](#)  
[go under](#)  
[go up in smoke](#)  
[go wild](#)  
[go with the flow](#)  
[go without](#)  
[go wrong](#)  
[good to go](#)  
[have a go](#)  
[have to go](#)  
[have to go some](#)  
[it's a go](#)  
[let go of](#)  
[let it go to your head](#)  
[let this chance go by](#)  
[let yourself go](#)  
[make a go of it](#)  
[mind go blank](#)  
[on the go](#)  
[tell him where to go](#)  
[the best-laid plans of mice and men go oft astray](#)  
[the room is so small you have to go outside turn around](#)  
[there you go](#)  
[to go](#)  
[touch and go](#)  
[way to go](#)

go-getter

[a go-getter](#)

[go-getter](#)

go-round

[go-round](#)

goalie

[pull the goalie \(hockey\)](#)

goat	<a href="#">get your goat</a> <a href="#">old goat</a> <a href="#">the goat</a>
god	<a href="#">god awful</a> <a href="#">God bless the Duke of Argyle</a> <a href="#">God rest his soul</a> <a href="#">rest his soul (God rest his soul)</a> <a href="#">talk the leg off the lamb of God</a>
goes	<a href="#">all goes well</a> <a href="#">anything goes</a> <a href="#">how goes it</a> <a href="#">how goes the battle</a> <a href="#">it goes with the territory</a> <a href="#">it goes without saying</a> <a href="#">what goes around comes around</a>
goeth	<a href="#">pride goeth before a fall</a>
gofer	<a href="#">gofer</a>
going	<a href="#">a going concern.</a> <a href="#">don't know whether you're coming or going</a> <a href="#">get going</a> <a href="#">going concern</a> <a href="#">going down</a> <a href="#">going gets rough</a> <a href="#">going great guns</a> <a href="#">going rate</a> <a href="#">going strong</a> <a href="#">going to the mountains</a> <a href="#">going to town</a> <a href="#">good going</a> <a href="#">heavy going</a> <a href="#">keep you going</a> <a href="#">rough going</a> <a href="#">the going gets rough</a> <a href="#">the going rate</a> <a href="#">tough going</a> <a href="#">what's going down</a>

[what's going on](#)  
[when the going gets tough](#)  
[win going away](#)

gol

[gol dang/gol darn](#)  
[gosh darn \(gol darn\)](#)

gold

[pot of gold](#)  
[worth their weight in gold](#)

golden

[a golden opportunity](#)  
[golden age](#)  
[golden opportunity](#)  
[golden rule](#)  
[golden years](#)  
[kill the goose that lays the golden eggs](#)  
[silence is golden](#)  
[The Golden Rule](#)

golf

[hole in one \(golf\)](#)

golly

[by golly](#)  
[golly](#)  
[golly gee](#)  
[good golly](#)

gone

[gone to pot](#)  
[gone to the dogs](#)  
[long gone](#)  
[to hell and gone](#)  
[too far gone](#)

goner

[a goner](#)  
[goner](#)

gonzo

[gonzo](#)

good

[a good arm](#)  
[a good egg](#)  
[a good head](#)  
[a good sport](#)  
[at a good clip](#)

[but good](#)  
[curl up with a good book](#)  
[damaged goods](#)  
[did good](#)  
[done good](#)  
[feeling good](#)  
[for good](#)  
[for good measure](#)  
[get good wood on](#)  
[get off a few good ones](#)  
[get off to a good start](#)  
[get on my good side](#)  
[go at a good clip](#)  
[good afternoon](#)  
[good and dead/mad/sick](#)  
[good arm](#)  
[good bet](#)  
[good day](#)  
[good egg](#)  
[good for a loan](#)  
[good for you](#)  
[good going](#)  
[good golly](#)  
[good gravy](#)  
[good grief](#)  
[good hands](#)  
[good head](#)  
[good morning](#)  
[good on you](#)  
[good riddance](#)  
[good show](#)  
[good sport](#)  
[good time](#)  
[good to go](#)  
[good wood on it](#)  
[have a good time](#)  
[hot goods](#)  
[in good faith](#)  
[in good hands](#)  
[in her good graces](#)  
[in his good books](#)  
[in my good books](#)

[jolly good fellow](#)  
[keep in good shape](#)  
[keep up the good work](#)  
[let the good times roll](#)  
[make a good impression](#)  
[make good](#)  
[make good time](#)  
[no news is good news](#)  
[off to a good start](#)  
[on good terms](#)  
[on my good side](#)  
[put in a good word for](#)  
[so far, so good](#)  
[straight goods](#)  
[string of good luck](#)  
[stroke of good luck](#)  
[the road to hell is paved with good intentions](#)  
[the straight goods](#)  
[there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so](#)  
[throw good money after bad](#)  
[up to no good](#)  
[what's good for the goose is good for the gander](#)  
[word is good](#)  
[you have to be good to be lucky](#)  
[you're only as good as your last shift](#)

good-for-nothing

[good-for-nothing](#)

goodbye

[kiss that one goodbye](#)

goodies

[goodies](#)

goodness

[for goodness sake](#)  
[goodness gracious](#)  
[out of the goodness of my heart](#)  
[thank goodness](#)  
[Thank Goodness It's Friday](#)

goof

[goof off](#)  
[goof up](#)

goose

[a wild goose chase](#)

[Canada goose](#)  
[cook your goose](#)  
[goose egg](#)  
[goose is cooked](#)  
[goose it](#)  
[kill the goose that lays the golden eggs](#)  
[like shit through a goose](#)  
[shit through a goose](#)  
[what's good for the goose is good for the gander](#)  
[wild goose chase](#)  
[your goose is cooked](#)

goosed

[goosed](#)

gosh

[by gosh](#)  
[by guess or by gosh](#)  
[for gosh sake](#)  
[gosh](#)  
[gosh darn \(gol darn\)](#)  
[oh my gosh](#)

gospel

[gospel truth](#)  
[the gospel truth](#)

got

[cat got your tongue](#)  
[give it all you've got](#)  
[got a corner on](#)  
[got a crush on](#)  
[got a light](#)  
[got guts](#)  
[got him covered](#)  
[got it bad](#)  
[got it coming](#)  
[got it in for](#)  
[got it made](#)  
[got my eye on](#)  
[got my hands full](#)  
[got no business](#)  
[got rocks in your head](#)  
[got the balls \[B\]](#)  
[got the blues](#)  
[got the hots for](#)

[got the rags on \[B\]](#)  
[got what it takes](#)  
[got you by the balls \[B\]](#)  
[got you by the short hairs](#)  
[got you cornered](#)  
[got your number](#)  
[gotcha \(got you\)](#)  
[has the cat got your...](#)  
[haven't got a hope](#)  
[haven't got a hope in hell](#)  
[haven't got the stomach for it](#)  
[take you for all you've got](#)  
[the one that got away](#)  
[you got it](#)  
[you've got to be kidding](#)

gotcha

[gotcha \(got you\)](#)

gotches

[gotches](#)

gourd

[out of your gourd](#)

grab

[grab a bite to eat](#)  
[grab a chair](#)  
[how does that grab you](#)  
[up for grabs](#)

graces

[in her good graces](#)

gracious

[goodness gracious](#)

grade

[make the grade](#)

graduate

[Christmas graduate](#)

grain

[a grain of salt](#)  
[a grain of truth](#)  
[against the grain](#)  
[go against the grain](#)  
[grain belt](#)  
[grain of salt](#)  
[take it with a grain of salt](#)

[take with a grain of salt](#)

grand

[grand slam](#)

grandfather

[grandfather](#)

[grandfather clause](#)

grandmother

[don't teach your grandmother how to suck eggs](#)

granola

[granola](#)

granted

[take for granted](#)

grapes

[sour grapes](#)

grapevine

[grapevine](#)

[through the grapevine](#)

grass

[grass is greener...](#)

[the grass is greener on the other side of the fence](#)

grasshopper

[knee high to a grasshopper](#)

grave

[dig your own grave](#)

gravy

[good gravy](#)

[gravy train](#)

[the rest is gravy](#)

grease

[grease my palm](#)

[the squeaky wheel gets the grease](#)

greased

[greased lightning](#)

greaser

[greaser](#)

greasy

[greasy kid's stuff](#)

[greasy spoon](#)

great

[go great guns](#)

[go to great lengths/ go to any lengths](#)

[going great guns](#)

[great guns](#)

[Great One](#)  
[great Scot](#)  
[great shakes](#)  
[Great White Hope](#)  
[Great White North](#)  
[no great shakes](#)  
[The Great One](#)  
[The Great White Hope](#)  
[The Great White North](#)

greek

[Greek to me](#)  
[it was Greek to me](#)

green

[Florida green](#)  
[get the green light](#)  
[green stuff](#)  
[green thumb](#)  
[green with envy](#)

greenback

[greenback](#)

greener

[grass is greener...](#)  
[the grass is greener on the other side of the fence](#)

grey

[grey area](#)  
[grey matter](#)  
[grey power](#)

grief

[good grief](#)

grill

[grill you](#)

grim

[grim reaper](#)  
[hang on like grim death](#)  
[The Grim Reaper](#)

grind

[an axe to grind](#)  
[axe to grind](#)  
[back to the grind](#)  
[bump and grind \(hockey\)](#)  
[bump and grind](#)  
[grind to a halt](#)

grinding	<a href="#">grinding halt</a>
grindstone	<a href="#">keep your nose to the grindstone</a>
grinning	<a href="#">grinning like a bushel basketful of possum heads</a>
grip	<a href="#">come to grips with</a> <a href="#">get a grip</a> <a href="#">get a grip on yourself</a>
groaty	<a href="#">groaty to the max</a>
groovy	<a href="#">groovy</a>
ground	<a href="#">don't know your ass from a hole in the ground [B]</a> <a href="#">ear to the ground</a> <a href="#">get in on the ground floor</a> <a href="#">get off the ground</a> <a href="#">ground me</a> <a href="#">hit the ground running</a> <a href="#">keep your ear to the ground</a> <a href="#">lose ground</a> <a href="#">middle ground</a> <a href="#">on moral grounds</a> <a href="#">on shaky ground</a> <a href="#">on the ground floor</a> <a href="#">shaky ground</a> <a href="#">worship the ground she walks on</a>
grounded	<a href="#">grounded</a>
group	<a href="#">Group of Five</a> <a href="#">Group of Seven</a> <a href="#">The Group of Five/The Regina Five</a> <a href="#">The Group of Seven</a>
grouse	<a href="#">grouse</a>
grow	<a href="#">a pinch to grow an inch</a> <a href="#">absence makes the heart grow fonder</a> <a href="#">grow a tail</a> <a href="#">grow on you</a>

[grow up](#)  
[money doesn't grow on trees](#)  
[pinch to grow an inch](#)

grudge

[hold a grudge](#)

grunge

[grunge \(fashion\)](#)  
[grunge \(music\)](#)  
[grunge](#)

guard

[catch you off guard](#)  
[guard is down](#)  
[on your guard](#)

guess

[by guess or by gosh](#)  
[hazard a guess](#)  
[second guess](#)  
[take a guess](#)

guest

[be my guest](#)

guff

[no guff](#)

gums

[flap your gums](#)

gun

[go great guns](#)  
[going great guns](#)  
[great guns](#)  
[gun down](#)  
[gun it](#)  
[jump the gun](#)  
[life is not all guns and roses](#)  
[smoking gun](#)  
[stick to your guns](#)

gung

[gung ho](#)

gussied

[gussied up](#)

gut

[duck's guts](#)  
[got guts](#)  
[it's the duck's guts](#)

[rot gut](#)

[spill your guts](#)

[split a gut](#)

[tub of guts](#)

**gutter**

[in the gutter](#)

**guy**

[a regular guy](#)

[regular guy](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Index H

habit	<a href="#">break a habit</a> <a href="#">force of habit</a> <a href="#">kick a habit</a> <a href="#">shake a habit</a>
hackhacker	<a href="#">hack/hacker</a>
had	<a href="#">been had</a> <a href="#">had a bellyful</a> <a href="#">had a belt</a> <a href="#">had a couple</a> <a href="#">had a few</a> <a href="#">had better</a> <a href="#">had enough</a> <a href="#">had his bell rung</a> <a href="#">had it</a> <a href="#">had it up to here</a> <a href="#">had the bird</a> <a href="#">so small you had to back out to change your mind</a> <a href="#">you had to be there</a>
hahing	<a href="#">hemming and hahing</a>
hail	<a href="#">hail a cab</a>
hail-fellow-well-met	<a href="#">hail-fellow-well-met</a>
hair	<a href="#">a little hair off the dog</a> <a href="#">by the short hairs</a> <a href="#">curl your hair</a> <a href="#">get in your hair</a> <a href="#">get out of your hair</a> <a href="#">got you by the short hairs</a> <a href="#">hair off the dog that bit you</a>

[hair stand on end](#)  
[haven't seen hide nor hair](#)  
[hide nor hair](#)  
[in your hair](#)  
[keep your hair on](#)  
[kiss curls \(hair style\)](#)  
[make your hair stand on end](#)  
[out of my hair](#)  
[see hide nor hair](#)  
[split hairs](#)  
[without turning a hair](#)

hairbrain

[hairbrain](#)

hairdo

[hairdo](#)

hairy

[big hairy deal](#)

hale

[hale and hearty](#)

half

[all over hell's half acre](#)  
[better half](#)  
[don't know the half of it](#)  
[half the battle](#)  
[have half a mind to](#)  
[hell's half acre \[B\]](#)  
[meet you half way](#)  
[not half bad](#)  
[six of one, half a dozen of the other](#)

half-assed

[half-assed \[B\]](#)

half-bad

[ain't half-bad](#)[half-bad](#)

half-baked

[half-baked](#)

half-cocked

[go off half-cocked](#)[half-cocked](#)

half-corked

[half-corked](#)

half-cut

[half-cut](#)

half-hearted	<a href="#">half-hearted</a>
half-lit	<a href="#">half-lit</a>
half-pint	<a href="#">half-pint</a>
half-shot	<a href="#">half-shot</a>
half-snapped	<a href="#">half-snapped</a>
half-there	<a href="#">half-there</a>
halt	<a href="#">grind to a halt</a> <a href="#">grinding halt</a>
ham	<a href="#">ham</a> <a href="#">ham hands</a> <a href="#">ham it up</a> <a href="#">play the ham</a>
hammer	<a href="#">a sack of hammers</a> <a href="#">as dumb as a sack of hammers</a> <a href="#">dumb as a sack of hammers</a> <a href="#">hammer and tongs</a> <a href="#">put the hammer down</a> <a href="#">sack of hammers</a>
hammered	<a href="#">hammered</a>
hancock	<a href="#">John Hancock</a>
hand	<a href="#">a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush</a> <a href="#">a firm hand</a> <a href="#">a free hand</a> <a href="#">a helping hand</a> <a href="#">a hot hand</a> <a href="#">an old hand at</a> <a href="#">at the hands of</a> <a href="#">bite the hand that feeds you</a> <a href="#">can't put my hands on it</a> <a href="#">cement hands</a>

[change hands](#)

[crawl on my hands and knees over broken glass just to see her photo](#)

[don't hand me that](#)

[eat out of the palm of your hand](#)

[firm hand](#)

[first hand](#)

[from hand to mouth](#)

[give me a hand](#)

[give them a hand](#)

[good hands](#)

[got my hands full](#)

[ham hands](#)

[hand down](#)

[hand in](#)

[hand in hand](#)

[hand me down](#)

[hand out](#)

[hand over](#)

[hand over fist](#)

[hand to mouth](#)

[hand you a line](#)

[hands are tied](#)

[hands down](#)

[hands on](#)

[hands up](#)

[hat in hand](#)

[have it in hand](#)

[have things in hand](#)

[have to hand it to you](#)

[helping hand](#)

[hold your hand](#)

[hot hand](#)

[in good hands](#)

[in hand](#)

[know like the back of your hand](#)

[lend a hand](#)

[out of hand](#)

[out of our hands](#)

[play into his hand](#)

[raise your hand against](#)

[reject out of hand](#)

[shake hands](#)

[talk to the hand](#)  
[the devil makes work for idle hands](#)  
[the upper hand](#)  
[time on your hands](#)  
[tip your hand](#)  
[try your hand at](#)  
[upper hand](#)  
[wait on you hand and foot](#)  
[wash your hands of it](#)

handbasket

[go to hell in a handbasket](#)  
[hell in a handbasket](#)

handed

[high handed](#)

handful

[a handful](#)  
[handful](#)

handle

[fly off the handle](#)  
[get a handle on](#)  
[handle herself](#)  
[sometimes life is a bucket of shit and the handle is inside \[B\]](#)  
[too hot to handle](#)

handout

[a handout](#)  
[handout](#)

handwriting

[the handwriting is on the wall](#)

hang

[get the hang of](#)  
[give him enough rope and he'll hang himself](#)  
[hang around](#)  
[hang in there](#)  
[hang loose](#)  
[hang on](#)  
[hang on every word](#)  
[hang on like grim death](#)  
[hang out](#)  
[hang ten \(surfing\)](#)  
[hang tough](#)  
[hang you out to dry](#)  
[hang your hat](#)

[if you're born to hang, you won't drown](#)

[let it all hang out](#)

hang-up

[hang-up](#)

hanging

[leave me hanging](#)

hangover

[hangover](#)

hanky-panky

[hanky-panky](#)

happy

[happy as a box of birds](#)

[happy as a clam/lark](#)

[happy as a peacock](#)

[happy as a pig in shit \[B\]](#)

[happy camper](#)

[happy hour](#)

[happy motoring](#)

hard

[a hard day](#)

[a hard row to hoe](#)

[a hard time](#)

[between a rock and a hard place](#)

[cold, hard cash](#)

[come down hard](#)

[die hard](#)

[do it the hard way](#)

[drive a hard bargain](#)

[give you a hard time](#)

[hard as nails](#)

[hard at it](#)

[hard copy](#)

[hard day](#)

[hard done by](#)

[hard feelings](#)

[hard line](#)

[hard liquor](#)

[hard nosed](#)

[hard of hearing](#)

[hard on me](#)

[hard pressed](#)

[hard put](#)

[hard row to hoe](#)  
[hard sell](#)  
[hard skill](#)  
[hard stuff](#)  
[hard times](#)  
[hard to believe](#)  
[hard to get](#)  
[hard to swallow](#)  
[hard to take](#)  
[hard up](#)  
[no hard feelings](#)  
[play hard to get](#)  
[put in a hard day](#)  
[school of hard knocks](#)  
[the hard way](#)  
[the school of hard knocks](#)  
[times were hard](#)

hard-on

[a hard-on \[B\]](#)  
[hard-on \[B\]](#)

hardball

[play hardball](#)

harder

[the bigger they are the harder they fall](#)

hardware

[hardware](#)

harm

[out of harm's way](#)

harum-scarum

[harum-scarum](#)

has

[every cloud has a silver lining](#)  
[has a mind of his own](#)  
[has the cat got your...](#)  
[has the makings](#)  
[it has your name on it](#)  
[rumor has it](#)

has-been

[has-been](#)

hash

[hash it over](#)

hassle

[a hassle](#)  
[hassle](#)  
[hassle me](#)

hasty

[beat a hasty retreat](#)

hat

[all hat and no cattle](#)  
[at the drop of a hat](#)  
[hang your hat](#)  
[hat in hand](#)  
[hat trick](#)  
[hats off](#)  
[old hat](#)  
[take my hat off to](#)  
[talk through your hat](#)  
[tip of the hat](#)

hatch

[count your chickens before they hatch](#)  
[don't count your chickens before they hatch](#)  
[down the hatch](#)

hatchet

[bury the hatchet](#)  
[hatchet man](#)

hatshirt

[eat my hat/shirt](#)

hatter

[mad as a hatter](#)  
[mad hatter](#)

haul

[haul ass \[B\]](#)  
[haul up on the carpet](#)  
[in the long haul](#)

haunt

[come back to haunt you](#)

have

[as luck would have it](#)  
[better to have loved...](#)  
[can't have it both ways](#)  
[didn't have a stitch of clothes on](#)  
[do unto others as you would have them do unto you](#)  
[don't have a cow](#)  
[have a ball](#)

[have a bird](#)  
[have a bite](#)  
[have a blast](#)  
[have a boo](#)  
[have a case of](#)  
[have a chair](#)  
[have a clue](#)  
[have a conniption](#)  
[have a crush on](#)  
[have a cow](#)  
[have a drag](#)  
[have a fit](#)  
[have a fix](#)  
[have a flat](#)  
[have a fling](#)  
[have a go](#)  
[have a good time](#)  
[have a heart](#)  
[have a hitch in your getalong](#)  
[have a laugh](#)  
[have a leak \[B\]](#)  
[have a looksee](#)  
[have a mind to](#)  
[have a puff](#)  
[have a say](#)  
[have a seat](#)  
[have a shot at](#)  
[have a sip](#)  
[have a smash](#)  
[have a soft spot for](#)  
[have a whiz](#)  
[have a word with you](#)  
[have an affair](#)  
[have an attack](#)  
[have an inkling](#)  
[have at me](#)  
[have deep pockets](#)  
[have designs on](#)  
[have fun](#)  
[have half a mind to](#)  
[have it both ways](#)  
[have it coming](#)

[have it in for](#)  
[have it in hand](#)  
[have it made](#)  
[have it out](#)  
[have it your way](#)  
[have my ears lowered](#)  
[have my eye on](#)  
[have my work cut out](#)  
[have nookie](#)  
[have one on me](#)  
[have sex](#)  
[have the balls \[B\]](#)  
[have the final say](#)  
[have the floor](#)  
[have the makings of](#)  
[have things in hand](#)  
[have to](#)  
[have to go](#)  
[have to go some](#)  
[have to hand it to you](#)  
[have what it takes](#)  
[have you for breakfast](#)  
[have you over](#)  
[have your cake and eat it, too](#)  
[have your period \[B\]](#)  
[haven't got a hope](#)  
[haven't got a hope in hell](#)  
[haven't got the stomach for it](#)  
[haven't seen hide nor hair](#)  
[haven't the foggiest](#)  
[it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all](#)  
[let me have it](#)  
[let you have it](#)  
[price you have to pay](#)  
[the price you have to pay](#)  
[the room is so small you have to go outside turn around](#)  
[you have to be good to be lucky](#)

having

[time flies when you're having fun](#)

havoc

[havoc strikes](#)

[play havoc with](#)

[wreak havoc](#)

hawk

[hawk](#)

[like a hawk](#)

[like a mother hawk](#)

[watch me like a hawk](#)

[watch over like a mother hawk](#)

hay

[a roll in the hay \[B\]](#)

[hit the hay](#)

[make hay while the sun shines](#)

[roll in the hay](#)

[what the hay](#)

haywire

[go haywire](#)

[haywire](#)

[something is haywire](#)

hazard

[hazard a guess](#)

he'll

[give him an inch and he'll take a mile](#)

[give him enough rope and he'll hang himself](#)

head

[a good head](#)

[a head start](#)

[beat your head against a stone wall](#)

[come to a head](#)

[cooler heads prevailed](#)

[fall head over heels](#)

[funny in the head](#)

[get up a head of steam](#)

[get your head out of the clouds](#)

[get your head together](#)

[give head \[B\]](#)

[go to your head](#)

[good head](#)

[got rocks in your head](#)

[grinning like a bushel basketful of possum heads](#)

[head \(headbanger\)](#)

[head](#)

[head and shoulders](#)

[head down there](#)

[head honcho](#)  
[head in the clouds](#)  
[head in the sand](#)  
[head is spinning](#)  
[head on](#)  
[head out](#)  
[head over heels](#)  
[head up](#)  
[head up there](#)  
[heads or tails](#)  
[heads will roll](#)  
[hit the nail on the head](#)  
[hold that over my head](#)  
[in over your head](#)  
[keep your head](#)  
[keep your head above water](#)  
[laugh your head off](#)  
[let it go to your head](#)  
[lose your head](#)  
[make your head spin](#)  
[off the top of my head](#)  
[out of my head](#)  
[over my head](#)  
[rocks in your head](#)  
[scratch your head](#)  
[sleepy head](#)  
[soft in the head](#)  
[swelled head](#)  
[take my head off](#)  
[talk your head off](#)  
[touched in the head](#)  
[tube head](#)  
[two heads are better than one](#)

headbanger

[head \(headbanger\)](#)

headhunter

[headhunter](#)

headmind

[clear your head/mind](#)

headway

[make headway](#)

health

[a clean bill of health](#)  
[clean bill of health](#)  
[health nut](#)  
[the picture of health](#)

hear

[hear me out](#)  
[so quiet you can hear a pin drop](#)

hearing

[hard of hearing](#)

heart

[absence makes the heart grow fonder](#)  
[at heart](#)  
[best interests at heart](#)  
[bleeding heart](#)  
[break your heart](#)  
[by heart](#)  
[change of heart](#)  
[cross my heart and hope to die](#)  
[cry her heart out](#)  
[eat your heart out](#)  
[faint of heart](#)  
[from the bottom of my heart](#)  
[have a heart](#)  
[heart is in the right place](#)  
[heavy heart](#)  
[out of the goodness of my heart](#)  
[play on my heart strings](#)  
[pluck at the heart strings](#)  
[put your heart into it](#)  
[sick at heart](#)  
[steal your heart](#)  
[take heart](#)  
[take it to heart](#)  
[the way to a man's heart is through his stomach](#)  
[to heart](#)  
[wear your heart on your sleeve](#)  
[win the hearts](#)  
[with all my heart](#)  
[young at heart](#)

hearty

[hale and hearty](#)

heat

[a dead heat](#)  
[dead heat](#)  
[heat is on](#)  
[if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen](#)  
[put the heat on](#)  
[take the heat](#)  
[the heat is on](#)

heaven

[for heaven's sake](#)  
[heaven forbid](#)  
[heaven help us](#)  
[heavens](#)  
[heavens to Betsy](#)  
[in heaven's name](#)  
[in seventh heaven](#)  
[thank heavens](#)  
[what in the name of heaven](#)

heavy

[a heavy day](#)  
[a heavy hitter](#)  
[heavy](#)  
[heavy day](#)  
[heavy duty](#)  
[heavy foot](#)  
[heavy going](#)  
[heavy heart](#)  
[heavy hitter](#)  
[heavy metal types](#)  
[play the heavy](#)

heavyweight

[a heavyweight](#)

heck

[heck](#)  
[what the heck](#)

hedge

[hedge your bets](#)

heel

[Achilles heel](#)  
[cool your heels](#)  
[dig in their heels](#)  
[fall head over heels](#)  
[head over heels](#)

[hot on your heels](#)

[kick up your heels](#)

[on the heels](#)

heeled

[well heeled](#)

hell

[a hell of a time](#)

[a snowball's chance in hell](#)

[all hell broke loose](#)

[all over hell's half acre](#)

[catch hell \[B\]](#)

[come hell or high water](#)

[get hell \[B\]](#)

[give you hell \[B\]](#)

[go to hell \[B\]](#)

[go to hell in a handbasket](#)

[haven't got a hope in hell](#)

[hell bent for election](#)

[hell in a handbasket](#)

[hell of a time](#)

[hell to pay \[B\]](#)

[hell's bells](#)

[hell's half acre \[B\]](#)

[like a bat out of hell](#)

[like hell \[B\]](#)

[one hell of a time](#)

[raise hell \[B\]](#)

[road to hell is paved...](#)

[sure as hell](#)

[the hell you say](#)

[the road to hell is paved with good intentions](#)

[till hell freezes over](#)

[to hell and gone](#)

[to hell with that \[B\]](#)

[what the hell \[B\]](#)

hellish

[hellish \[B\]](#)

help

[beyond help](#)

[can help it](#)

[can't help](#)

[heaven help us](#)

[help out](#)  
[help yourself](#)  
[so help me](#)  
[the Lord helps those who help themselves](#)

helping

[a helping hand](#)  
[helping hand](#)

hemming

[hemming and hahing](#)

hen

[as scarce as hen's teeth](#)  
[scarce as hen's teeth](#)

henry

[John Henry](#)

her

[a bee in her bonnet](#)  
[at the top of her game](#)  
[ball her \[B\]](#)  
[bat her eyes](#)  
[chat her up](#)  
[crawl on my hands and knees over broken glass just to see her photo](#)  
[cry her heart out](#)  
[fill her up](#)  
[get her way](#)  
[get into her pants \[B\]](#)  
[give her](#)  
[give her credit](#)  
[give her shit \[B\]](#)  
[give her the eye](#)  
[hold her liquor](#)  
[in her good graces](#)  
[let her rip](#)  
[pedal her ass \[B\]](#)  
[put her there](#)  
[set in her ways](#)  
[wouldn't say shit if her mouth was full of it \[B\]](#)

hercules

[pocket Hercules](#)

herd

[ride herd](#)

here

[buck stops here](#)

[get your buns over here](#)[had it up to here](#)[here's mud in your eye](#)[here's to](#)[out of here \(outa here\)](#)[same here](#)[the buck stops here](#)

herhim

[drop her/him](#)[dump her/him](#)

hero

[unsung hero](#)

herring

[red herring](#)

herself

[full of herself](#)[handle herself](#)

hesitates

[he who hesitates is lost](#)

hex

[put a hex on me](#)

hey

[hey](#)

heyday

[heyday](#)

hi

[a fool and his money are soon parted](#)[a man's home is his castle](#)[a shadow of his former self](#)[all his marbles](#)[apple of his eye](#)[at the top of his voice](#)[bark is worse than his bite](#)[born with a silver spoon in his mouth](#)[butter wouldn't melt in his mouth](#)[call his bluff](#)[caught with his pants down](#)[chip on his shoulder](#)[deked out of his jock](#)[down on his luck](#)[each to his own](#)[feeling his oats](#)

[fill his shoes](#)  
[fool and his money...](#)  
[give him a taste of his own medicine](#)  
[give you the shirt off his back](#)  
[God rest his soul](#)  
[had his bell rung](#)  
[has a mind of his own](#)  
[hi](#)  
[hi there](#)  
[his nibs](#)  
[his own man](#)  
[His Royal Highness](#)  
[horse shoes up his ass \[B\]](#)  
[in his blood](#)  
[in his good books](#)  
[knock the wind out of his sails](#)  
[mind of his own](#)  
[on his last legs](#)  
[on his tail](#)  
[out of his element](#)  
[play into his hand](#)  
[put him in his place](#)  
[quake in his boots](#)  
[rest his soul \(God rest his soul\)](#)  
[ride his coattails](#)  
[sing his praises](#)  
[step on his dick](#)  
[tail between his legs](#)  
[taste of his own...](#)  
[that's his bible](#)  
[the apple of his eye](#)  
[the way to a man's heart is through his stomach](#)  
[to each his own](#)  
[too big for his britches](#)  
[under his own steam](#)  
[with his tail between his legs](#)  
[wrap around his finger](#)

hick

[hick](#)

hidden

[hidden agenda](#)[hidden talent](#)

hide	<a href="#">haven't seen hide nor hair</a> <a href="#">hide nor hair</a> <a href="#">see hide nor hair</a> <a href="#">you can run but you can't hide</a>
high	<a href="#">blow sky high</a> <a href="#">come down off your high horse</a> <a href="#">come hell or high water</a> <a href="#">eat high off the hog</a> <a href="#">get high</a> <a href="#">get off your high horse</a> <a href="#">high</a> <a href="#">high and mighty</a> <a href="#">high five</a> <a href="#">high handed</a> <a href="#">high hopes</a> <a href="#">high on the hog</a> <a href="#">high roller</a> <a href="#">high strung</a> <a href="#">high time</a> <a href="#">hit the high notes</a> <a href="#">knee high to a grasshopper</a> <a href="#">look high and low</a> <a href="#">natural high</a> <a href="#">off your high horse</a> <a href="#">riding high</a> <a href="#">say jump...how high</a>
high-hat	<a href="#">high-hat</a>
highball	<a href="#">highball it</a>
higher	<a href="#">higher than a kite</a>
highfalutin	<a href="#">highfalutin</a>
highly	<a href="#">speak highly of</a>
highness	<a href="#">His Royal Highness</a>
hightail	<a href="#">hightail it</a>

hike	
------	--

[take a hike](#)

hill	
------	--

[a hill of beans](#)

[hill of beans](#)

[make a mountain out of a mole hill](#)

[over the hill](#)

[run for the hills](#)

[what the Sam Hill](#)

hilt	
------	--

[loaded to the hilt](#)

him	
-----	--

[chew him out](#)

[cut him off \[B\]](#)

[deck him](#)

[ditch him](#)

[don't know him from Adam](#)

[drop him like a hot potato](#)

[get him back](#)

[give him a taste of his own medicine](#)

[give him an inch and he'll take a mile](#)

[give him enough rope and he'll hang himself](#)

[give him the brush-off](#)

[give him the evil eye](#)

[give him the slip](#)

[give it to him](#)

[got him covered](#)

[lose him](#)

[low-ball him](#)

[nail him](#)

[pay him back](#)

[pin down/pin him down](#)

[praise him to the skies](#)

[put him in his place](#)

[send him flying](#)

[send him up](#)

[shake him](#)

[start a fire under him](#)

[take him down a peg](#)

[take him out](#)

[tell him a thing or two](#)

[tell him off](#)

[tell him where to get off](#)  
[tell him where to go](#)  
[throw yourself at him](#)  
[tube him](#)  
[you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink](#)

himself

[give him enough rope and he'll hang himself](#)

hind

[suck the hind tit \[B\]](#)

hint

[drop a hint](#)

[give me a hint](#)

hip

[hip](#)

[hip hop \(generation\)](#)

[shoot from the hip](#)

hire

[hire on](#)

history

[history](#)

[the rest is history](#)

hit

[a hit](#)

[hit](#)

[hit and miss](#)

[hit and run \(baseball\)](#)

[hit and run \(traffic\)](#)

[hit home](#)

[hit it off](#)

[hit man](#)

[hit me \(card games\)](#)

[hit me](#)

[hit me for a loan](#)

[hit me with your best shot](#)

[hit my funny bone](#)

[hit on](#)

[hit on all cylinders](#)

[hit paydirt](#)

[hit rock bottom](#)

[hit speeds of](#)

[hit the bar](#)

[hit the books](#)

[hit the bottle](#)  
[hit the brakes](#)  
[hit the bricks](#)  
[hit the ceiling](#)  
[hit the ground running](#)  
[hit the hay](#)  
[hit the high notes](#)  
[hit the nail on the head](#)  
[hit the road/trail](#)  
[hit the skids](#)  
[hit the spot](#)  
[hit town](#)  
[shit hit the fan \[B\]](#)  
[the fat hit the fire](#)  
[the shit hit the fan](#)  
[where the rubber hits the road](#)

hitch

[have a hitch in your getalong](#)  
[hitch in your getalong](#)  
[without a hitch](#)

hitter

[a clutch hitter \(baseball\)](#)  
[a heavy hitter](#)  
[clutch hitter \(baseball\)](#)  
[heavy hitter](#)

ho

[gung ho](#)

hobnob

[hobnob](#)

hobson

[Hobson's choice](#)

hock

[in hock](#)  
[into hock](#)  
[out of hock](#)

hockey

[a suicide pass \(hockey\)](#)  
[boarding \(hockey\)](#)  
[bump and grind \(hockey\)](#)  
[chairman of the boards \(hockey\)](#)  
[cherrypicker \(hockey\)](#)  
[clotheslined \(hockey\)](#)

[drop your gloves \(hockey\)](#)  
[feather a pass \(hockey\)](#)  
[give up the blueline \(hockey\)](#)  
[kill a penalty \(hockey\)](#)  
[offside \(hockey\)](#)  
[power play \(hockey\)](#)  
[pull the goalie \(hockey\)](#)  
[sin bin \(hockey\)](#)  
[the sin bin \(hockey\)](#)  
[tontil hockey](#)

hoe

[a hard row to hoe](#)  
[a tough row to hoe](#)  
[hard row to hoe](#)  
[tough row to hoe](#)

hog

[eat high off the hog](#)  
[go hog wild](#)  
[high on the hog](#)  
[whole hog](#)

hogwash

[hogwash](#)

hoity-toity

[hoity-toity](#)

hokey

[hokey Dinah](#)

hold

[can't hold a candle](#)  
[don't hold your breath](#)  
[get a hold of](#)  
[hold a candle](#)  
[hold a grudge](#)  
[hold a meeting](#)  
[hold down](#)  
[hold forth](#)  
[hold her liquor](#)  
[hold it](#)  
[hold me responsible](#)  
[hold on](#)  
[hold out for](#)  
[hold that over my head](#)  
[hold the fort](#)

[hold the phone](#)  
[hold the purse strings](#)  
[hold up](#)  
[hold water](#)  
[hold you up](#)  
[hold your drinks](#)  
[hold your hand](#)  
[hold your horses](#)  
[hold your mouth the right way](#)  
[hold your nose](#)  
[hold your own](#)  
[hold your temper](#)  
[hold your tongue](#)  
[how you hold your...](#)  
[no holds barred](#)  
[the way you hold your mouth](#)  
[way you hold your...](#)

hold-out

[hold-out](#)

holding

[holding the bag](#)  
[leave you holding the bag](#)  
[left holding the bag](#)

hole

[ace in the hole](#)  
[burn a hole in your pocket](#)  
[don't know your ass from a hole in the ground \[B\]](#)  
[hole in one \(golf\)](#)  
[hole up](#)  
[in the hole](#)  
[pick holes in](#)  
[shuck on down to the fraidy hole](#)  
[two pee holes in the snow](#)  
[watering hole](#)

holidays

[spend holidays](#)

hollow

[a hollow leg](#)  
[hollow leg](#)

holy

[a holy pile](#)  
[holy cow](#)

[holy Moses](#)[holy pile](#)[holy smoke](#)[holy Toledo](#)

home

[a man's home is his castle](#)[bring home the bacon](#)[charity begins at home](#)[chickens come home to roost](#)[come home to roost](#)[down home](#)[drive it home](#)[eat you out of house and home](#)[get home](#)[hit home](#)[home free](#)[home run \(baseball\)](#)[home stretch](#)[make yourself at home](#)[make yourself to home](#)[nothing to write home about](#)[the lights are on but nobody's home](#)[till the cows come home](#)

honcho

[head honcho](#)

honest

[keep you honest](#)[to be perfectly honest](#)

honest-to-goodness

[honest-to-goodness](#)

honestly

[honestly](#)

honesty

[honesty is the best policy](#)

honey

[honey](#)

honky

[honky](#)

honor

[do the honors](#)[scout's honor](#)[word of honor](#)

hoo-haw	<a href="#">hoo-haw [B]</a>
hooch	<a href="#">hooch</a>
hood	<a href="#">all around Robin Hood's barn</a> <a href="#">around Robin Hood's barn</a> <a href="#">hood</a>
hook	<a href="#">by hook or by crook</a> <a href="#">hook up with</a> <a href="#">hook, line and sinker</a> <a href="#">off the hook</a> <a href="#">ring off the hook</a>
hooker	<a href="#">hooker</a>
hooky	<a href="#">play hooky</a>
hoops	<a href="#">jump through hoops</a>
hoosegow	<a href="#">hoosegow</a> <a href="#">in the hoosegow</a>
hoot	<a href="#">a hoot</a> <a href="#">give a hoot</a> <a href="#">hoot</a>
hop	<a href="#">bar hop</a> <a href="#">hip hop (generation)</a> <a href="#">hop up</a>
hope	<a href="#">cross my heart and hope to die</a> <a href="#">get your hopes up</a> <a href="#">Great White Hope</a> <a href="#">haven't got a hope</a> <a href="#">haven't got a hope in hell</a> <a href="#">high hopes</a> <a href="#">hopes dashed</a> <a href="#">pin your hopes on</a> <a href="#">The Great White Hope</a>
hopping	<a href="#">hopping mad</a>

horizon

[clouds on the horizon](#)

[expand your horizons](#)

hork

[hork](#)

horn

[horn in](#)

[pull in your horns](#)

[take the bull by the horns](#)

[toot your own horn](#)

horny

[horny \[B\]](#)

horse

[a horse of a different color](#)

[a horse's ass \[B\]](#)

[beat a dead horse](#)

[cart before the horse](#)

[change horses in mid stream](#)

[charley horse](#)

[come down off your high horse](#)

[dark horse](#)

[don't look a gift horse in the mouth](#)

[eat like a horse](#)

[flog a dead horse](#)

[from the horse's mouth](#)

[get off your high horse](#)

[get on your horse](#)

[hold your horses](#)

[horse around](#)

[horse feathers](#)

[horse of a different color](#)

[horse sense](#)

[horse shoes up his ass \[B\]](#)

[horse's ass \[B\]](#)

[look up a dead horse's ass \[B\]](#)

[off your high horse](#)

[piss like a race horse \[B\]](#)

[straight from the horse's mouth](#)

[straw horse](#)

[the cart before the horse](#)

[you and the horse you rode in on](#)

[you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink](#)

horseplay	<a href="#">horseplay</a>
hose	<a href="#">hose it down/ hose it off</a>
hoser	<a href="#">hoser</a>
hot	<a href="#">a hot hand</a> <a href="#">a hot number</a> <a href="#">a hot ticket</a> <a href="#">a hot topic</a> <a href="#">drop him like a hot potato</a> <a href="#">got the hots for</a> <a href="#">hot</a> <a href="#">hot air</a> <a href="#">hot and bothered</a> <a href="#">hot goods</a> <a href="#">hot hand</a> <a href="#">hot off the press</a> <a href="#">hot on the trail</a> <a href="#">hot on your heels</a> <a href="#">hot potato</a> <a href="#">hot stuff</a> <a href="#">hot tempered</a> <a href="#">hot ticket</a> <a href="#">hot topic</a> <a href="#">hot under the collar</a> <a href="#">in hot water</a> <a href="#">it's cold / it's hot</a> <a href="#">like a hot potato</a> <a href="#">not so hot</a> <a href="#">shit hot [B]</a> <a href="#">strike while the iron is hot</a> <a href="#">too hot to handle</a>
hotcakes	<a href="#">sell like hotcakes</a>
hotdog	<a href="#">a hotdog</a> <a href="#">hotdog</a>
hothead	<a href="#">a hothead</a> <a href="#">hothead</a>

hotshot	<a href="#">a hotshot</a> <a href="#">hotshot</a>
hound	<a href="#">hound</a>
hour	<a href="#">happy hour</a> <a href="#">rush hour</a>
house	<a href="#">a full house (cards)</a> <a href="#">bring the house down</a> <a href="#">eat you out of house and home</a> <a href="#">nut house</a> <a href="#">people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones</a> <a href="#">poor house</a>
household	<a href="#">a household name</a> <a href="#">household name</a>
how	<a href="#">and how</a> <a href="#">don't teach your grandmother how to suck eggs</a> <a href="#">how about that</a> <a href="#">how are you doing</a> <a href="#">how are you fixed for</a> <a href="#">how are you getting along</a> <a href="#">how are you making out</a> <a href="#">how come</a> <a href="#">how do you do</a> <a href="#">how do you like them apples</a> <a href="#">how does that grab you</a> <a href="#">how goes it</a> <a href="#">how goes the battle</a> <a href="#">how it plays out</a> <a href="#">how so</a> <a href="#">how time flies</a> <a href="#">how you hold your...</a> <a href="#">how's that again</a> <a href="#">how's tricks</a> <a href="#">no matter how you slice it</a>
howdy	<a href="#">howdy</a>
howling	

[a howling blizzard](#)

hoyle

[according to Hoyle](#)

huh

[huh](#)

hum

[make your bum hum](#)

humble

[eat humble pie](#)

humdinger

[a humdinger](#)[humdinger](#)

humongous

[humongous](#)

humor

[sense of humor](#)[warped sense of humor](#)

hump

[hump day](#)[over the hump](#)

hundred

[bat five hundred](#)

hung

[well hung \[B\]](#)

hunger

[from hunger](#)

hangover

[hangover](#)

hungry

[go hungry](#)[hungry thirties](#)

hunk

[hunk](#)

hunker

[hunker down](#)

hurl

[hurl](#)

hurrah

[last hurrah](#)

hurry

[hurry up](#)

hurt

[hurt my feelings](#)

[what you don't know won't hurt you](#)

hush

[hush up](#)

hushed

[hushed up](#)

hyah

[hyah](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Index I

i'll	
	<a href="#">I'll be a monkey's uncle</a>
i'm	
	<a href="#">I'm afraid so</a>
ice	
	<a href="#">break the ice</a>
	<a href="#">on thin ice</a>
	<a href="#">skate on thin ice</a>
iceberg	
	<a href="#">the tip of the iceberg</a>
	<a href="#">tip of the iceberg</a>
icing	
	<a href="#">icing on the cake</a>
idea	
	<a href="#">what's the big idea</a>
idiot	
	<a href="#">idiot lights</a>
idle	
	<a href="#">the devil makes work for idle hands</a>
if	
	<a href="#">as if</a>
	<a href="#">damned if you do and damned if you don't</a>
	<a href="#">if a mussel doesn't open don't eat it</a>
	<a href="#">if looks could kill</a>
	<a href="#">if my memory serves me correctly</a>
	<a href="#">if only</a>
	<a href="#">if that doesn't beat all</a>
	<a href="#">if the shoe fits, wear it</a>
	<a href="#">if you can't cut it, you can't stay</a>
	<a href="#">if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen</a>
	<a href="#">if you're born to hang, you won't drown</a>
	<a href="#">if you're not with us you're against us</a>
	<a href="#">what if</a>
	<a href="#">wouldn't say shit if her mouth was full of it [B]</a>
	<a href="#">you can't sell anybody if you don't love everybody</a>

ignorance	
-----------	--

[ignorance is bliss](#)

ill	
-----	--

[fall ill](#)

image	
-------	--

[spitting image](#)

[the spitting image](#)

imagination	
-------------	--

[capture the imagination](#)

[not by any stretch of the imagination](#)

impression	
------------	--

[make a good impression](#)

in	
----	--

[a babe in arms](#)

[a babe in the woods](#)

[a bad taste in my mouth](#)

[a bee in her bonnet](#)

[a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush](#)

[a blessing in disguise](#)

[a bull in a china shop](#)

[a bun in the oven](#)

[a chicken in every pot](#)

[a drop in the bucket](#)

[a fart in a windstorm](#)

[a feather in your cap](#)

[a flash in the pan](#)

[a pain in the ass \[B\]](#)

[a pain in the butt](#)

[a pig in a poke](#)

[a roll in the hay \[B\]](#)

[a shot in the arm](#)

[a shot in the dark](#)

[a snowball's chance in hell](#)

[a stitch in time saves nine](#)

[a tempest in a teapot](#)

[a thorn in my side](#)

[a wolf in sheep's clothing](#)

[ace in the hole](#)

[all in](#)

[all in a day's work](#)

[all in all](#)

[all the tea in China](#)

[all your eggs in one basket](#)  
[all's fair in love and war](#)  
[another nail in your coffin](#)  
[as slow as molasses in January](#)  
[at this point in time](#)  
[babe in arms](#)  
[babe in the woods](#)  
[bad taste in my mouth](#)  
[ball's in your court](#)  
[beauty is in the eye of the beholder](#)  
[better than a kick in the ass \[B\]](#)  
[blessing in disguise](#)  
[blue in the face](#)  
[born with a silver spoon in his mouth](#)  
[break in](#)  
[break out in a rash](#)  
[bull in a china shop](#)  
[bun in the oven](#)  
[burn a hole in your pocket](#)  
[burn it in](#)  
[butt in](#)  
[butter wouldn't melt in his mouth](#)  
[case in point](#)  
[cash in](#)  
[caught in the act](#)  
[cave in](#)  
[change horses in mid stream](#)  
[chicken in every pot](#)  
[chime in](#)  
[chip in](#)  
[click in](#)  
[clued in](#)  
[come out in the wash](#)  
[cry in your beer](#)  
[day in, day out](#)  
[dead in the water](#)  
[deal me in](#)  
[dig in](#)  
[dig in their heels](#)  
[dig yourself in](#)  
[do me in](#)  
[dog in the manger](#)

[don't know your ass from a hole in the ground \[B\]](#)

[don't look a gift horse in the mouth](#)

[don't put all your eggs in one basket](#)

[done in](#)

[down in the dumps](#)

[down in the mouth](#)

[drop in](#)

[drop in the bucket](#)

[ducks in a row \(ducks in order\)](#)

[dyed in the wool](#)

[every trick in the book](#)

[fall in line](#)

[fall in love](#)

[falling in love](#)

[fart in a windstorm \[B\]](#)

[feather in your cap](#)

[fill in](#)

[fill in for me](#)

[fill me in](#)

[flash in the pan](#)

[fly in the face of](#)

[fly in the ointment](#)

[for all the tea in China](#)

[funny in the head](#)

[get in deeper](#)

[get in my face](#)

[get in on it](#)

[get in on the ground floor](#)

[get in shape](#)

[get in your hair](#)

[get on in years](#)

[get your shirt in a knot/ get your shit in a knot \[B\]](#)

[get your tits in a wringer](#)

[getting on in years](#)

[give in](#)

[go in circles](#)

[go jump in the lake](#)

[go to hell in a handbasket](#)

[go up in smoke](#)

[got it in for](#)

[got rocks in your head](#)

[hand in](#)

[hand in hand](#)  
[hang in there](#)  
[happy as a pig in shit \[B\]](#)  
[hat in hand](#)  
[have a hitch in your getalong](#)  
[have it in for](#)  
[have it in hand](#)  
[have things in hand](#)  
[haven't got a hope in hell](#)  
[head in the clouds](#)  
[head in the sand](#)  
[heart is in the right place](#)  
[hell in a handbasket](#)  
[here's mud in your eye](#)  
[hitch in your getalong](#)  
[hole in one \(golf\)](#)  
[horn in](#)  
[in a bad way](#)  
[in a big way](#)  
[in a bit](#)  
[in a blue moon](#)  
[in a cold sweat](#)  
[in a coon's age](#)  
[in a family way](#)  
[in a fix](#)  
[in a flap](#)  
[in a flash](#)  
[in a flutter](#)  
[in a funk](#)  
[in a jam](#)  
[in a jiffy](#)  
[in a long time](#)  
[in a pickle](#)  
[in a pig's ass \[B\]](#)  
[in a pinch](#)  
[in a rut](#)  
[in a sec](#)  
[in a slump](#)  
[in a snit](#)  
[in a split second](#)  
[in a stew](#)  
[in a tight spot](#)

[in a tizzy](#)  
[in agreement](#)  
[in any way, shape or form](#)  
[in bad faith](#)  
[in bad shape](#)  
[in black and white](#)  
[in brief](#)  
[in broad daylight](#)  
[in cahoots](#)  
[in charge](#)  
[in clover](#)  
[in cold blood](#)  
[in control](#)  
[in deep doo-doo \[B\]](#)  
[in deep shit \[B\]](#)  
[in deep trouble](#)  
[in dire straits](#)  
[in dribs and drabs](#)  
[in fact](#)  
[in full flight](#)  
[in glowing terms](#)  
[in good faith](#)  
[in good hands](#)  
[in hand](#)  
[in heaven's name](#)  
[in her good graces](#)  
[in his blood](#)  
[in his good books](#)  
[in hock](#)  
[in hot water](#)  
[in keeping with](#)  
[in leaf](#)  
[in love](#)  
[in mind](#)  
[in mint condition](#)  
[in my care](#)  
[in my good books](#)  
[in no time](#)  
[in no uncertain terms](#)  
[in one ear and out the other](#)  
[in one fell swoop](#)  
[in order](#)

[in over your head](#)

[in person](#)

[in place](#)

[in plain view](#)

[in point of fact](#)

[in seventh heaven](#)

[in sick bay](#)

[in step](#)

[in stir](#)

[in stitches](#)

[in store for](#)

[in stride](#)

[in that vein](#)

[in the back of my mind](#)

[in the bag](#)

[in the ball park](#)

[in the black](#)

[in the boonies](#)

[in the buff](#)

[in the clink](#)

[in the dark](#)

[in the doghouse](#)

[in the drink](#)

[in the driver's seat](#)

[in the fast lane](#)

[in the flesh](#)

[in the gutter](#)

[in the hole](#)

[in the hoosegow](#)

[in the jug](#)

[in the know](#)

[in the lap of luxury](#)

[in the least](#)

[in the long haul](#)

[in the long run](#)

[in the loop](#)

[in the lurch](#)

[in the making](#)

[in the meantime](#)

[in the money](#)

[in the Monford lane](#)

[in the mood](#)

[in the nick of time](#)  
[in the nude](#)  
[in the offing](#)  
[in the picture](#)  
[in the pink](#)  
[in the pipe five by five](#)  
[in the poorhouse](#)  
[in the red](#)  
[in the road](#)  
[in the running](#)  
[in the slammer](#)  
[in the tank](#)  
[in the throes](#)  
[in the wink of an eye](#)  
[in the works](#)  
[in the worst way](#)  
[in these parts](#)  
[in time](#)  
[in touch](#)  
[in tough](#)  
[in trouble](#)  
[in tune \(music\)](#)  
[in tune](#)  
[in two shakes \(of a lamb's tail\)](#)  
[in writing](#)  
[in your bad books](#)  
[in your corner](#)  
[in your face](#)  
[in your hair](#)  
[in your mind's eye](#)  
[in your prime](#)  
[in's and out's](#)  
[irons in the fire](#)  
[it's a zoo in there](#)  
[it's in the bag](#)  
[jump in the lake](#)  
[jump in with both feet](#)  
[just in time](#)  
[keep in good shape](#)  
[keep in line](#)  
[keep in the loop](#)  
[keep in touch](#)

[keep you in mind](#)  
[leave out in the cold](#)  
[leave you in the lurch](#)  
[left in the lurch](#)  
[left out in the cold](#)  
[life in the fast lane](#)  
[light in the loafers](#)  
[long in the tooth](#)  
[melt in your mouth](#)  
[mind in neutral](#)  
[muscle in](#)  
[nail in your coffin](#)  
[nip it in the bud](#)  
[not for all the tea in China](#)  
[on in years](#)  
[once in a blue moon](#)  
[out in left field](#)  
[out in the cold](#)  
[pack it in](#)  
[pain in the ass \[B\]](#)  
[pain in the butt](#)  
[partners in crime](#)  
[pay in kind](#)  
[people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones](#)  
[pick holes in](#)  
[pie in the sky](#)  
[pig in a poke](#)  
[piss in the pickles \[B\]](#)  
[pop in](#)  
[pull in your horns](#)  
[put a bug in my ear](#)  
[put all your eggs in...](#)  
[put him in his place](#)  
[put in a good word for](#)  
[put in a hard day](#)  
[put in a plug for](#)  
[put in time](#)  
[put stock in](#)  
[put things in perspective](#)  
[put you in a bad mood](#)  
[put your foot in it](#)  
[put your foot in your mouth](#)

[quake in his boots](#)  
[rake in the dough](#)  
[raking it in](#)  
[repay in kind](#)  
[rocks in your head](#)  
[roll in the hay](#)  
[rolling in it](#)  
[rolling in the aisles](#)  
[rub salt in the wound](#)  
[seen dead in](#)  
[set in](#)  
[set in her ways](#)  
[settle in](#)  
[shoot yourself in the foot](#)  
[shooting fish in a barrel](#)  
[shot in the arm](#)  
[shot in the dark](#)  
[sign in](#)  
[sit in judgement on](#)  
[skeleton in the closet](#)  
[sleep in](#)  
[smack dab in the middle](#)  
[snug as a bug in a rug](#)  
[soft in the head](#)  
[stand in](#)  
[stay in line](#)  
[stick in my craw](#)  
[stitch in time](#)  
[stock in trade](#)  
[stop you in your tracks](#)  
[sucked in](#)  
[take in](#)  
[take it in stride](#)  
[take part in](#)  
[take you in](#)  
[taken in](#)  
[tempest in a teapot](#)  
[the ball's in your court](#)  
[the best things in life are free](#)  
[the in's and out's](#)  
[the man in the middle](#)  
[the Man in the Moon](#)

[the proof of the pudding is in the eating](#)  
[there's something rotten in the state of Denmark](#)  
[thorn in my side](#)  
[throw in the towel](#)  
[throw that in](#)  
[thrown in](#)  
[tie in](#)  
[till you're blue in the face](#)  
[tits in a wringer](#)  
[tongue in cheek](#)  
[touched in the head](#)  
[tune in](#)  
[tuned in](#)  
[turn in](#)  
[turn yourself in](#)  
[two pee holes in the snow](#)  
[up in arms](#)  
[up in smoke](#)  
[up in the air](#)  
[weigh in at](#)  
[what in tarnation](#)  
[what in the name of heaven](#)  
[what in the world](#)  
[what's in it for me](#)  
[when in Rome, do as the Romans do](#)  
[why in the name of...](#)  
[why in the world](#)  
[wolf in sheep's clothing](#)  
[worth their weight in gold](#)  
[written in blood](#)  
[written in stone](#)  
[you and the horse you rode in on](#)  
[zoom in](#)

in-crowd

[in-crowd](#)  
[the in-crowd](#)

inch

[a pinch to grow an inch](#)  
[give an inch](#)  
[give him an inch and he'll take a mile](#)  
[pinch an inch](#)  
[pinch to grow an inch](#)

indians	<a href="#">too many chiefs and not enough Indians</a>
influence	<a href="#">under the influence of alcohol</a>
information	<a href="#">information leak</a> <a href="#">inside information</a>
inhale	<a href="#">inhale</a>
injury	<a href="#">add insult to injury</a>
inkling	<a href="#">have an inkling</a>
inside	<a href="#">inside information</a> <a href="#">inside joke</a> <a href="#">inside out</a> <a href="#">inside story</a> <a href="#">inside track</a> <a href="#">know inside out</a> <a href="#">sometimes life is a bucket of shit and the handle is inside [B]</a> <a href="#">the inside story</a> <a href="#">the inside track</a>
instinct	<a href="#">killer instinct</a>
insult	<a href="#">add insult to injury</a> <a href="#">throw insults</a> <a href="#">trade insults</a>
intentions	<a href="#">the road to hell is paved with good intentions</a>
interests	<a href="#">best interests at heart</a>
interference	<a href="#">run interference</a>
internet	<a href="#">Internet</a>
into	<a href="#">a into g</a> <a href="#">ass into gear</a> <a href="#">back yourself into a corner</a> <a href="#">break into</a> <a href="#">break into song</a>

[bump into](#)  
[buy into](#)  
[call into account](#)  
[come into](#)  
[come into play](#)  
[come into your own](#)  
[fall into a trap](#)  
[fall into my lap](#)  
[from the frying pan into the fire](#)  
[get into her pants \[B\]](#)  
[get into trouble](#)  
[go into detail](#)  
[into fitness/dancing etc.](#)  
[into hock](#)  
[into the sauce](#)  
[into the tank](#)  
[into thin air](#)  
[look into](#)  
[pissing into the wind \[B\]](#)  
[play into his hand](#)  
[plug into](#)  
[press into service](#)  
[put your heart into it](#)  
[read into](#)  
[rope into](#)  
[run into](#)  
[talk into](#)  
[throw a monkey wrench into the works](#)  
[tie into](#)  
[turn into](#)  
[whip you into shape](#)

invention

[necessity is the mother of invention](#)

invite

[invite you over](#)

irish

[luck of the Irish](#)  
[the luck of the Irish](#)

iron

[iron out](#)  
[irons in the fire](#)  
[strike while the iron is hot](#)

is	<a href="#">sky isn't blue</a> <a href="#">the sky isn't blue</a> <a href="#">winning isn't everything; it's the only thing</a>
island	<a href="#">King Shit on Turd Island</a>
issue	<a href="#">crank issue</a>
itchy	<a href="#">itchy feet</a>
itdoctor	<a href="#">doctor it/doctor it up</a>
itsee	<a href="#">see to it/see to that</a>
itsy-bitsy	<a href="#">itsy-bitsy / itty-bitty</a>
itty-bitty	<a href="#">itsy-bitsy / itty-bitty</a>

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Index J

jack	<a href="#">all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy</a> <a href="#">before you can say Jack Robinson</a> <a href="#">jack me around</a> <a href="#">jack of all trades</a> <a href="#">quicker than you can say Jack Robinson</a>
jam	<a href="#">in a jam</a> <a href="#">jam</a> <a href="#">jam session</a> <a href="#">jam tart</a> <a href="#">traffic jam</a>
jamjam	<a href="#">jam/jam out</a>
january	<a href="#">as slow as molasses in January</a>
jaws	<a href="#">snatch victory from the jaws of defeat</a>
jay	<a href="#">naked as a jay bird</a>
jazz	<a href="#">all that jazz</a> <a href="#">jazz up</a>
je	<a href="#">je ne sais quoi</a>
jeepers	<a href="#">jeepers</a>
jehoshaphat	<a href="#">jumping Jehoshaphat</a>
jerk	<a href="#">jerk</a> <a href="#">jerk me around</a> <a href="#">jerk off [B]</a>
jewels	<a href="#">family jewels</a>

[jewels](#)  
[the family jewels](#)

jiffy

[in a jiffy](#)

jig

[jig is up](#)  
[the jig's up](#)

jim

[a jim dandy](#)  
[jim dandy](#)

jimmy

[jimmy crickets](#)

jitters

[get the jitters](#)

jive

[jive ass \[B\]](#)

job

[a blow job \[B\]](#)  
[a snow job](#)  
[blow job \[B\]](#)  
[lie down on the job](#)  
[snow job](#)  
[take this job and shove it \[B\]](#)

jock

[deked out of his jock](#)  
[jock](#)

jockey

[disk jockey \(DJ\)](#)

joe

[Joe Who](#)

joe-job

[joe-job](#)

jog

[jog your memory](#)

john

[john](#)  
[John Hancock](#)  
[John Henry](#)  
[long johns](#)  
[the john](#)

johnny

[Johnny Canuck](#)  
[Johnny on the spot](#)

johnny-come-lately	<a href="#">Johnny-come-lately</a>
join	<a href="#">join up</a> <a href="#">join you</a>
joint	<a href="#">blow this joint</a> <a href="#">nose is out of joint</a> <a href="#">out of joint</a> <a href="#">stink the joint out</a>
joke	<a href="#">butt of the joke</a> <a href="#">crack a joke</a> <a href="#">inside joke</a> <a href="#">joke around</a> <a href="#">joke is on you</a> <a href="#">play a joke on</a> <a href="#">take a joke</a> <a href="#">the butt of the joke</a> <a href="#">the joke is on you</a>
joker	<a href="#">joker</a>
joking	<a href="#">all joking aside</a> <a href="#">joking aside</a>
jollies	<a href="#">get your jollies</a>
jolly	<a href="#">jolly good fellow</a>
joneses	<a href="#">keep up with the Joneses</a>
jordan	<a href="#">cross over Jordan</a>
josh	<a href="#">josh</a>
jove	<a href="#">by jove</a>
jowl	<a href="#">cheek by jowl</a>
joy	<a href="#">jump for joy</a>
joyride	<a href="#">joyride</a>

judgement	<a href="#">sit in judgement on</a>
jug	<a href="#">in the jug</a>
jugular	<a href="#">go for the jugular</a>
juice	<a href="#">juice</a>
jump	<a href="#">get the jump on</a> <a href="#">go jump in the lake</a> <a href="#">jump</a> <a href="#">jump [B]</a> <a href="#">jump at the chance</a> <a href="#">jump for joy</a> <a href="#">jump in the lake</a> <a href="#">jump in with both feet</a> <a href="#">jump out of your skin</a> <a href="#">jump queue</a> <a href="#">jump ship</a> <a href="#">jump start</a> <a href="#">jump the gun</a> <a href="#">jump through hoops</a> <a href="#">jump to conclusions</a>
jumphow	<a href="#">say jump...how high</a>
jumping	<a href="#">jumping Jehoshaphat</a>
june	<a href="#">chicken on a June bug</a> <a href="#">like a chicken on a June bug</a>
jungle	<a href="#">it's a jungle out there</a> <a href="#">jungle mouth</a>
junk	<a href="#">junk</a> <a href="#">junk food</a> <a href="#">junk it</a> <a href="#">junk mail</a>
junkie	<a href="#">junkie</a>
jury-rig	

jury-rig

just

[crawl on my hands and knees over broken glass just to see her photo](#)  
[don't go away mad; just go away](#)  
[just a smidgeon](#)  
[just a titch](#)  
[just about](#)  
[just as soon](#)  
[just ducky](#)  
[just in time](#)  
[just like that](#)  
[just passing through](#)  
[life is just a bowl of cherries](#)

just-in-time

[just-in-time](#)

justifies

[end justifies the means](#)  
[the end justifies the means](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Index K

kaput	<a href="#">kaput</a>
keel	<a href="#">an even keel</a> <a href="#">even keel</a> <a href="#">keep an even keel</a>
keep	<a href="#">an apple a day keeps the doctor away</a> <a href="#">keep a lid on it</a> <a href="#">keep a low profile</a> <a href="#">keep a promise</a> <a href="#">keep a secret</a> <a href="#">keep a stiff upper lip</a> <a href="#">keep a straight face</a> <a href="#">keep an even keel</a> <a href="#">keep an eye on</a> <a href="#">keep an eye open</a> <a href="#">keep an eye out</a> <a href="#">keep an open mind</a> <a href="#">keep fit</a> <a href="#">keep in good shape</a> <a href="#">keep in line</a> <a href="#">keep in the loop</a> <a href="#">keep in touch</a> <a href="#">keep it down</a> <a href="#">keep it quiet</a> <a href="#">keep it to yourself</a> <a href="#">keep it up</a> <a href="#">keep on</a> <a href="#">keep on trucking</a> <a href="#">keep out</a> <a href="#">keep pace</a> <a href="#">keep quiet</a> <a href="#">keep tabs on</a> <a href="#">keep the ball rolling</a>

[keep the faith](#)  
[keep the wolf from the door](#)  
[keep them straight](#)  
[keep to yourself](#)  
[keep track](#)  
[keep under wraps](#)  
[keep up](#)  
[keep up the good work](#)  
[keep up with the Joneses](#)  
[keep up with the times](#)  
[keep you going](#)  
[keep you honest](#)  
[keep you in mind](#)  
[keep you on track](#)  
[keep you posted](#)  
[keep your cool](#)  
[keep your distance](#)  
[keep your ear to the ground](#)  
[keep your eyes peeled](#)  
[keep your fingers crossed](#)  
[keep your hair on](#)  
[keep your head](#)  
[keep your head above water](#)  
[keep your nose clean](#)  
[keep your nose to the grindstone](#)  
[keep your shirt on](#)  
[keep your word](#)

keeper

[a keeper](#)  
[keeper](#)

keeping

[in keeping with](#)

keester

[keester](#)

kept

[a kept woman](#)  
[garage kept](#)  
[kept woman](#)

kettle

[a different kettle of fish](#)  
[kettle of fish](#)  
[pot calling the kettle black](#)

key	<a href="#">off key (music)</a> <a href="#">the key to success</a>
kibosh	<a href="#">put the kibosh on</a>
kick	<a href="#">better than a kick in the ass [B]</a> <a href="#">for kicks</a> <a href="#">get a kick out of</a> <a href="#">get my kicks</a> <a href="#">get your kicks</a> <a href="#">kick</a> <a href="#">kick a habit</a> <a href="#">kick ass [B]</a> <a href="#">kick ass</a> <a href="#">kick at the cat</a> <a href="#">kick back</a> <a href="#">kick butt</a> <a href="#">kick myself</a> <a href="#">kick some ass</a> <a href="#">kick start</a> <a href="#">kick the bucket</a> <a href="#">kick the weed</a> <a href="#">kick up a fuss</a> <a href="#">kick up your heels</a>
kicking	<a href="#">kicking around</a>
kid	<a href="#">comeback kid</a> <a href="#">greasy kid's stuff</a> <a href="#">kid</a> <a href="#">kid you not</a> <a href="#">new kid on the block</a> <a href="#">snotty-nosed kid</a>
kidding	<a href="#">no kidding</a> <a href="#">you're kidding</a> <a href="#">you're not kidding/ you aren't kidding</a> <a href="#">you've got to be kidding</a>
kill	<a href="#">dressed fit to kill</a> <a href="#">if looks could kill</a>

[kill a penalty \(hockey\)](#)  
[kill an elephant](#)  
[kill for](#)  
[kill me](#)  
[kill off](#)  
[kill ourselves laughing](#)  
[kill the goose that lays the golden eggs](#)  
[kill time](#)  
[kill two birds \(with one stone\)](#)  
[time to kill](#)

killed

[curiosity killed the cat](#)

killer

[killer instinct](#)

killing

[killing me](#)

[make a killing](#)

kilter

[off kilter](#)

[out of kilter](#)

kin

[next of kin](#)

kind

[pay in kind](#)

[repay in kind](#)

king

[King Shit on Turd Island](#)

kingdom

[blow to kingdom come](#)

kiss

[blow a kiss](#)

[kiss ass \[B\]](#)

[kiss curls \(hair style\)](#)

[kiss it off](#)

[kiss of death](#)

[kiss off](#)

[kiss that one goodbye](#)

[kiss the blarney stone](#)

[throw a kiss](#)

kit

[kit and caboodle](#)

kitchen

[everything but the kitchen sink](#)

[if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen](#)  
[off the kitchen etc.](#)

kite

[higher than a kite](#)

kitty

[kitty bar the door](#)

kitty-corner

[kitty-corner](#)

klutz

[klutz](#)

knee

[crawl on my hands and knees over broken glass just to see her photo](#)  
[knee high to a grasshopper](#)  
[the bee's knees](#)

knock

[don't knock it](#)  
[knock](#)  
[knock against](#)  
[knock around with](#)  
[knock flat](#)  
[knock it off](#)  
[knock me over with a feather](#)  
[knock off](#)  
[knock out](#)  
[knock the wind out of his sails](#)  
[knock them down, drag them out](#)  
[knock up \[B\]](#)  
[knock you down a peg](#)  
[knock you out](#)  
[knock your socks off](#)  
[school of hard knocks](#)  
[the knock against](#)  
[the school of hard knocks](#)

knocked

[knocked out](#)

knocking

[the wolf knocking](#)

knockout

[knockout](#)

knot

[get your shirt in a knot/ get your shit in a knot \[B\]](#)

knothole

[look like he was dragged through a knothole](#)

know

[as far as I know](#)

[better the devil you know...](#)

[don't know him from Adam](#)

[don't know the first thing about it](#)

[don't know the half of it](#)

[don't know whether you're coming or going](#)

[don't know which end is up](#)

[don't know which side your bread is buttered on](#)

[don't know your ass from a hole in the ground \[B\]](#)

[dying to know](#)

[in the know](#)

[it takes one to know one](#)

[it's not what you know, it's who you know](#)

[know better](#)

[know inside out](#)

[know like the back of your hand](#)

[know the first thing...](#)

[know the ropes](#)

[know the score](#)

[know where we stand](#)

[know which end is up](#)

[know which side your bread is buttered on](#)

[know your stuff](#)

[know your way around](#)

[takes one to know one](#)

[what you don't know won't hurt you](#)

knowledge

[to the best of my knowledge](#)

knuckle

[get your knuckles rapped](#)

[knuckle down](#)

[rap your knuckles](#)

[white knuckles](#)

knucklehead

[knucklehead](#)

kooky

[kooky](#)

kowtow

[kowtow](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Index L

la	<a href="#">basta la musica</a> <a href="#">c'est la vie</a>
lady	<a href="#">bag lady</a> <a href="#">it ain't over till the fat lady sings</a>
lady-killer	<a href="#">a lady-killer</a> <a href="#">lady-killer</a>
laid	<a href="#">best laid plans</a> <a href="#">get laid [B]</a> <a href="#">laid back</a> <a href="#">laid bare</a> <a href="#">laid off</a> <a href="#">laid up</a>
lake	<a href="#">go jump in the lake</a> <a href="#">jump in the lake</a>
lam	<a href="#">on the lam</a>
lamb	<a href="#">in two shakes (of a lamb's tail)</a> <a href="#">talk the leg off the lamb of God</a>
lame	<a href="#">bet on a lame rooster</a> <a href="#">lame duck</a>
lamebrain	<a href="#">lamebrain</a>
land	<a href="#">get the lay of the land</a> <a href="#">land on your feet</a> <a href="#">land up</a> <a href="#">lay of the land</a> <a href="#">Lotus Land</a>

[the lay of the land](#)

landlubber

[landlubber](#)

lane

[fast lane](#)

[in the fast lane](#)

[in the Monford lane](#)

[life in the fast lane](#)

language

[body language](#)

[watch your language](#)

lap

[fall into my lap](#)

[in the lap of luxury](#)

[lap of luxury](#)

[lap up](#)

[the lap of luxury](#)

lard

[lard butt/lard ass \[B\]](#)

large

[by and large](#)

larger

[larger than life](#)

lark

[it was a lark](#)

[lark](#)

[on a lark](#)

last

[dead last](#)

[famous last words](#)

[last but not least](#)

[last call](#)

[last hurrah](#)

[last legs](#)

[last me](#)

[last resort](#)

[last straw](#)

[last word](#)

[on his last legs](#)

[on our last legs](#)

[the last of it](#)

[the last straw](#)

[the last word](#)  
[you're only as good as your last shift](#)

last-ditch

[last-ditch](#)

late

[better late than never](#)  
[late bloomer](#)  
[too little too late](#)

later

[catch you later](#)

laugh

[a barrel of laughs](#)  
[don't make me laugh](#)  
[for laughs](#)  
[get a laugh](#)  
[have a laugh](#)  
[laugh it off](#)  
[laugh up your sleeve](#)  
[laugh your head off](#)  
[laugh yourself sick](#)  
[laugh yourself silly](#)

laughing

[kill ourselves laughing](#)  
[laughing](#)  
[laughing stock](#)  
[the laughing stock](#)

laundered

[laundered money](#)

laundry

[dirty laundry](#)

laurels

[rest on your laurels](#)

law

[above the law](#)  
[brush with the law](#)  
[long arm of the law](#)  
[Murphy's Law](#)  
[the long arm of the law](#)

lawrules

[break the law/rules](#)

lay

[get the lay of the land](#)  
[kill the goose that lays the golden eggs](#)

[lay \[B\]](#)  
[lay a trip](#)  
[lay down your arms](#)  
[lay down your life for](#)  
[lay eyes on](#)  
[lay it on](#)  
[lay it on the line](#)  
[lay low](#)  
[lay of the land](#)  
[lay off](#)  
[lay on](#)  
[lay over](#)  
[lay rubber](#)  
[lay the blame](#)  
[lay the lumber](#)  
[lay waste](#)  
[lay you](#)  
[the lay of the land](#)

lazy

[lazy bones](#)

lead

[get the lead out](#)  
[lead a life](#)  
[lead foot](#)  
[lead pipe cinch](#)  
[lead you down the garden path](#)  
[lead you on](#)  
[life you lead](#)  
[you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink](#)

leader

[loss leader](#)  
[ring leader](#)

leading

[blind leading the blind](#)  
[the blind leading the blind](#)

leaf

[in leaf](#)  
[leaf out](#)  
[turn over a new leaf](#)

leak

[have a leak \[B\]](#)  
[information leak](#)

[leak](#)

[take a leak \[B\]](#)

lean

[lean times](#)

leap

[by leaps and bounds](#)

[Lovers' Leap](#)

learn

[learn the lingo](#)

[learn the ropes](#)

[learn your place](#)

lease

[a new lease on life](#)

[new lease on life](#)

least

[at least](#)

[in the least](#)

[last but not least](#)

leave

[leave me hanging](#)

[leave no stone unturned](#)

[leave out](#)

[leave out in the cold](#)

[leave the door open](#)

[leave well enough alone](#)

[leave you holding the bag](#)

[leave you in the lurch](#)

[leave yourself open](#)

[love them and leave them](#)

[take it or leave it](#)

[take leave of your senses](#)

led

[led to believe](#)

left

[exit stage left](#)

[left holding the bag](#)

[left in the lurch](#)

[left out in the cold](#)

[left over](#)

[left, right and center](#)

[out in left field](#)

[right, left and center](#)

[two left feet](#)

leftovers

[leftovers](#)

lefty

[lefty](#)

leg

[a hollow leg](#)[a leg up](#)[break a leg](#)[cost an arm and a leg](#)[fresh legs](#)[give an arm and a leg](#)[hollow leg](#)[last legs](#)[leg up](#)[leg work](#)[new legs](#)[on his last legs](#)[on our last legs](#)[pull your leg](#)[shake a leg](#)[tail between his legs](#)[talk the leg off the lamb of God](#)[the first leg](#)[with his tail between his legs](#)

lemon

[lemon](#)

lend

[lend a hand](#)

lengths

[go to great lengths/ go to any lengths](#)

less

[could care less](#)[couldn't care less](#)

lesser

[lesser lights](#)[lesser of two evils](#)

let

[let a fart \[B\]](#)[let down](#)[let George do it](#)[let go of](#)

[let her rip](#)  
[let it all hang out](#)  
[let it be](#)  
[let it go to your head](#)  
[let me have it](#)  
[let off](#)  
[let off steam](#)  
[let on](#)  
[let one](#)  
[let sleeping dogs lie](#)  
[let the cat out of the bag](#)  
[let the chips fall where they may](#)  
[let the good times roll](#)  
[let this chance go by](#)  
[let up](#)  
[let you down](#)  
[let you have it](#)  
[let yourself go](#)  
[live and let live](#)

let-up

[no let-up](#)

letter

[chain letter](#)

letter-perfect

[letter-perfect](#)

lettuce

[lettuce](#)

level

[a level playing field](#)  
[level the playing field](#)  
[level with you](#)

lib

[ad lib \(ad libitum\)](#)

liberty

[at liberty](#)

libitum

[ad lib \(ad libitum\)](#)

lick

[a lick and a promise](#)  
[lick and a promise](#)  
[lick your wounds](#)

lickety-split

[lickety-split](#)

lid

[blow the lid off](#)

[flip your lid](#)

[keep a lid on it](#)

[put a lid on it](#)

lidstacktop

[blow your lid/stack/top](#)

lie

[a bare-faced lie](#)

[a pack of lies](#)

[bare-faced lie](#)

[let sleeping dogs lie](#)

[lie down on the job](#)

[little white lie](#)

[white lie](#)

[without a word of a lie](#)

life

[a dog's life](#)

[a matter of life and death](#)

[a new lease on life](#)

[all walks of life](#)

[bigger than life](#)

[dog's life](#)

[every walk of life](#)

[for dear life](#)

[for the life of me](#)

[get a life](#)

[it's a matter of life and death](#)

[it's been a slice \(of life\)](#)

[larger than life](#)

[lay down your life for](#)

[lead a life](#)

[life in the fast lane](#)

[life is just a bowl of cherries](#)

[life is not all guns and roses](#)

[life of Riley](#)

[life of the party](#)

[life on the edge](#)

[life you lead](#)

[make a life for yourself](#)

[matter of life and death](#)

[new lease on life](#)  
[not on your life](#)  
[scare the life out of me](#)  
[set for life](#)  
[sometimes life is a bucket of shit and the handle is inside \[B\]](#)  
[spice of life](#)  
[that's life](#)  
[the best things in life are free](#)  
[the life of Riley](#)  
[the life of the party](#)  
[the spice of life](#)  
[variety is the spice of life](#)  
[walk of life](#)

lifer

[lifer](#)

lift

[a lift](#)  
[get a lift](#)  
[give me a lift](#)  
[lift a finger](#)  
[lift my spirits](#)

light

[at first light](#)  
[first light](#)  
[get the green light](#)  
[got a light](#)  
[idiot lights](#)  
[lesser lights](#)  
[light at the end of the tunnel](#)  
[light in the loafers](#)  
[light up](#)  
[lights are on but...](#)  
[make light of](#)  
[punch your lights out](#)  
[run a red light](#)  
[see the light](#)  
[see the light of day](#)  
[shed a little light on](#)  
[tail lights](#)  
[take on a new light](#)  
[the lights are on but nobody's home](#)  
[throw some light on](#)

lighten	<a href="#">lighten up</a>
lighthearted	<a href="#">lighthearted</a>
lightning	<a href="#">greased lightning</a> <a href="#">lightning fast</a>
like	<a href="#">built like a brick shithouse [B]</a> <a href="#">cheap like borsch</a> <a href="#">come down on like a ton of bricks</a> <a href="#">crazy like a fox</a> <a href="#">drink like a fish</a> <a href="#">drop him like a hot potato</a> <a href="#">drop like flies</a> <a href="#">eat like a horse</a> <a href="#">go like crazy</a> <a href="#">go like stink</a> <a href="#">grinning like a bushel basketful of possum heads</a> <a href="#">hang on like grim death</a> <a href="#">how do you like them apples</a> <a href="#">just like that</a> <a href="#">know like the back of your hand</a> <a href="#">like a bat out of hell</a> <a href="#">like a bolt from the blue</a> <a href="#">like a broken record</a> <a href="#">like a chicken on a June bug</a> <a href="#">like a dirty shirt</a> <a href="#">like a hawk</a> <a href="#">like a mother hawk</a> <a href="#">like a hot potato</a> <a href="#">like a ton of bricks</a> <a href="#">like crazy/like mad</a> <a href="#">like dog's breath</a> <a href="#">like father, like son</a> <a href="#">like hell [B]</a> <a href="#">like it or lump it</a> <a href="#">like nobody's business</a> <a href="#">like shit through a goose</a> <a href="#">like the devil</a> <a href="#">like the wind</a> <a href="#">look like death warmed over</a>

[look like he was dragged through a knothole](#)[nothing succeeds like success](#)[piss like a race horse \[B\]](#)[prepare like crazy](#)[quick like a bunny](#)[sell like hotcakes](#)[shoes like boats](#)[sleep like a log](#)[smoke like a furnace](#)[spread like wildfire](#)[stick out like a sore thumb](#)[swear like a sailor](#)[take it like a man](#)[watch me like a hawk](#)[watch over like a mother hawk](#)

likely

[not likely](#)

lily

[gild the lily](#)

lily-livered

[lily-livered](#)

limb

[go out on a limb](#)[out on a limb](#)

limit

[push me \(to the limit\)](#)

limp

[on the limp](#)

line

[a fine line](#)[along those lines](#)[ass on the line](#)[away out of line](#)[below the poverty line](#)[bottom line](#)[cash on the line](#)[down the line](#)[draw the line](#)[drop a line](#)[end of the line](#)[fall in line](#)[give you a line](#)

[hand you a line](#)  
[hard line](#)  
[hook, line and sinker](#)  
[keep in line](#)  
[lay it on the line](#)  
[line of authority](#)  
[line up](#)  
[out of line](#)  
[put my neck on the line](#)  
[read between the lines](#)  
[stay in line](#)  
[step out of line](#)  
[string a line](#)  
[the bottom line](#)  
[the end of the line](#)  
[toe the line](#)  
[walk a straight line](#)  
[way out of line \(away out of line\)](#)

line-up

[crack the line-up](#)

linestory

[don't give me that line/story etc.](#)

lingo

[learn the lingo](#)

[lingo](#)

lining

[every cloud has a silver lining](#)

lion

[lion's share](#)

[the lion's share](#)

lip

[a fat lip](#)

[a stiff upper lip](#)

[button your lip](#)

[don't give me any of your lip](#)

[fat lip](#)

[keep a stiff upper lip](#)

[lip](#)

[lip off](#)

[lips are sealed](#)

[none of your lip](#)

[read my lips](#)

[rented lips](#)  
[stiff upper lip](#)  
[there's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip](#)  
[your lip](#)

lippy

[lippy](#)

liquor

[hard liquor](#)  
[hold her liquor](#)

liquored

[liquored up](#)

list

[on the shit list \[B\]](#)  
[shit list \[B\]](#)

listen

[listen up](#)

litter

[pick of the litter](#)  
[runt of the litter](#)  
[the pick of the litter](#)  
[the runt of the litter](#)

little

[a little bird told me](#)  
[a little hair off the dog](#)  
[a little off](#)  
[a little steep](#)  
[a little thick](#)  
[cut it a little fine](#)  
[dig a little deeper](#)  
[give a little](#)  
[little bird told me](#)  
[little by little](#)  
[little white lie](#)  
[shed a little light on](#)  
[too little too late](#)

live

[live and let live](#)  
[live by](#)  
[live it up](#)  
[live off](#)  
[live on](#)  
[live on the edge](#)

[live up to](#)  
[nine lives](#)  
[people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones](#)

livelong

[all the livelong day](#)

liven

[liven up](#)

liveware

[liveware](#)

living

[eke out a living](#)  
[living daylights](#)  
[make a living](#)  
[the living daylights](#)  
[the living end](#)

lizzie

[tin Lizzie](#)

lo

[lo and behold](#)

load

[a few bricks short of a full load](#)  
[get a load of that](#)  
[one brick short of a full load](#)  
[take a load off your feet](#)

loaded

[loaded](#)  
[loaded to the hilt](#)

loaf

[pinch off a loaf \[B\]](#)  
[three slices short \(of a full loaf\)](#)

loafers

[light in the loafers](#)

loan

[good for a loan](#)  
[hit me for a loan](#)  
[on loan](#)

local

[local yokel](#)

lock

[lock you up](#)  
[lock, stock and barrel](#)

loco

[plumb loco](#)

log	
-----	--

[drop a log \[B\]](#)  
[log off](#)  
[log on](#)  
[saw logs](#)  
[sleep like a log](#)

loggerheads	
-------------	--

[at loggerheads](#)

lollygag	
----------	--

[lollygag](#)

long	
------	--

[a long shot](#)  
[by a long shot](#)  
[for long](#)  
[in a long time](#)  
[in the long haul](#)  
[in the long run](#)  
[long and the short of it](#)  
[long arm of the law](#)  
[long for](#)  
[long gone](#)  
[long in the tooth](#)  
[long Johns](#)  
[long time no see](#)  
[not by a long shot](#)  
[not long for this world](#)  
[so long](#)  
[the long and the short of it](#)  
[the long arm of the law](#)

loo	
-----	--

[loo](#)  
[the loo](#)  
[where's the loo](#)

look	
------	--

[a blank look](#)  
[a faraway look](#)  
[don't look a gift horse in the mouth](#)  
[future looks bright](#)  
[if looks could kill](#)  
[look after](#)  
[look daggers](#)  
[look down on](#)

[look down your nose at](#)  
[look high and low](#)  
[look into](#)  
[look like death warmed over](#)  
[look like he was dragged through a knothole](#)  
[look out](#)  
[look out for](#)  
[look out for number one](#)  
[look over](#)  
[look over your shoulder](#)  
[look sharp](#)  
[look the other way](#)  
[look up a dead horse's ass \[B\]](#)  
[look up to](#)  
[look up/look it up](#)  
[take a look](#)

looking

[can't see for looking](#)  
[caught looking](#)  
[looking up](#)  
[things are looking up](#)

looksee

[have a looksee](#)

loonie

[loonie](#)

loony

[loony bin](#)

loop

[in the loop](#)  
[keep in the loop](#)  
[out of the loop](#)  
[throw me for a loop](#)

looped

[looped](#)

loose

[a loose cannon](#)  
[a screw loose](#)  
[all hell broke loose](#)  
[at loose ends](#)  
[hang loose](#)  
[loose cannon](#)  
[loose ends](#)

[on the loose](#)  
[screw loose](#)  
[tie up loose ends](#)

lord

[lord it over](#)  
[the Lord helps those who help themselves](#)

lose

[lose a family member](#)  
[lose count](#)  
[lose favor](#)  
[lose ground](#)  
[lose him](#)  
[lose it](#)  
[lose my train of thought](#)  
[lose out](#)  
[lose patience](#)  
[lose sight of](#)  
[lose time](#)  
[lose track](#)  
[lose your appetite](#)  
[lose your cool](#)  
[lose your head](#)  
[lose your marbles](#)  
[lose your mind](#)  
[lose your shirt](#)  
[lose your temper](#)  
[lose your tongue](#)  
[lose your touch](#)  
[stand to lose](#)  
[you snooze, you lose](#)

losing

[a losing streak](#)  
[losing it](#)  
[losing streak](#)

loss

[a dead loss](#)  
[at a loss for words](#)  
[dead loss](#)  
[loss leader](#)

losses

[cut losses](#)

lost

[a lost cause](#)  
[get lost](#)  
[he who hesitates is lost](#)  
[it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all](#)  
[lost cause](#)  
[no love lost](#)  
[there's no love lost](#)

lot

[a lot of bunk](#)  
[a lot of folderol](#)  
[a lot on the ball](#)  
[of the lot](#)

lotus

[Lotus Land](#)

loud

[for crying out loud](#)  
[loud mouth](#)  
[out loud](#)

louder

[actions speak louder than words](#)

lousy

[lousy](#)

love

[a love tap](#)  
[all's fair in love and war](#)  
[fall in love](#)  
[falling in love](#)  
[for love nor money](#)  
[in love](#)  
[love at first sight](#)  
[Love Bug](#)  
[love conquers all](#)  
[love is blind](#)  
[love is where you find it](#)  
[love tap](#)  
[love them and leave them](#)  
[make love](#)  
[misery loves company](#)  
[no love lost](#)  
[puppy love](#)  
[there's no love lost](#)  
[you can't sell anybody if you don't love everybody](#)

loved	<a href="#">better to have loved...</a> <a href="#">it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all</a>
lovelies	<a href="#">lovelies</a>
lovelife	<a href="#">lovelife</a>
lovers	<a href="#">Lovers' Leap</a>
low	<a href="#">fly low</a> <a href="#">keep a low profile</a> <a href="#">lay low</a> <a href="#">look high and low</a> <a href="#">low</a> <a href="#">low on the totem pole</a>
low-ball	<a href="#">low-ball him</a>
low-down	<a href="#">low-down</a>
lowdown	<a href="#">lowdown</a> <a href="#">the lowdown</a>
lowered	<a href="#">ears lowered</a> <a href="#">have my ears lowered</a>
lowlife	<a href="#">lowlife</a>
luck	<a href="#">as luck would have it</a> <a href="#">damn the luck [B]</a> <a href="#">darn my luck</a> <a href="#">don't push your luck</a> <a href="#">down on his luck</a> <a href="#">luck of the draw</a> <a href="#">luck of the Irish</a> <a href="#">luck out</a> <a href="#">out of luck</a> <a href="#">pure luck</a> <a href="#">push your luck</a> <a href="#">shit out of luck [B]</a> <a href="#">string of good luck</a> <a href="#">stroke of good luck</a>

[the luck of the draw](#)[the luck of the Irish](#)[tough luck](#)[try your luck](#)

lucky

[a lucky break](#)[a lucky streak](#)[lucky break](#)[lucky dog](#)[lucky streak](#)[should be so lucky](#)[thank your lucky stars](#)[you can thank your lucky stars](#)[you have to be good to be lucky](#)

lucre

[filthy lucre](#)

lumber

[lay the lumber](#)

lump

[like it or lump it](#)[lump together](#)[take your lumps](#)

lunch

[do lunch](#)[out to lunch](#)

lurch

[in the lurch](#)[leave you in the lurch](#)[left in the lurch](#)

lush

[lush](#)

luxury

[in the lap of luxury](#)[lap of luxury](#)[the lap of luxury](#)[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Index M

m'aidez	
	<a href="#">mayday (m'aidez)</a>
mad	
	<a href="#">boiling mad</a>
	<a href="#">don't get mad; get even</a>
	<a href="#">don't go away mad; just go away</a>
	<a href="#">get mad</a>
	<a href="#">go mad</a>
	<a href="#">hopping mad</a>
	<a href="#">like crazy/like mad</a>
	<a href="#">mad about</a>
	<a href="#">mad as a hatter</a>
	<a href="#">mad hatter</a>
	<a href="#">rip-snorting mad</a>
	<a href="#">spitting mad</a>
	<a href="#">stark raving mad</a>
made	
	<a href="#">got it made</a>
	<a href="#">have it made</a>
	<a href="#">made for each other</a>
mail	
	<a href="#">junk mail</a>
mainstream	
	<a href="#">mainstream</a>
major	
	<a href="#">a major</a>
	<a href="#">major (credit)</a>
	<a href="#">major</a>
majority	
	<a href="#">age of majority</a>
	<a href="#">the age of majority</a>
make	
	<a href="#">absence makes the heart grow fonder</a>
	<a href="#">all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy</a>
	<a href="#">don't make a mountain out of a molehill</a>

[don't make me laugh](#)  
[don't make no nevermind](#)  
[don't make waves](#)  
[it don't make no nevermind](#)  
[it makes no difference](#)  
[make a beeline](#)  
[make a big deal of it](#)  
[make a big to-do](#)  
[make a booboo](#)  
[make a bundle](#)  
[make a clean breast of it](#)  
[make a clean sweep](#)  
[make a comeback](#)  
[make a difference](#)  
[make a face](#)  
[make a false move](#)  
[make a federal case of it](#)  
[make a fuss](#)  
[make a go of it](#)  
[make a good impression](#)  
[make a killing](#)  
[make a life for yourself](#)  
[make a living](#)  
[make a mistake](#)  
[make a mountain out of a mole hill](#)  
[make a name for yourself](#)  
[make a pass](#)  
[make a pitch](#)  
[make a point of](#)  
[make a scene](#)  
[make a silk purse...](#)  
[make a splash](#)  
[make advances](#)  
[make amends](#)  
[make an entrance](#)  
[make an offer](#)  
[make believe](#)  
[make do](#)  
[make ends meet](#)  
[make every effort](#)  
[make faces](#)  
[make friends](#)

[make fun of](#)  
[make good](#)  
[make good time](#)  
[make hay while the sun shines](#)  
[make headway](#)  
[make it](#)  
[make it better](#)  
[make it big](#)  
[make it snappy](#)  
[make it worse](#)  
[make light of](#)  
[make love](#)  
[make me do it](#)  
[make me sick/mad etc.](#)  
[make mention](#)  
[make mincemeat of](#)  
[make money](#)  
[make my day](#)  
[make myself clear](#)  
[make no bones about it](#)  
[make of it](#)  
[make off with](#)  
[make out](#)  
[make room](#)  
[make sense](#)  
[make sense of it](#)  
[make something of it](#)  
[make something of yourself](#)  
[make strange](#)  
[make sure](#)  
[make the bed](#)  
[make the grade](#)  
[make the most of it](#)  
[make the team](#)  
[make tracks](#)  
[make trouble](#)  
[make up](#)  
[make up for](#)  
[make up your mind](#)  
[make war](#)  
[make waves](#)  
[make way](#)

[make whoopee](#)  
[make your bum hum](#)  
[make your hair stand on end](#)  
[make your head spin](#)  
[make your mark](#)  
[make your mouth water](#)  
[make your way](#)  
[make yourself at home](#)  
[make yourself scarce](#)  
[make yourself to home](#)  
[makes no difference](#)  
[need money to make...](#)  
[on the make](#)  
[the devil makes work for idle hands](#)  
[there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so](#)  
[want to make something of it](#)  
[you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink](#)  
[you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear](#)  
[you need money to make money](#)

making

[has the makings](#)  
[have the makings of](#)  
[how are you making out](#)  
[in the making](#)  
[makings of](#)  
[the makings of](#)

malarkey

[a bunch of malarkey](#)  
[malarkey](#)

mall

[strip mall](#)

man

[a man of few words](#)  
[a man of the cloth](#)  
[a man's home is his castle](#)  
[a marked man](#)  
[bottle man](#)  
[front man](#)  
[hatchet man](#)  
[his own man](#)  
[hit man](#)  
[man of few words](#)

[man of the cloth](#)  
[marked man](#)  
[my old man](#)  
[old man](#)  
[one man's garbage is another man's art](#)  
[one man's meat is another man's poison](#)  
[see a man about a dog](#)  
[self-made man](#)  
[straight man](#)  
[take it like a man](#)  
[the man in the middle](#)  
[the Man in the Moon](#)  
[the old man](#)  
[the way to a man's heart is through his stomach](#)  
[to a man](#)

manger

[dog in the manger](#)

manners

[forget your manners](#)

[mind your manners](#)

many

[there's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip](#)

[too many chiefs and not enough Indians](#)

[too many cooks spoil the broth](#)

marbles

[all his marbles](#)

[all the marbles](#)

[lose your marbles](#)

mark

[a black mark](#)

[an easy mark](#)

[black mark](#)

[make your mark](#)

[mark a watershed](#)

[mark my words](#)

[off the mark](#)

[on the mark](#)

[watershed mark](#)

[x marks the spot](#)

marked

[a marked man](#)

[marked man](#)

market	<a href="#">buyer's market</a> <a href="#">corner the market</a> <a href="#">firm market</a> <a href="#">on the market</a> <a href="#">play the stock market</a> <a href="#">seller's market</a> <a href="#">soft market</a>
match	<a href="#">match wits</a> <a href="#">no match for</a> <a href="#">rubber match</a> <a href="#">shooting match</a> <a href="#">the whole shooting match</a> <a href="#">whole shooting match</a>
mate	<a href="#">soul mate</a>
matter	<a href="#">a matter of life and death</a> <a href="#">as a matter of fact</a> <a href="#">crux of the matter</a> <a href="#">grey matter</a> <a href="#">it's a matter of life and death</a> <a href="#">matter of life and death</a> <a href="#">mind over matter</a> <a href="#">no matter how you slice it</a> <a href="#">the crux of the matter</a>
max	<a href="#">groaty to the max</a> <a href="#">to the max</a>
may	<a href="#">let the chips fall where they may</a>
mayday	<a href="#">mayday (m'aidez)</a>
mccoy	<a href="#">real McCoy</a> <a href="#">the real McCoy</a>
mcgee	<a href="#">Fibber McGee's closet</a>
meal	<a href="#">square meal</a>
mean	<a href="#">by all means</a>

[by any means](#)  
[by no means](#)  
[end justifies the means](#)  
[mean business](#)  
[mean streak](#)  
[mean well](#)  
[play a mean game](#)  
[the end justifies the means](#)

meantime

[in the meantime](#)

measure

[for good measure](#)  
[measure up](#)

meat

[dead meat](#)  
[one man's meat is another man's poison](#)

media

[put to bed \(print media\)](#)

medicine

[give him a taste of his own medicine](#)  
[own medicine](#)

meet

[make ends meet](#)  
[meet up with](#)  
[meet you half way](#)  
[more than meets the eye](#)  
[there's more than meets the eye](#)

meeting

[hold a meeting](#)  
[meeting of minds](#)

megabucks

[megabucks](#)

melt

[butter wouldn't melt in his mouth](#)  
[melt in your mouth](#)

member

[card-carrying member](#)  
[lose a family member](#)

memory

[if my memory serves me correctly](#)  
[jog your memory](#)

men

[the best-laid plans of mice and men go oft astray](#)

mend

[mend fences](#)

[on the mend](#)

mental

[a bit off/a bit mental](#)

[a mental block](#)

[mental block](#)

mention

[don't mention it](#)

[make mention](#)

meow

[cat's meow](#)

[the cat's meow](#)

merrier

[the more the merrier](#)

mess

[mess up](#)

[mess with](#)

messed

[messed up](#)

metal

[heavy metal types](#)

[pedal to the metal](#)

[test your metal](#)

mete

[mete out](#)

mice

[the best-laid plans of mice and men go oft astray](#)

mid

[change horses in mid stream](#)

middle

[middle ground](#)

[middle of the road](#)

[smack dab in the middle](#)

[the man in the middle](#)

middleman

[middleman](#)

[the middleman](#)

middling

[fair to middling](#)

midnight

[burn the midnight oil](#)

miffed	<a href="#">miffed</a>
mighty	<a href="#">high and mighty</a>
mile	<a href="#">by a country mile</a> <a href="#">give him an inch and he'll take a mile</a> <a href="#">go the extra mile</a> <a href="#">talk a mile a minute</a>
military	<a href="#">buckstop (military)</a>
milk	<a href="#">cry over spilt milk</a> <a href="#">milk it</a> <a href="#">milk run</a>
mill	<a href="#">put you through the mill</a> <a href="#">run of the mill</a> <a href="#">through the mill</a>
million	<a href="#">thanks a million</a>
mince	<a href="#">doesn't mince words</a> <a href="#">mince words</a>
mincemeat	<a href="#">make mincemeat of</a>
mind	<a href="#">a piece of my mind</a> <a href="#">blow your mind</a> <a href="#">boggle your mind</a> <a href="#">change your mind</a> <a href="#">do you mind</a> <a href="#">frame of mind</a> <a href="#">get your mind around</a> <a href="#">go out of your mind</a> <a href="#">has a mind of his own</a> <a href="#">have a mind to</a> <a href="#">have half a mind to</a> <a href="#">in mind</a> <a href="#">in the back of my mind</a> <a href="#">in your mind's eye</a> <a href="#">keep an open mind</a>

[keep you in mind](#)  
[lose your mind](#)  
[make up your mind](#)  
[meeting of minds](#)  
[mind boggling](#)  
[mind games](#)  
[mind go blank](#)  
[mind in neutral](#)  
[mind of his own](#)  
[mind over matter](#)  
[mind the store](#)  
[mind your manners](#)  
[mind your own business](#)  
[mind your P's and Q's](#)  
[never mind](#)  
[of two minds](#)  
[one-track mind](#)  
[open mind](#)  
[out of sight, out of mind](#)  
[out of your mind](#)  
[peace of mind](#)  
[piece of my mind](#)  
[presence of mind](#)  
[put your mind to it](#)  
[say what's on your mind](#)  
[set your mind at ease](#)  
[slip your mind](#)  
[so small you had to back out to change your mind](#)  
[speak your mind](#)  
[state of mind](#)  
[wrap your mind around](#)

minnow

[faster than a minnow can swim a dipper](#)

mint

[in mint condition](#)

[mint condition](#)

[super mint](#)

minute

[one born every minute](#)

[talk a mile a minute](#)

[there's one born every minute](#)

[wait a minute](#)

mirrors	<a href="#">smoke and mirrors</a>
misery	<a href="#">misery loves company</a> <a href="#">put out of its misery</a>
miss	<a href="#">hit and miss</a> <a href="#">miss out on</a> <a href="#">miss the boat</a> <a href="#">miss the point</a> <a href="#">miss the water till...</a> <a href="#">miss you</a> <a href="#">miss your chance</a> <a href="#">wouldn't miss it for the world</a> <a href="#">you don't miss the water till the well runs dry</a>
mistake	<a href="#">make a mistake</a>
mix	<a href="#">mix it up</a> <a href="#">mix up</a> <a href="#">mix you up</a>
mixed	<a href="#">mixed feelings</a>
mixture	<a href="#">a duke's mixture</a> <a href="#">duke's mixture</a>
mo	<a href="#">slo mo</a>
molasses	<a href="#">as slow as molasses in January</a> <a href="#">slow as molasses...</a>
mole	<a href="#">make a mountain out of a mole hill</a>
molehill	<a href="#">don't make a mountain out of a molehill</a>
moment	<a href="#">at a moment's notice</a> <a href="#">moment of truth</a> <a href="#">on the spur of the moment</a> <a href="#">the moment of truth</a>
mon	<a href="#">Dear Dad, No mon, no fun, your son! Dear Son, So sad, too bad, your dad!</a>
money	

[a fool and his money are soon parted](#)  
[a run for your money](#)  
[blood money](#)  
[dirty money](#)  
[fool and his money...](#)  
[for love nor money](#)  
[found money](#)  
[funny money](#)  
[give you a run for your money](#)  
[in the money](#)  
[laundered money](#)  
[make money](#)  
[money doesn't grow on trees](#)  
[money is the root of all evil](#)  
[money talks](#)  
[money to burn](#)  
[more money than brains](#)  
[need money to make...](#)  
[new money](#)  
[old money](#)  
[on the money](#)  
[one for the money, two for the show...](#)  
[pin money](#)  
[put up the money](#)  
[put your money where your mouth is](#)  
[raise money](#)  
[right on the money](#)  
[run for your money](#)  
[spending money](#)  
[throw good money after bad](#)  
[time is money](#)  
[you need money to make money](#)

moneybags

[moneybags](#)

monford

[in the Monford lane](#)

monkey

[get this monkey off my back](#)  
[I'll be a monkey's uncle](#)  
[monkey business](#)  
[monkey off my back](#)  
[monkey's uncle](#)

[throw a monkey wrench into the works](#)

monkeywrenching

[monkeywrenching](#)

month

[a month of Sundays](#)

[month of Sundays](#)

monty

[full Monty](#)

[the full Monty](#)

mood

[in the mood](#)

[put you in a bad mood](#)

moola

[moola](#)

moon

[ask for the moon](#)

[blue moon](#)

[in a blue moon](#)

[moon them](#)

[once in a blue moon](#)

[promise the moon](#)

[the Man in the Moon](#)

moonlighting

[moonlighting](#)

moonshine

[moonshine](#)

moose

[sacred moose](#)

mop

[mop the floor with us](#)

[mop up](#)

moppie

[moppie](#)

moral

[on moral grounds](#)

more

[bite off more than you can chew](#)

[more money than brains](#)

[more power to you](#)

[more than meets the eye](#)

[more than welcome](#)

[more than you can shake a stick at](#)

[the more the merrier](#)

[there's more than meets the eye](#)  
[there's more than one way to skin a cat](#)

morning

[good morning](#)  
[top of the morning](#)

mortal

[mortal coil](#)  
[this mortal coil](#)

moses

[holy Moses](#)

moss

[a rolling stone gathers no moss](#)

most

[make the most of it](#)  
[the most](#)

mothball

[mothball](#)

mother

[go tell your mother she wants you](#)  
[like a mother hawk](#)  
[Mother Nature](#)  
[necessity is the mother of invention](#)  
[tied to your mother's apron strings](#)  
[watch over like a mother hawk](#)

motherfucker

[motherfucker \[B\]](#)

motherhood

[motherhood and apple pie](#)

motherlode

[motherlode](#)

motoring

[happy motoring](#)

motormouth

[motormouth](#)

mount

[mount a comeback](#)

mountain

[don't make a mountain out of a molehill](#)  
[going to the mountains](#)  
[make a mountain out of a mole hill](#)

mounties

[Mounties](#)

mouse

[as poor as a church mouse](#)

[poor as a church mouse](#)

mousetrap

[build a better mousetrap](#)

mousy

[mousy](#)

mouth

[a bad taste in my mouth](#)

[bad taste in my mouth](#)

[born with a silver spoon in his mouth](#)

[butter wouldn't melt in his mouth](#)

[by word of mouth](#)

[don't look a gift horse in the mouth](#)

[down in the mouth](#)

[from hand to mouth](#)

[from the horse's mouth](#)

[hand to mouth](#)

[hold your mouth the right way](#)

[jungle mouth](#)

[loud mouth](#)

[make your mouth water](#)

[melt in your mouth](#)

[mouth off](#)

[put your foot in your mouth](#)

[put your money where your mouth is](#)

[run off at the mouth](#)

[shoot your mouth off](#)

[shut my mouth](#)

[straight from the horse's mouth](#)

[the way you hold your mouth](#)

[word of mouth](#)

[wouldn't say shit if her mouth was full of it \[B\]](#)

move

[a false move](#)

[false move](#)

[get a move on](#)

[it's your move](#)

[make a false move](#)

[move it](#)

[move over](#)

[move you to tears](#)

[move your ass](#)

[on the move](#)  
[one false move](#)  
[watch your every move](#)

movers

[movers and shakers](#)

much

[much obliged](#)  
[so much as](#)  
[there's not much to choose between them](#)

muckrake

[muckrake](#)

mud

[clear as mud](#)  
[here's mud in your eye](#)  
[name is mud](#)

mudslang

[mudslang](#)

mugged

[mugged](#)

mull

[mull over](#)

mum

[mum's the word](#)

murphy

[Murphy's Law](#)

muscle

[muscle in](#)  
[pull a muscle](#)

music

[blow snakes \(music\)](#)  
[face the music](#)  
[grunge \(music\)](#)  
[in tune \(music\)](#)  
[music to my ears](#)  
[off key \(music\)](#)  
[out of tune \(music\)](#)

musica

[basta la musica](#)

musical

[musical chairs](#)  
[play musical chairs](#)

mussel

[if a mussel doesn't open don't eat it](#)

must	<a href="#">a must</a> <a href="#">must</a>
mustard	<a href="#">cut the mustard</a>
my	<a href="#">a bad taste in my mouth</a> <a href="#">a piece of my mind</a> <a href="#">a thorn in my side</a> <a href="#">at my wits' end</a> <a href="#">at the end of my rope/ at the end of my tether</a> <a href="#">bad taste in my mouth</a> <a href="#">be my guest</a> <a href="#">be my undoing</a> <a href="#">believe my ears</a> <a href="#">believe my eyes</a> <a href="#">blow my cover</a> <a href="#">breathe down my neck</a> <a href="#">bust my butt</a> <a href="#">can't believe my ears</a> <a href="#">can't believe my eyes</a> <a href="#">can't put my finger on it</a> <a href="#">can't put my hands on it</a> <a href="#">collect my thoughts</a> <a href="#">couldn't believe my ears</a> <a href="#">crawl on my hands and knees over broken glass just to see her photo</a> <a href="#">cross my heart and hope to die</a> <a href="#">cut my teeth on</a> <a href="#">darn my luck</a> <a href="#">down my throat</a> <a href="#">draw it to my attention</a> <a href="#">eat my hat/shirt</a> <a href="#">egg on my face</a> <a href="#">fall flat on my face</a> <a href="#">fall into my lap</a> <a href="#">find my tongue</a> <a href="#">from the bottom of my heart</a> <a href="#">get in my face</a> <a href="#">get my drift</a> <a href="#">get my kicks</a> <a href="#">get off my back</a> <a href="#">get off my case</a>

[get on my good side](#)  
[get on my nerves](#)  
[get out of my face](#)  
[get this monkey off my back](#)  
[get under my skin](#)  
[give my eye teeth](#)  
[give my right arm](#)  
[got my eye on](#)  
[got my hands full](#)  
[grease my palm](#)  
[have my ears lowered](#)  
[have my eye on](#)  
[have my work cut out](#)  
[hit my funny bone](#)  
[hold that over my head](#)  
[hurt my feelings](#)  
[if my memory serves me correctly](#)  
[in my care](#)  
[in my good books](#)  
[in the back of my mind](#)  
[is you is, or is you ain't my baby](#)  
[lift my spirits](#)  
[lose my train of thought](#)  
[make my day](#)  
[mark my words](#)  
[monkey off my back](#)  
[music to my ears](#)  
[my ass](#)  
[my eye](#)  
[my old man](#)  
[no skin off my nose](#)  
[off my back](#)  
[off the top of my head](#)  
[oh my gosh](#)  
[on my back](#)  
[on my best behavior](#)  
[on my case](#)  
[on my deathbed](#)  
[on my good side](#)  
[on my plate](#)  
[on my way](#)  
[on my word](#)

[on the tip of my tongue](#)  
[out of my depth](#)  
[out of my hair](#)  
[out of my head](#)  
[out of the corner of my eye](#)  
[out of the goodness of my heart](#)  
[over my dead body](#)  
[over my head](#)  
[pay my respects](#)  
[piece of my mind](#)  
[pit of my stomach](#)  
[play my cards right](#)  
[play on my heart strings](#)  
[powder my nose](#)  
[put a bug in my ear](#)  
[put my finger on it](#)  
[put my foot down](#)  
[put my neck on the line](#)  
[rack my brain](#)  
[rattle my chain](#)  
[read my lips](#)  
[rest my case](#)  
[right before my eyes](#)  
[say my piece](#)  
[scared out of my wits](#)  
[shit or wind my watch](#)  
[shove down my throat](#)  
[shut my mouth](#)  
[sick to my stomach](#)  
[slap my afro / slap my fro](#)  
[stick in my craw](#)  
[stick my neck out](#)  
[take my hat off to](#)  
[take my head off](#)  
[take my place](#)  
[the pit of my stomach](#)  
[thorn in my side](#)  
[tip of my tongue](#)  
[to the best of my knowledge](#)  
[twist my arm](#)  
[under my belt](#)  
[under my breath](#)

[under my care](#)  
[under my nose](#)  
[under my skin](#)  
[under my wing](#)  
[up to my ears](#)  
[upon my word](#)  
[with all my heart](#)  
[work my buns off](#)  
[work my fingers to the bone](#)

myself

[beside myself](#)  
[feel myself](#)  
[kick myself](#)  
[make myself clear](#)  
[not feeling myself](#)  
[shit myself \[B\]](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Index N

nada	<a href="#">nada</a>
nag	<a href="#">nag</a>
nail	<a href="#">another nail in your coffin</a> <a href="#">fight tooth and nail</a> <a href="#">hard as nails</a> <a href="#">hit the nail on the head</a> <a href="#">nail down</a> <a href="#">nail him</a> <a href="#">nail in your coffin</a> <a href="#">nail it down</a> <a href="#">spitting nails</a> <a href="#">tooth and nail</a>
nail-biter	<a href="#">a nail-biter</a> <a href="#">nail-biter</a>
naked	<a href="#">naked as a jay bird</a> <a href="#">naked eye</a> <a href="#">stark naked</a> <a href="#">the naked eye</a> <a href="#">with the naked eye</a>
name	<a href="#">a household name</a> <a href="#">drop a name / drop names</a> <a href="#">go by the name of</a> <a href="#">household name</a> <a href="#">in heaven's name</a> <a href="#">it has your name on it</a> <a href="#">make a name for yourself</a> <a href="#">name is cleared</a> <a href="#">name is mud</a> <a href="#">what in the name of heaven</a>

[why in the name of...](#)

name-dropper

[name-dropper](#)

nary

[nary a word](#)

natural

[natural high](#)

naturally

[come naturally](#)

nature

[by its very nature](#)[Mother Nature](#)[nature calls](#)[second nature](#)

navel-gazing

[navel-gazing](#)

nay

[nay](#)

ne

[je ne sais quoi](#)

neat

[neat](#)

necessity

[necessity is the mother of invention](#)

neck

[breathe down my neck](#)[neck](#)[neck and neck](#)[neck of the woods](#)[put my neck on the line](#)[stick my neck out](#)

necktie

[a necktie party](#)[necktie party](#)

need

[need money to make...](#)[you need money to make money](#)

needle

[eye of a needle](#)[needle](#)[on pins and needles](#)[pins and needles](#)[the eye of a needle](#)

needless	<a href="#">needless to say</a>
neighborhood	<a href="#">toney neighborhood</a>
neither	<a href="#">neither fish nor fowl</a>
nerd	<a href="#">nerd</a>
nerves	<a href="#">a bundle of nerves</a> <a href="#">bundle of nerves</a> <a href="#">get on my nerves</a> <a href="#">nerves of steel</a>
nervous	<a href="#">nervous breakdown</a>
nest	<a href="#">feather your nest</a> <a href="#">nest egg</a>
net	<a href="#">Net surfer</a> <a href="#">surf the Net</a>
netwar	<a href="#">Netwar</a>
neutral	<a href="#">mind in neutral</a>
never	<a href="#">better late than never</a> <a href="#">it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all</a> <a href="#">it never fails</a> <a href="#">it never rains but it pours</a> <a href="#">it's now or never</a> <a href="#">never mind</a> <a href="#">never say die</a> <a href="#">now or never</a>
nevermind	<a href="#">don't make no nevermind</a> <a href="#">it don't make no nevermind</a>
new	<a href="#">a new broom sweeps clean</a> <a href="#">a new lease on life</a> <a href="#">as new</a> <a href="#">bad news</a> <a href="#">brand new/ brand spanking new</a>

[everything old is new again](#)  
[new blood](#)  
[new kid on the block](#)  
[new lease on life](#)  
[new legs](#)  
[new money](#)  
[new wave](#)  
[no news is good news](#)  
[take on a new light](#)  
[turn over a new leaf](#)  
[what's new](#)  
[you can't teach an old dog new tricks](#)

newfie

[Newfie](#)

next

[next of kin](#)

nibs

[his nibs](#)

nick

[in the nick of time](#)

nickel

[not worth a plugged nickel](#)

nine

[a stitch in time saves nine](#)

[dressed to the nines](#)

[nine lives](#)

[nine times out of ten](#)

[on cloud nine](#)

[the whole nine yards](#)

nip

[nip and tuck](#)

[nip it in the bud](#)

nitpick

[nitpick](#)

nitty-gritty

[nitty-gritty](#)

[the nitty-gritty](#)

nitwit

[nitwit](#)

no

[a rolling stone gathers no moss](#)

[all hat and no cattle](#)

[all talk and no action](#)

[all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy](#)

[by no means](#)

[Dear Dad, No mon, no fun, your son! Dear Son, So sad, too bad, your dad!](#)

[don't make no nevermind](#)

[feeling no pain](#)

[give no quarter](#)

[got no business](#)

[in no time](#)

[in no uncertain terms](#)

[it don't make no nevermind](#)

[it makes no difference](#)

[leave no stone unturned](#)

[long time no see](#)

[make no bones about it](#)

[makes no difference](#)

[no bloody way](#)

[no bones about it](#)

[no business](#)

[no can do](#)

[no chancy](#)

[no contest](#)

[no dice](#)

[no doubt](#)

[no fair](#)

[no fucking way \[B\]](#)

[no great shakes](#)

[no guff](#)

[no hard feelings](#)

[no holds barred](#)

[no kidding](#)

[no let-up](#)

[no love lost](#)

[no match for](#)

[no matter how you slice it](#)

[no news is good news](#)

[no nonsense](#)

[no offense, but...](#)

[no pain, no gain](#)

[no problem \(no prob\)](#)

[no qualms](#)

[no question](#)

[no questions asked](#)  
[no rest for the wicked](#)  
[no rhyme or reason](#)  
[no rush](#)  
[no shit \[B\]](#)  
[no shrinking violet](#)  
[no skin off my nose](#)  
[no slouch](#)  
[no sweat](#)  
[no truth to it](#)  
[no use for](#)  
[no way](#)  
[no word](#)  
[point of no return](#)  
[the point of no return](#)  
[there's no love lost](#)  
[there's no tomorrow](#)  
[there's no two ways about it](#)  
[up to no good](#)  
[waste no time](#)

no-frills

[no-frills](#)

no-show

[no-show](#)

nobody

[like nobody's business](#)  
[nobody's fool](#)  
[the lights are on but nobody's home](#)

noise

[fuck that noise \[B\]](#)

none

[bar none](#)  
[none of your lip](#)  
[none the worse for wear](#)

nonsense

[no nonsense](#)

nookie

[have nookie](#)  
[nookie \[B\]](#)

nope

[nope](#)

nor

[for love nor money](#)  
[haven't seen hide nor hair](#)  
[hide nor hair](#)  
[neither fish nor fowl](#)  
[see hide nor hair](#)

norm

[out of the norm](#)

north

[due north](#)  
[Great White North](#)  
[The Great White North](#)

nose

[as plain as the nose on your face](#)  
[brown nose \[B\]](#)  
[cut off your nose to spite your face](#)  
[hold your nose](#)  
[it's as plain as the nose on your face](#)  
[keep your nose clean](#)  
[keep your nose to the grindstone](#)  
[look down your nose at](#)  
[no skin off my nose](#)  
[nose is out of joint](#)  
[pay through the nose](#)  
[plain as the nose on your face](#)  
[pope's nose](#)  
[powder my nose](#)  
[the pope's nose](#)  
[turn up your nose at](#)  
[under my nose](#)  
[win by a nose](#)

nosebag

[nosebag](#)

nosed

[hard nosed](#)

notch

[a notch below](#)  
[notch below](#)  
[slip a notch](#)  
[top notch](#)

noteletter

[dash off a note/letter](#)

notes

[compare notes](#)  
[hit the high notes](#)

nother

[it's a whole nother world out there](#)

nothing

[double or nothing](#)  
[nothing succeeds like success](#)  
[nothing to it](#)  
[nothing to sneeze at](#)  
[nothing to write home about](#)  
[nothing ventured, nothing gained](#)  
[stop at nothing](#)  
[there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so](#)  
[there's nothing to it](#)  
[think nothing of it](#)

notice

[at a moment's notice](#)  
[give notice](#)  
[on short notice](#)  
[serve notice](#)

now

[bye for now](#)  
[it's now or never](#)  
[now or never](#)

nowhere

[flattery will get you nowhere](#)  
[go nowhere fast](#)  
[out of nowhere](#)

nth

[to the nth degree](#)

nude

[in the nude](#)

nuke

[nuke](#)  
[nukes](#)

number

[a hot number](#)  
[do a number on](#)  
[got your number](#)  
[look out for number one](#)  
[number is up](#)  
[number one](#)

[your number is up](#)

numbskull

[numbskull](#)

nut

[a nut case](#)

[drive you nuts](#)

[everything from soup to nuts](#)

[from soup to nuts](#)

[go nuts](#)

[health nut](#)

[nut](#)

[nut bar, nut case](#)

[nut house](#)

[nuts](#)

[nuts about](#)

nutty

[nutty as a fruit cake](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Index O

o	
	<a href="#">The Big O</a>
o'clock	
	<a href="#">five o'clock shadow</a>
oath	
	<a href="#">take oath</a>
	<a href="#">under oath</a>
oats	
	<a href="#">feeling his oats</a>
	<a href="#">sow wild oats</a>
obliged	
	<a href="#">much obliged</a>
occasion	
	<a href="#">rise to the occasion</a>
occurs	
	<a href="#">it occurs to me</a>
odd	
	<a href="#">against all odds</a>
	<a href="#">at odds</a>
	<a href="#">give you odds</a>
	<a href="#">odd one</a>
	<a href="#">odds and ends</a>
	<a href="#">the odd one</a>
odds-on	
	<a href="#">odds-on favorite</a>
	<a href="#">the odds-on favorite</a>
odor	
	<a href="#">give off an odor</a>
of	
	<a href="#">a barrel of laughs</a>
	<a href="#">a bed of roses</a>
	<a href="#">a beehive of activity</a>
	<a href="#">a breath of fresh air</a>
	<a href="#">a breath of wind</a>
	<a href="#">a bunch of malarkey</a>

[a bundle of nerves](#)  
[a case of](#)  
[a chunk of change](#)  
[a clean bill of health](#)  
[a dickens of a time](#)  
[a different kettle of fish](#)  
[a few bricks short of a full load](#)  
[a fresh pair of eyes](#)  
[a gaggle of geese](#)  
[a ghost of a chance](#)  
[a grain of salt](#)  
[a grain of truth](#)  
[a hell of a time](#)  
[a hill of beans](#)  
[a horse of a different color](#)  
[a lot of bunk](#)  
[a lot of folderol](#)  
[a man of few words](#)  
[a man of the cloth](#)  
[a matter of life and death](#)  
[a month of Sundays](#)  
[a pack of lies](#)  
[a piece of ass \[B\]](#)  
[a piece of cake](#)  
[a piece of my mind](#)  
[a piece of piss](#)  
[a piece of tail \[B\]](#)  
[a piece of the action](#)  
[a pinch of coon shit \[B\]](#)  
[a pinch of salt](#)  
[a pocket of resistance](#)  
[a question of](#)  
[a rough time of it](#)  
[a sack of hammers](#)  
[a shadow of his former self](#)  
[a slip of the tongue](#)  
[a spot of tea](#)  
[a stitch of clothes](#)  
[a touch of](#)  
[a tough time of it](#)  
[a tower of strength](#)  
[a whale of a game](#)

[a window of opportunity](#)  
[above and beyond the call of duty](#)  
[age of majority](#)  
[ahead of the curve](#)  
[ahead of the game](#)  
[all walks of life](#)  
[an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure](#)  
[apple of his eye](#)  
[as a matter of fact](#)  
[as dumb as a sack of hammers](#)  
[as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar](#)  
[at the crack of dawn](#)  
[at the drop of a hat](#)  
[at the end of my rope/ at the end of my tether](#)  
[at the hands of](#)  
[at the top of her game](#)  
[at the top of his voice](#)  
[away out of line](#)  
[bag of tricks](#)  
[balance of power](#)  
[beauty is in the eye of the beholder](#)  
[become of](#)  
[beehive of activity](#)  
[benefit of the doubt](#)  
[best of both worlds](#)  
[bevy of beauties](#)  
[beyond the call of duty](#)  
[birds of a feather flock together](#)  
[blow it out of proportion](#)  
[blow you out of the water](#)  
[bone of contention](#)  
[breath of fresh air](#)  
[breath of wind](#)  
[breathe a sigh of relief](#)  
[bundle of nerves](#)  
[butt of the joke](#)  
[by dint of](#)  
[by the seat of your pants](#)  
[by the skin of their teeth](#)  
[by word of mouth](#)  
[can of worms](#)  
[case of](#)

[cat's out of the bag](#)  
[chain of command](#)  
[chairman of the boards \(hockey\)](#)  
[change of heart](#)  
[chunk of change](#)  
[clean bill of health](#)  
[come down on like a ton of bricks](#)  
[come of](#)  
[come of age](#)  
[come to think of it](#)  
[coming out of our ears](#)  
[coming out of your yin yang](#)  
[courtesy of](#)  
[crack of dawn](#)  
[cream of the crop](#)  
[crux of the matter](#)  
[cup of tea](#)  
[day of the family farm](#)  
[deked out of his jock](#)  
[dickens of a time](#)  
[didn't have a stitch of clothes on](#)  
[discretion is the better part of valor](#)  
[dog days of summer](#)  
[don't give me any of your lip](#)  
[don't know the half of it](#)  
[don't make a mountain out of a molehill](#)  
[drop out of sight](#)  
[dumb as a sack of hammers](#)  
[easy time of it](#)  
[eat out of the palm of your hand](#)  
[eat you out of house and home](#)  
[end of the line](#)  
[every walk of life](#)  
[eye of a needle](#)  
[eye of the storm](#)  
[faint of heart](#)  
[fickle finger of fate](#)  
[fingers the size of bananas](#)  
[fly by the seat of your...](#)  
[fly in the face of](#)  
[for the fun of it](#)  
[for the life of me](#)

[force of habit](#)

[frame of mind](#)

[fresh pair of eyes](#)

[from the bottom of my heart](#)

[fucked by the fickle finger of fate \[B\]](#)

[full of herself](#)

[full of it \[B\]](#)

[full of piss and vinegar \[B\]](#)

[Gang of Four](#)

[get a bang out of](#)

[get a charge out of](#)

[get a hold of](#)

[get a kick out of](#)

[get a load of that](#)

[get out of](#)

[get out of my face](#)

[get out of the road](#)

[get out of town](#)

[get out of your hair](#)

[get rid of](#)

[get something out of](#)

[get the hang of](#)

[get the lay of the land](#)

[get to the bottom of](#)

[get to the root of the problem](#)

[get up a head of steam](#)

[get up on the wrong side of bed](#)

[get wind of](#)

[get your head out of the clouds](#)

[gift of the gab \(gift of gab\)](#)

[give him a taste of his own medicine](#)

[gnashing of teeth](#)

[go by the name of](#)

[go out of your mind](#)

[go out of your way](#)

[go the way of the dodo](#)

[God bless the Duke of Argyle](#)

[grain of salt](#)

[grinning like a bushel basketful of possum heads](#)

[Group of Five](#)

[Group of Seven](#)

[happy as a box of birds](#)

[hard of hearing](#)  
[has a mind of his own](#)  
[have a case of](#)  
[have the makings of](#)  
[hell of a time](#)  
[hill of beans](#)  
[hit speeds of](#)  
[horse of a different color](#)  
[if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen](#)  
[in point of fact](#)  
[in the back of my mind](#)  
[in the lap of luxury](#)  
[in the nick of time](#)  
[in the wink of an eye](#)  
[in two shakes \(of a lamb's tail\)](#)  
[it's a case of](#)  
[it's a matter of life and death](#)  
[it's been a slice \(of life\)](#)  
[it's not a question of](#)  
[jack of all trades](#)  
[jump out of your skin](#)  
[kettle of fish](#)  
[kiss of death](#)  
[knock the wind out of his sails](#)  
[know like the back of your hand](#)  
[lap of luxury](#)  
[lay of the land](#)  
[lesser of two evils](#)  
[let go of](#)  
[let the cat out of the bag](#)  
[life is just a bowl of cherries](#)  
[life of Riley](#)  
[life of the party](#)  
[light at the end of the tunnel](#)  
[like a bat out of hell](#)  
[like a ton of bricks](#)  
[line of authority](#)  
[long and the short of it](#)  
[long arm of the law](#)  
[lose my train of thought](#)  
[lose sight of](#)  
[luck of the draw](#)

[luck of the Irish](#)  
[make a big deal of it](#)  
[make a clean breast of it](#)  
[make a federal case of it](#)  
[make a go of it](#)  
[make a mountain out of a mole hill](#)  
[make a point of](#)  
[make fun of](#)  
[make light of](#)  
[make mincemeat of](#)  
[make of it](#)  
[make sense of it](#)  
[make something of it](#)  
[make something of yourself](#)  
[make the most of it](#)  
[makings of](#)  
[man of few words](#)  
[man of the cloth](#)  
[matter of life and death](#)  
[meeting of minds](#)  
[middle of the road](#)  
[mind of his own](#)  
[moment of truth](#)  
[money is the root of all evil](#)  
[month of Sundays](#)  
[necessity is the mother of invention](#)  
[neck of the woods](#)  
[nerves of steel](#)  
[next of kin](#)  
[nine times out of ten](#)  
[none of your lip](#)  
[nose is out of joint](#)  
[not a question of](#)  
[not by any stretch of the imagination](#)  
[of course you can](#)  
[of the lot](#)  
[of two minds](#)  
[off the top of my head](#)  
[on behalf of](#)  
[on the edge of your seat](#)  
[on the spur of the moment](#)  
[on the tip of my tongue](#)

[on top of](#)  
[one brick short of a full load](#)  
[one hell of a time](#)  
[one of the boys](#)  
[open a can of worms](#)  
[open up a big can of whoop-ass](#)  
[ounce of prevention](#)  
[out of](#)  
[out of bounds](#)  
[out of breath](#)  
[out of circulation](#)  
[out of commission](#)  
[out of context](#)  
[out of control](#)  
[out of hand](#)  
[out of harm's way](#)  
[out of here \(outa here\)](#)  
[out of his element](#)  
[out of hock](#)  
[out of it](#)  
[out of joint](#)  
[out of kilter](#)  
[out of line](#)  
[out of luck](#)  
[out of my depth](#)  
[out of my hair](#)  
[out of my head](#)  
[out of nowhere](#)  
[out of order](#)  
[out of our hands](#)  
[out of patience](#)  
[out of place](#)  
[out of pocket](#)  
[out of range](#)  
[out of sight \(outa sight\)](#)  
[out of sight](#)  
[out of sight, out of mind](#)  
[out of sorts](#)  
[out of step](#)  
[out of the ball park](#)  
[out of the blue](#)  
[out of the closet](#)

[out of the corner of my eye](#)  
[out of the goodness of my heart](#)  
[out of the loop](#)  
[out of the norm](#)  
[out of the picture](#)  
[out of the question](#)  
[out of the way](#)  
[out of the woods](#)  
[out of the woodwork](#)  
[out of this world](#)  
[out of touch](#)  
[out of tune \(music\)](#)  
[out of whack](#)  
[out of wind](#)  
[out of work](#)  
[out of your gourd](#)  
[out of your mind](#)  
[out of your tree](#)  
[peace of mind](#)  
[pick of the litter](#)  
[piece of ass \[B\]](#)  
[piece of cake](#)  
[piece of me](#)  
[piece of my mind](#)  
[piece of piss](#)  
[piece of tail \[B\]](#)  
[pinch of coon shit \[B\]](#)  
[pinch of salt](#)  
[pit of my stomach](#)  
[pocket of resistance](#)  
[point of no return](#)  
[point of view](#)  
[pot of gold](#)  
[pound of flesh](#)  
[presence of mind](#)  
[proof of the pudding...](#)  
[put out of its misery](#)  
[question of](#)  
[reject out of hand](#)  
[root of the problem](#)  
[row of beans](#)  
[rule of thumb](#)

[run of the mill](#)

[run out of patience](#)

[run out of town](#)

[runt of the litter](#)

[sack of hammers](#)

[salt of the earth](#)

[scare the life out of me](#)

[scared out of my wits](#)

[school of hard knocks](#)

[scrape the bottom of the barrel](#)

[see the light of day](#)

[sense of humor](#)

[set of wheels](#)

[shades of](#)

[shit out of luck \[B\]](#)

[short end of the stick](#)

[sick of](#)

[six of one, half a dozen of the other](#)

[slip of the tongue](#)

[slug of](#)

[smack of](#)

[snatch victory from the jaws of defeat](#)

[solid as the Rock of Gibraltar](#)

[sometimes life is a bucket of shit and the handle is inside \[B\]](#)

[speak highly of](#)

[speak of the devil](#)

[spice of life](#)

[spot of tea](#)

[state of mind](#)

[state of the art](#)

[step out of line](#)

[stitch of clothes on](#)

[string of good luck](#)

[stroke of genius](#)

[stroke of good luck](#)

[take a round out of](#)

[take advantage of](#)

[take care of](#)

[take care of business](#)

[take it with a grain of salt](#)

[take leave of your senses](#)

[take with a grain of salt](#)

[talk the leg off the lamb of God](#)  
[taste of his own...](#)  
[teach you the tricks of the trade](#)  
[tender age of](#)  
[that's a crock \(of shit\) \[B\]](#)  
[the age of majority](#)  
[the apple of his eye](#)  
[the balance of power](#)  
[the benefit of the doubt](#)  
[the best-laid plans of mice and men go oft astray](#)  
[the best of both worlds](#)  
[the butt of the joke](#)  
[the call of duty](#)  
[the cat's out of the bag](#)  
[the crack of dawn](#)  
[the crux of the matter](#)  
[the day of the family farm](#)  
[the end of the line](#)  
[the eye of a needle](#)  
[the eye of the storm](#)  
[the fickle finger of fate](#)  
[the gift of the gab \(the gift of gab\)](#)  
[the grass is greener on the other side of the fence](#)  
[The Group of Five/The Regina Five](#)  
[The Group of Seven](#)  
[the lap of luxury](#)  
[the last of it](#)  
[the lay of the land](#)  
[the life of Riley](#)  
[the life of the party](#)  
[the long and the short of it](#)  
[the long arm of the law](#)  
[the luck of the draw](#)  
[the luck of the Irish](#)  
[the makings of](#)  
[the moment of truth](#)  
[the pick of the litter](#)  
[the picture of health](#)  
[the pit of my stomach](#)  
[the point of no return](#)  
[the proof of the pudding is in the eating](#)  
[the root of the problem](#)

[the runt of the litter](#)  
[the salt of the earth](#)  
[the school of hard knocks](#)  
[the short end of the stick](#)  
[the spice of life](#)  
[the talk of the town](#)  
[the tender age of](#)  
[the tip of the iceberg](#)  
[the tricks of the trade](#)  
[the turn of the century](#)  
[the whole ball of wax](#)  
[there's something rotten in the state of Denmark](#)  
[think better of it](#)  
[think nothing of it](#)  
[think the world of](#)  
[three slices short \(of a full loaf\)](#)  
[time is of the essence](#)  
[tip of my tongue](#)  
[tip of the hat](#)  
[tip of the iceberg](#)  
[tired of](#)  
[to the best of my knowledge](#)  
[ton of bricks](#)  
[top of the morning](#)  
[touch of](#)  
[tower of strength](#)  
[train of thought](#)  
[tricks of the trade](#)  
[tub of guts](#)  
[turn of the century](#)  
[twist of fate](#)  
[under the influence of alcohol](#)  
[vale of tears \(valley of tears\)](#)  
[variety is the spice of life](#)  
[vote of thanks](#)  
[wake up on the wrong side of bed](#)  
[walk of life](#)  
[want a piece of me](#)  
[want to make something of it](#)  
[warped sense of humor](#)  
[wash your hands of it](#)  
[way out of line \(away out of line\)](#)

[whale of a game](#)

[what in the name of heaven](#)

[what was I thinking of](#)

[why in the name of...](#)

[window of opportunity](#)

[without a stitch of clothes on](#)

[without a word of a lie](#)

[wonder of wonders](#)

[word of honor](#)

[word of mouth](#)

[work of art](#)

[wouldn't say shit if her mouth was full of it \[B\]](#)

[you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear](#)

[you're full of it \[B\]](#)

off

[a chip off the old block](#)

[a little hair off the dog](#)

[a little off](#)

[back off](#)

[be off](#)

[beat the pants off](#)

[beg off](#)

[better off](#)

[bit off](#)

[bite off more than you can chew](#)

[blow the lid off](#)

[break off](#)

[bring it off](#)

[browned off](#)

[brush it off](#)

[buzz off](#)

[call off](#)

[call off the dogs](#)

[carry it off](#)

[catch you off guard](#)

[cheesed off](#)

[chip off the old block](#)

[come down off your high horse](#)

[come off](#)

[come off it](#)

[cool off](#)

[cut him off \[B\]](#)

[cut off](#)

[cut off your nose to spite your face](#)

[dash off a note/letter](#)

[die off](#)

[drop off](#)

[eat high off the hog](#)

[fall off the wagon](#)

[finish off](#)

[first off](#)

[fly off the handle](#)

[fuck off \[B\]](#)

[get it off your chest](#)

[get off](#)

[get off a few good ones](#)

[get off my back](#)

[get off my case](#)

[get off on](#)

[get off the ground](#)

[get off to a good start](#)

[get off your high horse](#)

[get off your soap box](#)

[get this monkey off my back](#)

[give off an odor](#)

[give you the shirt off his back](#)

[gloves are off](#)

[go off half-cocked](#)

[go off the deep end](#)

[goof off](#)

[hair off the dog that bit you](#)

[hats off](#)

[hit it off](#)

[hose it down/ hose it off](#)

[hot off the press](#)

[jerk off \[B\]](#)

[kill off](#)

[kiss it off](#)

[kiss off](#)

[knock it off](#)

[knock off](#)

[knock your socks off](#)

[laid off](#)

[laugh it off](#)

[laugh your head off](#)

[lay off](#)

[let off](#)

[let off steam](#)

[lip off](#)

[live off](#)

[log off](#)

[make off with](#)

[monkey off my back](#)

[mouth off](#)

[no skin off my nose](#)

[off](#)

[off color](#)

[off key \(music\)](#)

[off kilter](#)

[off my back](#)

[off the bat](#)

[off the beaten track](#)

[off the cuff](#)

[off the deep end](#)

[off the hook](#)

[off the kitchen etc.](#)

[off the mark](#)

[off the record](#)

[off the shelf](#)

[off the top of my head](#)

[off the wagon](#)

[off the wall](#)

[off to a bad start](#)

[off to a good start](#)

[off to the races](#)

[off topic](#)

[off with](#)

[off with you](#)

[off your high horse](#)

[off your rocker](#)

[pass off](#)

[pay off](#)

[pinch off a loaf \[B\]](#)

[piss off \[B\]](#)

[pissed off \[B\]](#)

[polish off/polish it off](#)

[pull it off](#)  
[put off](#)  
[put you off your game](#)  
[right off the bat](#)  
[ring off the hook](#)  
[ripped off](#)  
[roll off the tongue](#)  
[run off](#)  
[run off at the mouth](#)  
[saw off a chunk \[B\]](#)  
[scrape me off the ceiling](#)  
[set off](#)  
[shit or get off the pot](#)  
[shoot your mouth off](#)  
[show off](#)  
[shrug it off](#)  
[sign off](#)  
[sleep it off](#)  
[sluff off](#)  
[sound off](#)  
[spell you off](#)  
[square off](#)  
[suck off \[B\]](#)  
[swear off](#)  
[sweep you off your feet](#)  
[take a load off your feet](#)  
[take a strip off](#)  
[take my hat off to](#)  
[take my head off](#)  
[take off](#)  
[take off, eh](#)  
[take the chill off](#)  
[talk the leg off the lamb of God](#)  
[talk your ear off](#)  
[talk your head off](#)  
[tear a strip off](#)  
[teed off](#)  
[tell him off](#)  
[tell him where to get off](#)  
[the gloves are off](#)  
[the wheels fall off](#)  
[ticked off](#)

[time off](#)  
[to top it off](#)  
[top it off](#)  
[touch off](#)  
[wash it off](#)  
[wear off](#)  
[well off](#)  
[whack off \[B\]](#)  
[wheels fall off](#)  
[where do they get off](#)  
[wipe that smile off your face](#)  
[work my buns off](#)  
[work off](#)  
[work your ass off \[B\]](#)  
[work your buns off](#)  
[write it off](#)

off-beat

[off-beat](#)

offa

[a bit off/a bit mental](#)

offense

[no offense, but...](#)[take offense](#)

offer

[an offer I couldn't refuse](#)[make an offer](#)[offer I couldn't refuse](#)

offhand

[offhand](#)

offhandedly

[upon the words offhandedly spoken](#)

office

[branch office](#)[run for office](#)

offing

[in the offing](#)

offpair

[pair off/pair up](#)

offpolish

[polish off/polish it off](#)

offside

[offside \(hockey\)](#)

oft

	<a href="#">the best-laid plans of mice and men go oft astray</a>
oh	
	<a href="#">boy, oh boy</a> <a href="#">oh my gosh</a>
oil	
	<a href="#">burn the midnight oil</a>
oilpatch	
	<a href="#">oilpatch</a>
ointment	
	<a href="#">fly in the ointment</a>
ok	
	<a href="#">okay, OK</a>
okay	
	<a href="#">okay, OK</a>
old	
	<a href="#">a chip off the old block</a> <a href="#">an old hand at</a> <a href="#">an old warhorse</a> <a href="#">any old thing</a> <a href="#">at the ripe old age</a> <a href="#">chip off the old block</a> <a href="#">everything old is new again</a> <a href="#">my old man</a> <a href="#">Old Boys' Club</a> <a href="#">old coot</a> <a href="#">old flame</a> <a href="#">old goat</a> <a href="#">old hat</a> <a href="#">old man</a> <a href="#">old money</a> <a href="#">old wives' tale</a> <a href="#">teach an old dog...</a> <a href="#">the old college try</a> <a href="#">the old man</a> <a href="#">you can't teach an old dog new tricks</a>
on	
	<a href="#">a contract out on</a> <a href="#">a crush on</a> <a href="#">a fly on the wall</a> <a href="#">a freeze on</a> <a href="#">a glow on</a> <a href="#">a lot on the ball</a>

[a new lease on life](#)

[a play on words](#)

[a takeoff on](#)

[as plain as the nose on your face](#)

[as useless as tits on a boar](#)

[ass on the line](#)

[back on your feet](#)

[bang on](#)

[bank on](#)

[beat up on](#)

[bet on](#)

[bet on a lame rooster](#)

[bone up on](#)

[brush up on](#)

[call on](#)

[can't put my finger on it](#)

[can't put my hands on it](#)

[carry on](#)

[cash on the barrelhead](#)

[cash on the line](#)

[catch on](#)

[catch up on](#)

[cheat on](#)

[check up on](#)

[chicken on a June bug](#)

[chip on his shoulder](#)

[clean up on](#)

[clouds on the horizon](#)

[come down on like a ton of bricks](#)

[come on](#)

[come on strong](#)

[contract out on](#)

[count on](#)

[crack down on](#)

[crawl on my hands and knees over broken glass just to see her photo](#)

[crush on](#)

[cut my teeth on](#)

[dawn on me](#)

[dead on](#)

[didn't have a stitch of clothes on](#)

[do a number on](#)

[don't know which side your bread is buttered on](#)

[down on his luck](#)  
[drag on](#)  
[dream on](#)  
[dump on](#)  
[egg me on](#)  
[egg on my face](#)  
[fall flat on my face](#)  
[fall on deaf ears](#)  
[fall on your sword](#)  
[feast your eyes on](#)  
[fly on the wall](#)  
[gang up on](#)  
[get a fix on](#)  
[get a grip on yourself](#)  
[get a handle on](#)  
[get a move on](#)  
[get good wood on](#)  
[get in on it](#)  
[get in on the ground floor](#)  
[get it on](#)  
[get off on](#)  
[get on in years](#)  
[get on it](#)  
[get on my good side](#)  
[get on my nerves](#)  
[get on with it](#)  
[get on your horse](#)  
[get the drop on](#)  
[get the jump on](#)  
[get this show on the road](#)  
[get up on the wrong side of bed](#)  
[getting on in years](#)  
[glow on](#)  
[go back on](#)  
[go down on \[B\]](#)  
[go easy on](#)  
[go on](#)  
[go on about](#)  
[go out on a limb](#)  
[good on you](#)  
[good wood on it](#)  
[got a corner on](#)

[got a crush on](#)  
[got my eye on](#)  
[got the rags on \[B\]](#)  
[grow on you](#)  
[hair stand on end](#)  
[hands on](#)  
[hang on](#)  
[hang on every word](#)  
[hang on like grim death](#)  
[hard on me](#)  
[haul up on the carpet](#)  
[have a crush on](#)  
[have designs on](#)  
[have my eye on](#)  
[have one on me](#)  
[head on](#)  
[heat is on](#)  
[high on the hog](#)  
[hire on](#)  
[hit on](#)  
[hit on all cylinders](#)  
[hit the nail on the head](#)  
[hold on](#)  
[hot on the trail](#)  
[hot on your heels](#)  
[icing on the cake](#)  
[it has your name on it](#)  
[it's as plain as the nose on your face](#)  
[Johnny on the spot](#)  
[joke is on you](#)  
[keep a lid on it](#)  
[keep an eye on](#)  
[keep on](#)  
[keep on trucking](#)  
[keep tabs on](#)  
[keep you on track](#)  
[keep your hair on](#)  
[keep your shirt on](#)  
[King Shit on Turd Island](#)  
[know which side your bread is buttered on](#)  
[land on your feet](#)  
[lay eyes on](#)

[lay it on](#)

[lay it on the line](#)

[lay on](#)

[lead you on](#)

[let on](#)

[lie down on the job](#)

[life on the edge](#)

[lights are on but...](#)

[like a chicken on a June bug](#)

[live on](#)

[live on the edge](#)

[log on](#)

[look down on](#)

[low on the totem pole](#)

[make your hair stand on end](#)

[miss out on](#)

[money doesn't grow on trees](#)

[new kid on the block](#)

[new lease on life](#)

[not on your life](#)

[not on your tintype](#)

[on a full stomach](#)

[on a lark](#)

[on a pedestal](#)

[on a roll](#)

[on a silver platter](#)

[on a string](#)

[on about](#)

[on all fours](#)

[on an empty stomach](#)

[on approval](#)

[on behalf of](#)

[on board](#)

[on cloud nine](#)

[on deck](#)

[on drugs](#)

[on edge](#)

[on even terms](#)

[on fire](#)

[on good terms](#)

[on his last legs](#)

[on his tail](#)

[on in years](#)  
[on loan](#)  
[on moral grounds](#)  
[on my back](#)  
[on my best behavior](#)  
[on my case](#)  
[on my deathbed](#)  
[on my good side](#)  
[on my plate](#)  
[on my way](#)  
[on my word](#)  
[on our last legs](#)  
[on parade](#)  
[on parole](#)  
[on pins and needles](#)  
[on probation](#)  
[on purpose](#)  
[on queer street](#)  
[on schedule](#)  
[on shaky ground](#)  
[on short notice](#)  
[on side](#)  
[on speaking terms](#)  
[on tap](#)  
[on target](#)  
[on tenterhooks](#)  
[on the back burner](#)  
[on the ball](#)  
[on the bandwagon](#)  
[on the beat](#)  
[on the books](#)  
[on the bright side](#)  
[on the brink](#)  
[on the bubble](#)  
[on the button](#)  
[on the carpet](#)  
[on the clock](#)  
[on the cutting edge](#)  
[on the dot](#)  
[on the double](#)  
[on the edge of your seat](#)  
[on the fence](#)

[on the fringe](#)  
[on the fritz](#)  
[on the go](#)  
[on the ground floor](#)  
[on the heels](#)  
[on the lam](#)  
[on the limp](#)  
[on the loose](#)  
[on the make](#)  
[on the mark](#)  
[on the market](#)  
[on the mend](#)  
[on the money](#)  
[on the move](#)  
[on the outs](#)  
[on the QT](#)  
[on the rails](#)  
[on the rise](#)  
[on the road](#)  
[on the run](#)  
[on the same wavelength](#)  
[on the shit list \[B\]](#)  
[on the side](#)  
[on the sly](#)  
[on the spot](#)  
[on the spur of the moment](#)  
[on the stand](#)  
[on the table](#)  
[on the take](#)  
[on the throne](#)  
[on the tip of my tongue](#)  
[on the up and up](#)  
[on the verge](#)  
[on the wagon](#)  
[on the wane](#)  
[on the whole](#)  
[on the wing](#)  
[on thin ice](#)  
[on time](#)  
[on top of](#)  
[on track](#)  
[on trial](#)

[on vacation](#)  
[on your ass \[B\]](#)  
[on your deathbed](#)  
[on your guard](#)  
[on your own](#)  
[on your side](#)  
[on your toes](#)  
[on your way](#)  
[one on one](#)  
[out on a limb](#)  
[out on the town](#)  
[pass on](#)  
[pat on the back](#)  
[pick on](#)  
[pin your hopes on](#)  
[piss on them \[B\]](#)  
[place on a pedestal](#)  
[plain as the nose on your face](#)  
[play a joke on](#)  
[play a prank on](#)  
[play a trick on](#)  
[play on my heart strings](#)  
[play on words](#)  
[pour it on](#)  
[press on](#)  
[put a different slant on it](#)  
[put a hex on me](#)  
[put a lid on it](#)  
[put it on the bill](#)  
[put me on](#)  
[put my finger on it](#)  
[put my neck on the line](#)  
[put on a pedestal](#)  
[put on airs](#)  
[put on the dog](#)  
[put the finishing touches on](#)  
[put the heat on](#)  
[put the kibosh on](#)  
[put the right spin on it](#)  
[put too fine a point on](#)  
[putting me on](#)  
[putting on the ritz](#)

[quick on the draw](#)

[rain on their parade](#)

[rat on](#)

[rattle on](#)

[read up on](#)

[rest on your laurels](#)

[right on](#)

[right on the money](#)

[say what's on your mind](#)

[set the world on fire](#)

[set your teeth on edge](#)

[shake on it](#)

[shed a little light on](#)

[shuck on down to the fraidy hole](#)

[shuffle the chairs on the deck](#)

[sit in judgement on](#)

[skate on thin ice](#)

[sold on](#)

[soldier on](#)

[spot on](#)

[spur on](#)

[stand on ceremony](#)

[step on his dick](#)

[step on it](#)

[step on people](#)

[step on their toes](#)

[step on your dick](#)

[stitch of clothes on](#)

[stop on a dime](#)

[strike out on your own](#)

[stuck on](#)

[sweet on](#)

[take it easy on](#)

[take it out on](#)

[take on](#)

[take on a new light](#)

[takeoff on](#)

[tell on](#)

[the grass is greener on the other side of the fence](#)

[the handwriting is on the wall](#)

[the heat is on](#)

[the joke is on you](#)

[the lights are on but nobody's home](#)

[this one is on me](#)

[throw cold water on](#)

[throw on a dog for you](#)

[throw some light on](#)

[tie one on](#)

[time on your hands](#)

[touch on](#)

[tough on me](#)

[try it on](#)

[try that on for size](#)

[turn on a dime](#)

[turn on you](#)

[turn the tables on](#)

[turn you on](#)

[turn your back on](#)

[up on](#)

[wait on customers](#)

[wait on tables](#)

[wait on you hand and foot](#)

[wake up on the wrong side of bed](#)

[walk on eggshells](#)

[wear your heart on your sleeve](#)

[what's going on](#)

[window on the world](#)

[with bells on](#)

[without a stitch of clothes on](#)

[worship the ground she walks on](#)

[you and the horse you rode in on](#)

[you're on](#)

once

[at once](#)

[once in a blue moon](#)

[once upon a time](#)

once-over

[give it the once-over](#)

[once-over](#)

[the once-over](#)

one

[a game one](#)

[a short one](#)

[a tall one](#)

[all your eggs in one basket](#)  
[at one fell swoop](#)  
[at one time](#)  
[back to square one](#)  
[chalk one up for you](#)  
[dance with the one who brought you  
day one](#)  
[don't put all your eggs in one basket](#)  
[from day one](#)  
[from square one](#)  
[game one](#)  
[get off a few good ones](#)  
[go one better](#)  
[Great One](#)  
[have one on me](#)  
[hole in one \(golf\)](#)  
[in one ear and out the other](#)  
[in one fell swoop](#)  
[it takes one to know one](#)  
[kill two birds \(with one stone\)](#)  
[kiss that one goodbye](#)  
[let one](#)  
[look out for number one](#)  
[number one](#)  
[odd one](#)  
[one and the same](#)  
[one at a time](#)  
[one born every minute](#)  
[one brick short of a full load](#)  
[one by one](#)  
[one false move](#)  
[one fell swoop](#)  
[one for the money, two for the show...](#)  
[one for the road](#)  
[one hell of a time](#)  
[one man's garbage is another man's art](#)  
[one man's meat is another man's poison](#)  
[one of the boys](#)  
[one on one](#)  
[short one](#)  
[six of one, half a dozen of the other](#)  
[square one](#)

[takes one to know one](#)  
[tall one](#)  
[tell me another one](#)  
[The Great One](#)  
[the odd one](#)  
[the one that got away](#)  
[there's more than one way to skin a cat](#)  
[there's one born every minute](#)  
[this one is on me](#)  
[tie one on](#)  
[two for one](#)  
[two heads are better than one](#)

one-track

[one-track mind](#)

only

[beauty is only skin deep](#)  
[if only](#)  
[winning isn't everything; it's the only thing](#)  
[you're only as good as your last shift](#)

onside

[come onside](#)

onto

[come onto](#)  
[glom onto](#)  
[onto something](#)  
[onto us](#)

oodles

[oodles](#)

op

[photo op](#)

open

[if a mussel doesn't open don't eat it](#)  
[keep an eye open](#)  
[keep an open mind](#)  
[leave the door open](#)  
[leave yourself open](#)  
[open a can of worms](#)  
[open a window](#)  
[open and shut](#)  
[open mind](#)  
[open season](#)  
[open some doors](#)

[open to criticism](#)  
[open to question](#)  
[open up](#)  
[open up a big can of whoop-ass](#)

openers

[for openers](#)

opportunity

[a golden opportunity](#)  
[a window of opportunity](#)  
[golden opportunity](#)  
[seize the opportunity](#)  
[window of opportunity](#)

order

[apple-pie order](#)  
[ducks in a row \(ducks in order\)](#)  
[in order](#)  
[out of order](#)  
[pecking order](#)

other

[cross over to the other side](#)  
[do unto others as you would have them do unto you](#)  
[drop the other shoe](#)  
[in one ear and out the other](#)  
[it's a whole other world out there](#)  
[look the other way](#)  
[made for each other](#)  
[other fish to fry](#)  
[six of one, half a dozen of the other](#)  
[the grass is greener on the other side of the fence](#)  
[turn the other cheek](#)  
[turn the other way](#)  
[wait for the other shoe to drop](#)

ounce

[an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure](#)  
[ounce of prevention](#)

our

[coming out of our ears](#)  
[on our last legs](#)  
[out of our hands](#)  
[tighten our belts](#)

ourselves

[kill ourselves laughing](#)

## out

[a bawling out](#)  
[a contract out on](#)  
[a falling out](#)  
[act out](#)  
[all decked out](#)  
[away out](#)  
[away out of line](#)  
[back out](#)  
[bail me out](#)  
[bail out](#)  
[bawl me out](#)  
[black out](#)  
[blow it out of proportion](#)  
[blow it out your ear](#)  
[blow you out of the water](#)  
[blurt out](#)  
[bomb out](#)  
[bottom fell out](#)  
[bottom out](#)  
[bow out](#)  
[branch out](#)  
[break out](#)  
[break out in a rash](#)  
[burn out](#)  
[bust out](#)  
[butt out](#)  
[buy out](#)  
[carry out](#)  
[cash up/cash out](#)  
[cat's out of the bag](#)  
[check it out](#)  
[check out](#)  
[check this out](#)  
[chew him out](#)  
[chill out](#)  
[clean me out](#)  
[clear out](#)  
[come out in the wash](#)  
[come out with](#)  
[coming out of our ears](#)  
[coming out of your yin yang](#)

[conk out](#)  
[contract out on](#)  
[cop out](#)  
[crank out](#)  
[cry her heart out](#)  
[cry your eyes out](#)  
[cut it out](#)  
[cut out for](#)  
[day in, day out](#)  
[deck out](#)  
[deked out of his jock](#)  
[dish it out](#)  
[don't make a mountain out of a molehill](#)  
[down and out](#)  
[drag it out](#)  
[drop out](#)  
[drop out of sight](#)  
[dry out](#)  
[duck out](#)  
[duke it out](#)  
[eat out](#)  
[eat out of the palm of your hand](#)  
[eat you out of house and home](#)  
[eat your heart out](#)  
[eke out a living](#)  
[falling out](#)  
[far out](#)  
[faze me out](#)  
[figure out](#)  
[fill out](#)  
[find out](#)  
[flake out](#)  
[flat out](#)  
[flesh out](#)  
[flunk out](#)  
[for crying out loud](#)  
[found out](#)  
[freak/freak out](#)  
[fresh out](#)  
[full out](#)  
[get a bang out of](#)  
[get a charge out of](#)

[get a kick out of](#)  
[get out](#)  
[get out of](#)  
[get out of my face](#)  
[get out of the road](#)  
[get out of town](#)  
[get out of your hair](#)  
[get reamed out](#)  
[get something out of](#)  
[get the lead out](#)  
[get the word out](#)  
[get the wrinkles out](#)  
[get your head out of the clouds](#)  
[give out](#)  
[give you an out](#)  
[go out of your mind](#)  
[go out of your way](#)  
[go out on a limb](#)  
[go out with](#)  
[hand out](#)  
[hang out](#)  
[hang you out to dry](#)  
[have it out](#)  
[have my work cut out](#)  
[head out](#)  
[hear me out](#)  
[help out](#)  
[hold out for](#)  
[how are you making out](#)  
[how it plays out](#)  
[if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen](#)  
[in one ear and out the other](#)  
[in's and out's](#)  
[inside out](#)  
[iron out](#)  
[it phased me out](#)  
[it's a jungle out there](#)  
[it's a whole nother world out there](#)  
[it's a whole other world out there](#)  
[jam/jam out](#)  
[jump out of your skin](#)  
[keep an eye out](#)

[keep out](#)

[knock out](#)

[knock the wind out of his sails](#)

[knock them down, drag them out](#)

[knock you out](#)

[knocked out](#)

[know inside out](#)

[leaf out](#)

[leave out](#)

[leave out in the cold](#)

[left out in the cold](#)

[let it all hang out](#)

[let the cat out of the bag](#)

[like a bat out of hell](#)

[look out](#)

[look out for](#)

[look out for number one](#)

[lose out](#)

[luck out](#)

[make a mountain out of a mole hill](#)

[make out](#)

[mete out](#)

[miss out on](#)

[nine times out of ten](#)

[nose is out of joint](#)

[on the outs](#)

[out and out](#)

[out cold](#)

[out for blood](#)

[out in left field](#)

[out in the cold](#)

[out loud](#)

[out of](#)

[out of bounds](#)

[out of breath](#)

[out of circulation](#)

[out of commission](#)

[out of context](#)

[out of control](#)

[out of hand](#)

[out of harm's way](#)

[out of here \(outa here\)](#)

[out of his element](#)  
[out of hock](#)  
[out of it](#)  
[out of joint](#)  
[out of kilter](#)  
[out of line](#)  
[out of luck](#)  
[out of my depth](#)  
[out of my hair](#)  
[out of my head](#)  
[out of nowhere](#)  
[out of order](#)  
[out of our hands](#)  
[out of patience](#)  
[out of place](#)  
[out of pocket](#)  
[out of range](#)  
[out of sight \(outa sight\)](#)  
[out of sight](#)  
[out of sight, out of mind](#)  
[out of sorts](#)  
[out of step](#)  
[out of the ball park](#)  
[out of the blue](#)  
[out of the closet](#)  
[out of the corner of my eye](#)  
[out of the goodness of my heart](#)  
[out of the loop](#)  
[out of the norm](#)  
[out of the picture](#)  
[out of the question](#)  
[out of the way](#)  
[out of the woods](#)  
[out of the woodwork](#)  
[out of this world](#)  
[out of touch](#)  
[out of tune \(music\)](#)  
[out of whack](#)  
[out of wind](#)  
[out of work](#)  
[out of your gourd](#)  
[out of your mind](#)

[out of your tree](#)

[out on a limb](#)

[out on the town](#)

[out to get you](#)

[out to lunch](#)

[out to win](#)

[over and out](#)

[pan out](#)

[pass out](#)

[peter out](#)

[phase me out](#)

[pig out](#)

[play out](#)

[point out](#)

[pour out your soul](#)

[price out](#)

[psych out](#)

[pull it out](#)

[pull out all the stops](#)

[pull the rug out](#)

[punch your lights out](#)

[push the boat out](#)

[put out](#)

[put out about](#)

[put out feelers](#)

[put out of its misery](#)

[put yourself out](#)

[reach out](#)

[ream out](#)

[reject out of hand](#)

[roll out the red carpet](#)

[rule out](#)

[run out](#)

[run out of patience](#)

[run out of town](#)

[run you out](#)

[rust out](#)

[sack out](#)

[scare the life out of me](#)

[scared out of my wits](#)

[school's out](#)

[sell out](#)

[set out](#)

[set out for](#)

[set out to](#)

[shape up or ship out](#)

[shell out](#)

[shit out of luck \[B\]](#)

[shoot it out](#)

[sign out](#)

[single out](#)

[skip out](#)

[slip out](#)

[smooth out](#)

[so small you had to back out to change your mind](#)

[spaced out](#)

[speak out](#)

[spell out](#)

[spread out](#)

[stand out](#)

[start out](#)

[step out of line](#)

[stick it out](#)

[stick my neck out](#)

[stick out like a sore thumb](#)

[stink the joint out](#)

[straighten you out](#)

[strike out \(baseball\)](#)

[strike out on your own](#)

[strung out](#)

[sweat it out](#)

[take a round out of](#)

[take him out](#)

[take it out on](#)

[take out](#)

[the bottom fell out](#)

[the cat's out of the bag](#)

[the in's and out's](#)

[throw out](#)

[throw the baby out with the bath water](#)

[time out](#)

[time ran out](#)

[tired out](#)

[try it out](#)

[try out](#)  
[tuckered out](#)  
[tune me out](#)  
[turn out](#)  
[vegetate \(veg out\)](#)  
[wash out](#)  
[watch out](#)  
[watch out for](#)  
[way out \(away out\)](#)  
[way out of line \(away out of line\)](#)  
[wear out](#)  
[wear out your welcome](#)  
[weed out](#)  
[wipe out](#)  
[word is out](#)  
[work cut out for](#)  
[work it out](#)  
[work out](#)  
[work things out](#)  
[worn out](#)  
[you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear](#)

outa

[out of here \(outa here\)](#)  
[out of sight \(outa sight\)](#)

outdo

[outdo yourself](#)

outplay

[outplay](#)

outside

[the room is so small you have to go outside turn around](#)  
[think outside the box](#)

oven

[a bun in the oven](#)  
[bun in the oven](#)

over

[all over but the shouting](#)  
[all over hell's half acre](#)  
[ass over teakettle](#)  
[bend over backwards](#)  
[blow me over](#)  
[bowl me over](#)  
[check over](#)

[crawl on my hands and knees over broken glass just to see her photo](#)

[cross over Jordan](#)

[cross over to the other side](#)

[cry over spilt milk](#)

[cup runneth over](#)

[death warmed over](#)

[drop over](#)

[eyes glaze over](#)

[fall head over heels](#)

[fork over](#)

[fuss over](#)

[game over](#)

[get it over with](#)

[get over](#)

[get your buns over here](#)

[gloss over](#)

[go over](#)

[hand over](#)

[hand over fist](#)

[hash it over](#)

[have you over](#)

[head over heels](#)

[hold that over my head](#)

[in over your head](#)

[invite you over](#)

[it ain't over till it's over](#)

[it ain't over till the fat lady sings](#)

[it's all over but the crying](#)

[it's all over but the shouting](#)

[it's over/ it's over with](#)

[knock me over with a feather](#)

[lay over](#)

[left over](#)

[look like death warmed over](#)

[look over](#)

[look over your shoulder](#)

[lord it over](#)

[mind over matter](#)

[move over](#)

[mull over](#)

[over and done with](#)

[over and out](#)

[over easy](#)  
[over my dead body](#)  
[over my head](#)  
[over the edge](#)  
[over the hill](#)  
[over the hump](#)  
[over the rainbow](#)  
[over the top](#)  
[over with](#)  
[pop over](#)  
[pull the wool over your eyes](#)  
[rake you over the coals](#)  
[read it over](#)  
[roll over and play dead](#)  
[start over](#)  
[take over](#)  
[talk it over](#)  
[think over](#)  
[tick over](#)  
[tide me over](#)  
[till hell freezes over](#)  
[turn over a new leaf](#)  
[warmed over](#)  
[watch over](#)  
[watch over like a mother hawk](#)  
[what came over me](#)  
[written all over your face](#)  
[yonder over there](#)

overboard

[go overboard](#)

overdo

[overdo it](#)

owly

[owly](#)

own

[come into your own](#)  
[cut your own throat](#)  
[dig your own grave](#)  
[do your own thing](#)  
[each to his own](#)  
[give him a taste of his own medicine](#)  
[has a mind of his own](#)

[his own man](#)  
[hold your own](#)  
[mind of his own](#)  
[mind your own business](#)  
[on your own](#)  
[own medicine](#)  
[own up](#)  
[own worst enemy](#)  
[paddle your own canoe](#)  
[strike out on your own](#)  
[taste of his own...](#)  
[to each his own](#)  
[toot your own horn](#)  
[under his own steam](#)  
[your own worst enemy](#)

oyster

[prairie oyster](#)  
[the world is your oyster](#)  
[world is your oyster](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Index P

p	<a href="#">mind your P's and Q's</a> <a href="#">P's and Q's</a> <a href="#">watch your P's and Q's</a>
pace	<a href="#">keep pace</a> <a href="#">pick up the pace</a>
pack	<a href="#">a pack of lies</a> <a href="#">pack a punch</a> <a href="#">pack a rod</a> <a href="#">pack it in</a> <a href="#">pack Uzis</a>
pad	<a href="#">pad</a> <a href="#">pad an expense account</a>
paddle	<a href="#">paddle your own canoe</a>
pain	<a href="#">a pain in the ass [B]</a> <a href="#">a pain in the butt</a> <a href="#">a royal pain</a> <a href="#">feeling no pain</a> <a href="#">no pain, no gain</a> <a href="#">pain in the ass [B]</a> <a href="#">pain in the butt</a> <a href="#">royal pain</a> <a href="#">take pains</a>
paint	<a href="#">paint a picture</a> <a href="#">paint the town red</a> <a href="#">paint with the same brush</a>
pair	<a href="#">a fresh pair of eyes</a> <a href="#">fresh pair of eyes</a>

	<a href="#">pair off/pair up</a>
pale	
	<a href="#">beyond the pale</a> <a href="#">pale by comparison</a>
palm	
	<a href="#">eat out of the palm of your hand</a> <a href="#">grease my palm</a>
paltry	
	<a href="#">a paltry sum</a> <a href="#">paltry sum</a>
pan	
	<a href="#">a flash in the pan</a> <a href="#">flash in the pan</a> <a href="#">from the frying pan into the fire</a> <a href="#">pan out</a>
pancake	
	<a href="#">first pancake is always spoiled</a> <a href="#">the first pancake is always spoiled</a>
panic	
	<a href="#">press the panic button</a>
pants	
	<a href="#">beat the pants off</a> <a href="#">by the seat of your pants</a> <a href="#">caught with his pants down</a> <a href="#">get into her pants [B]</a> <a href="#">piss your pants [B]</a> <a href="#">wear the pants</a>
paper	
	<a href="#">a paper trail</a>
par	
	<a href="#">up to par</a>
parachute	
	<a href="#">parachute</a>
parade	
	<a href="#">on parade</a> <a href="#">piss parade [B]</a> <a href="#">rain on their parade</a>
parcel	
	<a href="#">part and parcel</a>
pardon	
	<a href="#">beg your pardon</a> <a href="#">pardon me</a>
park	

[in the ball park](#)  
[out of the ball park](#)

parole

[on parole](#)

parrot

[as sick as a parrot](#)

part

[discretion is the better part of valor](#)  
[do your part](#)  
[in these parts](#)  
[part and parcel](#)  
[part company](#)  
[part with](#)  
[play a big part](#)  
[play a part](#)  
[take part in](#)  
[these parts](#)

parted

[a fool and his money are soon parted](#)

partners

[partners in crime](#)

party

[a necktie party](#)  
[a party to that](#)  
[crash a party](#)  
[life of the party](#)  
[necktie party](#)  
[party to that](#)  
[the life of the party](#)  
[throw a party](#)

party-pooper

[party-pooper](#)

pass

[a suicide pass \(hockey\)](#)  
[feather a pass \(hockey\)](#)  
[make a pass](#)  
[pass around](#)  
[pass away](#)  
[pass for](#)  
[pass off](#)  
[pass on](#)  
[pass out](#)

[pass the buck](#)[pass through](#)[pass up](#)[pass water](#)[pass wind](#)[suicide pass](#)

pass\_\_html\_eacute\_\_

[passé](#)

passing

[just passing through](#)

past

[past is slipping by without a trace](#)[the past is slipping by without a trace](#)

pat

[a pat answer](#)[down pat](#)[pat answer](#)[pat on the back](#)

patch

[patch things up](#)

path

[cross paths](#)[down the garden path](#)[lead you down the garden path](#)[paths will cross](#)

patience

[lose patience](#)[out of patience](#)[run out of patience](#)

paul

[rob Peter to pay Paul](#)

pave

[pave the way](#)

paved

[road to hell is paved...](#)[the road to hell is paved with good intentions](#)

pavement

[pound the pavement](#)

pay

[hell to pay \[B\]](#)[pay a compliment](#)[pay a visit](#)[pay attention](#)

[pay back](#)  
[pay down](#)  
[pay him back](#)  
[pay in kind](#)  
[pay my respects](#)  
[pay off](#)  
[pay the penalty](#)  
[pay the price](#)  
[pay the shot](#)  
[pay through the nose](#)  
[pay tribute](#)  
[pay up](#)  
[pay your dues](#)  
[pay your way](#)  
[price you have to pay](#)  
[rob Peter to pay Paul](#)  
[the price you have to pay](#)

pay-off

[pay-off](#)

paydirt

[hit paydirt](#)

peace

[at peace](#)  
[peace of mind](#)

peaches-and-cream

[peaches-and-cream](#)

peachy

[peachy](#)

peacock

[happy as a peacock](#)

peanuts

[peanuts](#)

pecking

[pecking order](#)

pedal

[pedal her ass \[B\]](#)  
[pedal to the metal](#)  
[soft pedal](#)

pedestal

[on a pedestal](#)  
[place on a pedestal](#)  
[put on a pedestal](#)

pee	<a href="#">take a pee [B]</a> <a href="#">two pee holes in the snow</a>
peed	<a href="#">peed</a> <a href="#">she peed</a>
peek-a-boo	<a href="#">peek-a-boo</a>
peeled	<a href="#">eyes peeled</a> <a href="#">keep your eyes peeled</a>
peep	<a href="#">peep this</a>
peer	<a href="#">peer sneer</a>
peg	<a href="#">down a peg</a> <a href="#">knock you down a peg</a> <a href="#">take him down a peg</a> <a href="#">take you down a peg</a>
pell-mell	<a href="#">pell-mell</a>
pen	<a href="#">pen those words/lines</a>
penalty	<a href="#">kill a penalty (hockey)</a> <a href="#">pay the penalty</a>
pencils	<a href="#">sharpen your pencils</a>
penny	<a href="#">a penny for your thoughts</a> <a href="#">a pretty penny</a> <a href="#">cost a pretty penny</a> <a href="#">penny for your thoughts</a> <a href="#">penny pincher</a> <a href="#">penny wise, dollar dumb</a> <a href="#">penny wise, pound foolish</a> <a href="#">pretty penny</a>
people	<a href="#">all things to all people</a> <a href="#">people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones</a> <a href="#">step on people</a>
perfect	

[a perfect stranger](#)

[perfect stranger](#)

perfection

[to perfection](#)

perfectly

[to be perfectly honest](#)

period

[have your period \[B\]](#)

perk

[perk up](#)

pernickety/persnickety

[pernickety/persnickety](#)

person

[in person](#)

personally

[take it personally](#)

perspective

[put things in perspective](#)

pet

[pet](#)

pete

[for Pete's sake](#)

peter

[peter out](#)

[rob Peter to pay Paul](#)

[the Peter Principle](#)

petrified

[petrified](#)

phase

[phase me](#)

[phase me out](#)

phased

[it phased me out](#)

phat

[phat](#)

pheasant

[Saskatchewan pheasant](#)

phone

[hold the phone](#)

phone-in

[phone-in](#)

phooey

[phooey](#)

photo	<a href="#">blow it up (photo)</a> <a href="#">crawl on my hands and knees over broken glass just to see her photo</a> <a href="#">photo op</a>
phrase	<a href="#">catch phrase</a> <a href="#">coin a phrase</a> <a href="#">to coin a phrase</a>
piano	<a href="#">piano tied to your ass [B]</a>
pick	<a href="#">a bone to pick</a> <a href="#">bone to pick</a> <a href="#">pick a fight</a> <a href="#">pick holes in</a> <a href="#">pick of the litter</a> <a href="#">pick on</a> <a href="#">pick up</a> <a href="#">pick up the pace</a> <a href="#">pick up the pieces</a> <a href="#">pick up the tab</a> <a href="#">pick you up</a> <a href="#">pick your brains</a> <a href="#">pick yourself up</a> <a href="#">take your pick</a> <a href="#">the pick of the litter</a>
pick-me-up	<a href="#">a pick-me-up</a> <a href="#">pick-me-up</a>
pickings	<a href="#">easy pickings</a>
pickle	<a href="#">in a pickle</a> <a href="#">piss in the pickles [B]</a>
picky	<a href="#">picky</a>
picture	<a href="#">a picture is worth a thousand words</a> <a href="#">big picture</a> <a href="#">get the picture</a> <a href="#">in the picture</a> <a href="#">out of the picture</a>

[paint a picture](#)  
[picture is worth a thousand words](#)  
[pretty as a picture](#)  
[snap a picture](#)  
[take a picture](#)  
[the big picture](#)  
[the picture of health](#)

picture-perfect

[picture-perfect](#)

piddly

[piddly](#)

piddly-assed

[piddly-assed \[B\]](#)

pie

[American as apple pie](#)  
[as American as apple pie](#)  
[easy as pie](#)  
[eat humble pie](#)  
[motherhood and apple pie](#)  
[pie in the sky](#)  
[sweetie pie](#)

pie-eyed

[pie-eyed](#)

piece

[a piece of ass \[B\]](#)  
[a piece of cake](#)  
[a piece of my mind](#)  
[a piece of piss](#)  
[a piece of tail \[B\]](#)  
[a piece of the action](#)  
[bits and pieces](#)  
[fall to pieces](#)  
[go to pieces](#)  
[pick up the pieces](#)  
[piece of ass \[B\]](#)  
[piece of cake](#)  
[piece of me](#)  
[piece of my mind](#)  
[piece of piss](#)  
[piece of tail \[B\]](#)  
[say my piece](#)  
[say your piece](#)

[want a piece of me](#)

pig

[a pig in a poke](#)

[even a blind pig can find an acorn](#)

[happy as a pig in shit \[B\]](#)

[in a pig's ass \[B\]](#)

[pig](#)

[pig in a poke](#)

[pig out](#)

piggy

[piggy bank](#)

piggyback

[piggyback](#)

pike

[down the pike](#)

pile

[a holy pile](#)

[holy pile](#)

pill

[a bitter pill](#)

[bitter pill](#)

[pill](#)

[the pill](#)

pillar

[from pillar to post](#)

pilot

[pilot project](#)

pimple

[pimple pole](#)

pin

[on pins and needles](#)

[pin down/pin him down](#)

[pin money](#)

[pin your hopes on](#)

[pins and needles](#)

[pull the pin](#)

[so quiet you can hear a pin drop](#)

pinch

[a pinch of coon shit \[B\]](#)

[a pinch of salt](#)

[a pinch to grow an inch](#)

[feel the pinch](#)

[in a pinch](#)

[pinch](#)  
[pinch an inch](#)  
[pinch of coon shit \[B\]](#)  
[pinch of salt](#)  
[pinch off a loaf \[B\]](#)  
[pinch to grow an inch](#)

pinch-hitter

[pinch-hitter \(baseball\)](#)

pincher

[penny pincher](#)

pine

[a pine float](#)  
[pine float](#)

pinhead

[pinhead](#)

pink

[in the pink](#)  
[tickled pink](#)

pinko

[pinko](#)

pinned

[ears pinned back](#)  
[get your ears pinned back](#)

pinpoint

[pinpoint](#)

pipe

[in the pipe five by five](#)  
[lead pipe cinch](#)  
[pipe down](#)  
[pipe dream](#)  
[pipes](#)

pipsqueak

[pipsqueak](#)

piracy

[software piracy](#)

pirate

[pirate](#)

piss

[a piece of piss](#)  
[full of piss and vinegar \[B\]](#)  
[piece of piss](#)  
[piss away \[B\]](#)

[piss in the pickles \[B\]](#)  
[piss like a race horse \[B\]](#)  
[piss off \[B\]](#)  
[piss on them \[B\]](#)  
[piss parade \[B\]](#)  
[piss poor \[B\]](#)  
[piss pot full \[B\]](#)  
[piss your pants \[B\]](#)  
[take a piss \[B\]](#)

pissed

[pissed \[B\]](#)  
[pissed off \[B\]](#)  
[pissed to the gills \[B\]](#)

peeing

[peeing into the wind \[B\]](#)

pit

[pit of my stomach](#)  
[pit stop](#)  
[pits](#)  
[the pit of my stomach](#)  
[the pits](#)

pitch

[make a pitch](#)

place

[between a rock and a hard place](#)  
[go places](#)  
[heart is in the right place](#)  
[in place](#)  
[learn your place](#)  
[out of place](#)  
[place on a pedestal](#)  
[put him in his place](#)  
[quit this place](#)  
[take my place](#)  
[take place](#)  
[trash the place](#)

plain

[as plain as day](#)  
[as plain as the nose on your face](#)  
[in plain view](#)  
[it's as plain as the nose on your face](#)  
[plain as day](#)

[plain as the nose on your face](#)

plan

[best laid plans](#)

[Plan B](#)

[the best-laid plans of mice and men go oft astray](#)

planebustrain

[catch a plane/bus/train](#)

plank

[walk the plank](#)

plastered

[plastered](#)

plastic

[plastic](#)

plate

[a full plate](#)

[clean up your plate](#)

[full plate](#)

[on my plate](#)

[plate is full](#)

[step up to the plate](#)

platter

[on a silver platter](#)

play

[a play on words](#)

[all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy](#)

[come into play](#)

[how it plays out](#)

[play a big part](#)

[play a bit-part](#)

[play a joke on](#)

[play a mean game](#)

[play a part](#)

[play a prank on](#)

[play a trick on](#)

[play along](#)

[play around](#)

[play catch-up](#)

[play dead](#)

[play dirty](#)

[play dumb](#)

[play fair](#)

[play games](#)

[play hard to get](#)  
[play hardball](#)  
[play havoc with](#)  
[play hooky](#)  
[play into his hand](#)  
[play it by ear](#)  
[play it cool](#)  
[play it for all it's worth](#)  
[play it safe](#)  
[play it up](#)  
[play musical chairs](#)  
[play my cards right](#)  
[play on my heart strings](#)  
[play on words](#)  
[play out](#)  
[play second fiddle](#)  
[play the field](#)  
[play the fool](#)  
[play the ham](#)  
[play the heavy](#)  
[play the ponies](#)  
[play the stock market](#)  
[play to the crowd](#)  
[play with fire](#)  
[power play \(business\)](#)  
[power play \(hockey\)](#)  
[roll over and play dead](#)  
[turn about is fair play](#)

player

[team player](#)

playing

[a level playing field](#)  
[level the playing field](#)  
[not playing with a full deck](#)

pleased

[pleased as punch](#)

pluck

[pluck at the heart strings](#)

plug

[plug away](#)  
[plug into](#)  
[plug the product](#)

[plug the team](#)  
[pull the plug](#)  
[put in a plug for](#)

plugged

[not worth a plugged nickel](#)

plumb

[plumb loco](#)

plump

[plump full](#)

pocket

[a pocket of resistance](#)  
[burn a hole in your pocket](#)  
[deep pockets](#)  
[have deep pockets](#)  
[out of pocket](#)  
[pocket Hercules](#)  
[pocket of resistance](#)

poetic

[wax poetic](#)

pogey

[pogey](#)

point

[at this point in time](#)  
[beside the point](#)  
[brownie points](#)  
[case in point](#)  
[come to the point](#)  
[get the point](#)  
[get to the point](#)  
[in point of fact](#)  
[make a point of](#)  
[miss the point](#)  
[point a finger at](#)  
[point is well taken](#)  
[point of no return](#)  
[point of view](#)  
[point out](#)  
[put too fine a point on](#)  
[selling point](#)  
[the breaking point](#)  
[the point of no return](#)  
[the turning point](#)

[turning point](#)

point-blank

[point-blank range](#)

pointed

[pointed questions](#)

poison

[one man's meat is another man's poison](#)

[what's your poison](#)

poke

[a pig in a poke](#)

[pig in a poke](#)

[poke fun at](#)

[take a poke at](#)

poker

[a poker face](#)

[poker face](#)

pokey

[pokey](#)

pole

[bean pole](#)

[low on the totem pole](#)

[pimple pole](#)

[totem pole](#)

[touch it with a ten-foot pole](#)

policy

[honesty is the best policy](#)

polish

[polish off/polish it off](#)

political

[political football](#)

politically

[politically correct](#)

poll

[take a poll](#)

polluted

[polluted](#)

ponies

[play the ponies](#)

pony

[pony tail](#)

[pony up](#)

poontang

[poontang \[B\]](#)

poop	<a href="#">poop</a> <a href="#">what's the poop</a>
poor	<a href="#">as poor as a church mouse</a> <a href="#">piss poor [B]</a> <a href="#">poor as a church mouse</a> <a href="#">poor house</a>
poorhouse	<a href="#">in the poorhouse</a>
pop	<a href="#">a pop</a> <a href="#">pop a cap [B]</a> <a href="#">pop in</a> <a href="#">pop over</a> <a href="#">pop the question</a> <a href="#">pop up</a> <a href="#">pop your buttons</a>
popcorn	<a href="#">popcorn brain</a>
pope	<a href="#">pope's nose</a> <a href="#">the pope's nose</a>
popsicle	<a href="#">blow this Popsicle stand</a>
positive	<a href="#">positive</a>
possession	<a href="#">take possession</a>
possum	<a href="#">grinning like a bushel basketful of possum heads</a>
post	<a href="#">from pillar to post</a>
posted	<a href="#">keep you posted</a>
pot	<a href="#">a chicken in every pot</a> <a href="#">chicken in every pot</a> <a href="#">go to pot</a> <a href="#">gone to pot</a> <a href="#">piss pot full [B]</a> <a href="#">pot</a> <a href="#">pot calling the kettle black</a>

[pot of gold](#)  
[shit or get off the pot](#)  
[sweeten the pot](#)

potato

[couch potato](#)  
[drop him like a hot potato](#)  
[hot potato](#)  
[like a hot potato](#)  
[potato sack](#)

potatoes

[small potatoes](#)

potential

[realize your potential](#)

potlicker

[potlicker](#)

pound

[an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure](#)  
[go pound salt](#)  
[penny wise, pound foolish](#)  
[pound of flesh](#)  
[pound salt](#)  
[pound the pavement](#)

pour

[it never rains but it pours](#)  
[pour it on](#)  
[pour out your soul](#)  
[when it rains it pours](#)

poverty

[below the poverty line](#)

pow

[pow](#)

powder

[powder my nose](#)  
[take a powder](#)

power

[balance of power](#)  
[grey power](#)  
[more power to you](#)  
[power play \(business\)](#)  
[power play \(hockey\)](#)  
[power to burn](#)  
[power trip](#)

[power user](#)  
[powers that be](#)  
[the balance of power](#)  
[the powers that be](#)

practice

[practice what you preach](#)

prairie

[prairie oyster](#)

praise

[praise him to the skies](#)  
[sing his praises](#)

prank

[play a prank on](#)

pre-menstrual

[pre-menstrual syndrome](#)

preach

[practice what you preach](#)  
[preach to the choir/preach to the converted](#)

prepare

[prepare like crazy](#)

preppy

[preppy](#)

presence

[presence of mind](#)

press

[hot off the press](#)  
[press charges](#)  
[press into service](#)  
[press on](#)  
[press the panic button](#)

pressed

[hard pressed](#)

pressure

[cool under pressure](#)  
[under pressure](#)

pretty

[a pretty penny](#)  
[cost a pretty penny](#)  
[pretty as a picture](#)  
[pretty penny](#)  
[sitting pretty](#)

prevailed

[cooler heads prevailed](#)

prevention

[an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure](#)  
[ounce of prevention](#)

price

[asking price](#)  
[pay the price](#)  
[price out](#)  
[price you have to pay](#)  
[set your price](#)  
[the price you have to pay](#)

prick

[prick \[B\]](#)

pride

[pride goeth before a fall](#)  
[swallow your pride](#)

prima

[prima donna](#)

prime

[in your prime](#)

prince

[Prince Charming](#)

principle

[the Peter Principle](#)

print

[put to bed \(print media\)](#)

prob

[no problem \(no prob\)](#)

probation

[on probation](#)

problem

[get to the root of the problem](#)  
[no problem \(no prob\)](#)  
[root of the problem](#)  
[the root of the problem](#)

proby

[proby](#)

product

[plug the product](#)

profile

[keep a low profile](#)

profit

[turn a profit](#)

project

[pilot project](#)

promise

[a lick and a promise](#)

[break a promise](#)

[keep a promise](#)

[lick and a promise](#)

[promise the moon](#)

[show promise](#)

pronto

[pronto](#)

proof

[proof of the pudding...](#)

[the proof of the pudding is in the eating](#)

property

[public property](#)

proportion

[blow it out of proportion](#)

props

[props](#)

proud

[did yourself proud](#)

[do yourself proud](#)

psych

[psych out](#)

psychedpsyched

[psyched/psyched up](#)

pub

[pub crawl](#)

public

[go public](#)

[public property](#)

pudding

[proof of the pudding...](#)

[the proof of the pudding is in the eating](#)

puddlejumper

[puddlejumper](#)

puff

[have a puff](#)

pull

[pull a face](#)

[pull a few strings](#)

[pull a muscle](#)

[pull for](#)

[pull in your horns](#)  
[pull it off](#)  
[pull it out](#)  
[pull out all the stops](#)  
[pull punches](#)  
[pull that](#)  
[pull the goalie \(hockey\)](#)  
[pull the pin](#)  
[pull the plug](#)  
[pull the rug out](#)  
[pull the wool over your eyes](#)  
[pull through](#)  
[pull together](#)  
[pull up stakes](#)  
[pull up your socks](#)  
[pull your chain](#)  
[pull your leg](#)  
[pull your weight](#)  
[pull your wire \[B\]](#)  
[pull yourself together](#)

pulse

[take the pulse](#)  
[take your pulse](#)

pumped/pumped

[pumped/pumped up](#)

punch

[pack a punch](#)  
[pleased as punch](#)  
[punch your lights out](#)

punches

[pull punches](#)  
[roll with the punches](#)

punishment

[a sucker for punishment](#)

puppy

[puppy](#)  
[puppy love](#)

pure

[pure luck](#)

purpose

[on purpose](#)  
[serve the purpose](#)

purse	<a href="#">hold the purse strings</a> <a href="#">make a silk purse...</a> <a href="#">you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear</a>
push	<a href="#">don't push your luck</a> <a href="#">push me (to the limit)</a> <a href="#">push the boat out</a> <a href="#">push the envelope</a> <a href="#">push the right buttons</a> <a href="#">push your luck</a> <a href="#">when push comes to shove</a>
pusher	<a href="#">pusher</a>
pushing	<a href="#">pushing fifty</a> <a href="#">pushing up daisies</a>
puss	<a href="#">sour puss</a>
pussy	<a href="#">pussy whipped</a>
pussyfoot	<a href="#">pussyfoot around</a>
put	<a href="#">can't put my finger on it</a> <a href="#">can't put my hands on it</a> <a href="#">don't put all your eggs in one basket</a> <a href="#">hard put</a> <a href="#">put 'em up</a> <a href="#">put 'er there</a> <a href="#">put a bug in my ear</a> <a href="#">put a different slant on it</a> <a href="#">put a hex on me</a> <a href="#">put a lid on it</a> <a href="#">put all your eggs in...</a> <a href="#">put an end to</a> <a href="#">put away</a> <a href="#">put down</a> <a href="#">put down roots</a> <a href="#">put her there</a> <a href="#">put him in his place</a> <a href="#">put in a good word for</a>

[put in a hard day](#)  
[put in a plug for](#)  
[put in time](#)  
[put it](#)  
[put it on the bill](#)  
[put me on](#)  
[put my finger on it](#)  
[put my foot down](#)  
[put my neck on the line](#)  
[put off](#)  
[put on a pedestal](#)  
[put on airs](#)  
[put on the dog](#)  
[put out](#)  
[put out about](#)  
[put out feelers](#)  
[put out of its misery](#)  
[put stock in](#)  
[put the finishing touches on](#)  
[put the hammer down](#)  
[put the heat on](#)  
[put the kibosh on](#)  
[put the right spin on it](#)  
[put them up](#)  
[put things in perspective](#)  
[put to bed \(print media\)](#)  
[put to death](#)  
[put to rest](#)  
[put to shame](#)  
[put to the test](#)  
[put too fine a point on](#)  
[put up or shut up](#)  
[put up the money](#)  
[put up with](#)  
[put you at ease](#)  
[put you away](#)  
[put you in a bad mood](#)  
[put you off your game](#)  
[put you through the mill](#)  
[put your best foot forward](#)  
[put your foot in it](#)  
[put your foot in your mouth](#)

[put your heart into it](#)  
[put your mind to it](#)  
[put your money where your mouth is](#)  
[put your shoulder to the wheel](#)  
[put yourself out](#)  
[put yourself through college](#)  
[stay put](#)

put-down

[put-down](#)

putting

[putting me on](#)

[putting on the ritz](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Index Q

q	<a href="#">mind your P's and Q's</a> <a href="#">P's and Q's</a> <a href="#">watch your P's and Q's</a>
qt	<a href="#">on the QT</a>
quake	<a href="#">quake in his boots</a>
qualms	<a href="#">no qualms</a>
quarter	<a href="#">give no quarter</a>
queen	<a href="#">drag queen</a>
queer	<a href="#">on queer street</a>
question	<a href="#">a question of</a> <a href="#">begs the question</a> <a href="#">burning question</a> <a href="#">it's not a question of</a> <a href="#">no question</a> <a href="#">no questions asked</a> <a href="#">not a question of</a> <a href="#">open to question</a> <a href="#">out of the question</a> <a href="#">pointed questions</a> <a href="#">pop the question</a> <a href="#">question of</a> <a href="#">the burning question</a> <a href="#">without question</a>
queue	<a href="#">jump queue</a>
quick	<a href="#">a quick study</a>

[cut me to the quick](#)[quick and dirty](#)[quick like a bunny](#)[quick on the draw](#)[quick study](#)

quicker

[quicker than you can say Jack Robinson](#)

quickie

[a quickie](#)[quickie](#)

quiet

[keep it quiet](#)[keep quiet](#)[so quiet you can hear a pin drop](#)

quit

[call it quits](#)[quit this place](#)[quit while you're ahead](#)

quoi

[je ne sais quoi](#)[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Index R

rabbit	<a href="#">rabbit</a> <a href="#">rabbit died</a> <a href="#">rabbit food</a> <a href="#">the rabbit died</a>
rabble-rouser	<a href="#">rabble-rouser</a>
race	<a href="#">away to the races</a> <a href="#">drag race</a> <a href="#">off to the races</a> <a href="#">piss like a race horse [B]</a> <a href="#">rat race</a> <a href="#">tight race</a>
rack	<a href="#">rack my brain</a> <a href="#">rack up</a>
rad	<a href="#">rad</a>
radio	<a href="#">read me (CB radio)</a> <a href="#">ten-four (CB radio)</a>
rag	<a href="#">chew the fat/ chew the rag</a> <a href="#">from rags to riches</a> <a href="#">glad rags</a> <a href="#">got the rags on [B]</a> <a href="#">rags</a> <a href="#">rags to riches</a>
rage	<a href="#">air rage</a>
ragged	<a href="#">run you ragged</a>
ragtop	<a href="#">ragtop</a>

railroad	<a href="#">railroad</a>
rails	<a href="#">on the rails</a>
rain	<a href="#">as right as rain</a> <a href="#">it never rains but it pours</a> <a href="#">rain check</a> <a href="#">rain on their parade</a> <a href="#">right as rain</a> <a href="#">when it rains it pours</a>
rainbow	<a href="#">chasing rainbows</a> <a href="#">over the rainbow</a>
raining	<a href="#">raining cats and dogs</a>
rainingsnowing	<a href="#">it's raining/snowing</a>
rainy	<a href="#">save for a rainy day</a>
raise	<a href="#">raise a stink</a> <a href="#">raise an eyebrow</a> <a href="#">raise Cain</a> <a href="#">raise hell [B]</a> <a href="#">raise money</a> <a href="#">raise the bar</a> <a href="#">raise your hand against</a> <a href="#">raise your spirits</a>
raised	<a href="#">raised eyebrows</a>
raisins	<a href="#">raisins</a>
rake	<a href="#">rake in the dough</a> <a href="#">rake you over the coals</a>
raking	<a href="#">raking it in</a>
ralph	<a href="#">ralph</a>
ram	<a href="#">ram down your throat</a>
rampant	

[run rampant](#)

ran

[time ran out](#)

range

[out of range](#)

[point-blank range](#)

rant

[rant and rave](#)

rap

[a bum rap](#)

[beat the rap](#)

[bum rap](#)

[rap your knuckles](#)

[take the rap](#)

rapped

[get your knuckles rapped](#)

rash

[break out in a rash](#)

rat

[dirty dog/dirty rat](#)

[rat fink](#)

[rat on](#)

[rat race](#)

[rats](#)

ratch

[ratch](#)

rate

[cut rate](#)

[going rate](#)

[the going rate](#)

rattle

[rattle my chain](#)

[rattle on](#)

[rattle sabres](#)

rattling

[sabre rattling](#)

rave

[rant and rave](#)

raving

[stark raving mad](#)

raw

[a raw deal](#)

[raw deal](#)

rays	<a href="#">bag some rays</a> <a href="#">catch some rays</a>
razzle-dazzle	<a href="#">razzle-dazzle</a>
reach	<a href="#">reach for the sky</a> <a href="#">reach me</a> <a href="#">reach out</a>
reaction	<a href="#">chain reaction</a>
read	<a href="#">read along</a> <a href="#">read between the lines</a> <a href="#">read into</a> <a href="#">read it over</a> <a href="#">read me (CB radio)</a> <a href="#">read my lips</a> <a href="#">read them and weep</a> <a href="#">read up on</a> <a href="#">read you</a>
ready	<a href="#">rough and ready</a>
real	<a href="#">get real</a> <a href="#">real McCoy</a> <a href="#">the real McCoy</a>
reality	<a href="#">virtual reality</a>
realize	<a href="#">realize your potential</a>
really	<a href="#">really deaf</a>
ream	<a href="#">ream out</a>
reamed	<a href="#">get reamed out</a>
reap	<a href="#">reap what you sow</a> <a href="#">you reap whatsoever you sow</a>
reaper	<a href="#">grim reaper</a> <a href="#">The Grim Reaper</a>

rear	
	<a href="#">rear end</a>
rearend	
	<a href="#">rearend</a>
reason	
	<a href="#">no rhyme or reason</a> <a href="#">rhyme or reason</a>
record	
	<a href="#">break the record</a> <a href="#">broken record</a> <a href="#">like a broken record</a> <a href="#">off the record</a> <a href="#">track record</a>
red	
	<a href="#">in the red</a> <a href="#">paint the town red</a> <a href="#">red carpet</a> <a href="#">red herring</a> <a href="#">red tape</a> <a href="#">roll out the red carpet</a> <a href="#">run a red light</a> <a href="#">see red</a>
red-faced	
	<a href="#">red-faced</a>
red-handed	
	<a href="#">caught red-handed</a>
red-letter	
	<a href="#">a red-letter day</a> <a href="#">red-letter day</a>
redneck	
	<a href="#">a redneck</a> <a href="#">redneck</a>
reduce	
	<a href="#">reduce to tears</a>
reefer	
	<a href="#">reefer</a>
refuse	
	<a href="#">an offer I couldn't refuse</a> <a href="#">offer I couldn't refuse</a>
regina	
	<a href="#">The Group of Five/The Regina Five</a>
regular	

a regular guy  
[regular guy](#)

rehearsal

[dress rehearsal](#)

reject

[reject out of hand](#)

relate

[relate to that](#)

relief

[breathe a sigh of relief](#)

rented

[rented lips](#)

repair

[beyond repair](#)

repay

[repay in kind](#)

resistance

[a pocket of resistance](#)  
[pocket of resistance](#)

resort

[last resort](#)

respects

[pay my respects](#)

responsible

[hold me responsible](#)

rest

[at rest](#)  
[give it a rest](#)  
[God rest his soul](#)  
[no rest for the wicked](#)  
[put to rest](#)  
[rest assured](#)  
[rest his soul \(God rest his soul\)](#)  
[rest my case](#)  
[rest on your laurels](#)  
[the rest is gravy](#)  
[the rest is history](#)

restaurant

[take-out restaurant](#)

retentive

[anal retentive](#)

retreat

[beat a hasty retreat](#)

return	<a href="#">point of no return</a> <a href="#">the point of no return</a>
revenge	<a href="#">get revenge</a> <a href="#">seek revenge</a> <a href="#">take revenge</a>
rhyme	<a href="#">no rhyme or reason</a> <a href="#">rhyme or reason</a>
ribbing	<a href="#">give you a ribbing</a>
ribbons	<a href="#">cut you to ribbons</a>
rich	<a href="#">filthy rich</a> <a href="#">strike it rich</a>
riches	<a href="#">from rags to riches</a> <a href="#">rags to riches</a>
rid	<a href="#">get rid of</a>
riddance	<a href="#">good riddance</a>
ride	<a href="#">along for the ride</a> <a href="#">catch a ride</a> <a href="#">go along for the ride</a> <a href="#">ride herd</a> <a href="#">ride his coattails</a> <a href="#">ride me</a> <a href="#">ride the clutch</a> <a href="#">ride the wave</a> <a href="#">taken for a ride</a>
riding	<a href="#">riding high</a>
rig	<a href="#">a big rig</a> <a href="#">big rig</a>
right	<a href="#">as right as rain</a> <a href="#">darn right</a> <a href="#">give my right arm</a>

[heart is in the right place](#)  
[hold your mouth the right way](#)  
[left, right and center](#)  
[play my cards right](#)  
[push the right buttons](#)  
[put the right spin on it](#)  
[right as rain](#)  
[right away](#)  
[right before my eyes](#)  
[right off the bat](#)  
[right on](#)  
[right on the money](#)  
[right, left and center](#)  
[serve them right](#)  
[the customer is always right](#)  
[the right stuff](#)

rigmarole

[rigmarole](#)  
[what a rigmarole](#)

rile

[rile up](#)

riley

[life of Riley](#)  
[the life of Riley](#)

ring

[give me a ring](#)  
[ring a bell](#)  
[ring leader](#)  
[ring me](#)  
[ring off the hook](#)

ringer

[a dead ringer](#)  
[dead ringer](#)

riot

[a riot](#)

rip

[let her rip](#)

rip-off

[a rip-off](#)  
[rip-off](#)

rip-snorting

[rip-snorting mad](#)

ripe	<a href="#">at the ripe old age</a>
ripped	<a href="#">ripped off</a>
rise	<a href="#">get a rise</a> <a href="#">on the rise</a> <a href="#">rise and shine</a> <a href="#">rise to the occasion</a>
risk	<a href="#">run the risk</a> <a href="#">take a risk</a> <a href="#">take risks</a>
risky	<a href="#">risky business</a>
ritz	<a href="#">putting on the ritz</a>
ritzy	<a href="#">ritzy</a>
river	<a href="#">cry me a river</a>
road	<a href="#">down the road</a> <a href="#">get out of the road</a> <a href="#">get this show on the road</a> <a href="#">in the road</a> <a href="#">middle of the road</a> <a href="#">on the road</a> <a href="#">one for the road</a> <a href="#">road apple</a> <a href="#">road to hell is paved...</a> <a href="#">rocky road</a> <a href="#">the road to hell is paved with good intentions</a> <a href="#">where the rubber hits the road</a>
roadtrail	<a href="#">hit the road/trail</a>
roaring	<a href="#">Roaring Twenties</a>
rob	<a href="#">rob Peter to pay Paul</a> <a href="#">rob the cradle</a>
robin	<a href="#">all around Robin Hood's barn</a>

[around Robin Hood's barn](#)

robinson

[before you can say Jack Robinson](#)  
[quicker than you can say Jack Robinson](#)

rock

[as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar](#)  
[between a rock and a hard place](#)  
[don't rock the boat](#)  
[got rocks in your head](#)  
[hit rock bottom](#)  
[Rock](#)  
[rock](#)  
[rock bottom](#)  
[rock the boat](#)  
[rocks in your head](#)  
[rocks socks](#)  
[solid as the Rock of Gibraltar](#)  
[The Rock](#)

rocker

[off your rocker](#)

rocky

[rocky road](#)

rod

[pack a rod](#)

rodchester

[rodchester](#)

rode

[you and the horse you rode in on](#)

roll

[a roll in the hay \[B\]](#)  
[heads will roll](#)  
[let the good times roll](#)  
[on a roll](#)  
[roll around](#)  
[roll in the hay](#)  
[roll off the tongue](#)  
[roll out the red carpet](#)  
[roll over and play dead](#)  
[roll their eyes](#)  
[roll with the punches](#)

roller

[high roller](#)

rolling	<a href="#">a rolling stone gathers no moss</a> <a href="#">get rolling</a> <a href="#">keep the ball rolling</a> <a href="#">rolling in it</a> <a href="#">rolling in the aisles</a> <a href="#">rolling stone</a>
romans	<a href="#">when in Rome, do as the Romans do</a>
rome	<a href="#">when in Rome, do as the Romans do</a>
roof	<a href="#">go through the roof</a> <a href="#">through the roof</a> <a href="#">went through the roof</a>
room	<a href="#">elbow room</a> <a href="#">make room</a> <a href="#">the room is so small you have to go outside turn around</a> <a href="#">work the room</a>
roost	<a href="#">chickens come home to roost</a> <a href="#">come home to roost</a>
rooster	<a href="#">bet on a lame rooster</a>
root	<a href="#">get to the root of the problem</a> <a href="#">money is the root of all evil</a> <a href="#">put down roots</a> <a href="#">root for</a> <a href="#">root of the problem</a> <a href="#">the root of the problem</a>
rope	<a href="#">at the end of my rope/ at the end of my tether</a> <a href="#">give him enough rope and he'll hang himself</a> <a href="#">know the ropes</a> <a href="#">learn the ropes</a> <a href="#">rope into</a> <a href="#">show you the ropes</a>
roses	<a href="#">a bed of roses</a> <a href="#">coming up roses</a>

[life is not all guns and roses](#)  
[take time to smell the roses](#)

rot

[rot gut](#)

rotten

[rotten to the core](#)  
[something is rotten...](#)  
[there's something rotten in the state of Denmark](#)

rotter

[rotter](#)

rough

[a rough time](#)  
[a rough time of it](#)  
[give you a rough time](#)  
[going gets rough](#)  
[rough and ready](#)  
[rough going](#)  
[rough up](#)  
[the going gets rough](#)

roughshod

[run roughshod](#)

round

[buy a round](#)  
[round the clock](#)  
[round up](#)  
[take a round out of](#)

row

[a hard row to hoe](#)  
[a tough row to hoe](#)  
[death row](#)  
[ducks in a row \(ducks in order\)](#)  
[hard row to hoe](#)  
[row of beans](#)  
[tough row to hoe](#)

royal

[a royal pain](#)  
[His Royal Highness](#)  
[royal pain](#)  
[royal treatment](#)

rub

[rub elbows](#)  
[rub salt in the wound](#)

[rub shoulders with](#)  
[rub the wrong way](#)

rubber

[lay rubber](#)  
[rubber match](#)  
[where the rubber hits the road](#)

rubberneck

[rubberneck](#)

rube

[rube](#)

ruddy

[ruddy](#)

ruffle

[ruffle your feathers](#)

rug

[pull the rug out](#)  
[rug up](#)  
[snug as a bug in a rug](#)

rule

[bend the rules](#)  
[follow the rules](#)  
[golden rule](#)  
[rule of thumb](#)  
[rule out](#)  
[The Golden Rule](#)  
[work to rule](#)

rumor

[rumor has it](#)

run

[a run for your money](#)  
[dry run](#)  
[give you a run for your money](#)  
[hit and run \(baseball\)](#)  
[hit and run \(traffic\)](#)  
[home run \(baseball\)](#)  
[in the long run](#)  
[milk run](#)  
[on the run](#)  
[run a red light](#)  
[run a tab](#)  
[run a tub](#)  
[run across](#)

[run amuck](#)  
[run an errand](#)  
[run circles around you](#)  
[run down](#)  
[run for office](#)  
[run for the hills](#)  
[run for your money](#)  
[run interference](#)  
[run into](#)  
[run it by me again](#)  
[run its course](#)  
[run of the mill](#)  
[run off](#)  
[run off at the mouth](#)  
[run out](#)  
[run out of patience](#)  
[run out of town](#)  
[run rampant](#)  
[run roughshod](#)  
[run short](#)  
[run the gamut](#)  
[run the gauntlet](#)  
[run the risk](#)  
[run the show](#)  
[run through](#)  
[run up](#)  
[run you out](#)  
[run you ragged](#)  
[take it and run](#)  
[trial run](#)  
[you can run but you can't hide](#)  
[you don't miss the water till the well runs dry](#)

run-in	
	<a href="#">run-in</a>
runaround	
	<a href="#">give you the runaround</a> <a href="#">runaround</a> <a href="#">the runaround</a>
rung	
	<a href="#">bottom rung</a> <a href="#">had his bell rung</a>
runner	

[front runner](#)

runneth

[cup runneth over](#)

running

[hit the ground running](#)[in the running](#)[running water](#)[up and running](#)

runt

[runt of the litter](#)[the runt of the litter](#)

rush

[bum's rush](#)[no rush](#)[rush](#)[rush hour](#)[the bum's rush](#)[what a rush](#)

rust

[rust out](#)

rustbucket

[rustbucket](#)

rut

[in a rut](#)

rye

[rye](#)[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Index S

sabre	<a href="#">rattle sabres</a> <a href="#">sabre rattling</a>
sack	<a href="#">a sack of hammers</a> <a href="#">a sad sack</a> <a href="#">as dumb as a sack of hammers</a> <a href="#">dumb as a sack of hammers</a> <a href="#">potato sack</a> <a href="#">sack of hammers</a> <a href="#">sack out</a> <a href="#">sad sack</a>
sacred	<a href="#">sacred cow</a> <a href="#">sacred moose</a>
sad	<a href="#">a sad sack</a> <a href="#">Dear Dad, No mon, no fun, your son! Dear Son, So sad, too bad, your dad!</a> <a href="#">sad sack</a>
saddle	<a href="#">saddle up</a>
saddled	<a href="#">saddled with</a>
sadness	<a href="#">a downer (sadness)</a> <a href="#">downer (sadness)</a>
safe	<a href="#">play it safe</a>
sailing	<a href="#">clear sailing</a> <a href="#">smooth sailing</a>
sailor	<a href="#">swear like a sailor</a>
sails	<a href="#">knock the wind out of his sails</a>

sais	<a href="#">je ne sais quoi</a>
sake	<a href="#">for goodness sake</a> <a href="#">for gosh sake</a> <a href="#">for heaven's sake</a> <a href="#">for Pete's sake</a>
sale	<a href="#">up for sale</a>
salt	<a href="#">a grain of salt</a> <a href="#">a pinch of salt</a> <a href="#">go pound salt</a> <a href="#">grain of salt</a> <a href="#">pinch of salt</a> <a href="#">pound salt</a> <a href="#">rub salt in the wound</a> <a href="#">salt away</a> <a href="#">salt of the earth</a> <a href="#">take it with a grain of salt</a> <a href="#">take with a grain of salt</a> <a href="#">the salt of the earth</a>
salty	<a href="#">salty</a>
sam	<a href="#">what the Sam Hill</a>
same	<a href="#">bitten by the same bug</a> <a href="#">by the same token</a> <a href="#">cut from the same cloth</a> <a href="#">on the same wavelength</a> <a href="#">one and the same</a> <a href="#">paint with the same brush</a> <a href="#">same here</a> <a href="#">same to you</a> <a href="#">tar with the same brush</a>
sand	<a href="#">head in the sand</a>
saskatchewan	<a href="#">Saskatchewan pheasant</a>
sasquatch	<a href="#">Sasquatch</a>
sassy	

[sassy](#)

sauce

[into the sauce](#)

save

[a stitch in time saves nine](#)

[save a bundle](#)

[save face](#)

[save for a rainy day](#)

[save your bacon](#)

[save your skin/neck](#)

saw

[saw logs](#)

[saw off a chunk \[B\]](#)

[saw sawdust](#)

saw-off

[saw-off](#)

sawdust

[saw sawdust](#)

say

[before you can say Jack Robinson](#)

[devil you say](#)

[dickens you say](#)

[have a say](#)

[have the final say](#)

[needless to say](#)

[never say die](#)

[quicker than you can say Jack Robinson](#)

[say jump...how high](#)

[say my piece](#)

[say the word](#)

[say what](#)

[say what's on your mind](#)

[say your piece](#)

[the devil you say](#)

[the dickens you say](#)

[the hell you say](#)

[wouldn't say shit if her mouth was full of it \[B\]](#)

[you don't say](#)

saying

[it goes without saying](#)

scads

[scads](#)

scales	<a href="#">tip the scales</a> <a href="#">tip the scales at</a>
scandal	<a href="#">a scandal is brewing</a> <a href="#">scandal is brewing</a>
scarce	<a href="#">as scarce as hen's teeth</a> <a href="#">make yourself scarce</a> <a href="#">scarce as hen's teeth</a>
scare	<a href="#">scare the life out of me</a>
scared	<a href="#">scared out of my wits</a> <a href="#">scared shitless [B]</a> <a href="#">scared spitless</a> <a href="#">scared stiff</a> <a href="#">scared to death</a>
scaredy	<a href="#">scaredy cat</a>
scene	<a href="#">behind the scenes</a> <a href="#">make a scene</a>
schedule	<a href="#">on schedule</a>
schmooze	<a href="#">schmooze</a>
school	<a href="#">school of hard knocks</a> <a href="#">school's out</a> <a href="#">the school of hard knocks</a>
scoff	<a href="#">scoff</a>
scoop	<a href="#">scoop</a> <a href="#">scoop them</a>
score	<a href="#">a score to settle</a> <a href="#">know the score</a> <a href="#">score to settle</a>
scot	<a href="#">great Scot</a>
scot-free	

[scot-free](#)

scout

[scout's honor](#)

scrape

[scrape by](#)

[scrape me off the ceiling](#)

[scrape the bottom of the barrel](#)

scratch

[from scratch](#)

[scratch](#)

[scratch the surface](#)

[scratch your head](#)

[start from scratch](#)

[up to scratch](#)

screech

[screech](#)

screw

[a screw loose](#)

[screw](#)

[screw \[B\]](#)

[screw loose](#)

[screw up](#)

[screw you \[B\]](#)

screw-up

[screw-up](#)

screwed

[get screwed](#)

scrut

[scrut](#)

scumscumbag

[scum/scumbag](#)

sea

[a bit at sea](#)

[between the devil and the deep blue sea](#)

sealed

[fate is sealed](#)

[lips are sealed](#)

seams

[fall apart \(at the seams\)](#)

search

[search me](#)

season

[open season](#)

seat

[by the seat of your pants](#)  
[fly by the seat of your...](#)  
[have a seat](#)  
[in the driver's seat](#)  
[on the edge of your seat](#)  
[take a back seat](#)  
[take your seat](#)

sec

[in a sec](#)  
[wait a sec](#)

second

[dying seconds](#)  
[in a split second](#)  
[play second fiddle](#)  
[second fiddle](#)  
[second guess](#)  
[second nature](#)  
[second wind](#)  
[seconds](#)  
[split second](#)  
[the dying seconds](#)

secret

[a state secret](#)  
[deep, dark secret](#)  
[it's not a state secret](#)  
[keep a secret](#)  
[state secret](#)  
[top secret](#)  
[trade secret](#)

see

[can't see for looking](#)  
[can't see the forest for the trees](#)  
[crawl on my hands and knees over broken glass just to see her photo](#)  
[long time no see](#)  
[see](#)  
[see a man about a dog](#)  
[see eye to eye](#)  
[see fit](#)  
[see hide nor hair](#)  
[see it coming](#)  
[see it through](#)

[see me for dust](#)  
[see red](#)  
[see the light](#)  
[see the light of day](#)  
[see through](#)  
[see to it/see to that](#)  
[see you stuck](#)  
[see you through](#)  
[see you/see your](#)  
[see your way](#)  
[the way I see it](#)  
[won't see you stuck](#)

seeing

[seeing things](#)

seek

[seek revenge](#)

seems

[it seems to me](#)

seen

[haven't seen hide nor hair](#)

[seen better days](#)

[seen dead in](#)

seize

[seize the opportunity](#)

self

[a shadow of his former self](#)

self-made

[self-made man](#)

self-starter

[self-starter](#)

sell

[hard sell](#)

[sell like hotcakes](#)

[sell out](#)

[sell the farm](#)

[sell yourself short](#)

[soft sell](#)

[you can't sell anybody if you don't love everybody](#)

seller

[seller's market](#)

selling

[selling point](#)

send

	<a href="#">send a bouquet</a> <a href="#">send him flying</a> <a href="#">send him up</a>
send-up	<a href="#">a send-up</a> <a href="#">send-up</a>
sense	<a href="#">common sense</a> <a href="#">horse sense</a> <a href="#">make sense</a> <a href="#">make sense of it</a> <a href="#">sense of humor</a> <a href="#">take leave of your senses</a> <a href="#">warped sense of humor</a>
sentence	<a href="#">sentence to death</a>
serious	<a href="#">get serious</a> <a href="#">serious coin</a>
seriously	<a href="#">take me seriously</a>
serve	<a href="#">if my memory serves me correctly</a> <a href="#">serve notice</a> <a href="#">serve the purpose</a> <a href="#">serve them right</a>
served	<a href="#">first come, first served</a>
service	<a href="#">press into service</a>
session	<a href="#">jam session</a>
set	<a href="#">all set</a> <a href="#">dead set against</a> <a href="#">glued to the set</a> <a href="#">set a spell</a> <a href="#">set about</a> <a href="#">set fire</a> <a href="#">set foot</a> <a href="#">set for life</a> <a href="#">set in</a>

[set in her ways](#)  
[set of wheels](#)  
[set off](#)  
[set out](#)  
[set out for](#)  
[set out to](#)  
[set the table](#)  
[set the world on fire](#)  
[set up shop](#)  
[set you back](#)  
[set you straight](#)  
[set you up](#)  
[set your mind at ease](#)  
[set your price](#)  
[set your sights](#)  
[set your teeth on edge](#)

set-to

[set-to](#)

set-up

[set-up](#)

setback

[suffer a setback](#)

settle

[a score to settle](#)  
[score to settle](#)  
[settle down](#)  
[settle in](#)  
[settle it](#)  
[when the dust settles](#)

seven

[at sixes and sevens](#)  
[between sixes and sevens](#)  
[Group of Seven](#)  
[seven come eleven](#)  
[sixes and sevens](#)  
[The Group of Seven](#)

seventh

[in seventh heaven](#)

sex

[better than sex](#)  
[go all the way \(sex\)](#)  
[have sex](#)

shabby	<a href="#">not too shabby</a> <a href="#">shabby</a>
shack	<a href="#">shack up [B]</a>
shades	<a href="#">shades</a> <a href="#">shades of</a>
shadow	<a href="#">a shadow of his former self</a> <a href="#">five o'clock shadow</a>
shady	<a href="#">shady deal</a>
shaft	<a href="#">shaft</a>
shagging	<a href="#">shagging wagon</a>
shake	<a href="#">a fair shake</a> <a href="#">fair shake</a> <a href="#">great shakes</a> <a href="#">in two shakes (of a lamb's tail)</a> <a href="#">more than you can shake a stick at</a> <a href="#">no great shakes</a> <a href="#">shake a habit</a> <a href="#">shake a leg</a> <a href="#">shake a stick at</a> <a href="#">shake hands</a> <a href="#">shake him</a> <a href="#">shake on it</a>
shakers	<a href="#">movers and shakers</a>
shaky	<a href="#">on shaky ground</a> <a href="#">shaky ground</a>
shame	<a href="#">a crying shame</a> <a href="#">crying shame</a> <a href="#">put to shame</a>
shape	<a href="#">get in shape</a> <a href="#">in any way, shape or form</a> <a href="#">in bad shape</a>

[keep in good shape](#)  
[shape up](#)  
[shape up or ship out](#)  
[whip you into shape](#)

share

[lion's share](#)  
[the lion's share](#)

shareware

[shareware](#)

sharp

[a sharp tongue](#)  
[a sharp wit](#)  
[look sharp](#)  
[sharp](#)  
[sharp as a tack](#)

sharpen

[sharpen up](#)  
[sharpen your pencils](#)

shave

[a close shave](#)  
[close shave](#)

shebang

[the whole shebang](#)  
[whole shebang](#)

shed

[shed a little light on](#)  
[shed a tear](#)

sheep

[a wolf in sheep's clothing](#)  
[black sheep](#)  
[wolf in sheep's clothing](#)

sheesh

[sheesh](#)

sheets

[three sheets to the wind](#)

shekel

[shekel](#)

shelf

[off the shelf](#)

shell

[shell out](#)

shellack

shellack

shift

[you're only as good as your last shift](#)

shine

[make hay while the sun shines](#)

[rise and shine](#)

[take a shine to](#)

ship

[jump ship](#)

[shape up or ship out](#)

shipshape

[shipshape](#)

shirt

[get your shirt in a knot/ get your shit in a knot \[B\]](#)

[give you the shirt off his back](#)

[keep your shirt on](#)

[like a dirty shirt](#)

[lose your shirt](#)

shirty

[shirty](#)

shit

[a pinch of coon shit \[B\]](#)

[as sure as shit](#)

[get shit \[B\]](#)

[get your shirt in a knot/ get your shit in a knot \[B\]](#)

[get your shit together \[B\]](#)

[give a damn / give a shit / give a fuck \[B\]](#)

[give a shit \[B\]](#)

[give her shit \[B\]](#)

[give you shit \[B\]](#)

[happy as a pig in shit \[B\]](#)

[in deep shit \[B\]](#)

[King Shit on Turd Island](#)

[like shit through a goose](#)

[no shit \[B\]](#)

[on the shit list \[B\]](#)

[pinch of coon shit \[B\]](#)

[shit disturber \[B\]](#)

[shit fire and apple butter](#)

[shit hit the fan \[B\]](#)

[shit hot \[B\]](#)

[shit list \[B\]](#)

[shit myself \[B\]](#)  
[shit or get off the pot](#)  
[shit or wind my watch](#)  
[shit out of luck \[B\]](#)  
[shit through a goose](#)  
[shoot the shit \[B\]](#)  
[sometimes life is a bucket of shit and the handle is inside \[B\]](#)  
[sure as shit](#)  
[take a shit \[B\]](#)  
[that's a crock \(of shit\) \[B\]](#)  
[the shit hit the fan](#)  
[up shit creek \[B\]](#)  
[wouldn't say shit if her mouth was full of it \[B\]](#)

shit-faced

[shit-faced \[B\]](#)

shitface

[shitface \[B\]](#)

shithead

[shithead \[B\]](#)

shithouse

[built like a brick shithouse \[B\]](#)

shitless

[scared shitless \[B\]](#)

shitload

[a shitload](#)[shitload](#)

shitting

[shitting bricks \[B\]](#)

shitty

[shitty \[B\]](#)

shmooze

[shmooze](#)

shoe

[drop the other shoe](#)[fill his shoes](#)[horse shoes up his ass \[B\]](#)[if the shoe fits, wear it](#)[shoes like boats](#)[wait for the other shoe to drop](#)

shoe-in

[shoe-in](#)

shogun

[a shogun](#)

[shogun](#)

shoo-in

[a shoo-in](#)

[shoo-in](#)

shook

[all shook up](#)

shoot

[shoot](#)

[shoot from the hip](#)

[shoot it out](#)

[shoot the breeze](#)

[shoot the shit \[B\]](#)

[shoot up](#)

[shoot your mouth off](#)

[shoot your wad](#)

[shoot yourself in the foot](#)

shoot-out

[shoot-out \(sports\)](#)

[shoot-out](#)

shoot-up

[shoot-up](#)

shooter

[square shooter](#)

shooting

[shooting fish in a barrel](#)

[shooting match](#)

[the whole shooting match](#)

[whole shooting match](#)

shop

[a bull in a china shop](#)

[bull in a china shop](#)

[set up shop](#)

[shop talk](#)

[talk shop](#)

shop-floor

[shop-floor struggle](#)

shoplifting

[shoplifting](#)

short

[a brick short](#)

[a few bricks short of a full load](#)

[a short one](#)

[bring you up short](#)  
[by the short hairs](#)  
[down to the short strokes](#)  
[fall short](#)  
[got you by the short hairs](#)  
[long and the short of it](#)  
[on short notice](#)  
[one brick short of a full load](#)  
[run short](#)  
[sell yourself short](#)  
[short cut](#)  
[short end of the stick](#)  
[short one](#)  
[short strokes](#)  
[short temper](#)  
[short with me](#)  
[the long and the short of it](#)  
[the short end of the stick](#)  
[three slices short \(of a full loaf\)](#)

shortchange

[shortchange](#)

shortfall

[shortfall](#)

shot

[a big shot](#)  
[a long shot](#)  
[a shot in the arm](#)  
[a shot in the dark](#)  
[big shot](#)  
[by a long shot](#)  
[call the shots](#)  
[get a shot](#)  
[get a shot at](#)  
[give it your best shot](#)  
[have a shot at](#)  
[hit me with your best shot](#)  
[not by a long shot](#)  
[pay the shot](#)  
[shot](#)  
[shot in the arm](#)  
[shot in the dark](#)  
[take a shot](#)

[take a snap shot](#)

shotsalesman

[crack shot/salesman etc.](#)

should

[should be so lucky](#)

[zig when you should zag](#)

shoulder

[chip on his shoulder](#)

[cold shoulder](#)

[give you the cold shoulder](#)

[head and shoulders](#)

[look over your shoulder](#)

[put your shoulder to the wheel](#)

[rub shoulders with](#)

[shoulder the blame](#)

[shoulder to shoulder](#)

[shoulder to the wheel](#)

[straight from the shoulder](#)

shouldn't

[people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones](#)

shouting

[all over but the shouting](#)

[it's all over but the shouting](#)

shove

[shove down my throat](#)

[shove it \[B\]](#)

[take this job and shove it \[B\]](#)

[when push comes to shove](#)

show

[all show](#)

[get this show on the road](#)

[good show](#)

[one for the money, two for the show...](#)

[run the show](#)

[show off](#)

[show promise](#)

[show up](#)

[show you around](#)

[show you the ropes](#)

[show you up](#)

[show your stuff](#)

[steal the show](#)

show-off	<a href="#">show-off</a>
showboat	<a href="#">showboat</a>
showdown	<a href="#">showdown</a>
showing	<a href="#">claws are showing</a>
shrink	<a href="#">shrink/head shrink</a>
shrinkhead	<a href="#">shrink/head shrink</a>
shrinking	<a href="#">no shrinking violet</a> <a href="#">shrinking violet</a>
shrug	<a href="#">shrug it off</a>
shuck	<a href="#">shuck on down to the fraidy hole</a> <a href="#">shucks</a>
shuffle	<a href="#">shuffle the chairs on the deck</a>
shut	<a href="#">open and shut</a> <a href="#">put up or shut up</a> <a href="#">shut down</a> <a href="#">shut my mouth</a> <a href="#">shut up</a> <a href="#">shut your face</a>
shut-down	<a href="#">shut-down</a>
shut-in	<a href="#">shut-in</a>
shutout	<a href="#">shutout (sports)</a>
sick	<a href="#">a sick building</a> <a href="#">as sick as a dog</a> <a href="#">as sick as a parrot</a> <a href="#">in sick bay</a> <a href="#">laugh yourself sick</a> <a href="#">sick as a dog</a> <a href="#">sick at heart</a>

[sick building](#)  
[sick of](#)  
[sick to death](#)  
[sick to my stomach](#)  
[worried sick](#)

sicker

[sicker than a dog](#)

sickmad

[make me sick/mad etc.](#)

sicko

[sicko](#)

side

[a thorn in my side](#)  
[choose sides](#)  
[choose up sides](#)  
[cross over to the other side](#)  
[dark side](#)  
[don't know which side your bread is buttered on](#)  
[get on my good side](#)  
[get up on the wrong side of bed](#)  
[know which side your bread is buttered on](#)  
[on my good side](#)  
[on side](#)  
[on the bright side](#)  
[on the side](#)  
[on your side](#)  
[side by side](#)  
[take sides](#)  
[the grass is greener on the other side of the fence](#)  
[there are two sides to every story](#)  
[thorn in my side](#)  
[two sides to every story](#)  
[wake up on the wrong side of bed](#)

sigh

[breathe a sigh of relief](#)

sight

[a sight for sore eyes](#)  
[drop out of sight](#)  
[lose sight of](#)  
[love at first sight](#)  
[out of sight \(outa sight\)](#)  
[out of sight](#)

[out of sight, out of mind](#)

[set your sights](#)

[sight for sore eyes](#)

sign

[sign in](#)

[sign off](#)

[sign out](#)

[sign up](#)

silence

[break the silence](#)

[silence is golden](#)

silent

[the strong, silent type](#)

silk

[make a silk purse...](#)

[you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear](#)

silkhead

[silkhead](#)

silly

[laugh yourself silly](#)

silver

[a silver spoon...](#)

[born with a silver spoon in his mouth](#)

[every cloud has a silver lining](#)

[on a silver platter](#)

[silver spoon](#)

silver-tongued

[silver-tongued](#)

simmer

[simmer down](#)

sin

[sin bin \(hockey\)](#)

[the sin bin \(hockey\)](#)

sing

[it ain't over till the fat lady sings](#)

[sing his praises](#)

[sing up a storm](#)

single

[single file](#)

[single out](#)

sink

[everything but the kitchen sink](#)

sinker

[hook, line and sinker](#)

sinking

[sinking feeling](#)

sip

[have a sip](#)

sit

[sit in judgement on](#)

[sit the fence](#)

[sit tight](#)

[sit with you](#)

sitter

[fence sitter](#)

sitting

[a sitting duck](#)

[sitting duck](#)

[sitting pretty](#)

six

[at sixes and sevens](#)

[between sixes and sevens](#)

[deep six](#)

[six bits](#)

[six of one, half a dozen of the other](#)

[sixes and sevens](#)

size

[cut you down to size](#)

[fingers the size of bananas](#)

[size up](#)

[try that on for size](#)

skate

[cheap skate](#)

[skate on thin ice](#)

skaters

[skaters](#)

skeleton

[skeleton in the closet](#)

skidaddle

[skidaddle](#)

skids

[hit the skids](#)

[skids](#)

skies

[praise him to the skies](#)

skill

	<a href="#">hard skill</a>
skin	<a href="#">beauty is only skin deep</a> <a href="#">by the skin of their teeth</a> <a href="#">get under my skin</a> <a href="#">jump out of your skin</a> <a href="#">no skin off my nose</a> <a href="#">skin virgin</a> <a href="#">skins game</a> <a href="#">there's more than one way to skin a cat</a> <a href="#">under my skin</a>
skinhead	<a href="#">skinhead</a>
skinneck	<a href="#">save your skin/neck</a>
skinny	<a href="#">skinny dip</a>
skip	<a href="#">skip classes</a> <a href="#">skip out</a>
skoal	<a href="#">skoal</a>
skunk	<a href="#">as drunk as a skunk</a> <a href="#">skunk</a>
sky	<a href="#">blow sky high</a> <a href="#">blue sky</a> <a href="#">pie in the sky</a> <a href="#">reach for the sky</a> <a href="#">sky isn't blue</a> <a href="#">the sky isn't blue</a>
slack	<a href="#">cut me some slack</a> <a href="#">take up the slack</a>
slackass	<a href="#">slackass [B]</a>
slam	<a href="#">grand slam</a> <a href="#">slam</a>
slammer	<a href="#">in the slammer</a>

[slammer](#)

slant

[put a different slant on it](#)

slap

[slap my afro / slap my fro](#)

slash

[slash and burn](#)

sledding

[tough sledding](#)

sleep

[deep sleep](#)

[sleep around \[B\]](#)

[sleep in](#)

[sleep it off](#)

[sleep like a log](#)

sleeper

[sleeper](#)

sleeping

[let sleeping dogs lie](#)

sleepy

[sleepy head](#)

sleeve

[an ace up your sleeve](#)

[laugh up your sleeve](#)

[up your sleeve](#)

[wear your heart on your sleeve](#)

slice

[any way you slice it](#)

[it's been a slice \(of life\)](#)

[no matter how you slice it](#)

[three slices short \(of a full loaf\)](#)

slick

[slick](#)

slim

[a slim chance](#)

[slim chance](#)

slimebucket

[slimebucket \[B\]](#)

slip

[a slip of the tongue](#)

[give him the slip](#)

[slip](#)

[slip a notch](#)

[slip away](#)  
[slip of the tongue](#)  
[slip out](#)  
[slip up](#)  
[slip your mind](#)  
[there's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip](#)

slippery

[a slippery slope](#)  
[slippery slope](#)

slipping

[past is slipping by without a trace](#)  
[the past is slipping by without a trace](#)

slo

[slo mo](#)

slope

[a slippery slope](#)  
[slippery slope](#)

sloshed

[sloshed to the gills](#)

slouch

[no slouch](#)

slow

[a slow day](#)  
[as slow as a dead snail](#)  
[as slow as molasses in January](#)  
[slow as a dead snail](#)  
[slow as molasses...](#)  
[slow day](#)  
[slow down](#)

slowpoke

[slowpoke](#)

sluff

[sluff off](#)

slug

[a slug](#)  
[slug away](#)  
[slug of](#)

slump

[in a slump](#)

sly

[on the sly](#)

smack

[smack dab in the middle](#)

[smack of](#)

small

[small potatoes](#)[small talk](#)[so small you could barely swing a cat](#)[so small you had to back out to change your mind](#)[the room is so small you have to go outside turn around](#)

smart

[don't get smart with me](#)[smarts](#)[street smarts](#)

smartass

[smartass \[B\]](#)

smarten

[smarten up](#)

smash

[have a smash](#)

smashed

[smashed](#)

smashing

[smashing](#)

smell

[I smell where you're stepping](#)[smell blood](#)[smell where you're stepping](#)[smells](#)[something smells](#)[take time to smell the roses](#)[wake up and smell the coffee](#)

smelling

[smelling yourself](#)

smidgeon

[just a smidgeon](#)

smidgesmidgeon

[smidge/smidgeon](#)

smile

[flash a smile](#)[wipe that smile off your face](#)

smithwright

[smithwright it](#)

smoke

[go up in smoke](#)

[holy smoke](#)  
[smoke and mirrors](#)  
[smoke like a furnace](#)  
[up in smoke](#)

smoker

[chain smoker](#)

smoking

[smoking gun](#)

smooth

[smooth out](#)  
[smooth sailing](#)  
[smooth talker](#)

snag

[snag](#)

snail

[as slow as a dead snail](#)  
[slow as a dead snail](#)

snakes

[blow snakes \(music\)](#)

snap

[a snap](#)  
[it's a snap](#)  
[snap](#)  
[snap a picture](#)  
[snap at](#)  
[take a snap shot](#)

snapped

[snapped](#)  
[something snapped](#)

snappy

[make it snappy](#)

snatch

[snatch victory from the jaws of defeat](#)

snazzy

[snazzy](#)

sneer

[peer sneer](#)

sneeze

[nothing to sneeze at](#)

snit

[in a snit](#)

snitch

[snitch](#)

snootful

[a snootful](#)

[snootful](#)

snooze

[you snooze, you lose](#)

snotty-nosed

[snotty-nosed kid](#)

snow

[a snow job](#)

[snow job](#)

[snow them](#)

[two pee holes in the snow](#)

snowball

[a snowball's chance in hell](#)

[snowball](#)

snowbirds

[snowbirds](#)

snuff

[up to snuff](#)

snug

[snug as a bug in a rug](#)

so

['fraid so](#)

[afraid so](#)

[Dear Dad, No mon, no fun, your son! Dear Son, So sad, too bad, your dad!](#)

[don't think so](#)

[even so](#)

[how so](#)

[I'm afraid so](#)

[is that so](#)

[not so hot](#)

[should be so lucky](#)

[so and so](#)

[so far, so good](#)

[so help me](#)

[so long](#)

[so much as](#)

[so quiet you can hear a pin drop](#)

[so small you could barely swing a cat](#)

[so small you had to back out to change your mind](#)

[so to speak](#)

[so what](#)

SOS

the room is so small you have to go outside turn around  
there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so  
want it so bad I can taste it

so-so	
	<u>so-so</u>
soap	
	<u>get off your soap box</u> <u>soap box</u>
sob	
	<u>sob story</u>
sober	
	<u>draw a sober breath</u> <u>sober up</u>
sock	
	<u>knock your socks off</u> <u>pull up your socks</u> <u>rocks socks</u> <u>sock it to me</u>
soft	
	<u>a soft touch</u> <u>go soft</u> <u>have a soft spot for</u> <u>soft in the head</u> <u>soft market</u> <u>soft pedal</u> <u>soft sell</u> <u>soft spot</u>
soft-top	
	<u>soft-top</u>
soften	
	<u>soften up</u> <u>soften your stance</u>
software	
	<u>software</u> <u>software piracy</u>
solace	
	<u>take solace</u>
sold	
	<u>sold on</u>
soldier	
	<u>soldier on</u>
solid	

[as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar](#)

[solid as the Rock of Gibraltar](#)

some

[and then some](#)

[bag some rays](#)

[catch some rays](#)

[catch some z's](#)

[cut me some slack](#)

[have to go some](#)

[kick some ass](#)

[open some doors](#)

[some chick](#)

[throw some light on](#)

someone

[bug \(someone\)](#)

[cross someone](#)

something

[get something out of](#)

[make something of it](#)

[make something of yourself](#)

[onto something](#)

[something borrowed, something blue](#)

[something is haywire](#)

[something is rotten...](#)

[something smells](#)

[something snapped](#)

[there's something fishy](#)

[there's something rotten in the state of Denmark](#)

[up to something](#)

[want to make something of it](#)

sometimes

[sometimes life is a bucket of shit and the handle is inside \[B\]](#)

son

[Dear Dad, No mon, no fun, your son! Dear Son, So sad, too bad, your dad!](#)

[like father, like son](#)

song

[break into song](#)

[for a song](#)

[song and dance](#)

soon

[a fool and his money are soon parted](#)

[just as soon](#)

sophie	<a href="#">Sophie's choice</a>
sore	<a href="#">a sight for sore eyes</a> <a href="#">sight for sore eyes</a> <a href="#">stick out like a sore thumb</a>
sorrow	<a href="#">drown your sorrow</a>
sorts	<a href="#">out of sorts</a>
soul	<a href="#">bare your soul</a> <a href="#">God rest his soul</a> <a href="#">pour out your soul</a> <a href="#">rest his soul (God rest his soul)</a> <a href="#">soul mate</a> <a href="#">tell a soul</a> <a href="#">won't tell a soul</a>
sound	<a href="#">sound asleep</a> <a href="#">sound bite</a> <a href="#">sound off</a> <a href="#">wired for sound</a>
sounding	<a href="#">sounding board</a>
soup	<a href="#">duck soup</a> <a href="#">everything from soup to nuts</a> <a href="#">from soup to nuts</a>
sour	<a href="#">sour grapes</a> <a href="#">sour puss</a>
southpaw	<a href="#">southpaw</a>
sow	<a href="#">reap what you sow</a> <a href="#">sow wild oats</a> <a href="#">you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear</a> <a href="#">you reap whatsoever you sow</a>
spaced	<a href="#">spaced out</a>
spade	<a href="#">call a spade a spade</a>

[spade work](#)

spanking

[brand new/ brand spanking new](#)

spare

[spare me](#)

speak

[actions speak louder than words](#)

[so to speak](#)

[speak highly of](#)

[speak of the devil](#)

[speak out](#)

[speak up](#)

[speak volumes](#)

[speak your mind](#)

speaking

[not speaking](#)

[on speaking terms](#)

speed

[do \(a speed\)](#)

[hit speeds of](#)

[speed up](#)

[up to speed](#)

speeding

[faster than a speeding bullet](#)

spell

[break a spell](#)

[cast a spell](#)

[set a spell](#)

[spell disaster](#)

[spell out](#)

[spell you off](#)

[under a spell](#)

[visit a spell](#)

spend

[spend holidays](#)

[spend time](#)

spending

[spending money](#)

spice

[spice of life](#)

[spice up](#)

[the spice of life](#)

[variety is the spice of life](#)

spiffy

[spiffy](#)

spike

[spike a drink](#)

[spike the ball](#)

spill

[spill the beans](#)

[spill your guts](#)

spilt

[cry over spilt milk](#)

spin

[go for a spin](#)

[make your head spin](#)

[put the right spin on it](#)

[spin a yarn](#)

[spin crew](#)

[spin doctor](#)

[spin the bottle](#)

[spin your wheels](#)

[take it for a spin](#)

spinning

[head is spinning](#)

spinny

[spinny](#)

spinorkspinorky

[spinork/spinorky](#)

spirit

[dampen your spirits](#)

[lift my spirits](#)

[raise your spirits](#)

[spirit away](#)

[that's the spirit](#)

spite

[cut off your nose to spite your face](#)

spitless

[scared spitless](#)

spitting

[spitting image](#)

[spitting mad](#)

[spitting nails](#)

[the spitting image](#)

splash

[make a splash](#)

splashback

[splashback](#)

split

[in a split second](#)

[split](#)

[split a gut](#)

[split hairs](#)

[split second](#)

[split the difference](#)

[split up](#)

spoil

[spoil for a fight](#)

[too many cooks spoil the broth](#)

spoiled

[first pancake is always spoiled](#)

[spoiled brat](#)

[the first pancake is always spoiled](#)

spoilsport

[spoilsport](#)

spoken

[upon the words offhandedly spoken](#)

spoon

[a silver spoon...](#)

[born with a silver spoon in his mouth](#)

[greasy spoon](#)

[silver spoon](#)

sport

[a good sport](#)

[go all the way \(sports\)](#)

[good sport](#)

[shoot-out \(sports\)](#)

[shutout \(sports\)](#)

spot

[a spot of tea](#)

[have a soft spot for](#)

[hit the spot](#)

[in a tight spot](#)

[Johnny on the spot](#)

[on the spot](#)

[soft spot](#)

[spot of tea](#)

[spot on](#)  
[sweet spot](#)  
[the sweet spot](#)  
[tight spot](#)  
[x marks the spot](#)

spotcheck

[spotcheck](#)

spread

[spread like wildfire](#)  
[spread out](#)  
[spread the word](#)

spring

[spring for](#)

spruced

[all spruced up](#)  
[spruced up](#)

spur

[on the spur of the moment](#)  
[spur on](#)

square

[back to square one](#)  
[be there or be square](#)  
[call it square](#)  
[from square one](#)  
[square](#)  
[square deal](#)  
[square meal](#)  
[square off](#)  
[square one](#)  
[square shooter](#)  
[square up](#)

squat

[squat](#)

squeaky

[squeaky clean](#)  
[the squeaky wheel gets the grease](#)

squeal

[squeal](#)

squealer

[squealer](#)

squirrel

[squirrel away](#)

stack

	<a href="#">stack up</a>
stacked	
	<a href="#">stacked</a>
stag	
	<a href="#">stag</a>
stage	
	<a href="#">all the world's a stage</a>
	<a href="#">exit stage left</a>
	<a href="#">take the stage</a>
stake	
	<a href="#">at stake</a>
	<a href="#">pull up stakes</a>
stance	
	<a href="#">soften your stance</a>
stand	
	<a href="#">blow this Popsicle stand</a>
	<a href="#">can't stand</a>
	<a href="#">hair stand on end</a>
	<a href="#">if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen</a>
	<a href="#">know where we stand</a>
	<a href="#">make your hair stand on end</a>
	<a href="#">on the stand</a>
	<a href="#">stand away</a>
	<a href="#">stand behind</a>
	<a href="#">stand by me</a>
	<a href="#">stand corrected</a>
	<a href="#">stand for</a>
	<a href="#">stand in</a>
	<a href="#">stand it</a>
	<a href="#">stand on ceremony</a>
	<a href="#">stand out</a>
	<a href="#">stand to lose</a>
	<a href="#">stand up</a>
	<a href="#">stand up and be counted</a>
	<a href="#">stand up for</a>
	<a href="#">stand up to</a>
	<a href="#">take a stand</a>
	<a href="#">take the stand</a>
	<a href="#">time stands still</a>
standard	
	<a href="#">drive standard</a>
standoffish	

[standoffish](#)

star

[a bar star](#)

[bar star](#)

[thank your lucky stars](#)

[you can thank your lucky stars](#)

stark

[stark naked](#)

[stark raving mad](#)

start

[a fresh start](#)

[a head start](#)

[fits and starts](#)

[fresh start](#)

[get off to a good start](#)

[jump start](#)

[kick start](#)

[off to a bad start](#)

[off to a good start](#)

[start a fire under him](#)

[start from scratch](#)

[start out](#)

[start over](#)

[start up](#)

[start with a bang](#)

[wake with a start](#)

state

[a state secret](#)

[it's not a state secret](#)

[state of mind](#)

[state of the art](#)

[state secret](#)

[there's something rotten in the state of Denmark](#)

static

[give you static](#)

stay

[if you can't cut it, you can't stay](#)

[stay abreast](#)

[stay alive](#)

[stay awake](#)

[stay in line](#)

[stay put](#)

[stay up](#)

steady

[go steady](#)

steal

[a steal](#)

[steal the show](#)

[steal your heart](#)

[steal your thunder](#)

steam

[full steam ahead](#)

[get up a head of steam](#)

[let off steam](#)

[steam up](#)

[under his own steam](#)

steamy

[steamy](#)

steel

[nerves of steel](#)

steep

[a little steep](#)

steer

[steer clear](#)

stem

[from stem to stern](#)

[stem to stern](#)

step

[in step](#)

[out of step](#)

[step aside](#)

[step down](#)

[step on his dick](#)

[step on it](#)

[step on people](#)

[step on their toes](#)

[step on your dick](#)

[step out of line](#)

[step up to the plate](#)

[watch your step](#)

stepping

[I smell where you're stepping](#)

[smell where you're stepping](#)

stern

[from stem to stern](#)

[stem to stern](#)

stew

[in a stew](#)

stick

[more than you can shake a stick at](#)

[shake a stick at](#)

[short end of the stick](#)

[stick in my craw](#)

[stick it out](#)

[stick it up your ass \[B\]](#)

[stick my neck out](#)

[stick out like a sore thumb](#)

[stick them up](#)

[stick to it](#)

[stick to your guns](#)

[stick up for](#)

[the short end of the stick](#)

stick-in-the-mud

[stick-in-the-mud](#)

stickhandle

[stickhandle](#)

stiff

[a stiff upper lip](#)

[keep a stiff upper lip](#)

[scared stiff](#)

[stiff](#)

[stiff upper lip](#)

still

[still wet behind the ears](#)

[time stands still](#)

stink

[fish and company stink after three days](#)

[go like stink](#)

[raise a stink](#)

[stink the joint out](#)

stir

[in stir](#)

stitch

[a stitch in time saves nine](#)

[a stitch of clothes](#)

[didn't have a stitch of clothes on](#)

[stitch in time](#)

[stitch of clothes on](#)  
[without a stitch of clothes on](#)

stitches

[in stitches](#)

stock

[laughing stock](#)  
[lock, stock and barrel](#)  
[play the stock market](#)  
[put stock in](#)  
[stock in trade](#)  
[the laughing stock](#)

stomach

[haven't got the stomach for it](#)  
[on a full stomach](#)  
[on an empty stomach](#)  
[pit of my stomach](#)  
[sick to my stomach](#)  
[the pit of my stomach](#)  
[the way to a man's heart is through his stomach](#)  
[turn your stomach](#)

stone

[a rolling stone gathers no moss](#)  
[a stone's throw](#)  
[beat your head against a stone wall](#)  
[blood from a stone](#)  
[blow your stones \[B\]](#)  
[get blood from a stone](#)  
[kill two birds \(with one stone\)](#)  
[kiss the blarney stone](#)  
[leave no stone unturned](#)  
[people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones](#)  
[rolling stone](#)  
[stone dead](#)  
[stone unturned](#)  
[stone's throw](#)  
[written in stone](#)

stoned

[stoned](#)

stonewall

[stonewall](#)

stools

[fall between two stools](#)

stop

[buck stops here](#)  
[pit stop](#)  
[pull out all the stops](#)  
[stop at nothing](#)  
[stop on a dime](#)  
[stop you cold](#)  
[stop you in your tracks](#)  
[the buck stops here](#)

store

[in store for](#)  
[mind the store](#)

storm

[brain storm](#)  
[calm before the storm](#)  
[eye of the storm](#)  
[sing up a storm](#)  
[take by storm](#)  
[the calm before the storm](#)  
[the eye of the storm](#)  
[up a storm](#)  
[weather the storm](#)

story

[break a story](#)  
[inside story](#)  
[sob story](#)  
[the inside story](#)  
[there are two sides to every story](#)  
[two sides to every story](#)

straight

[get it straight](#)  
[get this straight](#)  
[give it to me straight](#)  
[go straight](#)  
[keep a straight face](#)  
[keep them straight](#)  
[set you straight](#)  
[straight](#)  
[straight away](#)  
[straight cash](#)  
[straight dope](#)  
[straight face](#)

[straight from the horse's mouth](#)  
[straight from the shoulder](#)  
[straight goods](#)  
[straight man](#)  
[straight talk](#)  
[straight up](#)  
[tell me straight](#)  
[the straight dope](#)  
[the straight goods](#)  
[think straight](#)  
[walk a straight line](#)

straighten

[straighten you out](#)

strain

[crack under the strain](#)

straits

[in dire straits](#)

strange

[make strange](#)

stranger

[a perfect stranger](#)

[a total stranger](#)

[perfect stranger](#)

[total stranger](#)

strapped

[strapped](#)

straw

[last straw](#)

[straw horse](#)

[straw that broke the camel's back](#)

[the last straw](#)

streak

[a losing streak](#)

[a lucky streak](#)

[losing streak](#)

[lucky streak](#)

[mean streak](#)

[winning streak](#)

stream

[change horses in mid stream](#)

street

[easy street](#)

[on queer street](#)

[street smarts](#)

[street wise](#)

strength

[a tower of strength](#)

[full strength](#)

[tower of strength](#)

stretch

[by any stretch...](#)

[home stretch](#)

[not by any stretch of the imagination](#)

[stretch the dollar](#)

[stretch the envelope](#)

[stretch the truth](#)

stretching

[stretching it](#)

[that's stretching it](#)

strictly

[strictly business](#)

[strictly for the birds](#)

stride

[in stride](#)

[take it in stride](#)

strike

[havoc strikes](#)

[it strikes me](#)

[strike a bargain](#)

[strike it rich](#)

[strike me](#)

[strike out \(baseball\)](#)

[strike out on your own](#)

[strike up a conversation](#)

[strike up the band](#)

[strike while the iron is hot](#)

[strike your fancy](#)

string

[hold the purse strings](#)

[on a string](#)

[play on my heart strings](#)

[pluck at the heart strings](#)

[pull a few strings](#)

[string a line](#)

[string along](#)  
[string bean](#)  
[string of good luck](#)  
[tied to your mother's apron strings](#)

strip

[strip](#)  
[strip mall](#)  
[take a strip off](#)  
[tear a strip off](#)

stripped

[stripped](#)

stroke

[different strokes for different folks](#)  
[down to the short strokes](#)  
[short strokes](#)  
[stroke of genius](#)  
[stroke of good luck](#)  
[stroke your ego](#)

strong

[come on strong](#)  
[go strong](#)  
[going strong](#)  
[the strong, silent type](#)

struggle

[shop-floor struggle](#)

strung

[high strung](#)  
[strung out](#)

stubblejumper

[stubblejumper](#)

stuck

[see you stuck](#)  
[stuck on](#)  
[won't see you stuck](#)

study

[a quick study](#)  
[quick study](#)

stuff

[and stuff](#)  
[funny stuff](#)  
[greasy kid's stuff](#)  
[green stuff](#)

[hard stuff](#)

[hot stuff](#)

[know your stuff](#)

[show your stuff](#)

[stuff it](#)

[the right stuff](#)

stumbling

[stumbling block](#)

stump

[stump me](#)

[up the stump \[B\]](#)

style

[cramp your style](#)

[kiss curls \(hair style\)](#)

succeeds

[nothing succeeds like success](#)

success

[nothing succeeds like success](#)

[the key to success](#)

such

[such a card](#)

suck

[don't teach your grandmother how to suck eggs](#)

[suck](#)

[suck eggs](#)

[suck it up](#)

[suck off \[B\]](#)

[suck the hind tit \[B\]](#)

[suck up to](#)

[sucks](#)

suckbucket

[suckbucket](#)

sucked

[sucked in](#)

sucker

[a sucker for punishment](#)

[sucker](#)

[sucker you](#)

suffer

[suffer a setback](#)

sufficient

[a word to the wise is sufficient](#)

suicide

[a suicide pass \(hockey\)](#)

[suicide pass](#)

suit

[birthday suit](#)

[suit yourself](#)

[suits you](#)

sum

[a paltry sum](#)

[paltry sum](#)

summer

[dog days of summer](#)

sun

[make hay while the sun shines](#)

sunday

[a month of Sundays](#)

[month of Sundays](#)

[Sunday best](#)

sunset

[sunset years](#)

super

[super mint](#)

super-duper

[super-duper](#)

supercharge

[supercharge](#)

superhighway

[electronic superhighway](#)

superstar

[superstar](#)

sure

[a sure bet](#)

[a sure thing](#)

[as sure as shit](#)

[for sure](#)

[make sure](#)

[sure as hell](#)

[sure as shit](#)

[sure bet](#)

[sure thing](#)

surf

[surf the Net](#)

surface

[scratch the surface](#)

surfer	<a href="#">Net surfer</a>
surfing	<a href="#">hang ten (surfing)</a>
surprise	<a href="#">catch me by surprise</a>
swallow	<a href="#">hard to swallow</a> <a href="#">swallow that</a> <a href="#">swallow your pride</a>
swamp	<a href="#">drain the swamp</a>
swath	<a href="#">cut a wide swath</a>
swear	<a href="#">swear by</a> <a href="#">swear like a sailor</a> <a href="#">swear off</a>
sweat	<a href="#">break a sweat</a> <a href="#">don't sweat it</a> <a href="#">in a cold sweat</a> <a href="#">no sweat</a> <a href="#">sweat bullets</a> <a href="#">sweat it</a> <a href="#">sweat it out</a> <a href="#">work up a sweat</a>
sweater	<a href="#">sweater girl</a>
sweep	<a href="#">a new broom sweeps clean</a> <a href="#">make a clean sweep</a> <a href="#">sweep under the carpet</a> <a href="#">sweep you off your feet</a>
sweet	<a href="#">a sweet tooth</a> <a href="#">sweet on</a> <a href="#">sweet spot</a> <a href="#">sweet tooth</a> <a href="#">take your sweet time</a> <a href="#">the sweet spot</a>
sweeten	

[sweeten the pot](#)

sweetie

[sweetie pie](#)

swell

[swell](#)

swelled

[swelled head](#)

swift

[swift](#)

swim

[faster than a minnow can swim a dipper](#)

swing

[so small you could barely swing a cat](#)

switch

[asleep at the switch](#)

swoop

[at one fell swoop](#)[in one fell swoop](#)[one fell swoop](#)

sword

[a double-edged sword](#)[double-edged sword](#)[fall on your sword](#)

syndrome

[pre-menstrual syndrome](#)[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Index T

t

[down to a T](#)  
[tits and ass \(T & A\) \[B\]](#)  
[to a T](#)

tab

[call tabs](#)  
[keep tabs on](#)  
[pick up the tab](#)  
[run a tab](#)

table

[drink you under the table](#)  
[on the table](#)  
[set the table](#)  
[turn the tables on](#)  
[under the table](#)  
[wait on tables](#)

tack

[down to brass tacks](#)  
[get down to brass tacks](#)  
[sharp as a tack](#)

tail

[a piece of tail \[B\]](#)  
[grow a tail](#)  
[heads or tails](#)  
[in two shakes \(of a lamb's tail\)](#)  
[on his tail](#)  
[piece of tail \[B\]](#)  
[pony tail](#)  
[tail between his legs](#)  
[tail lights](#)  
[tail wagging the dog](#)  
[the tail wagging the dog](#)  
[with his tail between his legs](#)

tailgate

[tailgate](#)

## take

[double take](#)  
[give and take](#)  
[give him an inch and he'll take a mile](#)  
[got what it takes](#)  
[hard to take](#)  
[have what it takes](#)  
[it takes one to know one](#)  
[it takes two to tango](#)  
[on the take](#)  
[take a back seat](#)  
[take a boo](#)  
[take a bow](#)  
[take a break](#)  
[take a bullet](#)  
[take a chance](#)  
[take a dive](#)  
[take a drive/trip](#)  
[take a dump \[B\]](#)  
[take a flight](#)  
[take a gander](#)  
[take a guess](#)  
[take a hike](#)  
[take a joke](#)  
[take a leak \[B\]](#)  
[take a load off your feet](#)  
[take a look](#)  
[take a pee \[B\]](#)  
[take a picture](#)  
[take a piss \[B\]](#)  
[take a poke at](#)  
[take a poll](#)  
[take a powder](#)  
[take a risk](#)  
[take a round out of](#)  
[take a shine to](#)  
[take a shit \[B\]](#)  
[take a shot](#)  
[take a snap shot](#)  
[take a stand](#)  
[take a strip off](#)  
[take a whiz](#)

[take action](#)  
[take advantage of](#)  
[take after](#)  
[take by storm](#)  
[take calls](#)  
[take care](#)  
[take care of](#)  
[take care of business](#)  
[take chances](#)  
[take charge](#)  
[take cover](#)  
[take drugs](#)  
[take effect](#)  
[take exception to](#)  
[take five](#)  
[take for granted](#)  
[take heart](#)  
[take him down a peg](#)  
[take him out](#)  
[take in](#)  
[take it](#)  
[take it and run](#)  
[take it back](#)  
[take it easy](#)  
[take it easy on](#)  
[take it for a spin](#)  
[take it in stride](#)  
[take it like a man](#)  
[take it or leave it](#)  
[take it out on](#)  
[take it personally](#)  
[take it the wrong way](#)  
[take it to heart](#)  
[take it with a grain of salt](#)  
[take its course](#)  
[take leave of your senses](#)  
[take me seriously](#)  
[take my hat off to](#)  
[take my head off](#)  
[take my place](#)  
[take oath](#)  
[take off](#)

[take off, eh](#)  
[take offense](#)  
[take on](#)  
[take on a new light](#)  
[take out](#)  
[take over](#)  
[take pains](#)  
[take part in](#)  
[take place](#)  
[take possession](#)  
[take revenge](#)  
[take risks](#)  
[take sides](#)  
[take solace](#)  
[take that](#)  
[take the blame](#)  
[take the bull by the horns](#)  
[take the bus/plane](#)  
[take the cake](#)  
[take the chill off](#)  
[take the flack](#)  
[take the heat](#)  
[take the pulse](#)  
[take the rap](#)  
[take the stage](#)  
[take the stand](#)  
[take the trouble](#)  
[take this job and shove it \[B\]](#)  
[take time to smell the roses](#)  
[take umbrage](#)  
[take up](#)  
[take up cudgels](#)  
[take up the slack](#)  
[take with a grain of salt](#)  
[take you down a peg](#)  
[take you for all you've got](#)  
[take you in](#)  
[take you to court](#)  
[take you to task](#)  
[take you to the cleaners](#)  
[take your lumps](#)  
[take your pick](#)

[take your pulse](#)  
[take your seat](#)  
[take your time](#)  
[take your sweet time](#)  
[take your turn](#)  
[take your word for it](#)  
[takes one to know one](#)  
[takes two to tango](#)  
[that takes the cake](#)  
[the take](#)  
[winner take all](#)

take-out

[take-out restaurant](#)

taken

[point is well taken](#)  
[taken](#)  
[taken for a ride](#)  
[taken in](#)  
[well taken](#)

takeoff

[a takeoff on](#)  
[takeoff on](#)

tale

[old wives' tale](#)  
[tall tale](#)

talent

[hidden talent](#)

talk

[all talk and no action](#)  
[coffee talk](#)  
[money talks](#)  
[shop talk](#)  
[small talk](#)  
[straight talk](#)  
[talk a mile a minute](#)  
[talk about](#)  
[talk away](#)  
[talk back](#)  
[talk big](#)  
[talk into](#)  
[talk is cheap](#)  
[talk it over](#)

[talk it up](#)  
[talk shop](#)  
[talk the leg off the lamb of God](#)  
[talk through your hat](#)  
[talk to the hand](#)  
[talk turkey](#)  
[talk your ear off](#)  
[talk your head off](#)  
[the talk of the town](#)  
[walk the talk](#)  
[water-cooler talk](#)

talker	<a href="#">smooth talker</a>
talking	<a href="#">a talking to</a>
tall	<a href="#">a tall one</a> <a href="#">tall one</a> <a href="#">tall tale</a>
tangle	<a href="#">tangle with</a>
tango	<a href="#">it takes two to tango</a> <a href="#">takes two to tango</a>
tank	<a href="#">in the tank</a> <a href="#">into the tank</a> <a href="#">tank</a> <a href="#">think tank</a>
tankedtanked	<a href="#">tanked/tanked up</a>
tantrum	<a href="#">throw a tantrum</a>
tap	<a href="#">a love tap</a> <a href="#">love tap</a> <a href="#">on tap</a>
tape	<a href="#">red tape</a>
tar	<a href="#">tar with the same brush</a>
target	<a href="#">on target</a>

tarnation	<a href="#">what in tarnation</a>
tart	<a href="#">jam tart</a> <a href="#">tough tarts</a>
task	<a href="#">take you to task</a>
taste	<a href="#">a bad taste in my mouth</a> <a href="#">bad taste in my mouth</a> <a href="#">give him a taste of his own medicine</a> <a href="#">taste of his own...</a> <a href="#">want it so bad I can taste it</a>
tat	<a href="#">tit for tat</a>
tea	<a href="#">a spot of tea</a> <a href="#">all the tea in China</a> <a href="#">cup of tea</a> <a href="#">for all the tea in China</a> <a href="#">not for all the tea in China</a> <a href="#">spot of tea</a>
teach	<a href="#">don't teach your grandmother how to suck eggs</a> <a href="#">teach an old dog...</a> <a href="#">teach you the tricks of the trade</a> <a href="#">you can't teach an old dog new tricks</a>
teakettle	<a href="#">ass over teakettle</a>
team	<a href="#">make the team</a> <a href="#">plug the team</a> <a href="#">team player</a> <a href="#">team up</a>
teapot	<a href="#">a tempest in a teapot</a> <a href="#">tempest in a teapot</a>
tear	<a href="#">crocodile tears</a> <a href="#">move you to tears</a> <a href="#">reduce to tears</a> <a href="#">shed a tear</a>

[tear a strip off](#)  
[tear around](#)  
[tear me apart](#)  
[vale of tears \(valley of tears\)](#)

tearjerker

[tearjerker](#)

teed

[all teed up](#)  
[teed off](#)  
[teed up](#)

teeny-weeny

[teeny-weeny](#)

teeth

[armed to the teeth](#)  
[as scarce as hen's teeth](#)  
[back teeth are floating](#)  
[by the skin of their teeth](#)  
[cut my teeth on](#)  
[give my eye teeth](#)  
[gnashing of teeth](#)  
[scarce as hen's teeth](#)  
[set your teeth on edge](#)

telegraph

[bush telegraph](#)

tell

[go tell your mother she wants you](#)  
[tell a soul](#)  
[tell all](#)  
[tell him a thing or two](#)  
[tell him off](#)  
[tell him where to get off](#)  
[tell him where to go](#)  
[tell me another one](#)  
[tell me straight](#)  
[tell on](#)  
[won't tell a soul](#)  
[you can't tell a book by its cover](#)

temper

[hold your temper](#)  
[lose your temper](#)  
[short temper](#)

tempered

	<a href="#">hot tempered</a>
tempest	
	<a href="#">a tempest in a teapot</a> <a href="#">tempest in a teapot</a>
tempt	
	<a href="#">tempt fate</a>
ten	
	<a href="#">first down/first and ten</a> <a href="#">hang ten (surfing)</a> <a href="#">nine times out of ten</a>
ten-foot	
	<a href="#">touch it with a ten-foot pole</a>
ten-four	
	<a href="#">ten-four (CB radio)</a>
tender	
	<a href="#">tender age of</a> <a href="#">the tender age of</a>
tenterhooks	
	<a href="#">on tenterhooks</a>
terms	
	<a href="#">come to terms</a> <a href="#">come to terms with</a> <a href="#">glowing terms</a> <a href="#">in glowing terms</a> <a href="#">in no uncertain terms</a> <a href="#">on even terms</a> <a href="#">on good terms</a> <a href="#">on speaking terms</a>
territory	
	<a href="#">it goes with the territory</a> <a href="#">virgin territory</a>
test	
	<a href="#">acid test</a> <a href="#">put to the test</a> <a href="#">test drive</a> <a href="#">test the water</a> <a href="#">test your metal</a> <a href="#">the acid test</a>
tether	
	<a href="#">at the end of my rope/ at the end of my tether</a>
tgif	
	<a href="#">TGIF</a>
than	

[actions speak louder than words](#)  
[bark is worse than his bite](#)  
[better late than never](#)  
[better than a kick in the ass \[B\]](#)  
[better than sex](#)  
[bigger than life](#)  
[bite off more than you can chew](#)  
[blood is thicker than water](#)  
[faster than a minnow can swim a dipper](#)  
[faster than a speeding bullet](#)  
[higher than a kite](#)  
[it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all](#)  
[larger than life](#)  
[more money than brains](#)  
[more than meets the eye](#)  
[more than welcome](#)  
[more than you can shake a stick at](#)  
[quicker than you can say Jack Robinson](#)  
[sicker than a dog](#)  
[there's more than meets the eye](#)  
[there's more than one way to skin a cat](#)  
[two heads are better than one](#)

thank

[thank goodness](#)  
[Thank Goodness It's Friday](#)  
[thank heavens](#)  
[thank your lucky stars](#)  
[thanks a bunch](#)  
[thanks a million](#)  
[vote of thanks](#)  
[you can thank your lucky stars](#)

that

['at a boy \(that a boy\)](#)  
['at a girl \(that a girl\)](#)  
[a party to that](#)  
[all that jazz](#)  
[all's well that ends well](#)  
[and that's that](#)  
[attaboy \(that a boy\)](#)  
[attagirl \(that a girl\)](#)  
[bite the hand that feeds you](#)  
[buy that](#)

[catch me doing that](#)  
[check that](#)  
[cotton to that](#)  
[cross that bridge when I come to it](#)  
[don't eat that](#)  
[don't give me that line/story etc.](#)  
[don't hand me that](#)  
[eat that](#)  
[fall for that](#)  
[fuck that noise \[B\]](#)  
[get a load of that](#)  
[hair off the dog that bit you](#)  
[hold that over my head](#)  
[how about that](#)  
[how does that grab you](#)  
[how's that again](#)  
[if that doesn't beat all](#)  
[in that vein](#)  
[is that so](#)  
[just like that](#)  
[kill the goose that lays the golden eggs](#)  
[kiss that one goodbye](#)  
[party to that](#)  
[powers that be](#)  
[pull that](#)  
[relate to that](#)  
[see to it/see to that](#)  
[straw that broke the camel's back](#)  
[swallow that](#)  
[take that](#)  
[that a boy/that a girl](#)  
[that is that](#)  
[that takes the cake](#)  
[that's a corker](#)  
[that's a crock \(of shit\) \[B\]](#)  
[that's all she wrote](#)  
[that's cool](#)  
[that's his bible](#)  
[that's life](#)  
[that's stretching it](#)  
[that's that](#)  
[that's the spirit](#)

[that's the ticket](#)  
[that's the way the ball bounces](#)  
[that's the way the cookie crumbles](#)  
[the one that got away](#)  
[the powers that be](#)  
[throw that in](#)  
[to hell with that \[B\]](#)  
[top that](#)  
[try that](#)  
[try that on for size](#)  
[twig to that](#)  
[wipe that smile off your face](#)

that'll

[that'll be the day](#)  
[that'll be the frosty Friday](#)

their

[by the skin of their teeth](#)  
[dig in their heels](#)  
[draw their fire](#)  
[rain on their parade](#)  
[roll their eyes](#)  
[step on their toes](#)  
[worth their weight in gold](#)

themselves

[the Lord helps those who help themselves](#)

then

[and then some](#)  
[then and there](#)

there

[be there](#)  
[be there for me](#)  
[be there or be square](#)  
[being there](#)  
[don't go there](#)  
[don't want to go there](#)  
[hang in there](#)  
[head down there](#)  
[head up there](#)  
[hi there](#)  
[it's a jungle out there](#)  
[it's a whole nother world out there](#)  
[it's a whole other world out there](#)

[it's a zoo in there](#)  
[not all there](#)  
[put 'er there](#)  
[put her there](#)  
[then and there](#)  
[there are two sides to every story](#)  
[there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so](#)  
[there you go](#)  
[there's a catch to it](#)  
[there's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip](#)  
[there's more than meets the eye](#)  
[there's more than one way to skin a cat](#)  
[there's no love lost](#)  
[there's no tomorrow](#)  
[there's no two ways about it](#)  
[there's not much to choose between them](#)  
[there's nothing to it](#)  
[there's one born every minute](#)  
[there's something fishy](#)  
[there's something rotten in the state of Denmark](#)  
[where there's a will, there's a way](#)  
[yonder over there](#)  
[you had to be there](#)

these

[in these parts](#)  
[these parts](#)

thick

[a little thick](#)  
[thick](#)  
[thick as a brick](#)  
[through thick and thin](#)

thicker

[blood is thicker than water](#)

thin

[into thin air](#)  
[on thin ice](#)  
[skate on thin ice](#)  
[through thick and thin](#)

thing

[a sure thing](#)  
[all things being equal](#)  
[all things to all people](#)

[any old thing](#)  
[do your own thing](#)  
[don't know the first thing about it](#)  
[have things in hand](#)  
[know the first thing...](#)  
[patch things up](#)  
[put things in perspective](#)  
[seeing things](#)  
[sure thing](#)  
[tell him a thing or two](#)  
[the best things in life are free](#)  
[things are looking up](#)  
[winning isn't everything; it's the only thing](#)  
[work things out](#)

thing-a-ma-bob

[thing-a-ma-bob / thing-a-ma-jig](#)

thing-a-ma-jig

[thing-a-ma-bob / thing-a-ma-jig](#)

think

[come to think of it](#)  
[don't think so](#)  
[think better of it](#)  
[think nothing of it](#)  
[think outside the box](#)  
[think over](#)  
[think straight](#)  
[think tank](#)  
[think the world of](#)  
[think through](#)  
[think up](#)  
[who do you think you are](#)

thinking

[big-sky thinking](#)  
[there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so](#)  
[what was I thinking of](#)  
[wishful thinking](#)

third

[give me the third degree](#)  
[go down for the third time](#)  
[the third degree](#)  
[third degree](#)

thirst

[work up a thirst](#)

thirties

[dirty thirties](#)

[hungry thirties](#)

this

[at this point in time](#)

[blow this joint](#)

[blow this Popsicle stand](#)

[check this out](#)

[crack this case](#)

[eyeball this](#)

[get this monkey off my back](#)

[get this show on the road](#)

[get this straight](#)

[let this chance go by](#)

[not long for this world](#)

[out of this world](#)

[peep this](#)

[quit this place](#)

[take this job and shove it \[B\]](#)

[this mortal coil](#)

[this one is on me](#)

[what did I do to deserve this](#)

thorn

[a thorn in my side](#)

[thorn in my side](#)

those

[along those lines](#)

[pen those words/lines](#)

[the Lord helps those who help themselves](#)

thought

[a penny for your thoughts](#)

[collect my thoughts](#)

[food for thought](#)

[lose my train of thought](#)

[penny for your thoughts](#)

[train of thought](#)

thousand

[a picture is worth a thousand words](#)

[bat a thousand](#)

[picture is worth a thousand words](#)

thrash

[thrash](#)

thread

[a common thread](#)

[threads](#)

three

[fish and company stink after three days](#)

[three sheets to the wind](#)

[three slices short \(of a full loaf\)](#)

[two's company, three's a crowd](#)

three-bagger

[a three-bagger \(baseball\)](#)

[a three-bagger](#)

[three-bagger](#)

throat

[cut your own throat](#)

[down my throat](#)

[ram down your throat](#)

[shove down my throat](#)

throes

[in the throes](#)

throne

[on the throne](#)

throttle

[full throttle](#)

through

[come through](#)

[dragged through a...](#)

[fall through](#)

[fall through the cracks](#)

[follow through](#)

[go through](#)

[go through the roof](#)

[jump through hoops](#)

[just passing through](#)

[like shit through a goose](#)

[look like he was dragged through a knothole](#)

[pass through](#)

[pay through the nose](#)

[pull through](#)

[put you through the mill](#)

[put yourself through college](#)

[run through](#)

[see it through](#)  
[see through](#)  
[see you through](#)  
[shit through a goose](#)  
[talk through your hat](#)  
[the way to a man's heart is through his stomach](#)  
[think through](#)  
[through the grapevine](#)  
[through the mill](#)  
[through the roof](#)  
[through the wringer](#)  
[through thick and thin](#)  
[walk through](#)  
[went through the roof](#)

## throw

[a stone's throw](#)  
[people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones](#)  
[stone's throw](#)  
[throw a curve](#)  
[throw a game](#)  
[throw a kiss](#)  
[throw a monkey wrench into the works](#)  
[throw a party](#)  
[throw a tantrum](#)  
[throw away](#)  
[throw caution to the wind](#)  
[throw chunks](#)  
[throw cold water on](#)  
[throw down your arms](#)  
[throw good money after bad](#)  
[throw in the towel](#)  
[throw insults](#)  
[throw me for a loop](#)  
[throw on a dog for you](#)  
[throw out](#)  
[throw some light on](#)  
[throw that in](#)  
[throw the baby out with the bath water](#)  
[throw the book at](#)  
[throw up](#)  
[throw you](#)  
[throw you to the dogs](#)

[throw your weight around](#)  
[throw yourself at him](#)

thrown

[thrown in](#)

thumb

[all thumbs](#)  
[green thumb](#)  
[rule of thumb](#)  
[stick out like a sore thumb](#)  
[under your thumb](#)

thunder

[steal your thunder](#)

tick

[as full as a tick](#)  
[full as a tick](#)  
[tick over](#)

ticked

[ticked off](#)

ticket

[a hot ticket](#)  
[get a ticket](#)  
[hot ticket](#)  
[that's the ticket](#)

ticketed

[ticketed](#)

tickety-boo

[tickety-boo](#)

tickled

[tickled pink](#)

tiddly

[tiddly](#)

tide

[the tide turned](#)  
[tide me over](#)  
[tide turned](#)

tie

[tie in](#)  
[tie into](#)  
[tie one on](#)  
[tie up](#)  
[tie up loose ends](#)

tied

[fit to be tied](#)

[hands are tied](#)  
[piano tied to your ass \[B\]](#)  
[tied to your mother's apron strings](#)  
[tied up](#)

tight

[in a tight spot](#)  
[sit tight](#)  
[tight race](#)  
[tight spot](#)

tight-ass

[tight-ass \[B\]](#)

tighten

[tighten our belts](#)

tighttight

[tight/tight fisted](#)

till

[it ain't over till it's over](#)  
[it ain't over till the fat lady sings](#)  
[miss the water till...](#)  
[till hell freezes over](#)  
[till the cows come home](#)  
[till you're blue in the face](#)  
[you don't miss the water till the well runs dry](#)

tilt

[full tilt](#)

time

[a bad time](#)  
[a dickens of a time](#)  
[a hard time](#)  
[a hell of a time](#)  
[a rough time](#)  
[a rough time of it](#)  
[a stitch in time saves nine](#)  
[a tough time of it](#)  
[about time](#)  
[at one time](#)  
[at this point in time](#)  
[beat your time](#)  
[big time](#)  
[buy time](#)  
[catch you at a bad time](#)  
[dickens of a time](#)

[do time](#)  
[easy time of it](#)  
[from time to time](#)  
[give me a bad time](#)  
[give you a hard time](#)  
[give you a rough time](#)  
[go down for the third time](#)  
[good time](#)  
[hard times](#)  
[have a good time](#)  
[hell of a time](#)  
[high time](#)  
[how time flies](#)  
[in a long time](#)  
[in no time](#)  
[in the nick of time](#)  
[in time](#)  
[just in time](#)  
[keep up with the times](#)  
[kill time](#)  
[lean times](#)  
[let the good times roll](#)  
[long time no see](#)  
[lose time](#)  
[make good time](#)  
[nine times out of ten](#)  
[on time](#)  
[once upon a time](#)  
[one at a time](#)  
[one hell of a time](#)  
[put in time](#)  
[spend time](#)  
[stitch in time](#)  
[take time to smell the roses](#)  
[take your time](#)  
[take your sweet time](#)  
[time and again](#)  
[time flies when you're having fun](#)  
[time is money](#)  
[time is of the essence](#)  
[time off](#)  
[time on your hands](#)

[time out](#)  
[time ran out](#)  
[time stands still](#)  
[time to kill](#)  
[time to time](#)  
[time's a wasting](#)  
[time's up](#)  
[times were hard](#)  
[tough times](#)  
[waste no time](#)

tin

[tin ear](#)  
[tin Lizzie](#)

tintype

[not on your tintype](#)

tip

[on the tip of my tongue](#)  
[the tip of the iceberg](#)  
[tip a few](#)  
[tip of my tongue](#)  
[tip of the hat](#)  
[tip of the iceberg](#)  
[tip the scales](#)  
[tip the scales at](#)  
[tip your hand](#)

tipsy

[tipsy](#)

tired

[born tired](#)  
[dead tired](#)  
[dog tired](#)  
[tired of](#)  
[tired out](#)

tit

[as useless as tits on a boar](#)  
[get your tits in a wringer](#)  
[suck the hind tit \[B\]](#)  
[tit for tat](#)  
[tits and ass \(T & A\) \[B\]](#)  
[tits in a wringer](#)  
[tits up \[B\]](#)  
[useless as the tits...](#)

titch	
-------	--

[a titch](#)

[just a titch](#)

[titch](#)

titty	
-------	--

[tough titty](#)

tizzy	
-------	--

[in a tizzy](#)

to	
----	--

[a bite to eat](#)

[a bone to pick](#)

[a hard row to hoe](#)

[a party to that](#)

[a pinch to grow an inch](#)

[a score to settle](#)

[a talking to](#)

[a tough act to follow](#)

[a tough row to hoe](#)

[a word to the wise is sufficient](#)

[according to Hoyle](#)

[add fuel to the fire](#)

[add insult to injury](#)

[all it's cracked up to be](#)

[all the way to Egery and back](#)

[all things to all people](#)

[an axe to grind](#)

[angels fear to tread](#)

[armed to the teeth](#)

[away to the races](#)

[axe to grind](#)

[back to square one](#)

[back to the drawing board](#)

[back to the grind](#)

[beg to differ](#)

[belly up to the bar](#)

[bet you dollars to donuts](#)

[better to have loved...](#)

[bigger fish to fry](#)

[blow to kingdom come](#)

[bone to pick](#)

[bring an end to](#)

[bring to a close](#)

[bumper to bumper](#)  
[call attention to](#)  
[chalk it up to](#)  
[chickens come home to roost](#)  
[claim to fame](#)  
[close to the vest](#)  
[come back to haunt you](#)  
[come down to earth](#)  
[come home to roost](#)  
[come to](#)  
[come to a head](#)  
[come to fruition](#)  
[come to grips with](#)  
[come to terms](#)  
[come to terms with](#)  
[come to the point](#)  
[come to think of it](#)  
[cotton to that](#)  
[crawl on my hands and knees over broken glass just to see her photo](#)  
[cross my heart and hope to die](#)  
[cross over to the other side](#)  
[cross that bridge when I come to it](#)  
[cut me to the quick](#)  
[cut off your nose to spite your face](#)  
[cut to the chase](#)  
[cut you down to size](#)  
[cut you to ribbons](#)  
[dead to the world](#)  
[dollars to donuts](#)  
[don't teach your grandmother how to suck eggs](#)  
[don't want to go there](#)  
[done to a turn](#)  
[door to door](#)  
[down to a T](#)  
[down to brass tacks](#)  
[down to earth](#)  
[down to the short strokes](#)  
[down to the wire](#)  
[draw attention to](#)  
[draw it to my attention](#)  
[dressed fit to kill](#)  
[dressed to the nines](#)

[drive me to the edge](#)  
[drive you to distraction](#)  
[drive you to drink](#)  
[dying to know](#)  
[each to his own](#)  
[ear to the ground](#)  
[everything from soup to nuts](#)  
[eye to eye](#)  
[fair to middling](#)  
[fall to pieces](#)  
[fit to be tied](#)  
[fixing to](#)  
[frightened to death](#)  
[from hand to mouth](#)  
[from pillar to post](#)  
[from rags to riches](#)  
[from soup to nuts](#)  
[from stem to stern](#)  
[from time to time](#)  
[get around to](#)  
[get down to brass tacks](#)  
[get down to business](#)  
[get off to a good start](#)  
[get to first base](#)  
[get to it](#)  
[get to me](#)  
[get to the bottom of](#)  
[get to the point](#)  
[get to the root of the problem](#)  
[give it to him](#)  
[give it to me straight](#)  
[glued to the set](#)  
[go to any trouble](#)  
[go to bat for](#)  
[go to great lengths/ go to any lengths](#)  
[go to hell \[B\]](#)  
[go to hell in a handbasket](#)  
[go to pieces](#)  
[go to pot](#)  
[go to town](#)  
[go to trouble](#)  
[go to your head](#)

[going to the mountains](#)

[going to town](#)

[gone to pot](#)

[gone to the dogs](#)

[good to go](#)

[grab a bite to eat](#)

[Greek to me](#)

[grind to a halt](#)

[groaty to the max](#)

[had it up to here](#)

[hand to mouth](#)

[hang you out to dry](#)

[hard row to hoe](#)

[hard to believe](#)

[hard to get](#)

[hard to swallow](#)

[hard to take](#)

[have a mind to](#)

[have half a mind to](#)

[have to](#)

[have to go](#)

[have to go some](#)

[have to hand it to you](#)

[heavens to Betsy](#)

[hell to pay \[B\]](#)

[here's to](#)

[if you're born to hang, you won't drown](#)

[it appears to me](#)

[it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all](#)

[it occurs to me](#)

[it seems to me](#)

[it takes one to know one](#)

[it takes two to tango](#)

[it was Greek to me](#)

[it's up to you](#)

[jump to conclusions](#)

[keep it to yourself](#)

[keep to yourself](#)

[keep your ear to the ground](#)

[keep your nose to the grindstone](#)

[knee high to a grasshopper](#)

[led to believe](#)

[let it go to your head](#)  
[live up to](#)  
[loaded to the hilt](#)  
[look up to](#)  
[make yourself to home](#)  
[money to burn](#)  
[more power to you](#)  
[move you to tears](#)  
[music to my ears](#)  
[need money to make...](#)  
[needless to say](#)  
[no truth to it](#)  
[not to worry](#)  
[nothing to it](#)  
[nothing to sneeze at](#)  
[nothing to write home about](#)  
[off to a bad start](#)  
[off to a good start](#)  
[off to the races](#)  
[open to criticism](#)  
[open to question](#)  
[other fish to fry](#)  
[out to get you](#)  
[out to lunch](#)  
[out to win](#)  
[party to that](#)  
[pedal to the metal](#)  
[piano tied to your ass \[B\]](#)  
[pinch to grow an inch](#)  
[pissed to the gills \[B\]](#)  
[play hard to get](#)  
[play to the crowd](#)  
[power to burn](#)  
[praise him to the skies](#)  
[preach to the choir/preach to the converted](#)  
[price you have to pay](#)  
[push me \(to the limit\)](#)  
[put an end to](#)  
[put to bed \(print media\)](#)  
[put to death](#)  
[put to rest](#)  
[put to shame](#)

[put to the test](#)  
[put your mind to it](#)  
[put your shoulder to the wheel](#)  
[rags to riches](#)  
[reduce to tears](#)  
[relate to that](#)  
[rise to the occasion](#)  
[road to hell is paved...](#)  
[rob Peter to pay Paul](#)  
[rotten to the core](#)  
[same to you](#)  
[scared to death](#)  
[score to settle](#)  
[see eye to eye](#)  
[see to it/see to that](#)  
[sentence to death](#)  
[set out to](#)  
[shoulder to shoulder](#)  
[shoulder to the wheel](#)  
[shuck on down to the fraidy hole](#)  
[sick to death](#)  
[sick to my stomach](#)  
[sloshed to the gills](#)  
[so small you had to back out to change your mind](#)  
[so to speak](#)  
[sock it to me](#)  
[stand to lose](#)  
[stand up to](#)  
[stem to stern](#)  
[step up to the plate](#)  
[stick to it](#)  
[stick to your guns](#)  
[suck up to](#)  
[take a shine to](#)  
[take exception to](#)  
[take it to heart](#)  
[take my hat off to](#)  
[take time to smell the roses](#)  
[take you to court](#)  
[take you to task](#)  
[take you to the cleaners](#)  
[takes one to know one](#)

[takes two to tango](#)  
[talk to the hand](#)  
[tell him where to get off](#)  
[tell him where to go](#)  
[the key to success](#)  
[the price you have to pay](#)  
[the road to hell is paved with good intentions](#)  
[the room is so small you have to go outside turn around](#)  
[the way to a man's heart is through his stomach](#)  
[there are two sides to every story](#)  
[there's a catch to it](#)  
[there's more than one way to skin a cat](#)  
[there's not much to choose between them](#)  
[there's nothing to it](#)  
[three sheets to the wind](#)  
[throw caution to the wind](#)  
[throw you to the dogs](#)  
[tied to your mother's apron strings](#)  
[time to kill](#)  
[time to time](#)  
[to a fault](#)  
[to a man](#)  
[to a T](#)  
[to be perfectly honest](#)  
[to beat the band](#)  
[to blame](#)  
[to boot](#)  
[to coin a phrase](#)  
[to each his own](#)  
[to go](#)  
[to heart](#)  
[to hell and gone](#)  
[to hell with that \[B\]](#)  
[to perfection](#)  
[to the best of my knowledge](#)  
[to the max](#)  
[to the nth degree](#)  
[to top it off](#)  
[too hot to handle](#)  
[tough act to follow](#)  
[tough row to hoe](#)  
[twig to that](#)

[two sides to every story](#)[up to](#)[up to date](#)[up to it](#)[up to my ears](#)[up to no good](#)[up to par](#)[up to scratch](#)[up to snuff](#)[up to something](#)[up to speed](#)[up to you](#)[used to](#)[wait for the other shoe to drop](#)[want to make something of it](#)[way to go](#)[well to do](#)[went to bat for](#)[what did I do to deserve this](#)[what it boils down to](#)[when it comes to](#)[when push comes to shove](#)[where angels fear to tread](#)[wise to us](#)[word to the wise](#)[work my fingers to the bone](#)[work to rule](#)[you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink](#)[you had to be there](#)[you have to be good to be lucky](#)[you need money to make money](#)[you've got to be kidding](#)

to-do

[make a big to-do](#)[to-do](#)

toast

[toast](#)

toe

[camel toes \[B\]](#)[on your toes](#)[step on their toes](#)[toe the line](#)

[twinkle toes](#)

together

[birds of a feather flock together](#)

[get it together](#)

[get together](#)

[get your act together](#)

[get your head together](#)

[get your shit together \[B\]](#)

[lump together](#)

[pull together](#)

[pull yourself together](#)

[together](#)

toke

[toke up](#)

token

[a token gesture](#)

[by the same token](#)

[token gesture](#)

told

[a little bird told me](#)

[little bird told me](#)

toledo

[holy Toledo](#)

tomorrow

[there's no tomorrow](#)

ton

[come down on like a ton of bricks](#)

[like a ton of bricks](#)

[ton of bricks](#)

[tons](#)

tone

[tone down](#)

toney

[toney neighborhood](#)

tongs

[hammer and tongs](#)

tongue

[a sharp tongue](#)

[a slip of the tongue](#)

[bite your tongue](#)

[cat got your tongue](#)

[find my tongue](#)

[hold your tongue](#)

[lose your tongue](#)  
[on the tip of my tongue](#)  
[roll off the tongue](#)  
[slip of the tongue](#)  
[tip of my tongue](#)  
[tongue in cheek](#)

tongue-lashing

[a tongue-lashing](#)  
[tongue-lashing](#)

tonsil

[tonsil hockey](#)

too

[Dear Dad, No mon, no fun, your son! Dear Son, So sad, too bad, your dad!](#)  
[go too far](#)  
[have your cake and eat it, too](#)  
[not too shabby](#)  
[put too fine a point on](#)  
[too bad](#)  
[too big for his britches](#)  
[too deep for me](#)  
[too far gone](#)  
[too hot to handle](#)  
[too little too late](#)  
[too many chiefs and not enough Indians](#)  
[too many cooks spoil the broth](#)

toodlestoodle-oo

[toodles/toodle-oo](#)

tool

[tool around](#)

toot

[toot your own horn](#)

tooth

[a sweet tooth](#)  
[an eye for an eye \(a tooth for a tooth\)](#)  
[fight tooth and nail](#)  
[long in the tooth](#)  
[sweet tooth](#)  
[tooth and nail](#)

tooting

[darn tooting](#)

top

[at the top of her game](#)

[at the top of his voice](#)

[off the top of my head](#)

[on top of](#)

[over the top](#)

[to top it off](#)

[top dog](#)

[top drawer](#)

[top it off](#)

[top it up](#)

[top notch](#)

[top of the morning](#)

[top secret](#)

[top that](#)

topic

[a hot topic](#)

[hot topic](#)

[off topic](#)

toss

[toss it around](#)

toss-up

[it's a toss-up](#)

[toss-up](#)

total

[a total stranger](#)

[total stranger](#)

totally

[totally awesome](#)

totem

[low on the totem pole](#)

[totem pole](#)

touch

[a soft touch](#)

[a touch of](#)

[finishing touch](#)

[in touch](#)

[keep in touch](#)

[lose your touch](#)

[out of touch](#)

[touch a drop](#)

[touch and go](#)

[touch base](#)

[touch it with a ten-foot pole](#)

[touch of](#)  
[touch off](#)  
[touch on](#)  
[touch up](#)  
[touch wood](#)  
[touch you](#)

touched

[touched](#)  
[touched in the head](#)

touches

[put the finishing touches on](#)

touchy

[touchy](#)

tough

[a tough act to follow](#)  
[a tough call](#)  
[a tough row to hoe](#)  
[a tough time of it](#)  
[hang tough](#)  
[in tough](#)  
[tough act to follow](#)  
[tough bananas](#)  
[tough call](#)  
[tough customer](#)  
[tough going](#)  
[tough luck](#)  
[tough on me](#)  
[tough row to hoe](#)  
[tough sledding](#)  
[tough tarts](#)  
[tough times](#)  
[tough titty](#)  
[when the going gets tough](#)

toughen

[toughen up](#)

towel

[throw in the towel](#)

tower

[a tower of strength](#)  
[tower of strength](#)

town

[do the town](#)

[get out of town](#)  
[go to town](#)  
[going to town](#)  
[hit town](#)  
[out on the town](#)  
[paint the town red](#)  
[run out of town](#)  
[the talk of the town](#)

toy

[toy with](#)

trace

[past is slipping by without a trace](#)  
[the past is slipping by without a trace](#)

track

[fast track](#)  
[inside track](#)  
[keep track](#)  
[keep you on track](#)  
[lose track](#)  
[make tracks](#)  
[off the beaten track](#)  
[on track](#)  
[stop you in your tracks](#)  
[the inside track](#)  
[track record](#)

trade

[jack of all trades](#)  
[stock in trade](#)  
[teach you the tricks of the trade](#)  
[the tricks of the trade](#)  
[trade insults](#)  
[trade secret](#)  
[tricks of the trade](#)

traffic

[brain traffic](#)  
[hit and run \(traffic\)](#)  
[traffic jam](#)

trail

[a paper trail](#)  
[hot on the trail](#)

train

[gravy train](#)

[lose my train of thought](#)  
[train of thought](#)

tranny

[tranny](#)

trap

[fall into a trap](#)

trash

[trash](#)  
[trash the place](#)

tread

[angels fear to tread](#)  
[where angels fear to tread](#)

treat

[Dutch treat](#)

treatment

[royal treatment](#)

tree

[bark up the wrong tree](#)  
[can't see the forest for the trees](#)  
[family tree](#)  
[money doesn't grow on trees](#)  
[out of your tree](#)  
[the apple doesn't fall far from the tree](#)

trendy

[trendy](#)

trial

[on trial](#)  
[trial and error](#)  
[trial balloon](#)  
[trial run](#)

tribute

[pay tribute](#)

trick

[bag of tricks](#)  
[do the trick](#)  
[every trick in the book](#)  
[hat trick](#)  
[how's tricks](#)  
[play a trick on](#)  
[teach you the tricks of the trade](#)  
[the tricks of the trade](#)  
[tricks of the trade](#)  
[you can't teach an old dog new tricks](#)

trickle-down	<a href="#">trickle-down economics</a>
tried	<a href="#">tried and true</a>
trifle	<a href="#">trifle with me</a>
trip	<a href="#">ego trip</a> <a href="#">lay a trip</a> <a href="#">power trip</a>
trouble	<a href="#">don't borrow trouble</a> <a href="#">get into trouble</a> <a href="#">go to any trouble</a> <a href="#">go to trouble</a> <a href="#">in deep trouble</a> <a href="#">in trouble</a> <a href="#">make trouble</a> <a href="#">take the trouble</a>
trucking	<a href="#">keep on trucking</a>
true	<a href="#">come true</a> <a href="#">tried and true</a> <a href="#">true blue</a> <a href="#">true colors</a>
truly	<a href="#">yours truly</a>
truth	<a href="#">a grain of truth</a> <a href="#">gospel truth</a> <a href="#">moment of truth</a> <a href="#">no truth to it</a> <a href="#">stretch the truth</a> <a href="#">the gospel truth</a> <a href="#">the moment of truth</a>
try	<a href="#">the old college try</a> <a href="#">try it</a> <a href="#">try it on</a> <a href="#">try it out</a> <a href="#">try me</a>

[try out](#)  
[try that](#)  
[try that on for size](#)  
[try your darndest](#)  
[try your hand at](#)  
[try your luck](#)

tub

[run a tub](#)  
[tub of guts](#)

tube

[down the tubes](#)  
[tube head](#)  
[tube him](#)

tubular

[tubular](#)

tuck

[nip and tuck](#)

tuckered

[tuckered out](#)

tump

[tump](#)

tune

[carry a tune](#)  
[change your tune](#)  
[in tune \(music\)](#)  
[in tune](#)  
[out of tune \(music\)](#)  
[tune in](#)  
[tune me out](#)  
[tune up](#)

tuned

[tuned in](#)

tunnel

[light at the end of the tunnel](#)  
[tunnel vision](#)

turd

[King Shit on Turd Island](#)

turf

[turf it](#)

turkey

[cold turkey](#)  
[talk turkey](#)  
[turkey](#)

turn

- [done to a turn](#)
- [it's your turn](#)
- [take your turn](#)
- [the room is so small you have to go outside turn around](#)
- [the turn of the century](#)
- [turn a blind eye](#)
- [turn a profit](#)
- [turn about is fair play](#)
- [turn down](#)
- [turn in](#)
- [turn into](#)
- [turn of the century](#)
- [turn on a dime](#)
- [turn on you](#)
- [turn out](#)
- [turn over a new leaf](#)
- [turn the air blue](#)
- [turn the corner](#)
- [turn the other cheek](#)
- [turn the other way](#)
- [turn the tables on](#)
- [turn ugly](#)
- [turn up](#)
- [turn up your nose at](#)
- [turn you around](#)
- [turn you on](#)
- [turn your back on](#)
- [turn your crank](#)
- [turn your stomach](#)
- [turn yourself in](#)
- [your turn](#)

turn-on

- [turn-on](#)

turncoat

- [turncoat](#)

turned

- [the tide turned](#)
- [tide turned](#)

turning

- [the turning point](#)
- [turning point](#)

[without turning a hair](#)

turnout

[turnout](#)

tv

[a blackout \(TV\)](#)

tweak

[tweak](#)

twenties

[Roaring Twenties](#)

twerp

[twerp](#)

twig

[twig to that](#)

twiggy

[twiggy](#)

twilight

[twilight years](#)

twinkle

[twinkle toes](#)

twist

[twist my arm](#)

[twist of fate](#)

[twist your words](#)

twit

[twit](#)

twixt

[there's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip](#)

two

[a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush](#)

[fall between two stools](#)

[in two shakes \(of a lamb's tail\)](#)

[it takes two to tango](#)

[kill two birds \(with one stone\)](#)

[lesser of two evils](#)

[of two minds](#)

[one for the money, two for the show...](#)

[takes two to tango](#)

[tell him a thing or two](#)

[there are two sides to every story](#)

[there's no two ways about it](#)

[two abreast](#)

[two bits](#)

[two cents' worth](#)

[two for one](#)  
[two heads are better than one](#)  
[two left feet](#)  
[two pee holes in the snow](#)  
[two sides to every story](#)  
[two's company, three's a crowd](#)

two-fisted

[two-fisted attack](#)

type

[heavy metal types](#)  
[the strong, silent type](#)

typo

[typo](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Index U

u-turn	<a href="#">U-turn</a>
ugly	<a href="#">turn ugly</a>
uh-huh	<a href="#">uh-huh</a>
uh-uh	<a href="#">uh-uh</a>
umbrage	<a href="#">take umbrage</a>
uncertain	<a href="#">in no uncertain terms</a>
uncle	<a href="#">Bob's your uncle</a> <a href="#">I'll be a monkey's uncle</a> <a href="#">monkey's uncle</a>
under	<a href="#">buckle under</a> <a href="#">cool under pressure</a> <a href="#">crack under the strain</a> <a href="#">down under</a> <a href="#">drink you under the table</a> <a href="#">get under my skin</a> <a href="#">go under</a> <a href="#">hot under the collar</a> <a href="#">keep under wraps</a> <a href="#">start a fire under him</a> <a href="#">sweep under the carpet</a> <a href="#">under a spell</a> <a href="#">under arrest</a> <a href="#">under control</a> <a href="#">under fire</a> <a href="#">under his own steam</a> <a href="#">under my belt</a> <a href="#">under my breath</a>

[under my care](#)  
[under my nose](#)  
[under my skin](#)  
[under my wing](#)  
[under oath](#)  
[under pressure](#)  
[under the influence of alcohol](#)  
[under the table](#)  
[under the weather](#)  
[under the wire](#)  
[under way](#)  
[under wraps](#)  
[under your thumb](#)  
[water under the bridge](#)  
[went under](#)

underdog

[underdog](#)

underground

[the underground](#)

underhanded

[underhanded](#)

undoing

[be my undoing](#)

undone

[come undone](#)

unglued

[come unglued](#)

unsung

[unsung hero](#)

until

[do me for/do me until](#)[until you're blue...](#)

unto

[do unto others as you would have them do unto you](#)

unturned

[leave no stone unturned](#)[stone unturned](#)

up

[a leg up](#)[act up](#)[all fired up](#)[all it's cracked up to be](#)[all shook up](#)

[all spruced up](#)  
[all teed up](#)  
[all washed up](#)  
[an ace up your sleeve](#)  
[ante up](#)  
[back up](#)  
[bark up the wrong tree](#)  
[beat up](#)  
[beat up on](#)  
[beef it up](#)  
[belly up](#)  
[belly up to the bar](#)  
[blood is up](#)  
[blow it up \(photo\)](#)  
[blow up](#)  
[bone up on](#)  
[booked/booked up](#)  
[boot up](#)  
[bottle up](#)  
[bottoms up](#)  
[break up](#)  
[bring up](#)  
[bring you up short](#)  
[brush up on](#)  
[buck up](#)  
[buckle up](#)  
[build up](#)  
[bundle up](#)  
[burn up](#)  
[butter up](#)  
[buy up](#)  
[call up](#)  
[catch up](#)  
[catch up on](#)  
[catch up with](#)  
[caught up](#)  
[chalk it up to](#)  
[chalk one up for you](#)  
[chat her up](#)  
[check up on](#)  
[choose up sides](#)  
[clam up](#)

[clean up](#)  
[clean up on](#)  
[clean up your act](#)  
[clean up your plate](#)  
[clear up](#)  
[come up](#)  
[come up with](#)  
[coming up roses](#)  
[cough up](#)  
[cover up](#)  
[crack me up](#)  
[crank it up](#)  
[crop up](#)  
[curl up with a good book](#)  
[dig it up](#)  
[do up](#)  
[doctor it/doctor it up](#)  
[doesn't add up](#)  
[dolled up](#)  
[don't know which end is up](#)  
[dress up](#)  
[drink up](#)  
[drive me up the wall](#)  
[drum up](#)  
[dry up](#)  
[ease up](#)  
[eat it up](#)  
[eat up](#)  
[end up](#)  
[even up](#)  
[face up](#)  
[fed up](#)  
[fill her up](#)  
[fill up](#)  
[fired up](#)  
[first up](#)  
[freshen up](#)  
[fuck up \[B\]](#)  
[full up](#)  
[gang up on](#)  
[gear up](#)  
[get caught up](#)

[get up a head of steam](#)  
[get up on the wrong side of bed](#)  
[get worked up](#)  
[get your back up](#)  
[get your dander up](#)  
[get your hopes up](#)  
[give up](#)  
[give up the blue line \(hockey\)](#)  
[give up the ghost](#)  
[go up in smoke](#)  
[goof up](#)  
[grow up](#)  
[gussied up](#)  
[had it up to here](#)  
[ham it up](#)  
[hands up](#)  
[hard up](#)  
[haul up on the carpet](#)  
[head up](#)  
[head up there](#)  
[hold up](#)  
[hold you up](#)  
[hole up](#)  
[hook up with](#)  
[hop up](#)  
[horse shoes up his ass \[B\]](#)  
[hurry up](#)  
[hush up](#)  
[hushed up](#)  
[it's up to you](#)  
[jazz up](#)  
[jig is up](#)  
[join up](#)  
[keep it up](#)  
[keep up](#)  
[keep up the good work](#)  
[keep up with the Joneses](#)  
[keep up with the times](#)  
[kick up a fuss](#)  
[kick up your heels](#)  
[knock up \[B\]](#)  
[know which end is up](#)

[laid up](#)  
[land up](#)  
[lap up](#)  
[laugh up your sleeve](#)  
[leg up](#)  
[let up](#)  
[light up](#)  
[lighten up](#)  
[line up](#)  
[liquored up](#)  
[listen up](#)  
[live it up](#)  
[live up to](#)  
[liven up](#)  
[lock you up](#)  
[look up a dead horse's ass \[B\]](#)  
[look up to](#)  
[look up/look it up](#)  
[looking up](#)  
[make up](#)  
[make up for](#)  
[make up your mind](#)  
[measure up](#)  
[meet up with](#)  
[mess up](#)  
[messed up](#)  
[mix it up](#)  
[mix up](#)  
[mix you up](#)  
[mop up](#)  
[not all it's cracked up...](#)  
[number is up](#)  
[on the up and up](#)  
[open up](#)  
[open up a big can of whoop-ass](#)  
[own up](#)  
[pair off/pair up](#)  
[pass up](#)  
[patch things up](#)  
[pay up](#)  
[perk up](#)  
[pick up](#)

[pick up the pace](#)  
[pick up the pieces](#)  
[pick up the tab](#)  
[pick you up](#)  
[pick yourself up](#)  
[play it up](#)  
[pony up](#)  
[pop up](#)  
[psyched/psyched up](#)  
[pull up stakes](#)  
[pull up your socks](#)  
[pumped/pumped up](#)  
[pushing up daisies](#)  
[put 'em up](#)  
[put them up](#)  
[put up or shut up](#)  
[put up the money](#)  
[put up with](#)  
[rack up](#)  
[read up on](#)  
[rile up](#)  
[rough up](#)  
[round up](#)  
[rug up](#)  
[run up](#)  
[saddle up](#)  
[screw up](#)  
[send him up](#)  
[set up shop](#)  
[set you up](#)  
[shack up \[B\]](#)  
[shape up](#)  
[shape up or ship out](#)  
[sharpen up](#)  
[shoot up](#)  
[show up](#)  
[show you up](#)  
[shut up](#)  
[sign up](#)  
[sing up a storm](#)  
[size up](#)  
[slip up](#)

[smarten up](#)  
[sober up](#)  
[soften up](#)  
[speak up](#)  
[speed up](#)  
[spice up](#)  
[split up](#)  
[spruced up](#)  
[square up](#)  
[stack up](#)  
[stand up](#)  
[stand up and be counted](#)  
[stand up for](#)  
[stand up to](#)  
[start up](#)  
[stay up](#)  
[steam up](#)  
[step up to the plate](#)  
[stick it up your ass \[B\]](#)  
[stick them up](#)  
[stick up for](#)  
[straight up](#)  
[strike up a conversation](#)  
[strike up the band](#)  
[suck it up](#)  
[suck up to](#)  
[take up](#)  
[take up cudgels](#)  
[take up the slack](#)  
[talk it up](#)  
[tanked/tanked up](#)  
[team up](#)  
[teed up](#)  
[the jig's up](#)  
[things are looking up](#)  
[think up](#)  
[throw up](#)  
[tie up](#)  
[tie up loose ends](#)  
[tied up](#)  
[time's up](#)  
[tits up \[B\]](#)

[toke up](#)  
[top it up](#)  
[touch up](#)  
[toughen up](#)  
[tune up](#)  
[turn up](#)  
[turn up your nose at](#)  
[up a storm](#)  
[up against](#)  
[up against it](#)  
[up and coming](#)  
[up and running](#)  
[up for grabs](#)  
[up for it](#)  
[up for sale](#)  
[up front](#)  
[up in arms](#)  
[up in smoke](#)  
[up in the air](#)  
[up on](#)  
[up shit creek \[B\]](#)  
[up the ante](#)  
[up the creek](#)  
[up the stump \[B\]](#)  
[up the wahoozey](#)  
[up to](#)  
[up to date](#)  
[up to it](#)  
[up to my ears](#)  
[up to no good](#)  
[up to par](#)  
[up to scratch](#)  
[up to snuff](#)  
[up to something](#)  
[up to speed](#)  
[up to you](#)  
[up with](#)  
[up your alley](#)  
[up your sleeve](#)  
[up yours \[B\]](#)  
[use up](#)  
[wait up](#)

[wait up for](#)  
[wake up](#)  
[wake up and smell the coffee](#)  
[wake up on the wrong side of bed](#)  
[walk up](#)  
[warm up](#)  
[washed up](#)  
[what's up](#)  
[wind up](#)  
[work up a sweat](#)  
[work up a thirst](#)  
[worked up](#)  
[wound up](#)  
[wrap it up](#)  
[wrap up](#)  
[write up](#)  
[your number is up](#)

upcash

[cash up/cash out](#)

upchuck

[upchuck](#)

uphill

[uphill battle](#)

uplook

[look up/look it up](#)

upon

[draw upon](#)  
[once upon a time](#)  
[upon my word](#)  
[upon the words offhandedly spoken](#)

upper

[a stiff upper lip](#)  
[keep a stiff upper lip](#)  
[stiff upper lip](#)  
[the upper hand](#)  
[upper crust](#)  
[upper hand](#)

upset

[upset the apple cart](#)

upside

[upside](#)

uptalk

[uptalk](#)

uptight

[uptight](#)

use

[no use for](#)[use up](#)

used

[used to](#)

useless

[as useless as a fifth wheel](#)[as useless as tits on a boar](#)[useless as a fifth wheel](#)[useless as the tits...](#)

user

[power user](#)[user friendly](#)

usual

[business as usual](#)

utmost

[do your utmost](#)

uzi

[pack Uzis](#)[Uzi](#)[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Index V

vacation	<a href="#">on vacation</a>
vale	<a href="#">vale of tears (valley of tears)</a>
valley	<a href="#">vale of tears (valley of tears)</a>
valor	<a href="#">discretion is the better part of valor</a>
value	<a href="#">at face value</a>
vamoose	<a href="#">vamoose</a>
variety	<a href="#">variety is the spice of life</a>
veg	<a href="#">vegetate (veg out)</a>
vegetate	<a href="#">vegetate (veg out)</a>
vein	<a href="#">in that vein</a>
ventured	<a href="#">nothing ventured, nothing gained</a>
verge	<a href="#">on the verge</a>
very	<a href="#">by its very nature</a>
vest	<a href="#">close to the vest</a>
victory	<a href="#">snatch victory from the jaws of defeat</a>
vie	<a href="#">c'est la vie</a>
view	<a href="#">in plain view</a> <a href="#">point of view</a>

vinegar	<a href="#">full of piss and vinegar [B]</a>
violet	<a href="#">no shrinking violet</a> <a href="#">shrinking violet</a>
vip	<a href="#">VIP</a>
virgin	<a href="#">skin virgin</a> <a href="#">virgin territory</a>
virtual	<a href="#">virtual reality</a>
vision	<a href="#">tunnel vision</a>
visit	<a href="#">pay a visit</a> <a href="#">visit a spell</a>
voice	<a href="#">at the top of his voice</a> <a href="#">find your voice</a>
volumes	<a href="#">speak volumes</a>
vote	<a href="#">cast your vote</a> <a href="#">vote of thanks</a>

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Index W

wack	
	<a href="#">wack</a>
wacko	
	<a href="#">wacko</a>
wacky	
	<a href="#">wacky</a>
wad	
	<a href="#">blow your wad</a> <a href="#">shoot your wad</a>
wag	
	<a href="#">a chin wag</a> <a href="#">chin wag</a>
wages	
	<a href="#">freeze wages</a>
wagging	
	<a href="#">tail wagging the dog</a> <a href="#">the tail wagging the dog</a>
wagon	
	<a href="#">fall off the wagon</a> <a href="#">fix your wagon</a> <a href="#">off the wagon</a> <a href="#">on the wagon</a> <a href="#">shagging wagon</a>
wahoozey	
	<a href="#">up the wahoozey</a>
wait	
	<a href="#">wait a minute</a> <a href="#">wait a sec</a> <a href="#">wait around</a> <a href="#">wait for the other shoe to drop</a> <a href="#">wait on customers</a> <a href="#">wait on tables</a> <a href="#">wait on you hand and foot</a> <a href="#">wait up</a> <a href="#">wait up for</a>

	<a href="#">wait with bated breath</a>
wake	
	<a href="#">wake up</a>
	<a href="#">wake up and smell the coffee</a>
	<a href="#">wake up on the wrong side of bed</a>
	<a href="#">wake with a start</a>
wake-up	
	<a href="#">a wake-up call</a>
	<a href="#">wake-up call</a>
walk	
	<a href="#">all walks of life</a>
	<a href="#">every walk of life</a>
	<a href="#">walk</a>
	<a href="#">walk a straight line</a>
	<a href="#">walk down</a>
	<a href="#">walk of life</a>
	<a href="#">walk on eggshells</a>
	<a href="#">walk the plank</a>
	<a href="#">walk the talk</a>
	<a href="#">walk through</a>
	<a href="#">walk up</a>
	<a href="#">worship the ground she walks on</a>
walk-through	
	<a href="#">walk-through</a>
wall	
	<a href="#">a fly on the wall</a>
	<a href="#">beat your head against a stone wall</a>
	<a href="#">climb the walls</a>
	<a href="#">drive me up the wall</a>
	<a href="#">fly on the wall</a>
	<a href="#">off the wall</a>
	<a href="#">the handwriting is on the wall</a>
	<a href="#">wall flower</a>
wane	
	<a href="#">on the wane</a>
want	
	<a href="#">don't want to go there</a>
	<a href="#">go tell your mother she wants you</a>
	<a href="#">want a piece of me</a>
	<a href="#">want it so bad I can taste it</a>
	<a href="#">want to make something of it</a>
	<a href="#">waste not, want not</a>

war	<a href="#">a blackout (war)</a> <a href="#">all's fair in love and war</a> <a href="#">make war</a>
warhorse	<a href="#">an old warhorse</a>
warm	<a href="#">warm up</a>
warmed	<a href="#">death warmed over</a> <a href="#">look like death warmed over</a> <a href="#">warmed over</a>
warped	<a href="#">warped sense of humor</a>
was	<a href="#">air was blue</a> <a href="#">it was a lark</a> <a href="#">it was Greek to me</a> <a href="#">look like he was dragged through a knothole</a> <a href="#">the air was blue</a> <a href="#">what was I thinking of</a> <a href="#">wouldn't say shit if her mouth was full of it [B]</a>
wash	<a href="#">a wash</a> <a href="#">come out in the wash</a> <a href="#">doesn't wash</a> <a href="#">wash</a> <a href="#">wash down</a> <a href="#">wash it down</a> <a href="#">wash it off</a> <a href="#">wash out</a> <a href="#">wash your hands of it</a>
wash-out	<a href="#">a wash-out</a> <a href="#">wash-out</a>
washed	<a href="#">all washed up</a> <a href="#">washed up</a>
washer	<a href="#">chief cook and bottle washer</a>
wasn't	<a href="#">wasn't born yesterday</a>
wasp	

	<a href="#">WASP</a>
waste	<a href="#">lay waste</a> <a href="#">waste no time</a> <a href="#">waste not, want not</a>
wasted	<a href="#">wasted</a>
wasting	<a href="#">time's a wasting</a>
watch	<a href="#">shit or wind my watch</a> <a href="#">watch me like a hawk</a> <a href="#">watch out</a> <a href="#">watch out for</a> <a href="#">watch over</a> <a href="#">watch over like a mother hawk</a> <a href="#">watch your every move</a> <a href="#">watch your language</a> <a href="#">watch your P's and Q's</a> <a href="#">watch your step</a>
water	<a href="#">blood is thicker than water</a> <a href="#">blow you out of the water</a> <a href="#">come hell or high water</a> <a href="#">dead in the water</a> <a href="#">hold water</a> <a href="#">in hot water</a> <a href="#">keep your head above water</a> <a href="#">make your mouth water</a> <a href="#">miss the water till...</a> <a href="#">pass water</a> <a href="#">running water</a> <a href="#">test the water</a> <a href="#">throw cold water on</a> <a href="#">throw the baby out with the bath water</a> <a href="#">water down</a> <a href="#">water under the bridge</a> <a href="#">you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink</a> <a href="#">you don't miss the water till the well runs dry</a>
water-cooler	<a href="#">water-cooler talk</a>
watering	

	<a href="#">watering hole</a>
watershed	
	<a href="#">mark a watershed</a> <a href="#">watershed mark</a>
wave	
	<a href="#">catch the wave</a> <a href="#">don't make waves</a> <a href="#">make waves</a> <a href="#">new wave</a> <a href="#">ride the wave</a>
wavelength	
	<a href="#">on the same wavelength</a>
wax	
	<a href="#">the whole ball of wax</a> <a href="#">wax eloquent</a> <a href="#">wax poetic</a>
way	
	<a href="#">a way with words</a> <a href="#">all the way to Egery and back</a> <a href="#">any way you slice it</a> <a href="#">by the way</a> <a href="#">can't have it both ways</a> <a href="#">do it the hard way</a> <a href="#">find a way around</a> <a href="#">find your way</a> <a href="#">get her way</a> <a href="#">get your way</a> <a href="#">go all the way (sex)</a> <a href="#">go all the way (sports)</a> <a href="#">go out of your way</a> <a href="#">go the way of the dodo</a> <a href="#">have it both ways</a> <a href="#">have it your way</a> <a href="#">hold your mouth the right way</a> <a href="#">in a bad way</a> <a href="#">in a big way</a> <a href="#">in a family way</a> <a href="#">in any way, shape or form</a> <a href="#">in the worst way</a> <a href="#">know your way around</a> <a href="#">look the other way</a> <a href="#">make way</a>

[make your way](#)  
[meet you half way](#)  
[no bloody way](#)  
[no fucking way \[B\]](#)  
[no way](#)  
[on my way](#)  
[on your way](#)  
[out of harm's way](#)  
[out of the way](#)  
[pave the way](#)  
[pay your way](#)  
[rub the wrong way](#)  
[see your way](#)  
[set in her ways](#)  
[take it the wrong way](#)  
[that's the way the ball bounces](#)  
[that's the way the cookie crumbles](#)  
[the hard way](#)  
[the way I see it](#)  
[the way to a man's heart is through his stomach](#)  
[the way you hold your mouth](#)  
[there's more than one way to skin a cat](#)  
[there's no two ways about it](#)  
[turn the other way](#)  
[under way](#)  
[way cool](#)  
[way out \(away out\)](#)  
[way out of line \(away out of line\)](#)  
[way to go](#)  
[way you hold your...](#)  
[where there's a will, there's a way](#)

we

[know where we stand](#)

weak-kneed

[weak-kneed](#)

wear

[if the shoe fits, wear it](#)  
[none the worse for wear](#)  
[wear down](#)  
[wear off](#)  
[wear out](#)  
[wear out your welcome](#)

	<a href="#">wear the pants</a>
	<a href="#">wear your heart on your sleeve</a>
	<a href="#">worse for wear</a>
weasel	
	<a href="#">weasel word</a>
weather	
	<a href="#">under the weather</a>
	<a href="#">weather the storm</a>
web	
	<a href="#">World Wide Web (www)</a>
weed	
	<a href="#">kick the weed</a>
	<a href="#">weed out</a>
weep	
	<a href="#">read them and weep</a>
weigh	
	<a href="#">weigh in at</a>
weight	
	<a href="#">carry weight</a>
	<a href="#">carry your weight</a>
	<a href="#">pull your weight</a>
	<a href="#">throw your weight around</a>
	<a href="#">worth their weight in gold</a>
weirdo	
	<a href="#">weirdo</a>
wekabi	
	<a href="#">wekabi</a>
welcome	
	<a href="#">more than welcome</a>
	<a href="#">wear out your welcome</a>
well	
	<a href="#">all goes well</a>
	<a href="#">all's well that ends well</a>
	<a href="#">bloody well</a>
	<a href="#">leave well enough alone</a>
	<a href="#">mean well</a>
	<a href="#">point is well taken</a>
	<a href="#">well heeled</a>
	<a href="#">well hung [B]</a>
	<a href="#">well off</a>
	<a href="#">well taken</a>
	<a href="#">well to do</a>
	<a href="#">you don't miss the water till the well runs dry</a>

went

[went through the roof](#)[went to bat for](#)[went under](#)[went wild](#)

were

[times were hard](#)

wet

[all wet](#)[get your feet wet](#)[still wet behind the ears](#)[wet behind the ears](#)[wet the bed](#)[wet your whistle](#)

whack

[out of whack](#)[whack](#)[whack off \[B\]](#)

whale

[a whale of a game](#)[whale of a game](#)

whammy

[double whammy](#)

what

[give them what for](#)[give you what for](#)[got what it takes](#)[have what it takes](#)[it's not what you know, it's who you know](#)[practice what you preach](#)[reap what you sow](#)[say what](#)[say what's on your mind](#)[so what](#)[what a brain](#)[what a dish](#)[what a rigmarole](#)[what a rush](#)[what came over me](#)[what did I do to deserve this](#)[what gives](#)[what goes around comes around](#)

[what if](#)  
[what in tarnation](#)  
[what in the name of heaven](#)  
[what in the world](#)  
[what it boils down to](#)  
[what the dickens](#)  
[what the hay](#)  
[what the heck](#)  
[what the hell \[B\]](#)  
[what the Sam Hill](#)  
[what was I thinking of](#)  
[what you don't know won't hurt you](#)  
[what's cooking](#)  
[what's eating you](#)  
[what's going down](#)  
[what's going on](#)  
[what's good for the goose is good for the gander](#)  
[what's in it for me](#)  
[what's new](#)  
[what's the big idea](#)  
[what's the poop](#)  
[what's up](#)  
[what's what](#)  
[what's your beef](#)  
[what's your poison](#)

what's-his-face

[what's-his-face](#)

what-cha-ma-call-it

[what-cha-ma-call-it](#)

what-if

[what-if](#)

whatever

[whatever floats your boat](#)

whatsoever

[you reap whatsoever you sow](#)

wheatbelt

[wheatbelt](#)

wheel

[a big wheel](#)

[a fifth wheel](#)

[as useless as a fifth wheel](#)

[at the wheel](#)

[big wheel](#)  
[fifth wheel](#)  
[put your shoulder to the wheel](#)  
[set of wheels](#)  
[shoulder to the wheel](#)  
[spin your wheels](#)  
[the squeaky wheel gets the grease](#)  
[the wheels fall off](#)  
[useless as a fifth wheel](#)  
[wheels](#)  
[wheels fall off](#)

wheeler-dealer

[wheeler-dealer](#)

when

[cross that bridge when I come to it](#)  
[time flies when you're having fun](#)  
[when in Rome, do as the Romans do](#)  
[when it comes to](#)  
[when it rains it pours](#)  
[when push comes to shove](#)  
[when the chips are down](#)  
[when the crunch comes](#)  
[when the dust settles](#)  
[when the going gets tough](#)  
[zig when you should zag](#)

where

[I smell where you're stepping](#)  
[know where we stand](#)  
[let the chips fall where they may](#)  
[love is where you find it](#)  
[put your money where your mouth is](#)  
[smell where you're stepping](#)  
[tell him where to get off](#)  
[tell him where to go](#)  
[where angels fear to tread](#)  
[where do they get off](#)  
[where it's at](#)  
[where the rubber hits the road](#)  
[where there's a will, there's a way](#)  
[where's the loo](#)

whet

[whet your appetite](#)

whether

[don't know whether you're coming or going](#)

whew

[whew](#)

which

[don't know which end is up](#)

[don't know which side your bread is buttered on](#)

[know which end is up](#)

[know which side your bread is buttered on](#)

while

[make hay while the sun shines](#)

[quit while you're ahead](#)

[strike while the iron is hot](#)

whip

[whip you](#)

[whip you into shape](#)

whipped

[pussy whipped](#)

whirl

[give it a whirl](#)

whistle

[all the bells and whistles](#)

[as clean as a whistle](#)

[bells and whistles](#)

[blow the whistle](#)

[wet your whistle](#)

white

[Great White Hope](#)

[Great White North](#)

[in black and white](#)

[little white lie](#)

[The Great White Hope](#)

[The Great White North](#)

[white elephant](#)

[white knuckles](#)

[white lie](#)

whiz

[gee whiz](#)

[have a whiz](#)

[take a whiz](#)

[whiz](#)

who

[dance with the one who brought you](#)

[he who hesitates is lost](#)

[it's not what you know, it's who you know](#)

[Joe Who](#)

[people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones](#)

[the Lord helps those who help themselves](#)

[who cares](#)

[who do you think you are](#)

whole

[it's a whole nother world out there](#)

[it's a whole other world out there](#)

[on the whole](#)

[the whole ball of wax](#)

[the whole caboodle](#)

[the whole nine yards](#)

[the whole shebang](#)

[the whole shooting match](#)

[the whole works](#)

[whole hog](#)

[whole shebang](#)

[whole shooting match](#)

whoop-ass

[open up a big can of whoop-ass](#)

whoopee

[make whoopee](#)

whore

[whore blossom](#)

whup

[whup you](#)

[whup your ass](#)

why

[why in the name of...](#)

[why in the world](#)

wicked

[no rest for the wicked](#)

[wicked](#)

wide

[cut a wide swath](#)

[wide awake](#)

[World Wide Web \(www\)](#)

wig

[a big wig](#)

[big wigs](#)

wild	<a href="#">a wild goose chase</a> <a href="#">go hog wild</a> <a href="#">go wild</a> <a href="#">sow wild oats</a> <a href="#">went wild</a> <a href="#">wild</a> <a href="#">wild about</a> <a href="#">wild and woolly</a> <a href="#">wild goose chase</a>
wildfire	<a href="#">spread like wildfire</a>
will	<a href="#">at will</a> <a href="#">boys will be boys</a> <a href="#">flattery will get you nowhere</a> <a href="#">heads will roll</a> <a href="#">if you're born to hang, you won't drown</a> <a href="#">paths will cross</a> <a href="#">what you don't know won't hurt you</a> <a href="#">where there's a will, there's a way</a> <a href="#">won't see you stuck</a> <a href="#">won't tell a soul</a>
willickers	<a href="#">gee willickers</a>
willy-nilly	<a href="#">willy-nilly</a>
wimp	<a href="#">wimp</a>
wimpy	<a href="#">wimpy</a>
win	<a href="#">out to win</a> <a href="#">win big</a> <a href="#">win by a nose</a> <a href="#">win going away</a> <a href="#">win the hearts</a>
wind	<a href="#">a breath of wind</a> <a href="#">breath of wind</a> <a href="#">get wind of</a> <a href="#">knock the wind out of his sails</a>

	<a href="#">like the wind</a> <a href="#">out of wind</a> <a href="#">pass wind</a> <a href="#">pissing into the wind [B]</a> <a href="#">second wind</a> <a href="#">shit or wind my watch</a> <a href="#">three sheets to the wind</a> <a href="#">throw caution to the wind</a> <a href="#">wind up</a>
windbag	<a href="#">windbag</a>
winded	<a href="#">winded</a>
window	<a href="#">a window of opportunity</a> <a href="#">open a window</a> <a href="#">window of opportunity</a> <a href="#">window on the world</a>
windstorm	<a href="#">a fart in a windstorm</a> <a href="#">fart in a windstorm [B]</a>
wing	<a href="#">on the wing</a> <a href="#">under my wing</a> <a href="#">wing it</a> <a href="#">with wings</a>
wingding	<a href="#">wingding</a>
wingnut	<a href="#">wingnut</a>
wingy	<a href="#">wingy</a>
wink	<a href="#">in the wink of an eye</a>
winner	<a href="#">winner take all</a>
winning	<a href="#">winning isn't everything; it's the only thing</a> <a href="#">winning streak</a>
wino	<a href="#">wino</a>
wipe	<a href="#">wipe out</a>

	<a href="#">wipe that smile off your face</a> <a href="#">wipe you</a>
wire	
	<a href="#">down to the wire</a> <a href="#">get your wires crossed</a> <a href="#">pull your wire [B]</a> <a href="#">under the wire</a>
wired	
	<a href="#">wired</a> <a href="#">wired for sound</a>
wise	
	<a href="#">a word to the wise is sufficient</a> <a href="#">penny wise, dollar dumb</a> <a href="#">penny wise, pound foolish</a> <a href="#">street wise</a> <a href="#">wise to us</a> <a href="#">word to the wise</a> <a href="#">worldly wise</a>
wish	
	<a href="#">death wish</a>
wishful	
	<a href="#">wishful thinking</a>
wishy-washy	
	<a href="#">wishy-washy</a>
wit	
	<a href="#">a sharp wit</a> <a href="#">at my wits' end</a> <a href="#">match wits</a> <a href="#">scared out of my wits</a>
with	
	<a href="#">a way with words</a> <a href="#">born with a silver spoon in his mouth</a> <a href="#">brush with death</a> <a href="#">brush with the law</a> <a href="#">catch up with</a> <a href="#">caught with his pants down</a> <a href="#">come down with</a> <a href="#">come out with</a> <a href="#">come to grips with</a> <a href="#">come to terms with</a> <a href="#">come up with</a> <a href="#">crawling with</a>

[curl up with a good book](#)  
[dance with the one who brought you](#)  
[do away with](#)  
[do with](#)  
[don't get smart with me](#)  
[done with it](#)  
[down with](#)  
[fight fire with fire](#)  
[friends with](#)  
[get away with](#)  
[get it over with](#)  
[get on with it](#)  
[get with it](#)  
[go along with](#)  
[go around with](#)  
[go out with](#)  
[go with the flow](#)  
[green with envy](#)  
[have a word with you](#)  
[hit me with your best shot](#)  
[hook up with](#)  
[if you're not with us you're against us](#)  
[in keeping with](#)  
[it goes with the territory](#)  
[it's over/ it's over with](#)  
[jump in with both feet](#)  
[keep up with the Joneses](#)  
[keep up with the times](#)  
[kill two birds \(with one stone\)](#)  
[knock around with](#)  
[knock me over with a feather](#)  
[level with you](#)  
[make off with](#)  
[meet up with](#)  
[mess with](#)  
[mop the floor with us](#)  
[not playing with a full deck](#)  
[not with it](#)  
[off with](#)  
[off with you](#)  
[over and done with](#)  
[over with](#)

[paint with the same brush](#)  
[part with](#)  
[play havoc with](#)  
[play with fire](#)  
[put up with](#)  
[roll with the punches](#)  
[rub shoulders with](#)  
[saddled with](#)  
[short with me](#)  
[sit with you](#)  
[start with a bang](#)  
[take it with a grain of salt](#)  
[take with a grain of salt](#)  
[tangle with](#)  
[tar with the same brush](#)  
[the road to hell is paved with good intentions](#)  
[throw the baby out with the bath water](#)  
[to hell with that \[B\]](#)  
[touch it with a ten-foot pole](#)  
[toy with](#)  
[trifle with me](#)  
[up with](#)  
[wait with bated breath](#)  
[wake with a start](#)  
[with all my heart](#)  
[with bated breath](#)  
[with bells on](#)  
[with his tail between his legs](#)  
[with it](#)  
[with the naked eye](#)  
[with wings](#)

within

[within earshot](#)

without

[do without](#)  
[go without](#)  
[it goes without saying](#)  
[past is slipping by without a trace](#)  
[the past is slipping by without a trace](#)  
[without a doubt](#)  
[without a full deck](#)  
[without a hitch](#)

	<a href="#">without a stitch of clothes on</a>
	<a href="#">without a word of a lie</a>
	<a href="#">without batting an eye</a>
	<a href="#">without question</a>
	<a href="#">without turning a hair</a>
wives	
	<a href="#">old wives' tale</a>
wolf	
	<a href="#">a wolf in sheep's clothing</a>
	<a href="#">keep the wolf from the door</a>
	<a href="#">the wolf is at the door</a>
	<a href="#">the wolf knocking</a>
	<a href="#">wolf down</a>
	<a href="#">wolf in sheep's clothing</a>
woman	
	<a href="#">a kept woman</a>
	<a href="#">fallen woman</a>
	<a href="#">kept woman</a>
wonder	
	<a href="#">wonder of wonders</a>
wonky	
	<a href="#">wonky</a>
wood	
	<a href="#">a babe in the woods</a>
	<a href="#">babe in the woods</a>
	<a href="#">get good wood on</a>
	<a href="#">good wood on it</a>
	<a href="#">neck of the woods</a>
	<a href="#">out of the woods</a>
	<a href="#">touch wood</a>
woodwork	
	<a href="#">out of the woodwork</a>
woof	
	<a href="#">woof your cookies</a>
wool	
	<a href="#">dyed in the wool</a>
	<a href="#">pull the wool over your eyes</a>
woolly	
	<a href="#">wild and woolly</a>
woozy	
	<a href="#">woozy</a>
word	
	<a href="#">a man of few words</a>

[a picture is worth a thousand words](#)

[a play on words](#)

[a way with words](#)

[a word to the wise is sufficient](#)

[actions speak louder than words](#)

[any word](#)

[at a loss for words](#)

[by word of mouth](#)

[doesn't mince words](#)

[eat your words](#)

[famous last words](#)

[four-letter words](#)

[from the word go](#)

[get the word out](#)

[give your word](#)

[hang on every word](#)

[have a word with you](#)

[keep your word](#)

[last word](#)

[man of few words](#)

[mark my words](#)

[mince words](#)

[mum's the word](#)

[nary a word](#)

[no word](#)

[on my word](#)

[picture is worth a thousand words](#)

[play on words](#)

[put in a good word for](#)

[say the word](#)

[spread the word](#)

[take your word for it](#)

[the last word](#)

[twist your words](#)

[upon my word](#)

[upon the words offhandedly spoken](#)

[weasel word](#)

[without a word of a lie](#)

[word for word](#)

[word is good](#)

[word is out](#)

[word of honor](#)

	<a href="#">word of mouth</a>
	<a href="#">word to the wise</a>
wordslines	
	<a href="#">pen those words/lines</a>
wordsmith	
	<a href="#">a wordsmith</a>
	<a href="#">wordsmith</a>
work	
	<a href="#">all in a day's work</a>
	<a href="#">all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy</a>
	<a href="#">dirty work</a>
	<a href="#">have my work cut out</a>
	<a href="#">in the works</a>
	<a href="#">it works</a>
	<a href="#">keep up the good work</a>
	<a href="#">leg work</a>
	<a href="#">out of work</a>
	<a href="#">spade work</a>
	<a href="#">the devil makes work for idle hands</a>
	<a href="#">the whole works</a>
	<a href="#">throw a monkey wrench into the works</a>
	<a href="#">work</a>
	<a href="#">work cut out for</a>
	<a href="#">work ethic</a>
	<a href="#">work it out</a>
	<a href="#">work my buns off</a>
	<a href="#">work my fingers to the bone</a>
	<a href="#">work of art</a>
	<a href="#">work off</a>
	<a href="#">work out</a>
	<a href="#">work the room</a>
	<a href="#">work things out</a>
	<a href="#">work to rule</a>
	<a href="#">work up a sweat</a>
	<a href="#">work up a thirst</a>
	<a href="#">work your ass off [B]</a>
	<a href="#">work your buns off</a>
workaholic	
	<a href="#">workaholic</a>
worked	
	<a href="#">get worked up</a>
	<a href="#">worked up</a>

worker	<a href="#">blue-collar worker</a>
workout	<a href="#">workout</a>
world	<a href="#">all the world's a stage</a> <a href="#">best of both worlds</a> <a href="#">dead to the world</a> <a href="#">it's a whole nother world out there</a> <a href="#">it's a whole other world out there</a> <a href="#">not long for this world</a> <a href="#">out of this world</a> <a href="#">set the world on fire</a> <a href="#">the best of both worlds</a> <a href="#">the world is your oyster</a> <a href="#">think the world of</a> <a href="#">what in the world</a> <a href="#">why in the world</a> <a href="#">window on the world</a> <a href="#">world beater</a> <a href="#">world is your oyster</a> <a href="#">World Wide Web (www)</a> <a href="#">worlds apart</a> <a href="#">wouldn't miss it for the world</a>
worldly	<a href="#">worldly wise</a>
worm	<a href="#">book worm</a> <a href="#">can of worms</a> <a href="#">open a can of worms</a> <a href="#">the early bird gets the worm</a>
worn	<a href="#">worn out</a>
worried	<a href="#">worried sick</a>
worry	<a href="#">not to worry</a>
worse	<a href="#">bark is worse than his bite</a> <a href="#">for better or worse</a> <a href="#">make it worse</a> <a href="#">none the worse for wear</a>

	<a href="#">worse for wear</a>
worship	
	<a href="#">worship the ground she walks on</a>
worst	
	<a href="#">in the worst way</a>
	<a href="#">own worst enemy</a>
	<a href="#">your own worst enemy</a>
worth	
	<a href="#">a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush</a>
	<a href="#">a picture is worth a thousand words</a>
	<a href="#">an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure</a>
	<a href="#">not worth a plugged nickel</a>
	<a href="#">picture is worth a thousand words</a>
	<a href="#">play it for all it's worth</a>
	<a href="#">two cents' worth</a>
	<a href="#">worth their weight in gold</a>
would	
	<a href="#">as luck would have it</a>
	<a href="#">do unto others as you would have them do unto you</a>
wouldn't	
	<a href="#">butter wouldn't melt in his mouth</a>
	<a href="#">wouldn't be caught dead</a>
	<a href="#">wouldn't miss it for the world</a>
	<a href="#">wouldn't say shit if her mouth was full of it [B]</a>
wound	
	<a href="#">lick your wounds</a>
	<a href="#">rub salt in the wound</a>
	<a href="#">wound up</a>
wow	
	<a href="#">wow</a>
wrap	
	<a href="#">keep under wraps</a>
	<a href="#">under wraps</a>
	<a href="#">wrap around his finger</a>
	<a href="#">wrap it up</a>
	<a href="#">wrap up</a>
	<a href="#">wrap your mind around</a>
wrap-up	
	<a href="#">wrap-up</a>
wreak	
	<a href="#">wreak havoc</a>
wrench	
	<a href="#">throw a monkey wrench into the works</a>

wringer	<a href="#">get your tits in a wringer</a> <a href="#">through the wringer</a> <a href="#">tits in a wringer</a>
wrinkles	<a href="#">get the wrinkles out</a>
write	<a href="#">nothing to write home about</a> <a href="#">write it off</a> <a href="#">write up</a>
writer	<a href="#">writer's block</a>
writing	<a href="#">in writing</a>
written	<a href="#">written all over your face</a> <a href="#">written in blood</a> <a href="#">written in stone</a>
wrong	<a href="#">bark up the wrong tree</a> <a href="#">dead wrong</a> <a href="#">don't get me wrong</a> <a href="#">get up on the wrong side of bed</a> <a href="#">go wrong</a> <a href="#">rub the wrong way</a> <a href="#">take it the wrong way</a> <a href="#">wake up on the wrong side of bed</a>
wrote	<a href="#">all she wrote</a> <a href="#">that's all she wrote</a>
wuss	<a href="#">wuss</a>
www	<a href="#">World Wide Web (www)</a>
wysiwyg	<a href="#">wysiwyg</a>

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:  
[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Index X

x

[Generation X](#)  
[X Generation](#)  
[x marks the spot](#)

x-rated

[x-rated](#)

xl

[XL](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Index Y

ya	<a href="#">back at ya</a> <a href="#">ya</a>
yada	<a href="#">yada</a>
yak	<a href="#">yak</a>
yang	<a href="#">coming out of your yin yang</a> <a href="#">yin yang</a>
yards	<a href="#">the whole nine yards</a>
yarn	<a href="#">spin a yarn</a>
yawner	<a href="#">a yawner</a> <a href="#">yawner</a>
years	<a href="#">get on in years</a> <a href="#">getting on in years</a> <a href="#">golden years</a> <a href="#">on in years</a> <a href="#">sunset years</a> <a href="#">twilight years</a>
yellow	<a href="#">yellow</a> <a href="#">yellow belly</a>
yeow	<a href="#">yeow</a>
yep	<a href="#">yep</a>
yeppers	<a href="#">yeppers</a>
yesterday	<a href="#">wasn't born yesterday</a>

yikes	<a href="#">yikes</a>
yin	<a href="#">coming out of your yin yang</a> <a href="#">yin yang</a>
yo	<a href="#">yo</a>
yokel	<a href="#">local yokel</a> <a href="#">yokel</a>
yonder	<a href="#">yonder over there</a>
you're	<a href="#">don't know whether you're coming or going</a> <a href="#">I smell where you're stepping</a> <a href="#">if you're born to hang, you won't drown</a> <a href="#">if you're not with us you're against us</a> <a href="#">quit while you're ahead</a> <a href="#">smell where you're stepping</a> <a href="#">till you're blue in the face</a> <a href="#">time flies when you're having fun</a> <a href="#">until you're blue...</a> <a href="#">you're full of it [B]</a> <a href="#">you're kidding</a> <a href="#">you're not kidding/ you aren't kidding</a> <a href="#">you're on</a> <a href="#">you're only as good as your last shift</a>
you've	<a href="#">give it all you've got</a> <a href="#">take you for all you've got</a> <a href="#">you've got to be kidding</a>
young	<a href="#">young at heart</a>
your	<a href="#">a feather in your cap</a> <a href="#">a penny for your thoughts</a> <a href="#">a run for your money</a> <a href="#">all your eggs in one basket</a> <a href="#">an ace up your sleeve</a> <a href="#">another nail in your coffin</a> <a href="#">as plain as the nose on your face</a> <a href="#">at your beck and call</a>

[at your fingertips](#)  
[back on your feet](#)  
[ball's in your court](#)  
[bang for your buck](#)  
[bare your soul](#)  
[beat your head against a stone wall](#)  
[beat your time](#)  
[beg your pardon](#)  
[behind your back](#)  
[bend your ear](#)  
[bend your elbow](#)  
[bite your tongue](#)  
[blow it out your ear](#)  
[blow your lid/stack/top](#)  
[blow your mind](#)  
[blow your stones \[B\]](#)  
[blow your wad](#)  
[Bob's your uncle](#)  
[boggle your mind](#)  
[break your fall](#)  
[break your heart](#)  
[burn a hole in your pocket](#)  
[burn your ass \[B\]](#)  
[burn your bridges](#)  
[button your lip](#)  
[by the seat of your pants](#)  
[carry your weight](#)  
[cast your vote](#)  
[cat got your tongue](#)  
[catch your death](#)  
[catch your eye](#)  
[change your mind](#)  
[change your tune](#)  
[check your bags](#)  
[clean up your act](#)  
[clean up your plate](#)  
[clear your head/mind](#)  
[come down off your high horse](#)  
[come into your own](#)  
[coming out of your yin yang](#)  
[cook your goose](#)  
[cool your heels](#)

[count your chickens before they hatch](#)

[cover your ass \[B\]](#)

[cramp your style](#)

[cross your fingers](#)

[cry in your beer](#)

[cry your eyes out](#)

[curl your hair](#)

[cut off your nose to spite your face](#)

[cut your own throat](#)

[dampen your spirits](#)

[Dear Dad, No mon, no fun, your son! Dear Son, So sad, too bad, your dad!](#)

[dig your own grave](#)

[do your own thing](#)

[do your part](#)

[do your utmost](#)

[don't count your chickens before they hatch](#)

[don't give me any of your lip](#)

[don't hold your breath](#)

[don't know which side your bread is buttered on](#)

[don't know your ass from a hole in the ground \[B\]](#)

[don't push your luck](#)

[don't put all your eggs in one basket](#)

[don't teach your grandmother how to suck eggs](#)

[drag your feet](#)

[drop your drawers](#)

[drop your gloves \(hockey\)](#)

[drown your sorrow](#)

[eat out of the palm of your hand](#)

[eat your fill](#)

[eat your heart out](#)

[eat your words](#)

[expand your horizons](#)

[fall on your sword](#)

[feast your eyes on](#)

[feather in your cap](#)

[feather your nest](#)

[fill your face](#)

[find your voice](#)

[find your way](#)

[fix your wagon](#)

[flap your gums](#)

[Fletcherize your food](#)

[flip your lid](#)  
[float your boat](#)  
[fly by the seat of your...](#)  
[forget your manners](#)  
[get in your hair](#)  
[get it off your chest](#)  
[get off your high horse](#)  
[get off your soap box](#)  
[get on your horse](#)  
[get out of your hair](#)  
[get your act together](#)  
[get your attention](#)  
[get your back up](#)  
[get your buns over here](#)  
[get your dander up](#)  
[get your ears pinned back](#)  
[get your feet wet](#)  
[get your goat](#)  
[get your head out of the clouds](#)  
[get your head together](#)  
[get your hopes up](#)  
[get your jollies](#)  
[get your kicks](#)  
[get your knuckles rapped](#)  
[get your mind around](#)  
[get your shirt in a knot/ get your shit in a knot \[B\]](#)  
[get your shit together \[B\]](#)  
[get your tits in a wringer](#)  
[get your way](#)  
[get your wires crossed](#)  
[get yours](#)  
[give it your best shot](#)  
[give you a run for your money](#)  
[give your best](#)  
[give your word](#)  
[go out of your mind](#)  
[go out of your way](#)  
[go tell your mother she wants you](#)  
[go to your head](#)  
[got rocks in your head](#)  
[got your number](#)  
[hang your hat](#)

[has the cat got your...](#)  
[have a hitch in your getalong](#)  
[have it your way](#)  
[have your cake and eat it, too](#)  
[have your period \[B\]](#)  
[hedge your bets](#)  
[here's mud in your eye](#)  
[hit me with your best shot](#)  
[hitch in your getalong](#)  
[hold your drinks](#)  
[hold your hand](#)  
[hold your horses](#)  
[hold your mouth the right way](#)  
[hold your nose](#)  
[hold your own](#)  
[hold your temper](#)  
[hold your tongue](#)  
[hot on your heels](#)  
[how you hold your...](#)  
[in over your head](#)  
[in your bad books](#)  
[in your corner](#)  
[in your face](#)  
[in your hair](#)  
[in your mind's eye](#)  
[in your prime](#)  
[it has your name on it](#)  
[it's as plain as the nose on your face](#)  
[it's your move](#)  
[it's your turn](#)  
[jog your memory](#)  
[jump out of your skin](#)  
[keep your cool](#)  
[keep your distance](#)  
[keep your ear to the ground](#)  
[keep your eyes peeled](#)  
[keep your fingers crossed](#)  
[keep your hair on](#)  
[keep your head](#)  
[keep your head above water](#)  
[keep your nose clean](#)  
[keep your nose to the grindstone](#)

[keep your shirt on](#)  
[keep your word](#)  
[kick up your heels](#)  
[knock your socks off](#)  
[know like the back of your hand](#)  
[know which side your bread is buttered on](#)  
[know your stuff](#)  
[know your way around](#)  
[land on your feet](#)  
[laugh up your sleeve](#)  
[laugh your head off](#)  
[lay down your arms](#)  
[lay down your life for](#)  
[learn your place](#)  
[let it go to your head](#)  
[lick your wounds](#)  
[look down your nose at](#)  
[look over your shoulder](#)  
[lose your appetite](#)  
[lose your cool](#)  
[lose your head](#)  
[lose your marbles](#)  
[lose your mind](#)  
[lose your shirt](#)  
[lose your temper](#)  
[lose your tongue](#)  
[lose your touch](#)  
[make up your mind](#)  
[make your bum hum](#)  
[make your hair stand on end](#)  
[make your head spin](#)  
[make your mark](#)  
[make your mouth water](#)  
[make your way](#)  
[melt in your mouth](#)  
[mind your manners](#)  
[mind your own business](#)  
[mind your P's and Q's](#)  
[miss your chance](#)  
[move your ass](#)  
[nail in your coffin](#)  
[none of your lip](#)

[not on your life](#)  
[not on your tintype](#)  
[off your high horse](#)  
[off your rocker](#)  
[on the edge of your seat](#)  
[on your ass \[B\]](#)  
[on your deathbed](#)  
[on your guard](#)  
[on your own](#)  
[on your side](#)  
[on your toes](#)  
[on your way](#)  
[out of your gourd](#)  
[out of your mind](#)  
[out of your tree](#)  
[paddle your own canoe](#)  
[pay your dues](#)  
[pay your way](#)  
[penny for your thoughts](#)  
[piano tied to your ass \[B\]](#)  
[pick your brains](#)  
[pin your hopes on](#)  
[piss your pants \[B\]](#)  
[plain as the nose on your face](#)  
[pop your buttons](#)  
[pour out your soul](#)  
[pull in your horns](#)  
[pull the wool over your eyes](#)  
[pull up your socks](#)  
[pull your chain](#)  
[pull your leg](#)  
[pull your weight](#)  
[pull your wire \[B\]](#)  
[punch your lights out](#)  
[push your luck](#)  
[put all your eggs in...](#)  
[put you off your game](#)  
[put your best foot forward](#)  
[put your foot in it](#)  
[put your foot in your mouth](#)  
[put your heart into it](#)  
[put your mind to it](#)

[put your money where your mouth is](#)

[put your shoulder to the wheel](#)

[raise your hand against](#)

[raise your spirits](#)

[ram down your throat](#)

[rap your knuckles](#)

[realize your potential](#)

[rest on your laurels](#)

[rocks in your head](#)

[ruffle your feathers](#)

[run for your money](#)

[save your bacon](#)

[save your skin/neck](#)

[say what's on your mind](#)

[say your piece](#)

[scratch your head](#)

[see you/see your](#)

[see your way](#)

[set your mind at ease](#)

[set your price](#)

[set your sights](#)

[set your teeth on edge](#)

[sharpen your pencils](#)

[shoot your mouth off](#)

[shoot your wad](#)

[show your stuff](#)

[shut your face](#)

[slip your mind](#)

[so small you had to back out to change your mind](#)

[soften your stance](#)

[speak your mind](#)

[spill your guts](#)

[spin your wheels](#)

[steal your heart](#)

[steal your thunder](#)

[step on your dick](#)

[stick it up your ass \[B\]](#)

[stick to your guns](#)

[stop you in your tracks](#)

[strike out on your own](#)

[strike your fancy](#)

[stroke your ego](#)

[swallow your pride](#)  
[sweep you off your feet](#)  
[take a load off your feet](#)  
[take leave of your senses](#)  
[take your lumps](#)  
[take your pick](#)  
[take your pulse](#)  
[take your seat](#)  
[take your time](#)  
[take your sweet time](#)  
[take your turn](#)  
[take your word for it](#)  
[talk through your hat](#)  
[talk your ear off](#)  
[talk your head off](#)  
[test your metal](#)  
[thank your lucky stars](#)  
[the ball's in your court](#)  
[the way you hold your mouth](#)  
[the world is your oyster](#)  
[throw down your arms](#)  
[throw your weight around](#)  
[tied to your mother's apron strings](#)  
[time on your hands](#)  
[tip your hand](#)  
[toot your own horn](#)  
[try your darndest](#)  
[try your hand at](#)  
[try your luck](#)  
[turn up your nose at](#)  
[turn your back on](#)  
[turn your crank](#)  
[turn your stomach](#)  
[twist your words](#)  
[under your thumb](#)  
[up your alley](#)  
[up your sleeve](#)  
[up yours \[B\]](#)  
[wash your hands of it](#)  
[watch your every move](#)  
[watch your language](#)  
[watch your P's and Q's](#)

[watch your step](#)  
[way you hold your...](#)  
[wear out your welcome](#)  
[wear your heart on your sleeve](#)  
[wet your whistle](#)  
[whatever floats your boat](#)  
[what's your beef](#)  
[what's your poison](#)  
[whet your appetite](#)  
[whup your ass](#)  
[wipe that smile off your face](#)  
[woof your cookies](#)  
[work your ass off \[B\]](#)  
[work your buns off](#)  
[world is your oyster](#)  
[wrap your mind around](#)  
[written all over your face](#)  
[you bet your boots](#)  
[you can bet your bottom dollar](#)  
[you can thank your lucky stars](#)  
[you're only as good as your last shift](#)  
[your goose is cooked](#)  
[your lip](#)  
[your number is up](#)  
[your own worst enemy](#)  
[your turn](#)  
[yours truly](#)

yourself

[back yourself into a corner](#)  
[be yourself](#)  
[did yourself proud](#)  
[dig yourself in](#)  
[do yourself proud](#)  
[fend for yourself](#)  
[find yourself](#)  
[get a grip on yourself](#)  
[help yourself](#)  
[keep it to yourself](#)  
[keep to yourself](#)  
[laugh yourself sick](#)  
[laugh yourself silly](#)  
[leave yourself open](#)

[let yourself go](#)  
[make a life for yourself](#)  
[make a name for yourself](#)  
[make something of yourself](#)  
[make yourself at home](#)  
[make yourself scarce](#)  
[make yourself to home](#)  
[outdo yourself](#)  
[pick yourself up](#)  
[pull yourself together](#)  
[put yourself out](#)  
[put yourself through college](#)  
[sell yourself short](#)  
[shoot yourself in the foot](#)  
[smelling yourself](#)  
[suit yourself](#)  
[throw yourself at him](#)  
[turn yourself in](#)

yousee

[see you/see your](#)

yoyo

[yoyo](#)

yuk

[yuk](#)

yum

[yum](#)

yummy

[yummy](#)

yuppie

[yuppie](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Index Z

z	
	<a href="#">catch some z's</a>
zag	
	<a href="#">zig when you should zag</a>
zap	
	<a href="#">zap</a>
zig	
	<a href="#">zig when you should zag</a>
zilch	
	<a href="#">zilch</a>
zinger	
	<a href="#">zinger</a>
zip	
	<a href="#">zip</a>
zipperhead	
	<a href="#">zipperhead</a>
zipzippo	
	<a href="#">zip/zippo</a>
zit	
	<a href="#">zit</a>
zonked	
	<a href="#">zonked</a>
zoo	
	<a href="#">it's a zoo in there</a>
	<a href="#">zoo</a>
zoom	
	<a href="#">zoom</a>
	<a href="#">zoom in</a>

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Definition Index A

a-ok	
	<a href="#">tickety-boo</a>
ability	
	<a href="#">a good arm</a>
	<a href="#">a sharp wit</a>
	<a href="#">a way with words</a>
	<a href="#">come naturally</a>
	<a href="#">common sense</a>
	<a href="#">cut out for</a>
	<a href="#">good hands</a>
	<a href="#">half-hearted</a>
	<a href="#">lose it</a>
	<a href="#">lose your head</a>
	<a href="#">losing it</a>
	<a href="#">on even terms</a>
	<a href="#">presence of mind</a>
	<a href="#">props</a>
	<a href="#">second nature</a>
	<a href="#">sense of humor</a>
	<a href="#">show promise</a>
	<a href="#">smarts</a>
	<a href="#">the gift of the gab (the gift of gab)</a>
	<a href="#">the makings of</a>
	<a href="#">up and coming</a>
	<a href="#">you have to be good to be lucky</a>
able	
	<a href="#">a fly on the wall</a>
	<a href="#">betwixt and between</a>
	<a href="#">come naturally</a>
	<a href="#">cool under pressure</a>
	<a href="#">fall short</a>
	<a href="#">good for a loan</a>
	<a href="#">hard of hearing</a>
	<a href="#">have it in hand</a>
	<a href="#">hit the ground running</a>

[how are you getting along](#)  
[how are you making out](#)  
[in control](#)  
[in hand](#)  
[keep them straight](#)  
[laid up](#)  
[nerves of steel](#)  
[on good terms](#)  
[on the tip of my tongue](#)  
[out of our hands](#)  
[rise to the occasion](#)  
[see your way](#)  
[set in her ways](#)  
[sharp as a tack](#)  
[too far gone](#)  
[tuned in](#)  
[up against it](#)  
[wishy-washy](#)

about

[a bone to pick](#)  
[a hot number](#)  
[a penny for your thoughts](#)  
[a tempest in a teapot](#)  
[all wet](#)  
[an axe to grind](#)  
[badmouth](#)  
[bare your soul](#)  
[bottle up](#)  
[break the silence](#)  
[bring up](#)  
[chat her up](#)  
[check it out](#)  
[check out](#)  
[chick flick](#)  
[clear the air](#)  
[crazy about](#)  
[cry over spilt milk](#)  
[don't know the first thing about it](#)  
[don't know which side your bread is buttered on](#)  
[don't make a mountain out of a molehill](#)  
[don't sweat it](#)  
[don't want to go there](#)

[draw it to my attention](#)

[drop it](#)

[ears are burning](#)

[eh](#)

[fair to middling](#)

[fall in love](#)

[fish or cut bait](#)

[get a handle on](#)

[get down to brass tacks](#)

[get it off your chest](#)

[get over](#)

[get wind of](#)

[give a damn / give a shit / give a fuck \[B\]](#)

[got a crush on](#)

[hash it over](#)

[have a clue](#)

[head over heels](#)

[high time](#)

[hold forth](#)

[hold the phone](#)

[how does that grab you](#)

[hushed up](#)

[ignorance is bliss](#)

[keep under wraps](#)

[laugh it off](#)

[lips are sealed](#)

[lose sight of](#)

[loud mouth](#)

[mad about](#)

[make a clean breast of it](#)

[make light of](#)

[make mention](#)

[make no bones about it](#)

[miffed](#)

[mind your own business](#)

[motherhood and apple pie](#)

[mouth off](#)

[mull over](#)

[nuts about](#)

[one-track mind](#)

[out of sight, out of mind](#)

[pay a compliment](#)

[piss on them \[B\]](#)  
[pissing into the wind \[B\]](#)  
[pleased as punch](#)  
[pumped/pumped up](#)  
[put off](#)  
[put to rest](#)  
[read them and weep](#)  
[read up on](#)  
[really deaf](#)  
[relate to that](#)  
[six of one, half a dozen of the other](#)  
[small talk](#)  
[sob story](#)  
[speak of the devil](#)  
[spill the beans](#)  
[street wise](#)  
[take a joke](#)  
[take exception to](#)  
[take it like a man](#)  
[take me seriously](#)  
[talk about](#)  
[talk it up](#)  
[talk shop](#)  
[tell on](#)  
[the devil you say](#)  
[the fifth column](#)  
[the talk of the town](#)  
[the tip of the iceberg](#)  
[there you go](#)  
[think over](#)  
[tip of the iceberg](#)  
[toot your own horn](#)  
[touch on](#)  
[toy with](#)  
[trifle with me](#)  
[up on](#)  
[wait a minute](#)  
[walk the talk](#)  
[want to make something of it](#)  
[what you don't know won't hurt you](#)  
[when it comes to](#)  
[wild about](#)

[worship the ground she walks on](#)  
[you don't say](#)

above

[hands up](#)  
[head and shoulders](#)  
[high handed](#)  
[stick them up](#)  
[under the table](#)  
[underhanded](#)

abreast

[keep up with the times](#)

abrupt

[sharp](#)  
[short with me](#)

abruptly

[cold turkey](#)

abstain

[swear off](#)

abuse

[brain is fried](#)  
[strung out](#)  
[take advantage of](#)

abused

[damaged goods](#)

accelerate

[go like stink](#)  
[speed up](#)

accelerator

[gun it](#)  
[pedal to the metal](#)

accept

[bear the brunt](#)  
[come to grips with](#)  
[come to terms with](#)  
[cut losses](#)  
[don't eat that](#)  
[face facts](#)  
[go for](#)  
[grow up](#)  
[hard to swallow](#)  
[Hobson's choice](#)  
[hold your nose](#)

[play second fiddle](#)  
[shoulder the blame](#)  
[shove down my throat](#)  
[take a bullet](#)  
[take it](#)  
[take it and run](#)  
[take on](#)  
[take risks](#)  
[take the blame](#)  
[turn down](#)  
[turn the other cheek](#)

acceptable

[make the grade](#)  
[suck](#)  
[way out of line \(away out of line\)](#)

accepted

[go over](#)

accessories

[goodies](#)  
[hardware](#)  
[loaded](#)

accessory

[jazz up](#)

accident

[a close call](#)  
[cry over spilt milk](#)  
[fender bender](#)  
[hit and run \(traffic\)](#)  
[spell disaster](#)  
[up yours \[B\]](#)

accomplish

[a sad sack](#)  
[serve the purpose](#)

according

[according to Hoyle](#)  
[mete out](#)  
[the rabbit died](#)  
[underhanded](#)

account

[account for](#)  
[call into account](#)  
[write up](#)

accountable	<a href="#">ass on the line</a>
accounted	<a href="#">on the books</a>
accurate	<a href="#">dead on</a> <a href="#">on the button</a> <a href="#">on the mark</a> <a href="#">on the money</a>
accurately	<a href="#">dead-eye Dick</a> <a href="#">feather a pass (hockey)</a> <a href="#">to a T</a>
accuse	<a href="#">finger</a> <a href="#">point a finger at</a> <a href="#">pointed questions</a>
accused	<a href="#">get fingered</a> <a href="#">in trouble</a> <a href="#">take it personally</a>
accusing	<a href="#">pot calling the kettle black</a>
accustomed	<a href="#">born with a silver spoon in his mouth</a> <a href="#">salty</a> <a href="#">used to</a>
aces	<a href="#">a full house (cards)</a>
ache	<a href="#">laugh yourself sick</a> <a href="#">no pain, no gain</a>
achieve	<a href="#">chasing rainbows</a> <a href="#">knuckle down</a> <a href="#">measure up</a> <a href="#">ride the wave</a> <a href="#">set the world on fire</a> <a href="#">the road to hell is paved with good intentions</a> <a href="#">turn the corner</a>
achieved	<a href="#">have it made</a>
achievement	

[even-stein](#)  
[make your mark](#)  
[track record](#)

achilles

[be my undoing](#)

acid

[junk](#)

acquaintance

[fine-feathered friend](#)

acre

[all the way to Egery and back](#)  
[yin yang](#)

across

[blow a kiss](#)  
[out of bounds](#)  
[run into](#)

act

[a fart in a windstorm](#)  
[a marked man](#)  
[at liberty](#)  
[brush with the law](#)  
[carry on](#)  
[caught red-handed](#)  
[caught with his pants down](#)  
[clean up your act](#)  
[dude](#)  
[dumbo](#)  
[finishing touch](#)  
[get caught](#)  
[get fresh](#)  
[get off your high horse](#)  
[get your head together](#)  
[go bananas](#)  
[go wild](#)  
[ham it up](#)  
[hands are tied](#)  
[his nibs](#)  
[jump the gun](#)  
[make a point of](#)  
[make friends](#)  
[make me do it](#)  
[nerves of steel](#)

[nut](#)  
[play dumb](#)  
[play it up](#)  
[play the fool](#)  
[play the ham](#)  
[presence of mind](#)  
[seize the opportunity](#)  
[strike while the iron is hot](#)  
[take action](#)  
[take advantage of](#)  
[take leave of your senses](#)  
[take your turn](#)  
[tempt fate](#)  
[the ball's in your court](#)  
[throw caution to the wind](#)  
[turn a blind eye](#)  
[wingnut](#)

**acting**

[caught looking](#)  
[doughhead](#)  
[on behalf of](#)  
[on queer street](#)  
[smelling yourself](#)

**action**

[a false move](#)  
[actions speak louder than words](#)  
[chickens come home to roost](#)  
[dirt file](#)  
[don't get mad; get even](#)  
[face the music](#)  
[fish or cut bait](#)  
[go for the jugular](#)  
[go off half-cocked](#)  
[in one fell swoop](#)  
[kiss of death](#)  
[land on your feet](#)  
[money talks](#)  
[on trial](#)  
[sit in judgement on](#)  
[step up to the plate](#)  
[talk is cheap](#)  
[the right stuff](#)

[the road to hell is paved with good intentions](#)  
[the underground](#)  
[there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so](#)  
[what goes around comes around](#)  
[where it's at](#)  
[where the rubber hits the road](#)  
[you reap whatsoever you sow](#)

active

[a going concern.](#)

activities

[and stuff](#)

activity

[break a habit](#)

[cup of tea](#)

[done it all](#)

[for openers](#)

[have a ball](#)

[have fun](#)

[liven up](#)

[slow day](#)

[take up](#)

actor

[play a bit-part](#)

actual

[cold, hard cash](#)

[put things in perspective](#)

acute

[white knuckles](#)

add

[add insult to injury](#)

[beef it up](#)

[chime in](#)

[flesh out](#)

[jazz up](#)

[pad an expense account](#)

[plug the team](#)

[put the finishing touches on](#)

[read into](#)

[rub salt in the wound](#)

[run up](#)

[spice up](#)

[stretch the truth](#)

[sweeten the pot](#)[top it off](#)[touch up](#)[water down](#)

added

[thrown in](#)

addicted

[workaholic](#)

adding

[for good measure](#)[not by any stretch of the imagination](#)[that's stretching it](#)

addition

[by the way](#)[no-frills](#)[on the side](#)[to boot](#)

adjust

[tune in](#)

administer

[mete out](#)

administrator

[zipperhead](#)

admire

[go for](#)[look up to](#)[pay tribute](#)[think the world of](#)

admit

[come clean](#)[eat crow](#)[eat humble pie](#)[eat your words](#)[face up](#)[have to hand it to you](#)[make a clean breast of it](#)[make no bones about it](#)[own up](#)[stand corrected](#)

adorable

[cute as a bug's ear](#)

ads

[all it's cracked up to be](#)

adult	<a href="#">grow up</a> <a href="#">half-pint</a> <a href="#">hip hop (generation)</a> <a href="#">x-rated</a>
advance	<a href="#">come onto</a> <a href="#">go nowhere fast</a>
advanced	<a href="#">state of the art</a>
advantage	<a href="#">a blessing in disguise</a> <a href="#">get in on it</a> <a href="#">got you by the short hairs</a> <a href="#">lose out</a> <a href="#">no fair</a> <a href="#">screw</a> <a href="#">seize the opportunity</a> <a href="#">the upper hand</a>
advertise	<a href="#">make a splash</a> <a href="#">put in a plug for</a>
advertised	<a href="#">under wraps</a> <a href="#">up for sale</a>
advertisement	<a href="#">junk mail</a> <a href="#">sound bite</a>
advisor	<a href="#">spin doctor</a>
affair	<a href="#">fool around</a>
affect	<a href="#">come into play</a> <a href="#">faze me</a> <a href="#">hit home</a> <a href="#">make a difference</a> <a href="#">makes no difference</a> <a href="#">play a part</a> <a href="#">shrug it off</a> <a href="#">wear off</a>
affecting	

[across the board](#)

afford

[see your way](#)

afraid

[bark is worse than his bite](#)

[chicken](#)

[fraidy cat](#)

[frightened to death](#)

[hold your hand](#)

[keep a stiff upper lip](#)

[make strange](#)

[make your hair stand on end](#)

[on tenterhooks](#)

[pussy whipped](#)

[quake in his boots](#)

[rile up](#)

[scaredy cat](#)

[shuck on down to the fraidy hole](#)

[sweat bullets](#)

[yellow](#)

[yellow belly](#)

[yeppers](#)

afro

[shut my mouth](#)

after

[after all](#)

[baby boomer](#)

[blue in the face](#)

[breathe a sigh of relief](#)

[chain smoker](#)

[change horses in mid stream](#)

[dead-cat bounce](#)

[eat humble pie](#)

[give up the ghost](#)

[hand over fist](#)

[hangover](#)

[have your cake and eat it, too](#)

[high](#)

[hold the fort](#)

[hungover](#)

[in the long haul](#)

[keep fit](#)

[look out for](#)  
[losing streak](#)  
[on a full stomach](#)  
[on the heels](#)  
[shake hands](#)  
[take care of](#)  
[under my care](#)  
[under oath](#)  
[wash it down](#)  
[watch over](#)  
[whew](#)  
[winning streak](#)

afternoon

[good day](#)

afterwards

[thrown in](#)

again

[a fresh start](#)  
[at it again](#)  
[back at it](#)  
[bounce back](#)  
[darn it](#)  
[dead-cat bounce](#)  
[double take](#)  
[fall off the wagon](#)  
[how's that again](#)  
[it never fails](#)  
[lick your wounds](#)  
[like a broken record](#)  
[make up](#)  
[off the wagon](#)  
[on the mend](#)  
[patch things up](#)  
[pick up the pieces](#)  
[run it by me again](#)  
[start over](#)  
[touch base](#)  
[up to speed](#)  
[when the dust settles](#)

against

[against the grain](#)  
[at the hands of](#)

[cross someone](#)  
[do it the hard way](#)  
[fucked by the fickle finger of fate \[B\]](#)  
[gang up on](#)  
[get blood from a stone](#)  
[if you're not with us you're against us](#)  
[in over your head](#)  
[in tough](#)  
[one on one](#)  
[power play \(hockey\)](#)  
[shutout \(sports\)](#)  
[take you to court](#)  
[tangle with](#)  
[turn on you](#)  
[up against](#)

age

[a coon's age](#)  
[a dog's age](#)  
[age of majority](#)  
[at the ripe old age](#)  
[dates you](#)  
[for a dog's age](#)  
[golden years](#)  
[in a coon's age](#)  
[in a long time](#)  
[peer sneer](#)  
[still wet behind the ears](#)  
[the age of majority](#)  
[the tender age of](#)

aged

[geezer gap](#)  
[long in the tooth](#)

agent

[check your bags](#)

aggravate

[add fuel to the fire](#)  
[dig yourself in](#)  
[rub salt in the wound](#)

aggressive

[a go-getter](#)  
[pull in your horns](#)

ago

[once upon a time](#)

agree

[buy into](#)

[come to terms](#)

[darn tooting](#)

[give your word](#)

[go along with](#)

[hold-out](#)

[in bad faith](#)

[patch things up](#)

[see eye to eye](#)

[shake hands](#)

[shake on it](#)

[shove down my throat](#)

[take on](#)

[the customer is always right](#)

[work it out](#)

agreeable

[copacetic](#)

agreeing

[at loggerheads](#)

agreement

[at odds](#)

[at sixes and sevens](#)

[come to terms](#)

[in good faith](#)

[meet you half way](#)

[meeting of minds](#)

[settle it](#)

[worlds apart](#)

ahead

[a head start](#)

[in the long run](#)

[make headway](#)

[off to the races](#)

[offside \(hockey\)](#)

[step on people](#)

[tunnel vision](#)

[win going away](#)

aim

[take a shot](#)

aiming

[shoot-up](#)

ain't

[half-bad](#)

air

[a sick building](#)[all show](#)[all talk and no action](#)[butter wouldn't melt in his mouth](#)[cuss](#)[feel a draft](#)[goodies](#)[hogwash](#)[shoot-up](#)[spirit away](#)[swear like a sailor](#)[talk through your hat](#)

airhead

[a bimbo](#)[ding-a-ling](#)[ditz](#)[dumbbell](#)[popcorn brain](#)[twit](#)

airline

[milk run](#)[take a flight](#)

airplane

[air rage](#)[rodchester](#)

airport

[catch a plane/bus/train](#)

aka

[go by the name of](#)

alberta

[Cowtown](#)

alcatraz

[The Rock](#)

alcohol

[drive you to drink](#)[dry out](#)[had a belt](#)[had a couple](#)

[hard liquor](#)  
[into the sauce](#)  
[spike a drink](#)

alcoholic

[lush](#)  
[tank](#)  
[wino](#)

ale

[on tap](#)

alert

[asleep at the switch](#)  
[be there](#)  
[glassy eyed](#)  
[on your toes](#)  
[stay awake](#)  
[wake up](#)  
[wide awake](#)  
[you snooze, you lose](#)

alias

[a.k.a. \(aka\)](#)

aligned

[out of whack](#)

all

['round the clock](#)  
[a few bricks short of a full load](#)  
[a fool and his money are soon parted](#)  
[across the board](#)  
[after all](#)  
[ahead of the game](#)  
[all hat and no cattle](#)  
[all-out](#)  
[all over hell's half acre](#)  
[all that jazz](#)  
[all the livelong day](#)  
[all the marbles](#)  
[all the way to Egery and back](#)  
[all the world's a stage](#)  
[all walks of life](#)  
[bag and baggage](#)  
[bar none](#)  
[blow your wad](#)  
[boys will be boys](#)

[brand new/ brand spanking new](#)  
[break the bank](#)  
[bugger all \[B\]](#)  
[bull/bullshit/BS \[B\]](#)  
[buy out](#)  
[buy up](#)  
[cash up/cash out](#)  
[clean me out](#)  
[clean up your plate](#)  
[come across \[B\]](#)  
[couldn't care less](#)  
[die off](#)  
[do the town](#)  
[do your own thing](#)  
[dog tired](#)  
[don't count your chickens before they hatch](#)  
[don't give a crap \[B\]](#)  
[don't know the half of it](#)  
[don't put all your eggs in one basket](#)  
[done in](#)  
[eat it up](#)  
[eat you out of house and home](#)  
[every walk of life](#)  
[feel free](#)  
[foot the bill](#)  
[fresh out](#)  
[full blast](#)  
[full blown](#)  
[give her](#)  
[give it all you've got](#)  
[go all-out](#)  
[go downtown \[B\]](#)  
[grand slam](#)  
[hear me out](#)  
[in any way, shape or form](#)  
[in plain view](#)  
[in the least](#)  
[it's now or never](#)  
[jump through hoops](#)  
[jump to conclusions](#)  
[keep an open mind](#)  
[kill off](#)

[kit and caboodle](#)  
[let yourself go](#)  
[life is not all guns and roses](#)  
[love conquers all](#)  
[make a clean breast of it](#)  
[make a clean sweep](#)  
[milk it](#)  
[not at all](#)  
[not for all the tea in China](#)  
[not playing with a full deck](#)  
[on fire](#)  
[on your ass \[B\]](#)  
[one brick short of a full load](#)  
[out in left field](#)  
[pay off](#)  
[pedal to the metal](#)  
[pin your hopes on](#)  
[polish off/polish it off](#)  
[pour out your soul](#)  
[put in a hard day](#)  
[rotten to the core](#)  
[run out](#)  
[sell out](#)  
[shoot your wad](#)  
[sometimes life is a bucket of shit and the handle is inside \[B\]](#)  
[stark naked](#)  
[straight cash](#)  
[strip](#)  
[take it with a grain of salt](#)  
[take you for all you've got](#)  
[talk your ear off](#)  
[tear me apart](#)  
[the best things in life are free](#)  
[the big picture](#)  
[the burning question](#)  
[the lights are on but nobody's home](#)  
[the rest is history](#)  
[the whole ball of wax](#)  
[the whole nine yards](#)  
[the whole works](#)  
[think nothing of it](#)  
[tick over](#)

[to hell and gone](#)  
[use up](#)  
[whole hog](#)  
[winner take all](#)  
[with all my heart](#)  
[World Wide Web \(www\)](#)  
[yin yang](#)

all-out

[all-out](#)  
[go for broke](#)  
[pull out all the stops](#)

allow

[a sucker for punishment](#)  
[a three-bagger \(baseball\)](#)  
[break curfew](#)  
[cascade \(business\)](#)  
[crack down on](#)  
[give him enough rope and he'll hang himself](#)  
[give you an out](#)  
[ground me](#)  
[leak](#)  
[leave the door open](#)  
[leave yourself open](#)  
[let a fart \[B\]](#)  
[let go of](#)  
[let this chance go by](#)  
[part with](#)  
[rule out](#)  
[see you through](#)  
[spell you off](#)  
[stonewall](#)

allowed

[age before beauty](#)  
[at liberty](#)  
[black-listed](#)  
[cut off](#)  
[grounded](#)  
[have a say](#)  
[time ran out](#)

almost

[down to the short strokes](#)  
[everything but the kitchen sink](#)

[hat in hand](#)  
[just about](#)  
[on the brink](#)  
[on the tip of my tongue](#)  
[on the verge](#)

alone

[holding the bag](#)  
[if a mussel doesn't open don't eat it](#)  
[in the lurch](#)  
[it takes two to tango](#)  
[keep to yourself](#)  
[let it be](#)  
[let sleeping dogs lie](#)  
[throw you to the dogs](#)

along

[chairman of the boards \(hockey\)](#)  
[copacetic](#)  
[go along with](#)  
[in that vein](#)  
[play along](#)  
[play dumb](#)  
[string along](#)  
[walk down](#)  
[walk up](#)

alongside

[cheek by jowl](#)

alphabet

[letter-perfect](#)

already

[enough is enough](#)  
[in the bag](#)  
[preach to the choir/preach to the converted](#)

alright

[okay, OK](#)

also

[a.k.a. \(aka\)](#)  
[screw](#)  
[what's good for the goose is good for the gander](#)

alternative

[grunge \(music\)](#)  
[Plan B](#)

always

[a brick](#)  
[a rolling stone gathers no moss](#)  
[born tired](#)  
[horse shoes up his ass \[B\]](#)  
[in a rut](#)  
[it never fails](#)  
[like a dirty shirt](#)  
[spoiled brat](#)

am

[blow me down](#)  
[by golly](#)  
[can't see the forest for the trees](#)  
[darn my luck](#)  
[don't give a damn \[B\]](#)  
[eh](#)  
[follow me](#)  
[get out of my face](#)  
[got my eye on](#)  
[got my hands full](#)  
[have a mind to](#)  
[hey](#)  
[hold me responsible](#)  
[no kidding](#)  
[out of the goodness of my heart](#)  
[sheesh](#)  
[shit fire and apple butter](#)  
[shoot](#)  
[talk to the hand](#)  
[TGIF](#)  
[thank goodness](#)  
[the buck stops here](#)  
[what did I do to deserve this](#)  
[yonder over there](#)

amaze

[blow your mind](#)  
[knock you out](#)  
[make your head spin](#)

amazing

[by jove](#)  
[gadzooks](#)  
[holy Moses](#)  
[that's a corker](#)

[the devil you say](#)

amazingly

[wonder of wonders](#)

amber

[Florida green](#)

ambiguous

[weasel word](#)

ambitious

[moppie](#)

ambivalent

[betwixt and between](#)

america

[Bigfoot](#)

american

[as American as apple pie](#)

[greenback](#)

among

[elbow room](#)

[in his good books](#)

[in my good books](#)

amount

[a chunk of change](#)

[a hill of beans](#)

[a paltry sum](#)

[a short one](#)

[bit by bit](#)

[by leaps and bounds](#)

[chicken feed](#)

[finish off](#)

[just a smidgeon](#)

[just a titch](#)

[motherlode](#)

[peanuts](#)

[salt away](#)

[the take](#)

[to the max](#)

[way out \(away out\)](#)

amused

[get a charge out of](#)

amusement

[for laughs](#)

analyse

[figure out](#)

ancestors

[family tree](#)

angels

[where angels fear to tread](#)

anger

[add fuel to the fire](#)

[crank issue](#)

[don't get mad; get even](#)

[gnashing of teeth](#)

[no hard feelings](#)

[rattle my chain](#)

[simmer down](#)

[so much as](#)

[take it out on](#)

[the calm before the storm](#)

anglo-saxon

[WASP](#)

angrily

[hammer and tongs](#)

[hot and bothered](#)

angry

[a bee in her bonnet](#)

[a hothead](#)

[air rage](#)

[bark is worse than his bite](#)

[blood is up](#)

[blow up](#)

[blow your lid/stack/top](#)

[boiling mad](#)

[browned off](#)

[burn up](#)

[choked](#)

[don't go away mad; just go away](#)

[don't have a cow](#)

[fit to be tied](#)

[flip your lid](#)

[fly off the handle](#)

[get mad](#)

[get worked up](#)

[give you shit \[B\]](#)

[go through the roof](#)

[hell to pay \[B\]](#)

[hit the ceiling](#)  
[hold a grudge](#)  
[hopping mad](#)  
[hot](#)  
[hot and bothered](#)  
[hot tempered](#)  
[hot under the collar](#)  
[in the doghouse](#)  
[kick myself](#)  
[look daggers](#)  
[lose it](#)  
[lose your temper](#)  
[mad about](#)  
[pissed \[B\]](#)  
[pissed off \[B\]](#)  
[rip-snorting mad](#)  
[see red](#)  
[short temper](#)  
[spitting mad](#)  
[spitting nails](#)  
[take my head off](#)  
[tell him off](#)  
[the shit hit the fan](#)  
[up in arms](#)

animal

[fight tooth and nail](#)  
[the runt of the litter](#)  
[wild and woolly](#)

announce

[send a bouquet](#)

announcer

[disk jockey \(DJ\)](#)

annoy

[get your dander up](#)  
[get your goat](#)  
[rattle my chain](#)  
[ruffle your feathers](#)

annoyed

[cheesed off](#)  
[miffed](#)  
[put out about](#)  
[ticked off](#)

annoying

[damn it \[B\]](#)

[doggone](#)

another

[add insult to injury](#)

[another nail in your coffin](#)

[branch office](#)

[by word of mouth](#)

[chain smoker](#)

[from pillar to post](#)

[he who hesitates is lost](#)

[hit me \(card games\)](#)

[one at a time](#)

[one by one](#)

[one man's meat is another man's poison](#)

[parachute](#)

[pot calling the kettle black](#)

[pull up stakes](#)

[rob Peter to pay Paul](#)

[say jump...how high](#)

[tell me another one](#)

[there's more than one way to skin a cat](#)

answer

[a pat answer](#)

[any old thing](#)

[canned](#)

[draw a blank](#)

[get a rise](#)

[give me a hint](#)

[go figure](#)

[go wrong](#)

[got you cornered](#)

[hard put](#)

[have a clue](#)

[haven't the foggiest](#)

[hazard a guess](#)

[hell to pay \[B\]](#)

[know your stuff](#)

[make a mistake](#)

[nail down](#)

[pin down/pin him down](#)

[search me](#)

[snap at](#)  
[song and dance](#)  
[stump me](#)  
[take a guess](#)  
[take calls](#)  
[that's the ticket](#)  
[the runaround](#)  
[there's no two ways about it](#)  
[touch it with a ten-foot pole](#)  
[way out \(away out\)](#)  
[you got it](#)

anxious

[chomping at the bit](#)  
[drive me up the wall](#)  
[itchy feet](#)  
[on edge](#)  
[scared to death](#)  
[worried sick](#)

anxiously

[on pins and needles](#)

any

[any old thing](#)  
[any word](#)  
[as clean as a whistle](#)  
[at all](#)  
[blank](#)  
[by any means](#)  
[by guess or by gosh](#)  
[by hook or by crook](#)  
[by no means](#)  
[come hell or high water](#)  
[conk out](#)  
[couldn't care less](#)  
[cut off](#)  
[drop it](#)  
[dude](#)  
[for love nor money](#)  
[fresh out](#)  
[Gang of Four](#)  
[give up](#)  
[go without](#)  
[had a bellyful](#)

[in any way, shape or form](#)[in the least](#)[lay off](#)[lose patience](#)[no truth to it](#)[out of hock](#)[out of the woods](#)[plate is full](#)[pull the plug](#)[put to rest](#)[put yourself out](#)[sick of](#)[the end justifies the means](#)[without a word of a lie](#)

anybody

[don't rock the boat](#)

anymore

[break up](#)[breakup](#)[call it a day](#)[drop her/him](#)[give in](#)[give it a rest](#)[lose your appetite](#)[out of sight](#)[wash your hands of it](#)[wear out your welcome](#)

anyone

[button your lip](#)[keep a secret](#)[keep it quiet](#)[keep it to yourself](#)[mum's the word](#)[on the QT](#)[who cares](#)[won't tell a soul](#)

anything

[anything goes](#)[bend over backwards](#)[crawl on my hands and knees over broken glass just to see her photo](#)[don't know the first thing about it](#)[don't make waves](#)

[duh](#)  
[game for anything](#)  
[give you the shirt off his back](#)  
[kill for](#)  
[lift a finger](#)  
[no holds barred](#)  
[stop at nothing](#)  
[there's one born every minute](#)  
[vegetate \(veg out\)](#)

anytime

[spotcheck](#)

apart

[absence makes the heart grow fonder](#)  
[breakdown](#)  
[come unglued](#)  
[spread out](#)  
[the wheels fall off](#)

apartment

[digs](#)  
[pad](#)  
[settle in](#)

ape-man

[Bigfoot](#)  
[Sasquatch](#)

apologize

[make amends](#)

appeal

[sit with you](#)  
[strike your fancy](#)

appear

[a budding genius](#)  
[break out in a rash](#)  
[come across](#)  
[it figures](#)  
[look like death warmed over](#)  
[look like he was dragged through a knothole](#)  
[make sense](#)  
[pass for](#)  
[pop up](#)  
[rattle sabres](#)  
[set you up](#)  
[shuffle the chairs on the deck](#)

[snatch victory from the jaws of defeat](#)  
[stand out](#)

appearance

[knockout](#)

appeared

[clouds on the horizon](#)

appearing

[crazy like a fox](#)

appetite

[whet your appetite](#)

applaud

[come alive](#)

[give them a hand](#)

applause

[bring the house down](#)

[steal the show](#)

[take a bow](#)

apple

[a chip off the old block](#)

[an apple a day keeps the doctor away](#)

applicant

[put in a good word for](#)

application

[back you](#)

applies

[across the board](#)

apply

[no holds barred](#)

[what's good for the goose is good for the gander](#)

appointment

[cold call](#)

[stand up](#)

appreciate

[lap up](#)

[tin ear](#)

[you don't miss the water till the well runs dry](#)

appropriate

[on my best behavior](#)

[out of place](#)

[politically correct](#)

[work](#)

appropriately

[presence of mind](#)

approval

[get the green light](#)  
[lose favor](#)  
[win the hearts](#)

approved

[it's a go](#)  
[no dice](#)

approximate

[a ball-park figure](#)

are

[ain't](#)

area

[breadbasket](#)  
[grain belt](#)  
[know like the back of your hand](#)  
[neck of the woods](#)  
[run the gauntlet](#)  
[virgin territory](#)  
[wheatbelt](#)

argue

[a bone to pick](#)  
[an axe to grind](#)  
[have it out](#)  
[touchy](#)  
[want to make something of it](#)

arguing

[at sixes and sevens](#)  
[bury the hatchet](#)  
[throw down your arms](#)

argument

[a score to settle](#)  
[cut you to ribbons](#)  
[fence sitter](#)  
[pick a fight](#)  
[put your foot in it](#)  
[raise a stink](#)  
[rest my case](#)  
[run-in](#)  
[set-to](#)  
[smooth out](#)  
[take sides](#)  
[the last word](#)

[touch off](#)[two-fisted attack](#)

aristocracy

[upper crust](#)

arm

[a lift](#)[bury the hatchet](#)[give my eye teeth](#)[nukes](#)[pay through the nose](#)[spread out](#)

armrest

[rodchester](#)

around

['round the clock](#)[all the way to Egery and back](#)[bomb around](#)[crack under the strain](#)[cruise](#)[do a 180](#)[drive around](#)[drive me up the wall](#)[find a way around](#)[fool around](#)[get around it](#)[get your mind around](#)[give it to me straight](#)[go in circles](#)[goof off](#)[hand out](#)[handle herself](#)[have an affair](#)[hemming and hahing](#)[horse around](#)[horseplay](#)[jerk me around](#)[joke around](#)[kicking around](#)[knock around with](#)[nobody's fool](#)[nuts](#)[off your rocker](#)

[on a string](#)  
[on all fours](#)  
[on the loose](#)  
[out of circulation](#)  
[over the edge](#)  
[play around](#)  
[play musical chairs](#)  
[shuffle the chairs on the deck](#)  
[street wise](#)  
[tear around](#)  
[tie up](#)  
[to hell and gone](#)  
[tool around](#)  
[touch it with a ten-foot pole](#)  
[turn about is fair play](#)  
[wait around](#)  
[wasn't born yesterday](#)  
[work the room](#)  
[wrap your mind around](#)

arouse

[float your boat](#)  
[turn-on](#)  
[turn you on](#)

aroused

[horny \[B\]](#)

arrange

[make the bed](#)  
[play a prank on](#)

arrested

[busted](#)  
[in trouble](#)

arrive

[better late than never](#)  
[bottom out](#)  
[catch up](#)  
[come full circle](#)  
[get home](#)  
[hit town](#)  
[roll around](#)  
[the early bird gets the worm](#)

arrived

[speak of the devil](#)

art

[cutting edge](#)  
[gild the lily](#)  
[the cutting edge](#)

artificial

[all show](#)

artists

[The Group of Five/The Regina Five](#)

ashamed

[come back to haunt you](#)  
[put to shame](#)  
[red-faced](#)

ask

[ask for the moon](#)  
[at least](#)  
[beat a dead horse](#)  
[beg off](#)  
[bend your ear](#)  
[buy time](#)  
[call attention to](#)  
[call for](#)  
[call on](#)  
[come on](#)  
[do a favor](#)  
[don't give me any of your lip](#)  
[don't push your luck](#)  
[draw attention to](#)  
[eat out of the palm of your hand](#)  
[fire away](#)  
[go easy on](#)  
[grill you](#)  
[have it coming](#)  
[hit me for a loan](#)  
[mind your own business](#)  
[needle](#)  
[pick your brains](#)  
[pop the question](#)  
[press charges](#)  
[pull your chain](#)  
[put out feelers](#)  
[rake you over the coals](#)  
[reduce to tears](#)

[stump me](#)  
[take you to task](#)  
[take your word for it](#)  
[try me](#)

asked

[give 110%](#)  
[hard done by](#)  
[no questions asked](#)  
[on the carpet](#)  
[rope into](#)  
[scot-free](#)  
[under fire](#)  
[up your sleeve](#)

asking

[bottle drive](#)  
[cruising for a bruising](#)  
[fall into my lap](#)  
[hound](#)

asleep

[dead to the world](#)  
[drop off](#)  
[saw logs](#)  
[zonked](#)

ass

[a pain in the butt](#)  
[a royal pain](#)  
[blow me \[B\]](#)  
[it's the duck's guts](#)  
[kick ass](#)  
[open up a big can of whoop-ass](#)  
[send him flying](#)  
[shove it \[B\]](#)  
[work my buns off](#)

assembly

[brand new/ brand spanking new](#)

assets

[sell out](#)

assignment

[on the beat](#)

assistance

[last resort](#)

associate

[drop him like a hot potato](#)

[hobnob](#)

[keep to yourself](#)

[rub elbows](#)

[rub shoulders with](#)

assume

[take for granted](#)

astound

[blow your mind](#)

at

[a doggy bag](#)

[a flash in the pan](#)

[a hot hand](#)

[a sharp wit](#)

[ad lib \(ad libitum\)](#)

[as poor as a church mouse](#)

[at a good clip](#)

[at bay](#)

[at ease](#)

[at first light](#)

[at it again](#)

[at my wits' end](#)

[at odds](#)

[at once](#)

[at sixes and sevens](#)

[at the crack of dawn](#)

[at the ripe old age](#)

[at the top of her game](#)

[at this point in time](#)

[back at it](#)

[backroom boys](#)

[bar hop](#)

[bat a thousand](#)

[bat five hundred](#)

[being there](#)

[belly up to the bar](#)

[beside myself](#)

[blast you](#)

[blue-collar worker](#)

[bottom out](#)

[brand new/ brand spanking new](#)

[break the ice](#)

[brush with death](#)  
[burn the midnight oil](#)  
[buy a round](#)  
[cash on the barrelhead](#)  
[cash up/cash out](#)  
[check that](#)  
[check this out](#)  
[cherry picker \(hockey\)](#)  
[Christmas graduate](#)  
[clear out](#)  
[come down hard](#)  
[come full circle](#)  
[come undone](#)  
[couldn't care less](#)  
[crack shot/salesman etc.](#)  
[dense](#)  
[ditto](#)  
[do \(a speed\)](#)  
[don't give a crap \[B\]](#)  
[down the pike](#)  
[eat out](#)  
[eye candy](#)  
[eyeball this](#)  
[fastball](#)  
[feast your eyes on](#)  
[fix you](#)  
[fix your wagon](#)  
[flag a cab](#)  
[flash a smile](#)  
[get a load of that](#)  
[get a shot at](#)  
[get around to](#)  
[get busy](#)  
[get even](#)  
[get him back](#)  
[get home](#)  
[get in on the ground floor](#)  
[get off the ground](#)  
[get on it](#)  
[get your feet wet](#)  
[give her the eye](#)  
[give it a whirl](#)

[give it the once-over](#)  
[go for the jugular](#)  
[go on about](#)  
[got him covered](#)  
[ground me](#)  
[hang you out to dry](#)  
[have a looksee](#)  
[hazard a guess](#)  
[hit speeds of](#)  
[hold down](#)  
[hold forth](#)  
[in any way, shape or form](#)  
[in dribs and drabs](#)  
[in one fell swoop](#)  
[in the doghouse](#)  
[in the least](#)  
[in tune \(music\)](#)  
[it's now or never](#)  
[kick](#)  
[kick myself](#)  
[land up](#)  
[laugh up your sleeve](#)  
[lay eyes on](#)  
[lay the blame](#)  
[leftovers](#)  
[let you have it](#)  
[look down your nose at](#)  
[look over](#)  
[make fun of](#)  
[mean streak](#)  
[milk run](#)  
[moonlighting](#)  
[navel-gazing](#)  
[neck and neck](#)  
[no matter how you slice it](#)  
[not at all](#)  
[off key \(music\)](#)  
[on his last legs](#)  
[on my deathbed](#)  
[on short notice](#)  
[on the clock](#)  
[on the spot](#)

[on time](#)  
[once upon a time](#)  
[one by one](#)  
[open a window](#)  
[open season](#)  
[out of the corner of my eye](#)  
[out of tune \(music\)](#)  
[peep this](#)  
[pissing into the wind \[B\]](#)  
[play the ponies](#)  
[poke fun at](#)  
[pony tail](#)  
[pub crawl](#)  
[right off the bat](#)  
[rise to the occasion](#)  
[run off](#)  
[run the gamut](#)  
[run the risk](#)  
[seek revenge](#)  
[sharp](#)  
[shoot from the hip](#)  
[shoot it out](#)  
[shoot-out \(sports\)](#)  
[stark naked](#)  
[stick to it](#)  
[strike out \(baseball\)](#)  
[take a boo](#)  
[take a gander](#)  
[take a look](#)  
[take a shot](#)  
[take advantage of](#)  
[take my head off](#)  
[talk shop](#)  
[the butt of the joke](#)  
[the joke is on you](#)  
[the laughing stock](#)  
[the runt of the litter](#)  
[then and there](#)  
[think nothing of it](#)  
[tip the scales at](#)  
[to blame](#)  
[trendy](#)

[try it](#)  
[up front](#)  
[up to speed](#)  
[wait up for](#)  
[want a piece of me](#)  
[wheeler-dealer](#)  
[x marks the spot](#)

athlete

[jock](#)  
[superstar](#)

attaboy

['at a boy \(that a boy\)](#)

attach

[deck out](#)

attached

[off the kitchen etc.](#)

attack

[ask for it](#)  
[draw first blood](#)  
[in one fell swoop](#)  
[jump](#)  
[Netwar](#)  
[rattle sabres](#)  
[run interference](#)  
[take up cudgels](#)  
[the calm before the storm](#)  
[two-fisted attack](#)

attacked

[take it personally](#)

attacker

[run interference](#)

attacking

[pull in your horns](#)

attagirl

['at a girl \(that a girl\)](#)

attempt

[get your feet wet](#)  
[go for it](#)  
[have a go](#)  
[last-ditch](#)  
[the first pancake is always spoiled](#)

attend

[darken a church door](#)

[make it](#)  
[miss out on](#)  
[no-show](#)  
[pay my respects](#)  
[play hooky](#)  
[show up](#)  
[skip classes](#)  
[skip out](#)  
[stand up](#)  
[take in](#)  
[turn out](#)  
[turn up](#)  
[wouldn't miss it for the world](#)

attending

[drop out](#)

attention

[asleep at the switch](#)  
[at ease](#)  
[call attention to](#)  
[catch your eye](#)  
[draw their fire](#)  
[fuss over](#)  
[get serious](#)  
[in one ear and out the other](#)  
[listen up](#)  
[mark my words](#)  
[tune me out](#)

attitude

[an attitude](#)  
[birds of a feather flock together](#)  
[change your tune](#)  
[frame of mind](#)  
[state of mind](#)  
[that's the spirit](#)

attract

[drawing card](#)

attractive

[hunk](#)  
[smashing](#)  
[spinork/spinorky](#)

attribute

[chalk it up to](#)

audible	<a href="#">clear as a bell</a>
audience	<a href="#">hand out</a> <a href="#">mop the floor with us</a> <a href="#">play the ham</a> <a href="#">preach to the choir/preach to the converted</a> <a href="#">take a bow</a> <a href="#">x-rated</a>
australia	<a href="#">down under</a>
author	<a href="#">a wordsmith</a>
authorities	<a href="#">cover-up</a> <a href="#">go to bat for</a> <a href="#">rat on</a> <a href="#">squealer</a>
authority	<a href="#">a free hand</a> <a href="#">chain of command</a> <a href="#">pecking order</a> <a href="#">power trip</a>
authorized	<a href="#">bootleg</a>
automatic	<a href="#">pack Uzis</a>
available	<a href="#">in place</a> <a href="#">inside information</a> <a href="#">on tap</a> <a href="#">run the gamut</a> <a href="#">up for grabs</a>
average	<a href="#">A-OK</a> <a href="#">a regular guy</a> <a href="#">behind the curve</a> <a href="#">fair to middling</a> <a href="#">not too shabby</a> <a href="#">run of the mill</a>
avoid	<a href="#">dodge a bullet</a> <a href="#">find a way around</a>

[get around it](#)  
[get out of](#)  
[have to](#)  
[keep an open mind](#)  
[sluff off](#)  
[steer clear](#)

avoided

[cooler heads prevailed](#)

avoiding

[nine lives](#)

aw

[gee whiz](#)

awake

[wide awake](#)

awaken

[wake up](#)

aware

[click in](#)  
[clued in](#)  
[draw it to my attention](#)  
[get with it](#)  
[get your attention](#)  
[have an inkling](#)  
[keep up with the times](#)  
[out of touch](#)  
[see the light](#)  
[smell blood](#)  
[stay abreast](#)  
[up on](#)  
[wake up and smell the coffee](#)

away

[at bay](#)  
[beat a hasty retreat](#)  
[beat the pants off](#)  
[beat your time](#)  
[blow it out your ear](#)  
[break away](#)  
[break out](#)  
[bust out](#)  
[butt out](#)  
[buy the farm](#)  
[buzz off](#)

[clean up](#)  
[cross over Jordan](#)  
[cross over to the other side](#)  
[draft dodger](#)  
[drink you under the table](#)  
[drown your sorrow](#)  
[duck out](#)  
[get out of my face](#)  
[get rid of](#)  
[get rolling](#)  
[give him the brush-off](#)  
[give you the cold shoulder](#)  
[go jump in the lake](#)  
[go pound salt](#)  
[go tell your mother she wants you](#)  
[go too far](#)  
[good riddance](#)  
[have designs on](#)  
[hightail it](#)  
[home free](#)  
[junk it](#)  
[kick butt](#)  
[kick the bucket](#)  
[lose him](#)  
[make a false move](#)  
[make mincemeat of](#)  
[make off with](#)  
[mothball](#)  
[off to a good start](#)  
[on the lam](#)  
[one false move](#)  
[out of range](#)  
[out of sight](#)  
[play hooky](#)  
[plug away](#)  
[point-blank range](#)  
[pronto](#)  
[pull the rug out](#)  
[pull up stakes](#)  
[quit this place](#)  
[reject out of hand](#)  
[run for the hills](#)

[shape up or ship out](#)  
[shoot](#)  
[shove it \[B\]](#)  
[slip away](#)  
[slip out](#)  
[slug away](#)  
[spirit away](#)  
[squirrel away](#)  
[stand away](#)  
[stick it up your ass \[B\]](#)  
[stuff it](#)  
[tail between his legs](#)  
[the bum's rush](#)  
[the one that got away](#)  
[throw out](#)  
[throw the baby out with the bath water](#)  
[to hell and gone](#)  
[turn the other way](#)  
[turn your back on](#)  
[under arrest](#)  
[wipe you](#)  
[with his tail between his legs](#)  
[you can run but you can't hide](#)  
[you don't miss the water till the well runs dry](#)

awesome

[awesome](#)  
[bonzer](#)  
[cool beans](#)  
[groaty to the max](#)  
[she peed](#)  
[super-duper](#)  
[wild](#)  
[wow](#)

awful

[a hell of a time](#)  
[hellish \[B\]](#)  
[ruddy](#)  
[shitty \[B\]](#)  
[yuk](#)

awhile

[drop out of sight](#)  
[from time to time](#)

[it's all over but the crying](#)

[set a spell](#)

[try it out](#)

[visit a spell](#)

awkward

[cement hands](#)

awkwardness

[two left feet](#)

axe

[give you the axe](#)

axed

[give you the axe](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Definition Index B

b_html_amp_e	
	<a href="#">break and enter</a>
baby	
	<a href="#">a babe in arms</a> <a href="#">a bun in the oven</a>
baby-sit	
	<a href="#">hold your hand</a>
back	
	<a href="#">a suicide pass (hockey)</a> <a href="#">at it again</a> <a href="#">back to square one</a> <a href="#">back to the drawing board</a> <a href="#">back to the grind</a> <a href="#">backroom boys</a> <a href="#">break a promise</a> <a href="#">catch up with</a> <a href="#">dance with the one who brought you</a> <a href="#">ditto</a> <a href="#">don't get smart with me</a> <a href="#">don't give me any of your lip</a> <a href="#">eat crow</a> <a href="#">fix you</a> <a href="#">fix your wagon</a> <a href="#">get cold feet</a> <a href="#">get even</a> <a href="#">get him back</a> <a href="#">get revenge</a> <a href="#">God bless the Duke of Argyle</a> <a href="#">got you by the balls [B]</a> <a href="#">hold your tongue</a> <a href="#">jam/jam out</a> <a href="#">kick back</a> <a href="#">laugh up your sleeve</a> <a href="#">lip off</a> <a href="#">lose ground</a>

[none of your lip](#)  
[piggyback](#)  
[piss like a race horse \[B\]](#)  
[play second fiddle](#)  
[pony tail](#)  
[rearend](#)  
[seek revenge](#)  
[square one](#)  
[stand up to](#)  
[start from scratch](#)  
[the cart before the horse](#)  
[the point of no return](#)  
[turn the other cheek](#)

## backside

[ass \[B\]](#)  
[bum](#)  
[butt](#)  
[keester](#)  
[rear end](#)

## backwards

[ass over teakettle](#)  
[back up](#)  
[give you the shirt off his back](#)  
[make every effort](#)  
[the cart before the horse](#)  
[try your darndest](#)

## bad

[a basket case](#)  
[a black mark](#)  
[a bummer](#)  
[a crying shame](#)  
[a hard time](#)  
[a howling blizzard](#)  
[a party to that](#)  
[a rough time of it](#)  
[a tough time of it](#)  
[act up](#)  
[ain't half-bad](#)  
[as luck would have it](#)  
[back yourself into a corner](#)  
[bad apple](#)  
[bad blood](#)

[badmouth](#)  
[bawl me out](#)  
[better than a kick in the ass \[B\]](#)  
[black sheep](#)  
[catch your death](#)  
[caught with his pants down](#)  
[checkered career](#)  
[cuss](#)  
[damn the luck \[B\]](#)  
[damn you \[B\]](#)  
[dark side](#)  
[dirt file](#)  
[every cloud has a silver lining](#)  
[fall off the wagon](#)  
[fly-by-night](#)  
[for better or worse](#)  
[four-letter words](#)  
[from the frying pan into the fire](#)  
[get into trouble](#)  
[get the finger \[B\] \(get the bird\)](#)  
[get this monkey off my back](#)  
[get up on the wrong side of bed](#)  
[give him the evil eye](#)  
[good grief](#)  
[got rocks in your head](#)  
[hassle me](#)  
[hatchet man](#)  
[hellish \[B\]](#)  
[hold a grudge](#)  
[in a fix](#)  
[in a funk](#)  
[in deep shit \[B\]](#)  
[lesser of two evils](#)  
[like it or lump it](#)  
[lose favor](#)  
[low-down](#)  
[mess up](#)  
[money is the root of all evil](#)  
[muckrake](#)  
[name is mud](#)  
[no slouch](#)  
[off color](#)

[on the shit list \[B\]](#)[onto us](#)[raise a stink](#)[rotten to the core](#)[shitty \[B\]](#)[so-so](#)[step out of line](#)[suck eggs](#)[take it the wrong way](#)[the air was blue](#)[the downside](#)[there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so](#)[there's no love lost](#)[through thick and thin](#)[throw a tantrum](#)[throw you to the dogs](#)[tough bananas](#)[tough luck](#)[up shit creek \[B\]](#)[up to no good](#)[wack](#)[wouldn't say shit if her mouth was full of it \[B\]](#)[your lip](#)

badly

[beat up](#)[blow them away](#)[drop dead](#)[kick butt](#)[make mincemeat of](#)[put to shame](#)[scare the life out of me](#)[stink the joint out](#)[take you to the cleaners](#)[wasted](#)[whup your ass](#)

bafflegab

[double-talk](#)[gibberish](#)[put the right spin on it](#)[smoke and mirrors](#)

bag

[a doggy bag](#)

[a three-bagger](#)  
[catch some rays](#)  
[in the lurch](#)  
[let the cat out of the bag](#)  
[pull the rug out](#)

baked

[done to a turn](#)

balance

[an even keel](#)  
[break the bank](#)  
[off kilter](#)  
[pay off](#)

bald

[chromedome](#)  
[silkhead](#)

balderdash

[bull/bullshit/BS \[B\]](#)

ball

[all teed up](#)  
[burn it in](#)  
[dust bunny](#)  
[get good wood on](#)  
[hole in one \(golf\)](#)  
[spike the ball](#)  
[strike out \(baseball\)](#)  
[the whole nine yards](#)

ballistic

[freak/freak out](#)

balloons

[make a splash](#)

ballot

[cast your vote](#)

ballsb

[got what it takes](#)

baloney

[bunk](#)

bam

[pow](#)

bananas

[go ape](#)  
[go crazy](#)  
[how do you like them apples](#)  
[like it or lump it](#)

[tough luck](#)

band

[like crazy/like mad](#)  
[strike up the band](#)

bang

[get a kick out of](#)  
[jump \[B\]](#)  
[spot on](#)

bank

[plastic](#)

bankrupt

[belly up](#)  
[go bust](#)  
[go under](#)  
[in the drink](#)  
[on our last legs](#)

bankruptcy

[into the tank](#)

bar

[a bar fly](#)  
[a bar star](#)  
[bar hop](#)  
[belly up to the bar](#)  
[call tabs](#)  
[come of age](#)  
[happy hour](#)  
[hit the bar](#)  
[in the clink](#)  
[pokey](#)  
[pub crawl](#)  
[watering hole](#)

bare

[bare bones](#)  
[cheesecake](#)  
[moon them](#)  
[naked as a jay bird](#)

bare-faced

[out and out](#)

barely

[by the skin of their teeth](#)  
[scratch the surface](#)  
[the room is so small you have to go outside turn around](#)

[win by a nose](#)

barf

[blow chunks](#)

[hork](#)

[hurl](#)

[ralph](#)

[throw chunks](#)

[throw up](#)

[upchuck](#)

[woof your cookies](#)

bargain

[a steal](#)

[give no quarter](#)

[hold out for](#)

bargaining

[take it or leave it](#)

barn

[all the way to Egery and back](#)

[to hell and gone](#)

barnburner

[a cliff-hanger](#)

barred

[knock them down, drag them out](#)

base

[a clutch hitter \(baseball\)](#)

[a three-bagger \(baseball\)](#)

[grand slam](#)

[hit and run \(baseball\)](#)

baseball

[a good arm](#)

[fastball](#)

based

[a takeoff on](#)

[as far as I know](#)

[on moral grounds](#)

[pipe dream](#)

bash

[wingding](#)

basics

[learn the ropes](#)

bat

[bat a thousand](#)

[bat five hundred](#)

[on deck](#)  
[strike out \(baseball\)](#)

bath

[bag some rays](#)  
[catch some rays](#)

bathroom

[biff/biffy](#)  
[have a boo](#)  
[powder my nose](#)  
[see a man about a dog](#)  
[where's the loo](#)

bathtub

[run a tub](#)

batter

[a clutch hitter \(baseball\)](#)  
[a three-bagger \(baseball\)](#)  
[hit and run \(baseball\)](#)  
[home run \(baseball\)](#)  
[pinch-hitter \(baseball\)](#)

battery

[kick start](#)

batting

[without turning a hair](#)

battle

[how goes the battle](#)  
[in tough](#)  
[shop-floor struggle](#)

batty

[mad as a hatter](#)  
[spinny](#)

bawling

[an earful](#)

bay

[as sick as a dog](#)  
[The Rock](#)

bean

[bean pole](#)  
[rocks socks](#)  
[spill your guts](#)  
[string bean](#)

bear

[stand it](#)

beat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">bad date</a></li><li><a href="#">blow you away</a></li><li><a href="#">butt out</a></li><li><a href="#">buzz off</a></li><li><a href="#">clean up on</a></li><li><a href="#">get blood from a stone</a></li><li><a href="#">get lost</a></li><li><a href="#">give it to me straight</a></li><li><a href="#">hemming and hahing</a></li><li><a href="#">kick some ass</a></li><li><a href="#">like crazy/like mad</a></li><li><a href="#">piss off [B]</a></li><li><a href="#">rough up</a></li><li><a href="#">take off, eh</a></li><li><a href="#">the bigger they are the harder they fall</a></li><li><a href="#">touch it with a ten-foot pole</a></li><li><a href="#">wasted</a></li><li><a href="#">whip you</a></li></ul>
beaten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">done for</a></li><li><a href="#">out of the way</a></li></ul>
beater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">be-all, end-all</a></li><li><a href="#">clunker</a></li><li><a href="#">rustbucket</a></li><li><a href="#">the be-all, end-all</a></li></ul>
beautiful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">a humdinger</a></li><li><a href="#">a jim dandy</a></li><li><a href="#">beauty is in the eye of the beholder</a></li><li><a href="#">bevy of beauties</a></li><li><a href="#">ear candy</a></li><li><a href="#">eye candy</a></li><li><a href="#">gild the lily</a></li><li><a href="#">it's a dilly</a></li><li><a href="#">it's a Duesey</a></li><li><a href="#">knockout</a></li><li><a href="#">on a silver platter</a></li><li><a href="#">pale by comparison</a></li><li><a href="#">peaches-and-cream</a></li><li><a href="#">pretty as a picture</a></li></ul>

[smashing](#)  
[some chick](#)  
[the living end](#)  
[what a dish](#)  
[work of art](#)

beautifully

[wax eloquent](#)

beauty

[the way to a man's heart is through his stomach](#)  
[you can't tell a book by its cover](#)

beaver

[hard at it](#)

because

[a three-bagger](#)  
[by dint of](#)  
[by its very nature](#)  
[cabin fever](#)  
[can't see for looking](#)  
[cry the blues](#)  
[cut off your nose to spite your face](#)  
[for dear life](#)  
[force of habit](#)  
[hands are tied](#)  
[jump for joy](#)  
[lame duck](#)  
[light at the end of the tunnel](#)  
[miss you](#)  
[more power to you](#)  
[out of the goodness of my heart](#)  
[put out of its misery](#)  
[see hide nor hair](#)  
[see me for dust](#)  
[sentence to death](#)  
[sour grapes](#)  
[strung out](#)  
[wishful thinking](#)

become

[a blessing in disguise](#)  
[black out](#)  
[blow up](#)  
[blow your lid/stack/top](#)  
[burn up](#)

[catch your death](#)

[change for the better](#)

[clam up](#)

[click in](#)

[come alive](#)

[come down with](#)

[come of age](#)

[come out in the wash](#)

[come to fruition](#)

[come true](#)

[corner the market](#)

[crack under the strain](#)

[die off](#)

[don't have a cow](#)

[fall ill](#)

[fall off the wagon](#)

[flip your lid](#)

[fly off the handle](#)

[get carried away](#)

[get down to brass tacks](#)

[get it over with](#)

[get it together](#)

[get mad](#)

[get the jitters](#)

[get with it](#)

[get worked up](#)

[get your act together](#)

[get your back up](#)

[get your shit together \[B\]](#)

[go ape](#)

[go bad](#)

[go ballistic](#)

[go bananas](#)

[go berserk](#)

[go by the boards](#)

[go mad](#)

[go nuts](#)

[go the way of the dodo](#)

[go through the roof](#)

[go too far](#)

[grow up](#)

[have a conniption](#)

[have a fit](#)  
[health nut](#)  
[hit home](#)  
[hit me](#)  
[hit paydirt](#)  
[hit the ceiling](#)  
[hot tempered](#)  
[jump in with both feet](#)  
[jump out of your skin](#)  
[keep your cool](#)  
[knock up \[B\]](#)  
[let it go to your head](#)  
[let yourself go](#)  
[lick your wounds](#)  
[lose it](#)  
[lose your temper](#)  
[make a name for yourself](#)  
[make friends](#)  
[make the team](#)  
[mix up](#)  
[on my good side](#)  
[over the edge](#)  
[overdo it](#)  
[pass out](#)  
[patch things up](#)  
[pedal her ass \[B\]](#)  
[piss your pants \[B\]](#)  
[play it cool](#)  
[play out](#)  
[plug into](#)  
[press the panic button](#)  
[rile up](#)  
[roll around](#)  
[rust out](#)  
[scrape me off the ceiling](#)  
[see red](#)  
[see the light](#)  
[settle in](#)  
[short temper](#)  
[slip](#)  
[slo mo](#)  
[snowball](#)

[sober up](#)  
[suffer a setback](#)  
[suits you](#)  
[take over](#)  
[the going gets rough](#)  
[the makings of](#)  
[the shit hit the fan](#)  
[tie one on](#)  
[toughen up](#)  
[try out](#)  
[turn into](#)  
[turn ugly](#)  
[walk-through](#)  
[wash out](#)  
[wax poetic](#)  
[wear down](#)  
[whip you into shape](#)  
[work my fingers to the bone](#)  
[work out](#)  
[work up a thirst](#)  
[you don't miss the water till the well runs dry](#)

becoming

[hot under the collar](#)  
[in clover](#)  
[on probation](#)  
[on the mend](#)

bed

[crash](#)  
[get laid \[B\]](#)  
[go down](#)  
[hit the hay](#)  
[make the bed](#)  
[rise and shine](#)  
[turn in](#)  
[wait up for](#)  
[wake with a start](#)  
[wet the bed](#)

bee

[the cat's ass \[B\]](#)

been

[bawl me out](#)  
[can't see for looking](#)

[caught looking](#)  
[handle herself](#)  
[has-been](#)  
[hot off the press](#)  
[it's been a slice \(of life\)](#)  
[laundered money](#)  
[lifer](#)  
[nobody's fool](#)  
[old money](#)  
[skin virgin](#)  
[street wise](#)  
[the cat's out of the bag](#)  
[there's more than meets the eye](#)  
[unsung hero](#)  
[wasn't born yesterday](#)  
[you had to be there](#)

beer

[a hollow leg](#)  
[bend your elbow](#)  
[cry in your beer](#)  
[on tap](#)  
[tip a few](#)

beetle

[Love Bug](#)

before

[a shadow of his former self](#)  
[at first light](#)  
[doughhead](#)  
[dress rehearsal](#)  
[drop back](#)  
[for crying out loud](#)  
[front man](#)  
[get it over with](#)  
[give a black eye](#)  
[give up the blueline \(hockey\)](#)  
[in time](#)  
[jump to conclusions](#)  
[just-in-time](#)  
[just like that](#)  
[like a chicken on a June bug](#)  
[nip it in the bud](#)  
[one for the road](#)

[outdo yourself](#)  
[pre-menstrual syndrome](#)  
[pride goeth before a fall](#)  
[pull it out](#)  
[quicker than you can say Jack Robinson](#)  
[quit while you're ahead](#)  
[scoop them](#)  
[shack up \[B\]](#)  
[strike while the iron is hot](#)  
[the calm before the storm](#)  
[under the wire](#)  
[walk-through](#)

before"

[eyes glaze over](#)

beforehand

[up front](#)

beg

[bleeding heart](#)  
[come again](#)  
[give you an out](#)

began

[come full circle](#)  
[the fat hit the fire](#)

begging

[hat in hand](#)

begin

[asking price](#)  
[bankroll](#)  
[bite off more than you can chew](#)  
[break a sweat](#)  
[break into song](#)  
[bring up](#)  
[catch a buzz](#)  
[come around](#)  
[dig in](#)  
[eat up](#)  
[fall asleep](#)  
[fall for](#)  
[fall in love](#)  
[fever breaks](#)  
[for openers](#)  
[get busy](#)

[get off the ground](#)  
[get off to a good start](#)  
[get the jitters](#)  
[get this show on the road](#)  
[get your head together](#)  
[hit the books](#)  
[hit the ground running](#)  
[hit the skids](#)  
[hold on](#)  
[it's a go](#)  
[let the good times roll](#)  
[light up](#)  
[love at first sight](#)  
[mark a watershed](#)  
[mount a comeback](#)  
[pick a fight](#)  
[put your shoulder to the wheel](#)  
[quit while you're ahead](#)  
[say the word](#)  
[scratch the surface](#)  
[self-starter](#)  
[set about](#)  
[set in](#)  
[spoil for a fight](#)  
[start out](#)  
[start over](#)  
[start up](#)  
[strike up a conversation](#)  
[strike up the band](#)  
[take up](#)  
[turn over a new leaf](#)  
[turn the tables on](#)  
[turn ugly](#)  
[turn you around](#)  
[warm up](#)  
[wax poetic](#)  
[when push comes to shove](#)  
[where the rubber hits the road](#)  
[x marks the spot](#)

beginning

[a leg up](#)  
[back to the drawing board](#)

[falling in love](#)  
[from day one](#)  
[from the get-go](#)  
[from the word go](#)  
[off to a bad start](#)  
[off to a good start](#)  
[on the tip of my tongue](#)  
[square one](#)  
[start from scratch](#)  
[the gloves are off](#)  
[the turn of the century](#)  
[trendy](#)  
[up front](#)

begun

[change horses in mid stream](#)

behave

[be yourself](#)  
[ears pinned back](#)  
[play my cards right](#)  
[stay in line](#)

behaving

[on my best behavior](#)

behavior

[shitty \[B\]](#)

behind

[a babe in arms](#)  
[a suicide pass \(hockey\)](#)  
[drop back](#)  
[drop behind](#)  
[fall behind](#)  
[hot on your heels](#)  
[in the clink](#)  
[laugh up your sleeve](#)  
[lose ground](#)  
[lose time](#)  
[pokey](#)  
[the tender age of](#)  
[unsung hero](#)

behold

[wonder of wonders](#)

being

[a scandal is brewing](#)

[at the ripe old age](#)  
[being there](#)  
[breakup](#)  
[dream on](#)  
[falling in love](#)  
[first hand](#)  
[gathering dust](#)  
[horse sense](#)  
[in her good graces](#)  
[in person](#)  
[Johnny on the spot](#)  
[jolly good fellow](#)  
[mean streak](#)  
[on my best behavior](#)  
[scandal is brewing](#)  
[take it personally](#)  
[the bum's rush](#)  
[the inside track](#)  
[under fire](#)  
[what did I do to deserve this](#)  
[writer's block](#)

belief

[a marked man](#)  
[dyed in the wool](#)  
[stick to your guns](#)  
[true colors](#)  
[work ethic](#)

believable

[doesn't wash](#)

believe

[afraid so](#)  
[blow me down](#)  
[buy into](#)  
[buy that](#)  
[can't believe my ears](#)  
[can't believe my eyes](#)  
[come around](#)  
[come off it](#)  
[cotton to that](#)  
[course you can](#)  
[don't eat that](#)  
[don't think so](#)

[double take](#)  
[eat it up](#)  
[eat that](#)  
[fall for that](#)  
[get out](#)  
[get out of town](#)  
[go for](#)  
[granola](#)  
[hard to believe](#)  
[hell's bells](#)  
[I'll be a monkey's uncle](#)  
[it appears to me](#)  
[keep the faith](#)  
[knock me over with a feather](#)  
[let on](#)  
[my eye](#)  
[play along](#)  
[put stock in](#)  
[read my lips](#)  
[sold on](#)  
[stand for](#)  
[string along](#)  
[sucked in](#)  
[swallow that](#)  
[swear by](#)  
[take a stand](#)  
[take it](#)  
[take it personally](#)  
[take it to heart](#)  
[take it with a grain of salt](#)  
[take your word for it](#)  
[the hell you say](#)  
[there's one born every minute](#)  
[to the best of my knowledge](#)  
[upon my word](#)  
[word is good](#)  
[you bet your boots](#)

believing

[in agreement](#)  
[in tune](#)  
[mind over matter](#)  
[wishful thinking](#)

bell	<a href="#">it ain't over till the fat lady sings</a> <a href="#">shit fire and apple butter</a>
belly	<a href="#">breadbasket</a> <a href="#">the pit of my stomach</a>
belong	<a href="#">pinch</a> <a href="#">the best things in life are free</a>
belonged	<a href="#">hand me down</a>
belt	<a href="#">buckle up</a> <a href="#">pack a rod</a>
bend	<a href="#">crack under the strain</a> <a href="#">drive me up the wall</a> <a href="#">give you the shirt off his back</a> <a href="#">make every effort</a> <a href="#">nuts</a> <a href="#">off your rocker</a> <a href="#">over the edge</a> <a href="#">tip a few</a> <a href="#">try your darndest</a>
benefit	<a href="#">a blessing in disguise</a> <a href="#">get in on it</a> <a href="#">get something out of</a> <a href="#">icing on the cake</a> <a href="#">take your word for it</a> <a href="#">what's in it for me</a>
bent	<a href="#">lickety-split</a>
beside	<a href="#">a black mark</a> <a href="#">cheek by jowl</a> <a href="#">get over</a> <a href="#">have a bird</a> <a href="#">rub elbows</a> <a href="#">shoulder to shoulder</a> <a href="#">side by side</a> <a href="#">the world is your oyster</a>

## best

[all spruced up](#)  
[as far as I know](#)  
[at the top of her game](#)  
[beggars can't be choosers](#)  
[come into your own](#)  
[cream of the crop](#)  
[dress up](#)  
[front runner](#)  
[give it your best shot](#)  
[glad rags](#)  
[go all-out](#)  
[golden age](#)  
[heyday](#)  
[high hopes](#)  
[honesty is the best policy](#)  
[in your prime](#)  
[kick ass](#)  
[kick some ass](#)  
[make it big](#)  
[make the most of it](#)  
[number one](#)  
[outdo yourself](#)  
[play my cards right](#)  
[plug the team](#)  
[put your best foot forward](#)  
[put your heart into it](#)  
[realize your potential](#)  
[selling point](#)  
[show your stuff](#)  
[step up to the plate](#)  
[Sunday best](#)  
[super mint](#)  
[superstar](#)  
[take advantage of](#)  
[the be-all, end-all](#)  
[the bee's knees](#)  
[the best of both worlds](#)  
[the cat's ass \[B\]](#)  
[the key to success](#)  
[the life of Riley](#)  
[the living end](#)

[the most](#)  
[the pick of the litter](#)  
[the sweet spot](#)  
[top of the morning](#)  
[world beater](#)

bestbiggestworst

[if that doesn't beat all](#)

bet

[a sure bet](#)  
[all your eggs in one basket](#)  
[bet on](#)  
[bet on a lame rooster](#)  
[bet you dollars to donuts](#)  
[double or nothing](#)  
[give you odds](#)  
[good bet](#)  
[hedge your bets](#)  
[lay you](#)  
[pay up](#)  
[play the ponies](#)  
[see you/see your](#)  
[sure as hell](#)  
[the odds-on favorite](#)  
[you can bet your bottom dollar](#)

betcha

[darn right](#)

better

[a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush](#)  
[a cut above](#)  
[a new lease on life](#)  
[A-OK](#)  
[ahead of the curve](#)  
[back on your feet](#)  
[better late than never](#)  
[better off](#)  
[better than a kick in the ass \[B\]](#)  
[break the record](#)  
[change for the better](#)  
[circles around you](#)  
[clean up your act](#)  
[get off your high horse](#)  
[give me a lift](#)

[head and shoulders](#)  
[high and mighty](#)  
[how do you like them apples](#)  
[in over your head](#)  
[it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all](#)  
[it takes two to tango](#)  
[knock your socks off](#)  
[look down on](#)  
[love is where you find it](#)  
[necessity is the mother of invention](#)  
[not half bad](#)  
[not too shabby](#)  
[outdo yourself](#)  
[outplay](#)  
[pick you up](#)  
[pull up your socks](#)  
[put on airs](#)  
[show you up](#)  
[stretching it](#)  
[the best of both worlds](#)  
[the grass is greener on the other side of the fence](#)  
[the more the merrier](#)  
[the turning point](#)  
[things are looking up](#)  
[through thick and thin](#)  
[top that](#)

betting

[high roller](#)  
[skins game](#)

between

[a pinch of salt](#)  
[as the crow flies](#)  
[behind the eight ball](#)  
[between the devil and the deep blue sea](#)  
[damned if you do and damned if you don't](#)  
[geezer gap](#)  
[muscle in](#)  
[on the bubble](#)  
[puppy love](#)  
[rodchester](#)  
[run interference](#)  
[shop-floor struggle](#)

[Sophie's choice](#)  
[split the difference](#)  
[the age of majority](#)  
[the man in the middle](#)  
[the odd one](#)  
[tight spot](#)  
[touch and go](#)

beyond

[a goner](#)  
[beyond the pale](#)  
[had it](#)

biffy

[the john](#)

big

[a big rig](#)  
[a big shot](#)  
[a big wheel](#)  
[a bull in a china shop](#)  
[a chunk of change](#)  
[big boys](#)  
[big break](#)  
[big hairy deal](#)  
[big shot](#)  
[blow it](#)  
[can't see the forest for the trees](#)  
[don't make a mountain out of a molehill](#)  
[go places](#)  
[lard butt/lard ass \[B\]](#)  
[last hurrah](#)  
[major](#)  
[make a killing](#)  
[pin your hopes on](#)  
[play it up](#)  
[save a bundle](#)  
[serious coin](#)  
[stacked](#)  
[sweater girl](#)  
[the bigger they are the harder they fall](#)  
[VIP](#)  
[win big](#)

big-sky

[think outside the box](#)

[think tank](#)

bigfoot

[Sasquatch](#)

bigger

[blow it out of proportion](#)

[larger than life](#)

[make a mountain out of a mole hill](#)

[snowball](#)

[stretching it](#)

biggest

[the lion's share](#)

bigot

[a redneck](#)

bill

[ahead of the game](#)

[charge it](#)

[cold, hard cash](#)

[make a go of it](#)

[make ends meet](#)

[pay the shot](#)

[pick up the tab](#)

[run a tab](#)

[see you through](#)

[up against it](#)

bin

[binner](#)

[nut house](#)

binding

[written in blood](#)

binoculars

[the naked eye](#)

[with the naked eye](#)

bird

[birder](#)

[go the way of the dodo](#)

[put a bug in my ear](#)

[Saskatchewan pheasant](#)

[stark naked](#)

[without a stitch of clothes on](#)

birth

[born tired](#)

birthday

[a pinch to grow an inch](#)

[didn't have a stitch of clothes on](#)  
[full Monty](#)

bit

[a bee in her bonnet](#)  
[a bit at sea](#)  
[a grain of truth](#)  
[a little off](#)  
[a pinch of salt](#)  
[a screw loose](#)  
[browned off](#)  
[feel the pinch](#)  
[feeling good](#)  
[for good measure](#)  
[give an inch](#)  
[hoity-toity](#)  
[little by little](#)  
[over the rainbow](#)  
[rough up](#)  
[six bits](#)  
[tip of the hat](#)  
[tipsy](#)  
[too bad](#)  
[touched in the head](#)  
[woozy](#)

bitch

[battleaxe](#)  
[grouse](#)

bite

[bear down](#)  
[buckle down](#)  
[grab a bite to eat](#)  
[know which side your bread is buttered on](#)  
[pass on](#)

bitpieceperson

[the whole shebang](#)  
[the whole shooting match](#)

bittersweet

[mixed feelings](#)

blab

[shoot your mouth off](#)

black

[black eye](#)

[in writing](#)  
[Saskatchewan pheasant](#)

blame	<a href="#">a bum rap</a> <a href="#">at fault</a> <a href="#">bear the brunt</a> <a href="#">finger</a> <a href="#">hold me responsible</a> <a href="#">lay a trip</a> <a href="#">lay the blame</a> <a href="#">pass the buck</a> <a href="#">shoulder the blame</a> <a href="#">take a bullet</a> <a href="#">take the blame</a> <a href="#">take the rap</a>
blamed	<a href="#">a sucker for punishment</a> <a href="#">damned if you do and damned if you don't</a> <a href="#">get burned</a> <a href="#">get fingered</a> <a href="#">the goat</a>
blank	<a href="#">draw a blank</a>
blankets	<a href="#">make the bed</a>
blarney	<a href="#">a little thick</a> <a href="#">flattery will get you nowhere</a>
blast	<a href="#">a hell of a time</a> <a href="#">gas</a> <a href="#">have a ball</a> <a href="#">have a good time</a>
blasted	<a href="#">consarned</a> <a href="#">dingbusted</a> <a href="#">doggone</a>
blaster	<a href="#">boom box</a>
blemish	<a href="#">zit</a>
blend	

[stick out like a sore thumb](#)

blending

[dasein](#)

blink

[bat an eye](#)

[bat her eyes](#)

bliss

[duh](#)

[go to hell in a handbasket](#)

bloated

[full as a tick](#)

block

[Denver boot](#)

[like father, like son](#)

[stonewall](#)

[the apple doesn't fall far from the tree](#)

blocking

[in the road](#)

[out of the way](#)

blood

[blood is thicker than water](#)

[hold a grudge](#)

[there's no love lost](#)

bloore

[The Group of Five/The Regina Five](#)

blotto

[dead tired](#)

blow

[beat the pants off](#)

[bite me \[B\]](#)

[blow a kiss](#)

[blow to kingdom come](#)

[blow your wad](#)

[botch it](#)

[bowl me over](#)

[fall flat on my face](#)

[finish off](#)

[flip your lid](#)

[go through the roof](#)

[kick butt](#)

[knock me over with a feather](#)

[knock you out](#)

[make mincemeat of](#)  
[quit this place](#)  
[rocks socks](#)  
[screw up](#)  
[throw a kiss](#)  
[wipe you](#)

blue

[clouds on the horizon](#)  
[cry in your beer](#)  
[cuss](#)  
[got the blues](#)  
[lo and behold](#)  
[sob story](#)  
[swear like a sailor](#)  
[tried and true](#)

blueline

[give up the blueline \(hockey\)](#)

bluff

[buffalo](#)

blurt

[come out with](#)

board

[boarding \(hockey\)](#)  
[chairman of the boards \(hockey\)](#)  
[clotheslined \(hockey\)](#)  
[hang ten \(surfing\)](#)  
[under the table](#)  
[underhanded](#)

boarders

[skaters](#)

boast

[show off](#)

boat

[on board](#)

bob

[it's not what you know, it's who you know](#)  
[parachute](#)  
[the inside track](#)

bodacious

[a daredevil](#)

body

[body language](#)  
[built like a brick shithouse \[B\]](#)

[keep fit](#)  
[keep in good shape](#)  
[knockout](#)  
[pinch an inch](#)  
[written all over your face](#)

bodycheck

[clotheslined \(hockey\)](#)

bodychecked

[had his bell rung](#)

boggle

[head is spinning](#)  
[make your head spin](#)  
[mix you up](#)

bogof

[loss leader](#)

bold

[a caution](#)  
[bodacious](#)  
[no shrinking violet](#)  
[out and out](#)

bomb

[blow up](#)  
[cruise](#)  
[make war](#)

bonds

[cash in](#)

bone

[a score to settle](#)  
[bare bones](#)  
[bone dry](#)  
[brush up on](#)  
[bust my butt](#)  
[slackass \[B\]](#)

bonkers

[climb the walls](#)  
[crackers](#)  
[go nuts](#)  
[wacko](#)

bonus

[icing on the cake](#)

bonzer

[awesome](#)

boo	<a href="#">take a gander</a> <a href="#">take a look</a>
booboo	<a href="#">caribouboo</a> <a href="#">fuck up [B]</a> <a href="#">make a mistake</a> <a href="#">slip up</a>
boobs	<a href="#">stacked</a>
book	<a href="#">a yawner</a> <a href="#">beauty is only skin deep</a> <a href="#">come down hard</a> <a href="#">curl up with a good book</a> <a href="#">geek</a> <a href="#">hang you out to dry</a> <a href="#">hit the books</a> <a href="#">look up/look it up</a> <a href="#">lose favor</a> <a href="#">on my good side</a> <a href="#">on the shit list [B]</a> <a href="#">that's his bible</a>
boom	<a href="#">feast or famine</a> <a href="#">ghetto blaster</a>
boost	<a href="#">supercharge</a>
boot	<a href="#">highball it</a> <a href="#">lickety-split</a>
booth	<a href="#">so small you had to back out to change your mind</a>
bootleg	<a href="#">pirate</a> <a href="#">software piracy</a>
booze	<a href="#">hooch</a>
boozing	<a href="#">down and out</a> <a href="#">partners in crime</a>
bore	<a href="#">buttonhole you</a>

[spare me](#)

bored

[sick of](#)[tired of](#)

boredom

[roll their eyes](#)

boring

[a drag](#)[a yawner](#)

born

[baby boomer](#)[been around](#)[born with a silver spoon in his mouth](#)[dates you](#)[Generation X](#)[the runt of the litter](#)

borrow

[hit me for a loan](#)[sign out](#)

borrowed

[on loan](#)[pay back](#)

boss

[a big shot](#)[big cheese](#)[head honcho](#)[lord it over](#)[low on the totem pole](#)[the big cheese](#)[top dog](#)

both

[by the same token](#)[damned if you do and damned if you don't](#)[fence sitter](#)[have your cake and eat it, too](#)[if you're not with us you're against us](#)[lesser of two evils](#)[middle ground](#)[mixed feelings](#)[neither fish nor fowl](#)[over easy](#)[you and the horse you rode in on](#)

**bother**

[a hassle](#)  
[a pain in the ass \[B\]](#)  
[brush it off](#)  
[bug \(someone\)](#)  
[burn your ass \[B\]](#)  
[dog me](#)  
[faze me](#)  
[get on my nerves](#)  
[get out of your hair](#)  
[get to me](#)  
[get under my skin](#)  
[get your dander up](#)  
[hassle me](#)  
[never mind](#)  
[no skin off my nose](#)  
[rub the wrong way](#)  
[ruffle your feathers](#)  
[shrug it off](#)  
[what the heck](#)

**bothered**

[discombobulated](#)  
[hot under the collar](#)  
[put out about](#)

**bothering**

[in your hair](#)  
[out of my hair](#)  
[what's eating you](#)

**bothersome**

[needle](#)

**bottle**

[bag lady](#)  
[big cheese](#)  
[bottle drive](#)  
[bottle man](#)  
[Dumpster diving](#)  
[the big cheese](#)

**bottom**

[bottom out](#)  
[drink up](#)  
[from stem to stern](#)  
[get to the root of the problem](#)

[look into](#)  
[the pit of my stomach](#)  
[what it boils down to](#)

bought

[up for grabs](#)

boundaries

[stretch the envelope](#)

boundary

[beyond the pale](#)

[out of bounds](#)

bow

[step down](#)

[take a bow](#)

bowel

[drop a log \[B\]](#)

[pinch off a loaf \[B\]](#)

[take a shit \[B\]](#)

bowl

[floor you](#)

box

[big-sky thinking](#)

[ghetto blaster](#)

[push the envelope](#)

[put to bed \(print media\)](#)

[the sin bin \(hockey\)](#)

boxer

[The Great White Hope](#)

boy

[a chip off the old block](#)

[attaboy \(that a boy\)](#)

[big shot](#)

[blind date](#)

[boys will be boys](#)

[date](#)

[drugstore cowboy](#)

[fair-haired boy](#)

[good for you](#)

[hood](#)

[keep up the good work](#)

[snotty-nosed kid](#)

[that a boy/that a girl](#)

[VIP](#)

boyfriend	<a href="#">beat your time</a> <a href="#">ex</a>
boyfriendgirlfriend	<a href="#">go out with</a>
brag	<a href="#">show off</a> <a href="#">talk big</a> <a href="#">toot your own horn</a> <a href="#">windbag</a>
bragging	<a href="#">hot air</a>
brain	<a href="#">bandwidth</a> <a href="#">birdbrain</a> <a href="#">brain is fried</a> <a href="#">brain traffic</a> <a href="#">deadhead</a> <a href="#">grey matter</a> <a href="#">pinhead</a> <a href="#">something snapped</a> <a href="#">think tank</a>
brainy	<a href="#">bright</a>
brakes	<a href="#">hit the brakes</a>
branch	<a href="#">twiggy</a>
brass	<a href="#">buckstop (military)</a>
brave	<a href="#">chicken</a> <a href="#">discretion is the better part of valor</a> <a href="#">take it like a man</a>
brawling	<a href="#">knock them down, drag them out</a>
bread	<a href="#">melt in your mouth</a> <a href="#">scratch</a> <a href="#">square meal</a> <a href="#">stock in trade</a>
breadbasket	<a href="#">wheatbelt</a>

break	<a href="#">a blowout</a> <a href="#">a falling out</a> <a href="#">big break</a> <a href="#">blow the lid off</a> <a href="#">break and enter</a> <a href="#">break into</a> <a href="#">breakup</a> <a href="#">bust out</a> <a href="#">cheat on</a> <a href="#">crash</a> <a href="#">double-cross</a> <a href="#">get into trouble</a> <a href="#">give me a break</a> <a href="#">give out</a> <a href="#">go back on</a> <a href="#">go haywire</a> <a href="#">luck out</a> <a href="#">play dirty</a> <a href="#">put you at ease</a> <a href="#">stroke of good luck</a> <a href="#">take five</a> <a href="#">the wheels fall off</a> <a href="#">work up a sweat</a>
breakdown	<a href="#">burn out</a>
breakfast	<a href="#">a duke's mixture</a> <a href="#">eat you for breakfast</a>
breaking	<a href="#">over easy</a>
breakup	<a href="#">break up</a>
breasts	<a href="#">boobs [B]</a> <a href="#">stacked</a> <a href="#">sweater girl</a>
breath	<a href="#">jungle mouth</a> <a href="#">out of breath</a> <a href="#">out of wind</a> <a href="#">that'll be the frosty Friday</a>

[tuckered out](#)  
[within earshot](#)

breathe

[breathe easy](#)

breeze

[a breath of wind](#)

brick

[a bit off/a bit mental](#)  
[a little off](#)  
[a screw loose](#)  
[a tower of strength](#)  
[not all there](#)  
[three slices short \(of a full loaf\)](#)  
[without a full deck](#)

brief

[a fleeting glance](#)  
[catch a glimpse](#)  
[pit stop](#)

briefcase

[suckbucket](#)

briefly

[in brief](#)  
[touch on](#)

bright

[on the ball](#)  
[swift](#)  
[what a brain](#)

bring

[bring home the bacon](#)  
[loss leader](#)  
[make mention](#)  
[put a hex on me](#)  
[round up](#)  
[take you to court](#)  
[wait on you hand and foot](#)  
[wrap it up](#)

british

[cheers](#)  
[Lotus Land](#)

broad

[as plain as day](#)  
[gash](#)

[grinning like a bushel basketful of possum heads](#)

[in plain view](#)

[plain as day](#)

broadcast

[a blackout \(TV\)](#)

broke

[pull out all the stops](#)

[something snapped](#)

[strapped](#)

broken

[had the bird](#)

[kaput](#)

[on the fritz](#)

[out of order](#)

[shot](#)

[something is haywire](#)

brokers

[the powers that be](#)

browbeat

[hound](#)

brown

[kiss ass \[B\]](#)

[kowtow](#)

[suck up to](#)

bruised

[wasted](#)

bruising

[spoil for a fight](#)

brush

[at death's door](#)

[brush cut](#)

buck

[a chunk of change](#)

[clam](#)

[greenback](#)

[serious coin](#)

[shekel](#)

[the buck stops here](#)

[the runaround](#)

bucket

[bite the dust](#)

[buy the farm](#)

[cross over to the other side](#)

[pass on](#)

buckle

[buckle up](#)

buddies

[partners in crime](#)

budget

[rob Peter to pay Paul](#)

buff

[birthday suit](#)[didn't have a stitch of clothes on](#)[in the nude](#)[skinny dip](#)[strip](#)

bug

[a thorn in my side](#)[burn your ass \[B\]](#)[drive me crazy](#)[get on my nerves](#)[get to me](#)[get under my skin](#)[get your dander up](#)[get your goat](#)[give me a bad time](#)[give you a ribbing](#)[hassle me](#)[Love Bug](#)[rub the wrong way](#)[set your teeth on edge](#)

bugging

[a hard time](#)[a rough time](#)[in your hair](#)

bugme

[push me \(to the limit\)](#)

build

[built like a brick shithouse \[B\]](#)[necessity is the mother of invention](#)[rack up](#)

building

[a sick building](#)[blow this joint](#)[sign in](#)

[the whole works](#)[trash the place](#)

built

[in the works](#)

bulk

[beef it up](#)

bull

[a bunch of malarkey](#)[a lot of bunk](#)[baloney](#)[bunk](#)[claptrap](#)[cock and bull \[B\]](#)[crap](#)[cut the crap \[B\]](#)[hogwash](#)[horse feathers](#)[hot air](#)[in a pig's ass \[B\]](#)[prairie oyster](#)[trash the place](#)

bullet

[bear down](#)[buckle down](#)[faster than a minnow can swim a dipper](#)[greased lightning](#)[lightning fast](#)

bullshit

[that's a crock \(of shit\) \[B\]](#)

bum

[backside](#)[buns](#)[butt](#)[from rags to riches](#)[keester](#)[lard butt/lard ass \[B\]](#)[moon them](#)[run out of town](#)[run you out](#)

bumming

[down and out](#)

bump

[a love tap](#)  
[bump and grind \(hockey\)](#)  
[rearend](#)  
[run into](#)  
[take your lumps](#)

bumper

[bumper to bumper](#)  
[rush hour](#)

bun

[backside](#)  
[hotdog](#)  
[in a family way](#)  
[up the stump \[B\]](#)  
[work your ass off \[B\]](#)

bunch

[a gaggle of geese](#)  
[a slug](#)  
[horse feathers](#)  
[of the lot](#)  
[whack](#)

bundle

[a shitload](#)  
[blow your wad](#)  
[make a killing](#)  
[rug up](#)

bungled

[screw-up](#)

bunk

[a bunch of malarkey](#)  
[a lot of folderol](#)  
[baloney](#)  
[gibberish](#)  
[hogwash](#)

burdened

[saddled with](#)

buried

[dig it up](#)  
[pushing up daisies](#)

burn

[go up in smoke](#)  
[look like he was dragged through a knothole](#)  
[more money than brains](#)

[penny wise, dollar dumb](#)  
[see red](#)

burned

[up in smoke](#)

bury

[lay down your arms](#)  
[throw down your arms](#)

bus

[take the bus/plane](#)

bush

[give it to me straight](#)  
[hemming and hahing](#)  
[through the grapevine](#)  
[touch it with a ten-foot pole](#)

bushed

[blotto](#)  
[worn out](#)

busily

[like nobody's business](#)

business

[a shogun](#)  
[all washed up](#)  
[big boys](#)  
[bigger fish to fry](#)  
[buy out](#)  
[cash flow](#)  
[cash up/cash out](#)  
[change horses in mid stream](#)  
[funny stuff](#)  
[get this show on the road](#)  
[got a corner on](#)  
[into the tank](#)  
[mind your own business](#)  
[moppie](#)  
[no nonsense](#)  
[oilpatch](#)  
[sell out](#)  
[set up shop](#)  
[shady deal](#)  
[start up](#)  
[the bottom fell out](#)  
[trade secret](#)

[washed up](#)  
[work the room](#)  
[write it off](#)  
[zipperhead](#)

bust

[break out](#)  
[feast or famine](#)

busted

[under arrest](#)

busy

[a beehive of activity](#)  
[a full plate](#)  
[a going concern.](#)  
[a heavy day](#)  
[as busy as a beaver](#)  
[caught up](#)  
[get at it](#)  
[go like crazy](#)  
[got my hands full](#)  
[hard at it](#)  
[irons in the fire](#)  
[on the go](#)  
[on the run](#)  
[rat race](#)  
[the devil makes work for idle hands](#)  
[tied up](#)

but

[a blank look](#)  
[a sad sack](#)  
[afraid so](#)  
[all talk and no action](#)  
[bark is worse than his bite](#)  
[bye for now](#)  
[cry me a river](#)  
[discretion is the better part of valor](#)  
[don't go away mad; just go away](#)  
[down home](#)  
[feather a pass \(hockey\)](#)  
[Fibber McGee's closet](#)  
[figurehead](#)  
[go in circles](#)  
[hold her liquor](#)

[hold your drinks](#)  
[hold your nose](#)  
[in one ear and out the other](#)  
[it's all over but the crying](#)  
[it's all over but the shouting](#)  
[last but not least](#)  
[lesser of two evils](#)  
[love them and leave them](#)  
[more money than brains](#)  
[motormouth](#)  
[no offense, but...](#)  
[on speaking terms](#)  
[penny wise, pound foolish](#)  
[play musical chairs](#)  
[slug away](#)  
[take it the wrong way](#)  
[the lights are on but nobody's home](#)  
[turn a blind eye](#)  
[you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink](#)  
[you can run but you can't hide](#)

butt

[ass \[B\]](#)  
[blow them away](#)  
[bum](#)  
[horn in](#)  
[rear end](#)  
[tub of guts](#)

butter

[cement hands](#)  
[smooth talker](#)  
[stock in trade](#)

buttocks

[ass \[B\]](#)  
[backside](#)  
[bum](#)  
[buns](#)  
[butt](#)  
[keester](#)  
[lard butt/lard ass \[B\]](#)  
[moon them](#)  
[rear end](#)

buttonhole

[bend your ear](#)  
[corner you](#)

buy

[bogof](#)  
[buy a round](#)  
[buy out](#)  
[buy up](#)  
[charge it](#)  
[clean me out](#)  
[come onside](#)  
[cross over Jordan](#)  
[eat that](#)  
[got my eye on](#)  
[hard sell](#)  
[hit the bar](#)  
[keep up with the Joneses](#)  
[kick the bucket](#)  
[last call](#)  
[live on](#)  
[make an offer](#)  
[pit stop](#)  
[play the stock market](#)  
[put down roots](#)  
[set up shop](#)  
[stretch the dollar](#)  
[swallow that](#)  
[the middleman](#)

buyer

[soft market](#)

buying

[walk-through](#)

buzz

[a glow on](#)  
[take off, eh](#)

buzzed

[feeling good](#)  
[had a few](#)  
[half-corked](#)  
[tipsy](#)  
[under the influence of alcohol](#)

buzzword

[catch phrase](#)

**by**

[a blowout](#)  
[a.k.a. \(aka\)](#)  
[act out](#)  
[actions speak louder than words](#)  
[a.k.a. \(aka\)](#)  
[at face value](#)  
[be there for me](#)  
[beat the pants off](#)  
[beauty is only skin deep](#)  
[bit by bit](#)  
[blank](#)  
[brain is fried](#)  
[bump into](#)  
[busted](#)  
[by a country mile](#)  
[by any means](#)  
[by golly](#)  
[by gosh](#)  
[by guess or by gosh](#)  
[by hook or by crook](#)  
[by leaps and bounds](#)  
[by no means](#)  
[by the same token](#)  
[by the skin of their teeth](#)  
[by word of mouth](#)  
[camel toes \[B\]](#)  
[Canada goose](#)  
[caribouboo](#)  
[cheek by jowl](#)  
[clotheslined \(hockey\)](#)  
[come hell or high water](#)  
[courtesy of](#)  
[cover your ass \[B\]](#)  
[down for the count](#)  
[drop a bundle](#)  
[fair-weather friend](#)  
[feel free](#)  
[fill in](#)  
[fill out](#)  
[find yourself](#)  
[found money](#)

[fucked by the fickle finger of fate \[B\]](#)

[get a charge out of](#)

[go to bat for](#)

[hand down](#)

[hands on](#)

[high five](#)

[hold that over my head](#)

[in dribs and drabs](#)

[in good hands](#)

[in her good graces](#)

[inside joke](#)

[keep you going](#)

[keep your head above water](#)

[laid off](#)

[little by little](#)

[make your way](#)

[mop up](#)

[mugged](#)

[neck and neck](#)

[on a string](#)

[on target](#)

[one at a time](#)

[political football](#)

[pull a few strings](#)

[pussy whipped](#)

[run into](#)

[rust out](#)

[scrape by](#)

[self-made man](#)

[seven come eleven](#)

[shellack](#)

[shoulder to shoulder](#)

[shuffle the chairs on the deck](#)

[sick of](#)

[single file](#)

[stack up](#)

[take a flight](#)

[take by storm](#)

[take off](#)

[take you for all you've got](#)

[take you to the cleaners](#)

[trial and error](#)

[turn over a new leaf](#)  
[two abreast](#)  
[under a spell](#)  
[under arrest](#)  
[under his own steam](#)  
[under my care](#)  
[up in smoke](#)  
[wash down](#)  
[way out \(away out\)](#)  
[win by a nose](#)  
[win going away](#)  
[wing it](#)  
[wipe you](#)  
[wrap around his finger](#)  
[you're only as good as your last shift](#)

bye

[cheerio](#)  
[cheery-bye](#)  
[chimo](#)  
[toodles/toodle-oo](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Definition Index C

c'est	
	<a href="#">that's life</a>
cab	
	<a href="#">flag a cab</a>
	<a href="#">hail a cab</a>
cabbage	
	<a href="#">rabbit food</a>
cables	
	<a href="#">jump start</a>
	<a href="#">kick start</a>
caboodle	
	<a href="#">lock, stock and barrel</a>
caf_html_eacute_	
	<a href="#">a doggy bag</a>
cafe	
	<a href="#">eat out</a>
	<a href="#">greasy spoon</a>
cage	
	<a href="#">on the loose</a>
cain	
	<a href="#">raise hell [B]</a>
cake	
	<a href="#">a piece of piss</a>
	<a href="#">can't have it both ways</a>
	<a href="#">duck soup</a>
	<a href="#">easy as pie</a>
	<a href="#">easy pickings</a>
	<a href="#">goodies</a>
	<a href="#">have it both ways</a>
	<a href="#">it was a lark</a>
	<a href="#">it's a snap</a>
	<a href="#">wacky</a>
calculate	
	<a href="#">figurehead</a>
	<a href="#">get a fix on</a>

calf	<a href="#">charley horse</a> <a href="#">prairie oyster</a>
calgary	<a href="#">Cowtown</a>
call	<a href="#">a wash</a> <a href="#">account for</a> <a href="#">any word</a> <a href="#">be there or be square</a> <a href="#">call it a day</a> <a href="#">catch you at a bad time</a> <a href="#">dingle you</a> <a href="#">doesn't mince words</a> <a href="#">even</a> <a href="#">give me a dingle</a> <a href="#">give me a ring</a> <a href="#">going to the mountains</a> <a href="#">have the final say</a> <a href="#">in no uncertain terms</a> <a href="#">mayday (m'aidez)</a> <a href="#">no word</a> <a href="#">one false move</a> <a href="#">phone-in</a> <a href="#">ring me</a> <a href="#">ring off the hook</a> <a href="#">run the show</a> <a href="#">SOS</a> <a href="#">straight from the shoulder</a> <a href="#">take calls</a> <a href="#">the call of duty</a> <a href="#">what-cha-ma-call-it</a> <a href="#">write it off</a>
called	<a href="#">go by the name of</a> <a href="#">take your turn</a>
calling	<a href="#">hey</a>
calm	<a href="#">butter wouldn't melt in his mouth</a> <a href="#">cool off</a> <a href="#">cool under pressure</a>

[hang loose](#)  
[keep an even keel](#)  
[keep your cool](#)  
[keep your hair on](#)  
[keep your shirt on](#)  
[play it cool](#)  
[settle down](#)  
[when the dust settles](#)  
[without batting an eye](#)

calmly

[collect my thoughts](#)  
[nerves of steel](#)

camera

[zoom in](#)

can

[a double-edged sword](#)  
[a heavy hitter](#)  
[a man's home is his castle](#)  
[age of majority](#)  
[an easy mark](#)  
[at the top of her game](#)  
[at the top of his voice](#)  
[beauty is only skin deep](#)  
[biff/biffy](#)  
[bite off more than you can chew](#)  
[bottle man](#)  
[bow out](#)  
[can help it](#)  
[catch as catch can](#)  
[circular file](#)  
[clear your head/mind](#)  
[course you can](#)  
[crank issue](#)  
[cry me a river](#)  
[damned if you do and damned if you don't](#)  
[dead-eye Dick](#)  
[die hard](#)  
[do your utmost](#)  
[don't sweat it](#)  
[double take](#)  
[eagle eyes](#)  
[eat your fill](#)

[faster than a minnow can swim a dipper](#)

[file 13](#)

[full out](#)

[give it all you've got](#)

[give it your best shot](#)

[got you by the balls \[B\]](#)

[hard skill](#)

[have a boo](#)

[have to hand it to you](#)

[hell's bells](#)

[hit me with your best shot](#)

[hold me responsible](#)

[hold your mouth the right way](#)

[if my memory serves me correctly](#)

[if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen](#)

[if you're not with us you're against us](#)

[in plain view](#)

[it takes two to tango](#)

[it's a go](#)

[just like that](#)

[like a chicken on a June bug](#)

[make do](#)

[make the most of it](#)

[milk it](#)

[mind boggling](#)

[mind over matter](#)

[miss your chance](#)

[Murphy's Law](#)

[of course you can](#)

[open to criticism](#)

[pass up](#)

[quicker than you can say Jack Robinson](#)

[realize your potential](#)

[set out](#)

[shape up or ship out](#)

[show your stuff](#)

[step aside](#)

[take this job and shove it \[B\]](#)

[the age of majority](#)

[the big picture](#)

[the bigger they are the harder they fall](#)

[the john](#)

[the loo](#)  
[try your luck](#)  
[up for grabs](#)  
[where's the loo](#)  
[window on the world](#)  
[word is good](#)  
[work the room](#)  
[you bet your boots](#)  
[you can bet your bottom dollar](#)  
[you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink](#)  
[you can run but you can't hide](#)

canada

[Canada goose](#)  
[Canuck](#)  
[Lotus Land](#)  
[Sasquatch](#)  
[The Great White North](#)  
[The Rock](#)

canadian

[Canada goose](#)  
[Canuck](#)  
[hoser](#)  
[Joe Who](#)  
[Johnny Canuck](#)  
[loonie](#)  
[Mounties](#)  
[rye](#)  
[snowbirds](#)  
[The Group of Seven](#)

canary

[squealer](#)

cancel

[call off](#)  
[get cold feet](#)  
[scratch](#)

canceled

[laid off](#)

candidate

[mudslng](#)  
[run for office](#)

candy

[a sweet tooth](#)

[goodies](#)  
[pin money](#)  
[sweet tooth](#)

canned

[a pat answer](#)

cannot

[behind your back](#)  
[beyond help](#)  
[beyond repair](#)  
[can't believe my ears](#)  
[can't believe my eyes](#)  
[can't have it both ways](#)  
[can't help](#)  
[can't put my finger on it](#)  
[can't put my hands on it](#)  
[can't see for looking](#)  
[can't see the forest for the trees](#)  
[chickens come home to roost](#)  
[choke](#)  
[do-dad](#)  
[go on](#)  
[have to](#)  
[heart is in the right place](#)  
[I'll be a monkey's uncle](#)  
[if you can't cut it, you can't stay](#)  
[it takes two to tango](#)  
[mind go blank](#)  
[no can do](#)  
[no chancy](#)  
[plate is full](#)  
[put my foot down](#)  
[shut-in](#)  
[stump me](#)  
[the breaking point](#)  
[the Peter Principle](#)  
[there's no two ways about it](#)  
[what's-his-face](#)  
[written in blood](#)  
[you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink](#)  
[you can run but you can't hide](#)  
[you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear](#)

canuck

[Canuck](#)  
[Johnny Canuck](#)

canyon

[Lovers' Leap](#)

capacity

[bandwidth](#)  
[grey matter](#)

car

[a humdinger](#)  
[at the wheel](#)  
[beater](#)  
[bomb around](#)  
[car buff](#)  
[clunker](#)  
[cruise](#)  
[Denver boot](#)  
[drag race](#)  
[drive around](#)  
[drive standard](#)  
[fender bender](#)  
[go for a spin](#)  
[happy motoring](#)  
[hit the brakes](#)  
[idiot lights](#)  
[jump start](#)  
[kick start](#)  
[lay rubber](#)  
[lemon](#)  
[low-ball him](#)  
[pick you up](#)  
[puddlejumper](#)  
[ragtop](#)  
[rearend](#)  
[ride the clutch](#)  
[rustbucket](#)  
[set of wheels](#)  
[tailgate](#)  
[tin Lizzie](#)  
[tranny](#)  
[wheels](#)  
[XL](#)  
[zoom](#)

carbide	<a href="#">wipe out</a>
card	<a href="#">a hot hand</a> <a href="#">a major</a> <a href="#">an ace up your sleeve</a> <a href="#">close to the vest</a> <a href="#">cold, hard cash</a> <a href="#">deal me in</a> <a href="#">hit me (card games)</a> <a href="#">plastic</a> <a href="#">read them and weep</a>
card-carrying	<a href="#">dyed in the wool</a>
care	<a href="#">bite the hand that feeds you</a> <a href="#">couldn't care less</a> <a href="#">do you mind</a> <a href="#">don't give a crap [B]</a> <a href="#">don't give a damn [B]</a> <a href="#">fend for yourself</a> <a href="#">fuss over</a> <a href="#">give a damn / give a shit / give a fuck [B]</a> <a href="#">give a hoot</a> <a href="#">give a shit [B]</a> <a href="#">keep in good shape</a> <a href="#">look after</a> <a href="#">piss on them [B]</a> <a href="#">play hard to get</a> <a href="#">reach out</a> <a href="#">slash and burn</a> <a href="#">so what</a> <a href="#">take care of</a> <a href="#">take pains</a> <a href="#">take you in</a> <a href="#">watch out for</a> <a href="#">watch over</a> <a href="#">what the hay</a> <a href="#">who cares</a>
cared	<a href="#">in good hands</a> <a href="#">under my care</a>

## career

[all washed up](#)  
[checkered career](#)  
[on his last legs](#)  
[track record](#)  
[work the room](#)

## carefree

[devil-may-care](#)  
[footloose and fancy free](#)  
[happy as a clam/lark](#)  
[on a lark](#)

## careful

[a fine-toothed comb](#)  
[look out](#)  
[on your guard](#)  
[penny wise, pound foolish](#)  
[play it safe](#)  
[take care](#)  
[the third degree](#)  
[tighten our belts](#)  
[walk on eggshells](#)  
[watch out](#)  
[watch your step](#)

## carefully

[all ears](#)  
[all eyes](#)  
[give me the third degree](#)  
[hang on every word](#)  
[keep your eyes peeled](#)  
[listen up](#)  
[make sure](#)  
[mark my words](#)  
[off the top of my head](#)  
[on tenterhooks](#)  
[penny pincher](#)  
[sharpen up](#)  
[spell out](#)  
[stretch the dollar](#)  
[think through](#)  
[watch me like a hawk](#)  
[watch over like a mother hawk](#)

## careless

[harum-scarum](#)[klutz](#)[penny wise, pound foolish](#)[screw-up](#)[trifle with me](#)

carelessly

[slip out](#)[thrash](#)[throw caution to the wind](#)[upon the words offhandedly spoken](#)

caress

[pet](#)

caribou

[caribouboo](#)

caring

[have a soft spot for](#)

carpet

[cover up](#)[give me the third degree](#)[pointed questions](#)[royal treatment](#)[take you to task](#)[the third degree](#)

carried

[go too far](#)[piggyback](#)

carrots

[rabbit food](#)

carry

[bring it off](#)[cash and carry](#)[hold me responsible](#)[keep on trucking](#)[pack a rod](#)[pack Uzis](#)[pipes](#)[soldier on](#)

carving

[work of art](#)

case

[a case of](#)[browbeat](#)

[get off my back](#)  
[got it bad](#)  
[got it in for](#)  
[it's a case of](#)  
[make a big to-do](#)  
[on my back](#)  
[pick on](#)  
[watch me like a hawk](#)

cash

[bread](#)  
[cash and carry](#)  
[cash in](#)  
[cash on the barrelhead](#)  
[cash on the line](#)  
[cash up/cash out](#)  
[flat broke](#)  
[moola](#)  
[scratch](#)  
[straight cash](#)  
[the take](#)

cast

[under a spell](#)

casual

[dress down](#)  
[laid back](#)  
[offhand](#)

casually

[upon the words offhandedly spoken](#)

cat

[it's the duck's guts](#)  
[let the cat out of the bag](#)  
[lose your tongue](#)  
[scaredy cat](#)  
[the bee's knees](#)  
[the room is so small you have to go outside turn around](#)

catch

[a bawling out](#)  
[a glow on](#)  
[butter fingers](#)  
[buzzword](#)  
[catch it](#)  
[catch your death](#)

[dimwit](#)  
[get a lift](#)  
[get hell \[B\]](#)  
[get it straight](#)  
[get shit \[B\]](#)  
[get your attention](#)  
[good hands](#)  
[hire on](#)  
[in deep trouble](#)  
[join you](#)  
[pick up](#)  
[play catch-up](#)  
[sack out](#)  
[take after](#)  
[take the bus/plane](#)  
[toast](#)  
[wait up](#)

catcher

[burn it in](#)

category

[lump together](#)

catholic

[dogan](#)

caucasian

[honky](#)

[The Great White Hope](#)

caught

[ahead of the game](#)

[caught in the act](#)

[caught red-handed](#)

[caught with his pants down](#)

[found out](#)

[get away with](#)

[get burned](#)

[get caught](#)

[give him enough rope and he'll hang himself](#)

[in the throes](#)

[smoking gun](#)

cauliflower

[cauliflower ear](#)

cause

[a downer \(sadness\)](#)

[a pain in the butt](#)  
[a wash-out](#)  
[add fuel to the fire](#)  
[bad news](#)  
[be my undoing](#)  
[beyond repair](#)  
[black eye](#)  
[blow it](#)  
[blow sky high](#)  
[break a spell](#)  
[break your heart](#)  
[bring the house down](#)  
[bring you up short](#)  
[capture the imagination](#)  
[catch 22](#)  
[catch your eye](#)  
[claim to fame](#)  
[come back to haunt you](#)  
[cramp your style](#)  
[crank issue](#)  
[cut me to the quick](#)  
[dampen your spirits](#)  
[dawn on me](#)  
[dig your own grave](#)  
[don't make a mountain out of a molehill](#)  
[don't make waves](#)  
[don't rock the boat](#)  
[draw it to my attention](#)  
[drive me batty](#)  
[drive me crazy](#)  
[drive me to the edge](#)  
[drive me up the wall](#)  
[drive you nuts](#)  
[drive you to distraction](#)  
[drive you to drink](#)  
[fine-tune](#)  
[frame](#)  
[fuck up \[B\]](#)  
[Gang of Four](#)  
[get a laugh](#)  
[get in deeper](#)  
[get me down](#)

[get to the bottom of](#)  
[get to the root of the problem](#)  
[get you down](#)  
[get your attention](#)  
[get your hopes up](#)  
[get your tits in a wringer](#)  
[give a black eye](#)  
[give me a lift](#)  
[give me the creeps](#)  
[give you a boost](#)  
[hair off the dog that bit you](#)  
[hit my funny bone](#)  
[hold you up](#)  
[if you're born to hang, you won't drown](#)  
[keep you honest](#)  
[kill me](#)  
[knock the wind out of his sails](#)  
[leave well enough alone](#)  
[lift my spirits](#)  
[liven up](#)  
[make a booboo](#)  
[make it worse](#)  
[make me do it](#)  
[make me sick/mad etc.](#)  
[make trouble](#)  
[make your hair stand on end](#)  
[make your mouth water](#)  
[money is the root of all evil](#)  
[money talks](#)  
[Mother Nature](#)  
[move you to tears](#)  
[necessity is the mother of invention](#)  
[play a part](#)  
[play havoc with](#)  
[play on my heart strings](#)  
[pluck at the heart strings](#)  
[pull it off](#)  
[put an end to](#)  
[put the heat on](#)  
[put you at ease](#)  
[put you in a bad mood](#)  
[put you off your game](#)

[put your foot in it](#)

[put your foot in your mouth](#)

[rabble-rouser](#)

[raise a stink](#)

[raise Cain](#)

[reach me](#)

[ring a bell](#)

[rock](#)

[rub salt in the wound](#)

[send him flying](#)

[set you up](#)

[set your mind at ease](#)

[shake him](#)

[shit disturber \[B\]](#)

[show you up](#)

[slip up](#)

[soften up](#)

[soften your stance](#)

[spell disaster](#)

[steal your heart](#)

[step on his dick](#)

[step on your dick](#)

[stop you in your tracks](#)

[strike me](#)

[stroke your ego](#)

[sweep you off your feet](#)

[take effect](#)

[tearjerker](#)

[the balance of power](#)

[the life of the party](#)

[the root of the problem](#)

[the way to a man's heart is through his stomach](#)

[throw a game](#)

[throw cold water on](#)

[throw you](#)

[tip the scales at](#)

[too many cooks spoil the broth](#)

[touch you](#)

[turn you on](#)

[turn your stomach](#)

[upset the apple cart](#)

[whet your appetite](#)

[win the hearts](#)  
[you have to be good to be lucky](#)

caused

[at fault](#)  
[dirty thirties](#)  
[it phased me out](#)  
[tell him a thing or two](#)  
[what came over me](#)

causing

[a suicide pass \(hockey\)](#)  
[chain reaction](#)  
[killing me](#)  
[up to no good](#)

caution

[a wake-up call](#)  
[tempt fate](#)

cautious

[on your guard](#)  
[throw caution to the wind](#)

cautiously

[on tenterhooks](#)

celebrate

[do the town](#)  
[kick up your heels](#)  
[shoot up](#)

celebrating

[high five](#)

celebration

[go hog wild](#)

cell

[bandwidth](#)  
[in the hole](#)

cellar

[shuck on down to the fraidy hole](#)

cement

[butter fingers](#)

cent

[chime in](#)  
[from hand to mouth](#)  
[say my piece](#)  
[six bits](#)  
[two bits](#)

center

[ante up](#)  
[cherrypicker \(hockey\)](#)  
[smack dab in the middle](#)  
[the eye of the storm](#)

centered

[a little off](#)

century

[the turn of the century](#)

cereal

[grain belt](#)

ceremony

[blood is thicker than water](#)

[pay my respects](#)

certain

[a foregone conclusion](#)

[a shoo-in](#)

[a sure bet](#)

[as sure as shit](#)

[dead certain](#)

[dyed in the wool](#)

[lead pipe cinch](#)

[make sure](#)

[no doubt](#)

[no question](#)

[positive](#)

[rest assured](#)

[see to it/see to that](#)

[sure as hell](#)

[sure as shit](#)

[without question](#)

certainly

[for sure](#)

[you bet your boots](#)

cetera

[and stuff](#)

chain

[line of authority](#)

[smoke like a furnace](#)

chair

[be my guest](#)

[belly up to the bar](#)

[have a chair](#)

[have a seat](#)  
[move over](#)  
[musical chairs](#)  
[play musical chairs](#)  
[rolling in the aisles](#)  
[shuffle the chairs on the deck](#)  
[take a load off your feet](#)  
[take the stand](#)  
[take your seat](#)

chairman

[boarding \(hockey\)](#)

chalk

[a feather in your cap](#)

challenge

[back down](#)  
[call his bluff](#)  
[mess with](#)  
[mix it up](#)  
[push the envelope](#)  
[shooting fish in a barrel](#)  
[stand up to](#)  
[take on](#)  
[take risks](#)  
[try me](#)

challenged

[hard pressed](#)  
[put to the test](#)

chamber

[in the pipe five by five](#)

chance

[a daredevil](#)  
[a fighting chance](#)  
[a ghost of a chance](#)  
[a golden opportunity](#)  
[a head start](#)  
[a level playing field](#)  
[a long shot](#)  
[a pig in a poke](#)  
[a slim chance](#)  
[a snowball's chance in hell](#)  
[a window of opportunity](#)  
[against all odds](#)

[big break](#)  
[bump into](#)  
[by guess or by gosh](#)  
[do or die](#)  
[fat chance](#)  
[first crack at](#)  
[first dibs](#)  
[game over](#)  
[give me a break](#)  
[go out on a limb](#)  
[goose is cooked](#)  
[have a shot at](#)  
[haven't got a hope](#)  
[haven't got a hope in hell](#)  
[he who hesitates is lost](#)  
[know where we stand](#)  
[last call](#)  
[last resort](#)  
[let this chance go by](#)  
[lose out](#)  
[no chancy](#)  
[no dice](#)  
[no news is good news](#)  
[not by a long shot](#)  
[not likely](#)  
[out on a limb](#)  
[out to get you](#)  
[photo op](#)  
[pin your hopes on](#)  
[play fair](#)  
[play it safe](#)  
[play with fire](#)  
[run into](#)  
[shoot yourself in the foot](#)  
[tempt fate](#)  
[the fickle finger of fate](#)  
[the luck of the draw](#)  
[try your luck](#)  
[your turn](#)

change

[a breath of fresh air](#)  
[back out](#)

[bend the rules](#)  
[cast a spell](#)  
[change hands](#)  
[change horses in mid stream](#)  
[change of heart](#)  
[change your mind](#)  
[change your tune](#)  
[die hard](#)  
[don't rock the boat](#)  
[flatliner](#)  
[flip-flop](#)  
[Generation X](#)  
[get a life](#)  
[go straight](#)  
[hard line](#)  
[make a difference](#)  
[makes no difference](#)  
[mark a watershed](#)  
[out of our hands](#)  
[play havoc with](#)  
[play musical chairs](#)  
[put a different slant on it](#)  
[rock](#)  
[set in her ways](#)  
[shuffle the chairs on the deck](#)  
[sick to death](#)  
[soften your stance](#)  
[stick to your guns](#)  
[take effect](#)  
[take risks](#)  
[the fickle finger of fate](#)  
[the point of no return](#)  
[the tide turned](#)  
[think better of it](#)  
[tip the scales](#)  
[touch up](#)  
[turn into](#)  
[turn on you](#)  
[twist your words](#)  
[what came over me](#)  
[wing it](#)  
[you can't teach an old dog new tricks](#)

---

changed	<a href="#">business as usual</a> <a href="#">sacred cow</a> <a href="#">written in blood</a>
changeup	<a href="#">fastball</a>
changing	<a href="#">in a rut</a>
character	<a href="#">capture the imagination</a> <a href="#">weak-kneed</a>
charge	<a href="#">beat the rap</a> <a href="#">drop charges</a> <a href="#">in control</a> <a href="#">in the driver's seat</a> <a href="#">press charges</a> <a href="#">put it on the bill</a> <a href="#">run a tab</a> <a href="#">run up</a> <a href="#">take the bull by the horns</a>
charged	<a href="#">busted</a> <a href="#">off the hook</a>
charity	<a href="#">raise money</a>
charley	<a href="#">pull a muscle</a>
charm	<a href="#">a lady-killer</a> <a href="#">cast a spell</a>
chart	<a href="#">family tree</a>
chase	<a href="#">a wild goose chase</a> <a href="#">all around Robin Hood's barn</a> <a href="#">round up</a> <a href="#">run out of town</a> <a href="#">take after</a>
chased	<a href="#">the bum's rush</a>
chasing	<a href="#">on his tail</a>

chat	<a href="#">shoot the breeze</a>
chatter	<a href="#">yada</a>
cheap	<a href="#">a dime a dozen</a> <a href="#">cheap like borsch</a> <a href="#">chintzy</a> <a href="#">dirt cheap</a> <a href="#">tight/tight fisted</a>
cheaper	<a href="#">happy hour</a>
cheat	<a href="#">bilk</a> <a href="#">double-cross</a> <a href="#">rotter</a> <a href="#">screw</a> <a href="#">shaft</a> <a href="#">sucker you</a>
cheated	<a href="#">been had</a> <a href="#">fucked by the fickle finger of fate [B]</a> <a href="#">laugh it off</a> <a href="#">ripped off</a> <a href="#">sucked in</a> <a href="#">taken</a>
cheating	<a href="#">hanky-panky</a> <a href="#">take you for all you've got</a>
check	<a href="#">cold, hard cash</a> <a href="#">eyeball this</a> <a href="#">get a load of that</a> <a href="#">get off my case</a> <a href="#">get the lay of the land</a> <a href="#">give up the blueline (hockey)</a> <a href="#">keep track</a> <a href="#">look over</a> <a href="#">make sure</a> <a href="#">peep this</a> <a href="#">pogey</a> <a href="#">price out</a>

[read them and weep](#)[run down](#)[run the gamut](#)[size up](#)[spotcheck](#)[take your pulse](#)[test the water](#)

checker

[clotheslined \(hockey\)](#)

checking

[boarding \(hockey\)](#)

checkup

[a clean bill of health](#)

cheek

[lip](#)

cheeky

[lippy](#)[sassy](#)[shirty](#)

cheer

[come alive](#)[come on](#)[here's to](#)[pull for](#)[root for](#)[skoal](#)

cheering

[bring the house down](#)[it's all over but the shouting](#)

cheerio

[cheery-bye](#)

cheesecake

[tits and ass \(T & A\) \[B\]](#)

chest

[sound off](#)

chew

[Fletcherize your food](#)[shoot the breeze](#)

chick

[broad](#)[gash](#)[lovelies](#)[some chick](#)

[what a dish](#)

chicken

[a paltry sum](#)[cackleberries](#)[faint of heart](#)[fraidy cat](#)[lily-livered](#)[peanuts](#)[the pope's nose](#)[wimp](#)[wuss](#)[yellow](#)[you reap whatsoever you sow](#)

chief

[big cheese](#)[the big cheese](#)[too many cooks spoil the broth](#)

child

[a babe in arms](#)[a budding genius](#)[a handful](#)[fraidy cat](#)[half-pint](#)[knee high to a grasshopper](#)[sleepy head](#)[snotty-nosed kid](#)[Sophie's choice](#)[spoiled brat](#)[twerp](#)

childhood

[grow up](#)

children

[hand down](#)[one for the money, two for the show...](#)[puppy love](#)[ride herd](#)

chill

[cool off](#)[don't have a cow](#)[play it cool](#)[simmer down](#)

chime

[two cents' worth](#)

chimo

[cheers](#)

chin

[chew the fat/ chew the rag](#)

[shoot the shit \[B\]](#)

[tonsil hockey](#)

[yak](#)

china

[not for all the tea in China](#)

[trash the place](#)

chip

[boys will be boys](#)

[cash in](#)

[like father, like son](#)

[spoil for a fight](#)

[the apple doesn't fall far from the tree](#)

chock

[chockablock](#)

[plump full](#)

chockablock

[chock full](#)

choice

[a sure bet](#)

[a tough call](#)

[between a rock and a hard place](#)

[between the devil and the deep blue sea](#)

[cup of tea](#)

[get her way](#)

[how do you like them apples](#)

[kick myself](#)

[run the gamut](#)

[the life of Riley](#)

[up to you](#)

[willy-nilly](#)

choke

[buck fever](#)

choose

[betwixt and between](#)

[can't have it both ways](#)

[change your mind](#)

[choose up sides](#)

[go wrong](#)  
[heads or tails](#)  
[it's up to you](#)  
[make up your mind](#)  
[set your price](#)  
[set your sights](#)  
[single out](#)  
[sit the fence](#)  
[suit yourself](#)  
[take your pick](#)

choosing

[Sophie's choice](#)

chore

[joe-job](#)

chosen

[off topic](#)  
[the luck of the draw](#)

christmas

[Christmas graduate](#)

chromedome

[silkhead](#)

chuck

[smithwright it](#)

chuckle

[have a laugh](#)

chunks

[blow chunks](#)

church

[below the poverty line](#)  
[darken a church door](#)  
[dogan](#)  
[in the poorhouse](#)

ciao

[cheers](#)  
[chimo](#)  
[toodles/toodle-oo](#)

cigarette

[another nail in your coffin](#)  
[chain smoker](#)  
[got a light](#)  
[have a drag](#)  
[light up](#)  
[reefer](#)

[smoke like a furnace](#)

circle

[biter \(curling\)](#)[don't know whether you're coming or going](#)[frazzled](#)

circulation

[lay low](#)

circumstances

[sitting pretty](#)

cities

[milk run](#)

citizen

[Canuck](#)[Gang of Four](#)[go straight](#)

city

[branch office](#)[life in the fast lane](#)[out on the town](#)[pass through](#)[rat race](#)[settle down](#)[The Big Apple](#)

claim

[got no business](#)[pad an expense account](#)

clap

[give them a hand](#)

clark

[Joe Who](#)

class

[class act](#)[cut rate](#)[hand out](#)[his nibs](#)[new kid on the block](#)[putting on the ritz](#)[show up](#)[top drawer](#)[top notch](#)[upper crust](#)

classes

[play hooky](#)  
[skip classes](#)

classic

[an old warhorse](#)

classy

[dapper Dan](#)  
[putting on the ritz](#)

clause

[grandfather](#)

clean

[all spruced up](#)  
[as clean as a whistle](#)  
[clean cut](#)  
[mop up](#)  
[own up](#)  
[preppy](#)  
[shipshape](#)  
[spiffy](#)  
[squeaky clean](#)  
[tiddly](#)  
[wash it off](#)  
[wash out](#)  
[watch your step](#)  
[winning streak](#)

cleanup

[a lick and a promise](#)

clear

[a dead giveaway](#)  
[as plain as the nose on your face](#)  
[butter wouldn't melt in his mouth](#)  
[come out in the wash](#)  
[crystal clear](#)  
[drain the swamp](#)  
[drive it home](#)  
[hit me](#)  
[it strikes me](#)  
[it's as plain as the nose on your face](#)  
[nail down](#)  
[peaches-and-cream](#)  
[plain as the nose on your face](#)  
[the handwriting is on the wall](#)

clearly

[as plain as day](#)  
[clear as a bell](#)  
[clear your head/mind](#)  
[collect my thoughts](#)  
[cut](#)  
[dead wrong](#)  
[fall between two stools](#)  
[get your head together](#)  
[in no uncertain terms](#)  
[keep your head](#)  
[lose it](#)  
[lose your head](#)  
[make myself clear](#)  
[neither fish nor fowl](#)  
[on the same wavelength](#)  
[open to question](#)  
[out loud](#)  
[plain as day](#)  
[presence of mind](#)  
[take leave of your senses](#)  
[think straight](#)

clergyman

[a man of the cloth](#)

clever

[fancy footwork](#)

clich\_html\_eacute\_

[song and dance](#)

cliff

[Lovers' Leap](#)

cliff-hanger

[a barnburner](#)  
[a whale of a game](#)

climax

[come to a head](#)

clink

[pokey](#)

clique

[the in-crowd](#)

clock

['round the clock](#)  
[around the clock](#)  
[on the clock](#)

close	<a href="#">a cliff-hanger</a> <a href="#">a close call</a> <a href="#">a close shave</a> <a href="#">a dead ringer</a> <a href="#">a fine line</a> <a href="#">belly up to the bar</a> <a href="#">bosom buddy</a> <a href="#">can't see the forest for the trees</a> <a href="#">double whammy</a> <a href="#">fast friends</a> <a href="#">hot on your heels</a> <a href="#">in the ball park</a> <a href="#">keep your distance</a> <a href="#">nail it down</a> <a href="#">nip and tuck</a> <a href="#">on the brink</a> <a href="#">on the verge</a> <a href="#">out of range</a> <a href="#">out of the ball park</a> <a href="#">point-blank range</a> <a href="#">sign off</a> <a href="#">tailgate</a> <a href="#">the inside track</a> <a href="#">tight race</a> <a href="#">under my nose</a> <a href="#">way out (away out)</a> <a href="#">within earshot</a> <a href="#">worlds apart</a> <a href="#">wrap it up</a> <a href="#">zip</a>
closely	<a href="#">on his tail</a>
closer	<a href="#">back off</a> <a href="#">crawl on my hands and knees over broken glass just to see her photo</a> <a href="#">zoom in</a>
closest	<a href="#">next of kin</a>
closet	<a href="#">a duke's mixture</a> <a href="#">Fibber McGee's closet</a>

closing	<a href="#">under the wire</a> <a href="#">wrap-up</a>
closure	<a href="#">shut-down</a>
clothes	<a href="#">all spruced up</a> <a href="#">bundle up</a> <a href="#">clean up</a> <a href="#">cut a fine figure</a> <a href="#">dress clothes</a> <a href="#">dress down</a> <a href="#">dress up</a> <a href="#">dressed fit to kill</a> <a href="#">get-up</a> <a href="#">glad rags</a> <a href="#">hand me down</a> <a href="#">naked as a jay bird</a> <a href="#">preppy</a> <a href="#">put on the dog</a> <a href="#">rags</a> <a href="#">stark naked</a> <a href="#">strip</a> <a href="#">Sunday best</a> <a href="#">threads</a>
clothing	<a href="#">drag queen</a> <a href="#">get-up</a> <a href="#">grunge (fashion)</a> <a href="#">off with</a> <a href="#">potato sack</a>
cloud	<a href="#">come down to earth</a> <a href="#">out of touch</a> <a href="#">riding high</a> <a href="#">the sky isn't blue</a>
clown	<a href="#">such a card</a>
clue	<a href="#">have an inkling</a> <a href="#">haven't the foggiest</a>
clumsy	

[all thumbs](#)[klutz](#)

clunker

[beater](#)

clutch

[ride the clutch](#)

co-op

[rubberneck](#)

co-operate

[come around](#)[get along](#)[give no quarter](#)[go along with](#)[pull together](#)

co-operative

[soften up](#)

coast

[Lotus Land](#)[The Rock](#)

cocky

[smartass \[B\]](#)[smelling yourself](#)[too big for his britches](#)

cocoon

[snug as a bug in a rug](#)

code

[that's his bible](#)

coffee

[a wake-up call](#)[break a habit](#)[coffee talk](#)[gofer](#)[spike a drink](#)

coiffure

[hairdo](#)

coil

[vale of tears \(valley of tears\)](#)

coin

[coin](#)[flip you for it](#)[heads or tails](#)[it's a toss-up](#)[loonie](#)

[piggy bank](#)[shekel](#)

cold

[cash on the barrelhead](#)[catch a cold \(catch cold\)](#)[catch your death](#)[knock out](#)[stand away](#)[whore blossom](#)

coldhot

[it's cold / it's hot](#)

collect

[call tabs](#)

collecting

[gathering dust](#)

college

[Christmas graduate](#)[put yourself through college](#)[the old college try](#)

collision

[bam](#)[crackup](#)[fender bender](#)[hit and run \(traffic\)](#)

color

[jazz up](#)

columbia

[Lotus Land](#)

column

[fifth column](#)[the fifth column](#)

combination

[a duke's mixture](#)

come

[a fool and his money are soon parted](#)[age of majority](#)[back off](#)[be there or be square](#)[blow your stones \[B\]](#)[buy into](#)[catch a cold \(catch cold\)](#)[catch up with](#)

[come around](#)  
[come onside](#)  
[come to a head](#)  
[come to think of it](#)  
[come true](#)  
[crop up](#)  
[drop over](#)  
[face facts](#)  
[fall apart \(at the seams\)](#)  
[fall ill](#)  
[fall through](#)  
[first come, first served](#)  
[flag a cab](#)  
[future looks bright](#)  
[get fresh](#)  
[get home](#)  
[get to the point](#)  
[get together](#)  
[get your buns over here](#)  
[get your head out of the clouds](#)  
[hit on](#)  
[how so](#)  
[how's that again](#)  
[it never rains but it pours](#)  
[it occurs to me](#)  
[jam/jam out](#)  
[keep out](#)  
[keep your distance](#)  
[keep your fingers crossed](#)  
[land up](#)  
[last call](#)  
[life is not all guns and roses](#)  
[make advances](#)  
[make it](#)  
[make strange](#)  
[make up](#)  
[more than welcome](#)  
[own up](#)  
[realize your potential](#)  
[run interference](#)  
[run it by me again](#)  
[set foot](#)

[that'll be the frosty Friday](#)  
[the age of majority](#)  
[the more the merrier](#)  
[throw the book at](#)  
[wait up for](#)  
[when it rains it pours](#)  
[where do they get off](#)  
[with bells on](#)  
[you reap whatsoever you sow](#)  
[your number is up](#)

come-on

[give her the eye](#)

comeback

[make a comeback](#)  
[snatch victory from the jaws of defeat](#)  
[turn the tables on](#)

comedian

[ham](#)

comfort

[cold comfort](#)  
[in the lap of luxury](#)  
[take solace](#)

comfortable

[cocoon](#)  
[curl up with a good book](#)  
[cushy](#)  
[feather your nest](#)  
[settle in](#)  
[snug as a bug in a rug](#)

coming

[dead-cat bounce](#)  
[take that](#)  
[the wolf is at the door](#)  
[up the wahoozey](#)  
[up to my ears](#)

command

[an offer I couldn't refuse](#)  
[line of authority](#)

commandment

[written in stone](#)

commenced

[under way](#)

comment	<a href="#">fire away</a> <a href="#">talk to the hand</a> <a href="#">touch it with a ten-foot pole</a> <a href="#">two cents' worth</a>
commercial	<a href="#">junk mail</a>
commit	<a href="#">break the law/rules</a> <a href="#">hit man</a> <a href="#">partners in crime</a>
committed	<a href="#">footloose and fancy free</a>
common	<a href="#">build a better mousetrap</a> <a href="#">horse sense</a> <a href="#">know which side your bread is buttered on</a> <a href="#">mainstream</a> <a href="#">out of the norm</a> <a href="#">run of the mill</a> <a href="#">the salt of the earth</a>
common-law	<a href="#">shack up [B]</a>
communicate	<a href="#">bridge the gap</a> <a href="#">get your wires crossed</a>
communicating	<a href="#">on the same wavelength</a> <a href="#">out of touch</a>
communist	<a href="#">pinko</a>
community	<a href="#">charity begins at home</a> <a href="#">local yokel</a>
company	<a href="#">a major</a> <a href="#">backpack (business)</a> <a href="#">branch out</a> <a href="#">buy up</a> <a href="#">don't put all your eggs in one basket</a> <a href="#">pound the pavement</a> <a href="#">rabbit</a> <a href="#">split up</a>

compare	<a href="#">compare notes</a> <a href="#">hold a candle</a> <a href="#">in the know</a> <a href="#">stack up</a> <a href="#">the pick of the litter</a> <a href="#">there are two sides to every story</a>
comparison	<a href="#">stack up</a>
compatible	<a href="#">made for each other</a> <a href="#">soul mate</a>
compensate	<a href="#">make up for</a>
compete	<a href="#">dead in the water</a> <a href="#">give you a run for your money</a> <a href="#">have a shot at</a> <a href="#">match wits</a> <a href="#">roll over and play dead</a>
competing	<a href="#">at the hands of</a> <a href="#">in over your head</a> <a href="#">out of the picture</a> <a href="#">up against</a>
competition	<a href="#">a run for your money</a> <a href="#">bat a thousand</a> <a href="#">bat five hundred</a> <a href="#">change horses in mid stream</a> <a href="#">dog eat dog</a> <a href="#">jump ship</a> <a href="#">knocked out</a> <a href="#">work out</a>
competitive	<a href="#">dead duck</a> <a href="#">dead in the water</a> <a href="#">in the running</a> <a href="#">out to win</a>
competitor	<a href="#">dark horse</a> <a href="#">dead last</a>

[no match for](#)  
[potlicker](#)  
[roll with the punches](#)

compile

[rack up](#)

complain

[bellyache](#)  
[bitch](#)  
[cry the blues](#)  
[dish it out](#)  
[get it off your chest](#)  
[grouse](#)  
[kick up a fuss](#)  
[make a big deal of it](#)  
[make a big to-do](#)  
[make a fuss](#)  
[make a scene](#)  
[nag](#)  
[raise a stink](#)  
[rant and rave](#)  
[sound off](#)  
[take exception to](#)  
[take it like a man](#)  
[the squeaky wheel gets the grease](#)

complaining

[a bitch \[B\]](#)  
[doesn't mince words](#)  
[give it a rest](#)  
[gnashing of teeth](#)

complaint

[drop charges](#)  
[take the flack](#)  
[what's your beef](#)

complete

[a dead loss](#)  
[a free hand](#)  
[bite off more than you can chew](#)  
[carry out](#)  
[close a deal/sale](#)  
[come through](#)  
[drop the ball](#)  
[dry run](#)

[fill in](#)  
[fill out](#)  
[finishing touch](#)  
[flesh out](#)  
[game over](#)  
[get around to](#)  
[get to first base](#)  
[go the distance](#)  
[nail it down](#)  
[over and out](#)  
[push the boat out](#)  
[tie up loose ends](#)  
[to top it off](#)

completed

[caught up](#)  
[come to fruition](#)  
[down to the short strokes](#)  
[half the battle](#)  
[over with](#)  
[rest my case](#)  
[under my belt](#)

completely

[but good](#)  
[cold turkey](#)  
[fall flat on my face](#)  
[full Monty](#)  
[hook, line and sinker](#)  
[plumb loco](#)  
[stark raving mad](#)  
[the full Monty](#)

complex

[cut and dried](#)  
[open and shut](#)  
[too deep for me](#)

complexion

[peaches-and-cream](#)

complicated

[too deep for me](#)

compliment

[fish for a compliment](#)  
[kiss the blarney stone](#)  
[lay it on](#)

[pat on the back](#)[pour it on](#)[send a bouquet](#)[tip of the hat](#)

compose

[come up with](#)[pen those words/lines](#)

comprehend

[get your mind around](#)[wrap your mind around](#)

compromise

[give an inch](#)[middle ground](#)

computer

[backup](#)[boot up](#)[courseware](#)[electronic superhighway](#)[hack/hacker](#)[hardware](#)[Internet](#)[liveware](#)[log off](#)[log on](#)[Netwar](#)[power user](#)[shareware](#)[software](#)[software piracy](#)[surf the Net](#)[virtual reality](#)[World Wide Web \(www\)](#)

concede

[give an inch](#)[give no quarter](#)

concentrate

[at loose ends](#)[psych out](#)

concept

[a mental block](#)

concern

[give a hoot](#)

[give a shit \[B\]](#)  
[let off steam](#)

concerned

[anal retentive](#)  
[brush it off](#)  
[in a stew](#)  
[sweat bullets](#)

concert

[do a gig](#)

conclude

[bring to a close](#)  
[chalk it up to](#)  
[play out](#)  
[wind up](#)  
[wrap up](#)

conclusion

[a foregone conclusion](#)  
[as sure as shit](#)  
[bottom line](#)  
[jump to conclusions](#)  
[lead pipe cinch](#)  
[sure as shit](#)  
[the bottom line](#)  
[the handwriting is on the wall](#)  
[the proof of the pudding is in the eating](#)  
[wait for the other shoe to drop](#)  
[wrap-up](#)

condition

[as new](#)  
[beater](#)  
[better off](#)  
[clunker](#)  
[damaged goods](#)  
[fit as a fiddle](#)  
[garage kept](#)  
[get the lay of the land](#)  
[gone to pot](#)  
[gone to the dogs](#)  
[in mint condition](#)  
[lousy](#)  
[mint condition](#)  
[none the worse for wear](#)

[run down](#)  
[seen better days](#)  
[there's a catch to it](#)

conduct

[hold a meeting](#)

conducting

[strike up the band](#)

confidence

[candy-ass](#)  
[get off to a good start](#)  
[psych out](#)  
[shake him](#)

confident

[anchor you](#)  
[give you a boost](#)  
[stroke your ego](#)

confidential

[deep, dark secret](#)

confinement

[in the hole](#)

confirmed

[dyed in the wool](#)

conform

[keep in line](#)

confront

[get in my face](#)

confuse

[boggle your mind](#)  
[faze me out](#)  
[make your head spin](#)  
[mix you up](#)  
[throw a curve](#)  
[throw me for a loop](#)

confused

[at sixes and sevens](#)  
[don't know whether you're coming or going](#)  
[don't know which end is up](#)  
[head is spinning](#)  
[mix up](#)  
[scratch your head](#)  
[shit or wind my watch](#)  
[wonky](#)

confusing

	<a href="#">bafflegab</a> <a href="#">clear as mud</a> <a href="#">double-talk</a>
confusion	
	<a href="#">at sixes and sevens</a> <a href="#">go in circles</a>
conk	
	<a href="#">flake out</a> <a href="#">give out</a>
connect	
	<a href="#">tie in</a>
conniption	
	<a href="#">have a fit</a>
consarned	
	<a href="#">dingbusted</a> <a href="#">flipping</a>
consciousness	
	<a href="#">come to</a> <a href="#">the living daylights</a>
consensus	
	<a href="#">meeting of minds</a>
consent	
	<a href="#">come across [B]</a>
consequences	
	<a href="#">chickens come home to roost</a>
consider	
	<a href="#">after all</a> <a href="#">call into account</a> <a href="#">mull over</a> <a href="#">think over</a> <a href="#">toss it around</a> <a href="#">try that on for size</a>
considerate	
	<a href="#">go soft</a>
considering	
	<a href="#">all in all</a> <a href="#">food for thought</a> <a href="#">have a mind to</a> <a href="#">on the whole</a>
constable	
	<a href="#">flatfoot</a>
constructed	

[out of whack](#)

contact

[reach me](#)

[touch base](#)

container

[a doggy bag](#)

contains

[an offer I couldn't refuse](#)

[old wives' tale](#)

contemplating

[navel-gazing](#)

contented

[happy as a pig in shit \[B\]](#)

contents

[you can't tell a book by its cover](#)

contest

[a blowout](#)

[circles around you](#)

[cut you to ribbons](#)

[down for the count](#)

[hands down](#)

[it's all over but the crying](#)

[it's all over but the shouting](#)

[showdown](#)

continue

[beat a dead horse](#)

[carry on](#)

[carry the conversation](#)

[die hard](#)

[eat up](#)

[forget it](#)

[get on with it](#)

[go hungry](#)

[go under](#)

[hang in there](#)

[hang tough](#)

[hold up](#)

[it's all over but the shouting](#)

[keep it up](#)

[keep on](#)

[keep on trucking](#)

[keep the ball rolling](#)

[keep up the good work](#)  
[keep your nose to the grindstone](#)  
[on my way](#)  
[press on](#)  
[rattle on](#)  
[ride me](#)  
[soldier on](#)  
[stay alive](#)  
[take it in stride](#)  
[talk away](#)  
[touch wood](#)  
[washed up](#)

continuing

[fall-out](#)  
[no let-up](#)

contraceptive

[the pill](#)

contract

[a contract out on](#)  
[a raw deal](#)

contradict

[fly in the face of](#)

contribute

[pony up](#)

contributed

[give her credit](#)

control

[a free hand](#)  
[at the end of my rope/ at the end of my tether](#)  
[chairman of the boards \(hockey\)](#)  
[chill out](#)  
[come unglued](#)  
[cool off](#)  
[figurehead](#)  
[get a grip on yourself](#)  
[go bonkers](#)  
[go crazy](#)  
[hands are tied](#)  
[have it in hand](#)  
[hidden agenda](#)  
[hold the purse strings](#)  
[hold up](#)

[hold your temper](#)  
[if you're born to hang, you won't drown](#)  
[in charge](#)  
[in hand](#)  
[let the chips fall where they may](#)  
[lose your cool](#)  
[lose your marbles](#)  
[lose your mind](#)  
[mind games](#)  
[out of control](#)  
[out of our hands](#)  
[pull yourself together](#)  
[ride herd](#)  
[run rampant](#)  
[run the risk](#)  
[say jump...how high](#)  
[shop-floor struggle](#)  
[simmer down](#)  
[swallow your pride](#)  
[take charge](#)  
[take the bull by the horns](#)  
[under control](#)  
[under your thumb](#)  
[wear the pants](#)  
[wipe out](#)

controlled

[on a string](#)  
[out of hand](#)  
[pussy whipped](#)  
[under a spell](#)  
[wrap around his finger](#)

controlling

[in the driver's seat](#)  
[the tail wagging the dog](#)

controversial

[bone of contention](#)  
[can of worms](#)

conversation

[a chin wag](#)  
[carry the conversation](#)  
[chime in](#)  
[coffee talk](#)

[rubberneck](#)  
[shoot the shit \[B\]](#)  
[strike up a conversation](#)  
[tonsil hockey](#)

convert

[turn into](#)

convertible

[ragtop](#)

convict

[hang you out to dry](#)  
[send him up](#)

convicted

[burned](#)  
[get off](#)

convince

[hard sell](#)  
[talk into](#)  
[twist my arm](#)

convinced

[sold on](#)

cook

[big cheese](#)  
[the big cheese](#)  
[throw on a dog for you](#)  
[too many chiefs and not enough Indians](#)

cooked

[cook your goose](#)  
[done to a turn](#)  
[hotdog](#)

cookies

[goodies](#)  
[hurl](#)  
[throw chunks](#)

cool

[blow your lid/stack/top](#)  
[burn up](#)  
[butter wouldn't melt in his mouth](#)  
[chill out](#)  
[cool](#)  
[cool beans](#)  
[dude](#)  
[get mad](#)

[groaty to the max](#)  
[groovy](#)  
[hip](#)  
[hit the ceiling](#)  
[jive ass \[B\]](#)  
[laugh it off](#)  
[lose it](#)  
[neat](#)  
[okay, OK](#)  
[phat](#)  
[presence of mind](#)  
[rock](#)  
[rocks socks](#)  
[simmer down](#)  
[slick](#)  
[snazzy](#)  
[spinork/spinorky](#)  
[square](#)  
[the most](#)  
[the sin bin \(hockey\)](#)  
[tubular](#)  
[way cool](#)  
[wicked](#)  
[with it](#)  
[without turning a hair](#)

coon

[a dog's age](#)  
[for a dog's age](#)

coop

[take a powder](#)

coordination

[two left feet](#)

coot

[geezer](#)

cop

[fuzz](#)

[pig](#)

cope

[cave in](#)  
[fall apart \(at the seams\)](#)  
[get along](#)  
[hold up](#)

[over the edge](#)  
[take it in stride](#)

copied

[chain letter](#)

copies

[run off](#)

coping

[messed up](#)

copying

[software piracy](#)

corner

[buttonhole you](#)  
[got a corner on](#)  
[kitty-corner](#)

correct

[bang on](#)  
[dead on](#)  
[find your way](#)  
[in place](#)  
[in tune \(music\)](#)  
[mop up](#)  
[off the mark](#)  
[on the button](#)  
[on the mark](#)  
[on the money](#)  
[open to question](#)  
[out of the ball park](#)  
[out of tune \(music\)](#)  
[spot on](#)  
[there you go](#)  
[trial run](#)  
[you betcha](#)

correcting

[trial and error](#)

correction

[comeuppance](#)  
[in hot water](#)

correctly

[check up on](#)

corrupt

[rotten to the core](#)

cost

[cost a pretty penny](#)

[cost an arm and a leg](#)[pay through the nose](#)[set you back](#)[there's a catch to it](#)

costume

[get-up](#)

cotton-picking

[friggin](#)[ruddy](#)

couch

[tube head](#)[vegetate \(veg out\)](#)

could

[at stake](#)[better than a kick in the ass \[B\]](#)[better the devil you know...](#)[claws are showing](#)[couldn't care less](#)[dark horse](#)[don't knock it](#)[in the running](#)[it was Greek to me](#)[knock me over with a feather](#)[leave well enough alone](#)[stand to lose](#)[tail lights](#)[take your sweet time](#)[The Great White Hope](#)[the room is so small you have to go outside turn around](#)[the way you hold your mouth](#)[what's the big idea](#)

couldn't

[scared out of my wits](#)

count

[bank on](#)[cash up/cash out](#)[give your word](#)[keep track](#)[lose track](#)[mind boggling](#)[rest assured](#)[word is good](#)

	<a href="#">you bet your boots</a>
countdown	
	<a href="#">one for the money, two for the show...</a>
counted	
	<a href="#">lose count</a>
counter	
	<a href="#">check-out</a>
counterfeit	
	<a href="#">funny money</a>
country	
	<a href="#">in the boonies</a>
	<a href="#">in these parts</a>
	<a href="#">neck of the woods</a>
	<a href="#">these parts</a>
couple	
	<a href="#">a hot number</a>
	<a href="#">DINKS</a>
	<a href="#">had a belt</a>
	<a href="#">in two shakes (of a lamb's tail)</a>
courage	
	<a href="#">candy-ass</a>
	<a href="#">got guts</a>
	<a href="#">got the balls [B]</a>
	<a href="#">pussyfoot around</a>
	<a href="#">take heart</a>
	<a href="#">wimpy</a>
	<a href="#">yellow</a>
courageous	
	<a href="#">discretion is the better part of valor</a>
	<a href="#">faint of heart</a>
course	
	<a href="#">a crash course</a>
	<a href="#">a quick study</a>
	<a href="#">course you can</a>
	<a href="#">courseware</a>
	<a href="#">flunk out</a>
	<a href="#">go the distance</a>
	<a href="#">run its course</a>
courseware	
	<a href="#">software</a>
court	
	<a href="#">on the stand</a>
	<a href="#">on trial</a>

[rob the cradle](#)[take out](#)[under oath](#)

courteous

[mind your manners](#)

courtroom

[take the stand](#)

cover

[gloss over](#)[sweep under the carpet](#)[you can't tell a book by its cover](#)

covered

[close to the vest](#)

covering

[off with](#)[peek-a-boo](#)

covet

[have designs on](#)

cow

[boy, oh boy](#)[cow-pie](#)[Cowtown](#)[hokey Dinah](#)[holy smoke](#)[jimminy crickets](#)[jumping Jehoshaphat](#)

coward

[chicken](#)[scaredy cat](#)[with his tail between his legs](#)[yellow belly](#)

cowardly

[lily-livered](#)

cowboy

[cowpoke](#)[drugstore cowboy](#)[dude](#)[go-round](#)

crack

[at first light](#)[hit my funny bone](#)[hit the books](#)

[in stitches](#)  
[kill me](#)  
[laugh your head off](#)  
[split a gut](#)

crackers

[out of your mind](#)  
[plumb loco](#)

crackpot

[a nut case](#)

crafty

[crazy like a fox](#)

crammed

[chockablock](#)

cramp

[a bull in a china shop](#)  
[charley horse](#)

crank

[speak up](#)  
[strike your fancy](#)

cranky

[battleaxe](#)  
[edgy](#)  
[get up on the wrong side of bed](#)  
[old goat](#)  
[owly](#)

crap

[that's a crock \(of shit\) \[B\]](#)

crappy

[cheesy](#)  
[shitty \[B\]](#)

crash

[a quick study](#)  
[catch some z's](#)  
[crackup](#)  
[hit the hay](#)  
[run into](#)  
[sack out](#)  
[turn in](#)

crashed

[Black Friday](#)

craving

[a sweet tooth](#)  
[sweet tooth](#)

<b>crawl</b>	<a href="#">bar hop</a> <a href="#">worship the ground she walks on</a>
<b>crawling</b>	<a href="#">on all fours</a>
<b>crazy</b>	<a href="#">a little off</a> <a href="#">a nut case</a> <a href="#">a screw loose</a> <a href="#">all hell broke loose</a> <a href="#">around the bend</a> <a href="#">as all get-out</a> <a href="#">bananas</a> <a href="#">bonkers</a> <a href="#">climb the walls</a> <a href="#">cracked</a> <a href="#">crackers</a> <a href="#">drive me batty</a> <a href="#">drive me crazy</a> <a href="#">drive you nuts</a> <a href="#">funny in the head</a> <a href="#">go bananas</a> <a href="#">go berserk</a> <a href="#">go bonkers</a> <a href="#">go like crazy</a> <a href="#">go mad</a> <a href="#">go nuts</a> <a href="#">hairbrain</a> <a href="#">head over heels</a> <a href="#">it's a zoo in there</a> <a href="#">kooky</a> <a href="#">like nobody's business</a> <a href="#">mad about</a> <a href="#">nut</a> <a href="#">nuts</a> <a href="#">nuts about</a> <a href="#">off your rocker</a> <a href="#">out of my head</a> <a href="#">out of your mind</a> <a href="#">out of your tree</a> <a href="#">plumb loco</a> <a href="#">soft in the head</a>

[spinnny](#)  
[stark raving mad](#)  
[to beat the band](#)  
[touched in the head](#)  
[wacko](#)  
[wild about](#)  
[wingnut](#)  
[wingy](#)  
[you have to be good to be lucky](#)

cream

[deck him](#)  
[drive you](#)

create

[ad lib \(ad libitum\)](#)  
[drum up](#)  
[fake it](#)  
[fudge it](#)  
[let sleeping dogs lie](#)  
[make room](#)  
[make up](#)  
[own worst enemy](#)  
[string a line](#)  
[the past is slipping by without a trace](#)  
[think up](#)  
[to coin a phrase](#)

created

[virtual reality](#)

creating

[on the wing](#)

creatively

[blow snakes \(music\)](#)

credibility

[the acid test](#)

credit

[a feather in your cap](#)  
[a major](#)  
[charge it](#)  
[cold, hard cash](#)  
[deserve credit](#)  
[have to hand it to you](#)  
[plastic](#)  
[rain check](#)

creek	<a href="#">down the tubes</a> <a href="#">in the drink</a>
creep	<a href="#">motherfucker [B]</a> <a href="#">weirdo</a>
crew	<a href="#">spin crew</a>
crickets	<a href="#">jumping Jehoshaphat</a>
cries	<a href="#">reduce to tears</a>
crime	<a href="#">break the law/rules</a> <a href="#">brush with the law</a> <a href="#">burned</a> <a href="#">caught in the act</a> <a href="#">crack this case</a> <a href="#">hood</a> <a href="#">live on the edge</a> <a href="#">name is cleared</a> <a href="#">off the hook</a> <a href="#">partners in crime</a> <a href="#">press charges</a> <a href="#">tell on</a>
criminal	<a href="#">a marked man</a> <a href="#">go straight</a> <a href="#">ring leader</a>
crises	<a href="#">havoc strikes</a> <a href="#">pre-menstrual syndrome</a>
crisis	<a href="#">a tower of strength</a> <a href="#">cool under pressure</a> <a href="#">heaven help us</a> <a href="#">weather the storm</a>
critical	<a href="#">don't look a gift horse in the mouth</a> <a href="#">pernickety/persnickety</a>
criticism	<a href="#">a piece of my mind</a> <a href="#">put-down</a>

criticize

[badmouth](#)  
[dis/diss](#)  
[dish it out](#)  
[fair game](#)  
[find fault](#)  
[fire away](#)  
[give you a hard time](#)  
[give you flack](#)  
[give you static](#)  
[have at me](#)  
[knock](#)  
[mudsling](#)  
[people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones](#)  
[pick holes in](#)  
[pick on](#)  
[put down](#)  
[run down](#)  
[slam](#)  
[take a shot](#)  
[tear a strip off](#)  
[tear me apart](#)

criticized

[open to criticism](#)

criticizing

[get off my back](#)  
[get off my case](#)  
[on my back](#)  
[on my case](#)  
[pull in your horns](#)

crocodile

[cry me a river](#)

crop

[come up](#)  
[grain belt](#)

cross

[get mad](#)  
[give up the blueline \(hockey\)](#)  
[short with me](#)  
[teed off](#)  
[under oath](#)

crowd

[a hotdog](#)  
[elbow room](#)  
[play to the crowd](#)

crude

[slimebucket \[B\]](#)  
[watch your language](#)

cruel

[have a heart](#)  
[it's a jungle out there](#)  
[mean streak](#)

cruise

[bomb around](#)  
[goodies](#)

cruising

[spoil for a fight](#)

crummy

[for the birds](#)

crunch

[the nitty-gritty](#)

crusader

[get off your soap box](#)

crush

[sweet on](#)

crust

[high and mighty](#)

cry

[cry her heart out](#)  
[cry in your beer](#)  
[cry me a river](#)  
[cry over spilt milk](#)  
[cry your eyes out](#)  
[hold up](#)  
[it's all over but the crying](#)  
[keep a stiff upper lip](#)  
[make a fuss](#)  
[make strange](#)  
[rant and rave](#)  
[read them and weep](#)  
[shed a tear](#)  
[sob story](#)

crying

[for crying out loud](#)

crystal

	<a href="#">as plain as the nose on your face</a> <a href="#">it's as plain as the nose on your face</a> <a href="#">plain as the nose on your face</a>
cuff	
	<a href="#">ad lib (ad libitum)</a> <a href="#">off the top of my head</a> <a href="#">offhand</a>
cultures	
	<a href="#">a redneck</a> <a href="#">expand your horizons</a> <a href="#">the best of both worlds</a>
cup	
	<a href="#">a spot of tea</a> <a href="#">go all the way (sports)</a> <a href="#">hole in one (golf)</a>
cupboard	
	<a href="#">Fibber McGee's closet</a>
curious	
	<a href="#">curiosity killed the cat</a> <a href="#">dying to know</a>
curling	
	<a href="#">skins game</a>
curls	
	<a href="#">kiss curls (hair style)</a>
current	
	<a href="#">stay abreast</a> <a href="#">up to date</a>
curse	
	<a href="#">cuss</a> <a href="#">put a hex on me</a>
curt	
	<a href="#">short with me</a>
custom	
	<a href="#">as American as apple pie</a> <a href="#">in keeping with</a> <a href="#">stand on ceremony</a>
customer	
	<a href="#">a slow day</a> <a href="#">call tabs</a> <a href="#">close a deal/sale</a> <a href="#">cold call</a> <a href="#">drum up</a>

[hard sell](#)  
[leg work](#)  
[loss leader](#)  
[mind the store](#)  
[one born every minute](#)  
[slow day](#)  
[soft sell](#)  
[the customer is always right](#)  
[wait on customers](#)

customize

[deck out](#)

cut

[cut the mustard](#)  
[dig your own grave](#)  
[fast track](#)  
[have my ears lowered](#)  
[have you for breakfast](#)  
[head and shoulders](#)  
[if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen](#)  
[lay off](#)  
[preppy](#)  
[pussy whipped](#)  
[quick and dirty](#)  
[shape up or ship out](#)  
[shoot yourself in the foot](#)  
[short with me](#)  
[slash and burn](#)  
[turf it](#)  
[wipe that smile off your face](#)

cute

[what a dish](#)

cutlery

[set the table](#)

cutting

[state of the art](#)

cyclone

[shuck on down to the fraidy hole](#)

cylinders

[tick over](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Definition Index D

d	
	<a href="#">The Group of Five/The Regina Five</a>
dad	
	<a href="#">a chip off the old block</a> <a href="#">my old man</a>
dad-blamed	
	<a href="#">blasted</a> <a href="#">gol dang/gol darn</a>
daily	
	<a href="#">break a habit</a> <a href="#">day in, day out</a>
daisies	
	<a href="#">deep six</a>
damage	
	<a href="#">lay waste</a> <a href="#">ratch</a> <a href="#">wreak havoc</a>
damaged	
	<a href="#">deadhead</a> <a href="#">none the worse for wear</a>
damn	
	<a href="#">bloody well</a> <a href="#">darn</a> <a href="#">dingbusted</a> <a href="#">don't give a crap [B]</a> <a href="#">four-letter words</a> <a href="#">friggin</a> <a href="#">give a damn / give a shit / give a fuck [B]</a> <a href="#">give a shit [B]</a>
damned	
	<a href="#">dad-blamed</a>
dance	
	<a href="#">bump and grind</a> <a href="#">do a gig</a> <a href="#">have a blast</a>

[it takes two to tango](#)

[twinkle toes](#)

[wall flower](#)

dancer

[twinkle toes](#)

dander

[ruffle your feathers](#)

danger

[a close call](#)

[curiosity killed the cat](#)

[for dear life](#)

[live on the edge](#)

[nerves of steel](#)

[on thin ice](#)

[out of harm's way](#)

[out of the woods](#)

[parachute](#)

[run the risk](#)

[where angels fear to tread](#)

[whew](#)

dangerous

[it's a jungle out there](#)

[not on your life](#)

[out on a limb](#)

[run the gauntlet](#)

[slippery slope](#)

dangerously

[play with fire](#)

[take chances](#)

daredevil

[bodacious](#)

daring

[a daredevil](#)

[bodacious](#)

dark

[hazard a guess](#)

[in the hole](#)

[in the know](#)

darling

[babe](#)

[honey](#)

[sweetie pie](#)

darn	<a href="#">blasted</a> <a href="#">consarned</a> <a href="#">dad-blamed</a> <a href="#">damn it [B]</a> <a href="#">damn the luck [B]</a> <a href="#">darn tooting</a> <a href="#">dingbusted</a> <a href="#">fiddlesticks</a> <a href="#">flipping</a> <a href="#">friggin</a> <a href="#">gee whiz</a> <a href="#">geez</a> <a href="#">gol dang/gol darn</a> <a href="#">gosh darn (gol darn)</a> <a href="#">nuts</a> <a href="#">oh my gosh</a> <a href="#">phooey</a> <a href="#">rats</a> <a href="#">ruddy</a> <a href="#">scrut</a> <a href="#">sheesh</a>
date	<a href="#">break up</a> <a href="#">chat her up</a> <a href="#">drop her/him</a> <a href="#">go out with</a> <a href="#">go steady</a> <a href="#">on schedule</a> <a href="#">on target</a> <a href="#">play the field</a> <a href="#">rob the cradle</a> <a href="#">roll around</a> <a href="#">see</a> <a href="#">take out</a> <a href="#">you're on</a>
dated	<a href="#">passé</a>
dawn	<a href="#">at first light</a> <a href="#">click in</a>
day	

[a hard day](#)  
[a heavy day](#)  
[a month of Sundays](#)  
[a new broom sweeps clean](#)  
[a red-letter day](#)  
[all the livelong day](#)  
[an apple a day keeps the doctor away](#)  
[Black Friday](#)  
[cash up/cash out](#)  
[crystal clear](#)  
[day in, day out](#)  
[dog days of summer](#)  
[drag on](#)  
[drink like a fish](#)  
[five o'clock shadow](#)  
[for long](#)  
[from day one](#)  
[from the get-go](#)  
[good afternoon](#)  
[good morning](#)  
[grow on you](#)  
[hangover](#)  
[how do you do](#)  
[howdy](#)  
[in a slump](#)  
[make my day](#)  
[pub crawl](#)  
[put in a hard day](#)  
[school's out](#)  
[slow day](#)  
[take a break](#)  
[TGIF](#)  
[that'll be the frosty Friday](#)  
[the crunch](#)  
[tide me over](#)  
[till the cows come home](#)  
[time off](#)  
[work my buns off](#)

daydreaming

[wake up](#)

daylight

[as plain as day](#)

[in plain view](#)

[plain as day](#)

dazed

[glassy eyed](#)

dazzling

[razzle-dazzle](#)

dead

[a dead heat](#)

[a sack of hammers](#)

[as slow as molasses in January](#)

[dead as a doornail](#)

[dead duck](#)

[dead even](#)

[done in](#)

[drop like flies](#)

[dust](#)

[go to hell \[B\]](#)

[good and dead/mad/sick](#)

[on my deathbed](#)

[on our last legs](#)

[on the button](#)

[on the mark](#)

[on your deathbed](#)

[play dead](#)

[positive](#)

[pushing up daisies](#)

[sleep like a log](#)

[sound asleep](#)

[spot on](#)

[stone dead](#)

[the spitting image](#)

[tits up \[B\]](#)

deadline

[in time](#)

deaf

[fall on deaf ears](#)

[hard of hearing](#)

deal

[a fair shake](#)

[a snow job](#)

[big hairy deal](#)

[deal me in](#)

[face facts](#)  
[hanky-panky](#)  
[kiss it off](#)  
[nail it down](#)  
[play it up](#)  
[shady deal](#)  
[shake on it](#)  
[strike a bargain](#)  
[talk turkey](#)  
[up to something](#)  
[wheeler-dealer](#)  
[you're on](#)

dealer

[square shooter](#)

dear

[fine-feathered friend](#)  
[goodness gracious](#)  
[heavens](#)  
[honey](#)  
[oh my gosh](#)  
[shucks](#)  
[sweetie pie](#)

death

[a close shave](#)  
[at death's door](#)  
[brush with death](#)  
[curtains](#)  
[death row](#)  
[death wish](#)  
[if you're born to hang, you won't drown](#)  
[lose a family member](#)  
[nine lives](#)  
[on my deathbed](#)  
[save your skin/neck](#)  
[scared stiff](#)  
[shitting bricks \[B\]](#)  
[Sophie's choice](#)  
[touch and go](#)

deathbed

[as sick as a parrot](#)  
[brush with death](#)

debatable

[open to question](#)

debt

[cough up](#)[in dire straits](#)[in hock](#)[out of hock](#)[square up](#)

decade

[baby boomer](#)[old money](#)[Roaring Twenties](#)

deceit

[smoke and mirrors](#)

deceive

[a sitting duck](#)[deke you](#)[do a number on](#)[fool you](#)[play a trick on](#)[play games](#)[pull the wool over your eyes](#)[throw a curve](#)

deceived

[fall into a trap](#)[sucked in](#)[taken for a ride](#)[taken in](#)

decide

[back out](#)[call the shots](#)[flip you for it](#)[hold the purse strings](#)[it's a toss-up](#)[make up your mind](#)[on approval](#)[see fit](#)[set your sights](#)[settle it](#)[soft sell](#)[spin the bottle](#)[The Grim Reaper](#)[think better of it](#)

	<a href="#">wishy-washy</a>
decided	
	<a href="#">in the bag</a>
	<a href="#">up in the air</a>
deciding	
	<a href="#">the balance of power</a>
decision	
	<a href="#">a freeze on</a>
	<a href="#">a tough call</a>
	<a href="#">back you</a>
	<a href="#">call the shots</a>
	<a href="#">change your mind</a>
	<a href="#">common sense</a>
	<a href="#">cross that bridge when I come to it</a>
	<a href="#">go back on</a>
	<a href="#">got rocks in your head</a>
	<a href="#">have a say</a>
	<a href="#">have the final say</a>
	<a href="#">hidden agenda</a>
	<a href="#">his own man</a>
	<a href="#">in the driver's seat</a>
	<a href="#">it's up to you</a>
	<a href="#">saw sawdust</a>
	<a href="#">think better of it</a>
	<a href="#">tip the scales</a>
	<a href="#">up to you</a>
	<a href="#">wear the pants</a>
	<a href="#">when the chips are down</a>
decisively	
	<a href="#">whup your ass</a>
deck	
	<a href="#">play musical chairs</a>
decorate	
	<a href="#">deck out</a>
	<a href="#">gild the lily</a>
decreasing	
	<a href="#">on the wane</a>
deduct	
	<a href="#">write it off</a>
deed	
	<a href="#">pride goeth before a fall</a>
deep	

[dead to the world](#)  
[doo-doo](#)  
[from the bottom of my heart](#)  
[go overboard](#)  
[in deep doo-doo \[B\]](#)  
[in hot water](#)  
[loaded](#)  
[out of his element](#)  
[over my head](#)  
[pushing up daisies](#)  
[sleep like a log](#)  
[the pit of my stomach](#)  
[the way to a man's heart is through his stomach](#)  
[you can't tell a book by its cover](#)

deeper

[dig deep](#)

defeat

[beat the pants off](#)  
[beat up](#)  
[beat up on](#)  
[blank](#)  
[blow them away](#)  
[blow you away](#)  
[blow you out of the water](#)  
[clean up on](#)  
[cut you to ribbons](#)  
[eat humble pie](#)  
[eat you for breakfast](#)  
[give you a run for your money](#)  
[hang you out to dry](#)  
[have you for breakfast](#)  
[kick butt](#)  
[killer instinct](#)  
[lick your wounds](#)  
[make mincemeat of](#)  
[out for blood](#)  
[put you away](#)  
[shellack](#)  
[tail between his legs](#)  
[take a round out of](#)  
[take him out](#)  
[take you to the cleaners](#)

[turn the tables on  
up against  
whip you  
whup you  
whup your ass  
wipe you](#)

defeated

[done for  
down for the count  
gotcha \(got you\)  
put to shame](#)

defeating

[turn the tables on](#)

defecate

[grow a tail](#)

defend

[armed to the teeth  
take up cudgels  
yellow](#)

defendant

[on trial](#)

defending

[on trial](#)

defenseless

[a babe in the woods](#)

defensively

[kitty bar the door](#)

deficit

[shortfall](#)

defined

[cut](#)

definitely

[in no uncertain terms](#)

defraud

[bilk](#)

defying

[bodacious](#)

degree

[grill you  
haul up on the carpet  
on the carpet  
pointed questions  
to perfection](#)

deke	
	<a href="#">stickhandle</a>
delay	
	<a href="#">get to it</a>
	<a href="#">hold you up</a>
	<a href="#">quick like a bunny</a>
	<a href="#">take it in stride</a>
	<a href="#">waste no time</a>
delayed	
	<a href="#">make good time</a>
delete	
	<a href="#">turf it</a>
	<a href="#">weed out</a>
deliberate	
	<a href="#">a bare-faced lie</a>
	<a href="#">take action</a>
deliberately	
	<a href="#">throw a game</a>
delicious	
	<a href="#">out of this world</a>
	<a href="#">yummy</a>
deliver	
	<a href="#">drop off</a>
	<a href="#">run an errand</a>
deliveries	
	<a href="#">cash and carry</a>
demanding	
	<a href="#">heavy duty</a>
	<a href="#">hound</a>
	<a href="#">take it easy on</a>
democrat	
	<a href="#">pinko</a>
demolish	
	<a href="#">make mincemeat of</a>
denmark	
	<a href="#">something smells</a>
dense	
	<a href="#">character density</a>
depart	
	<a href="#">head out</a>
	<a href="#">split</a>
	<a href="#">take off</a>
departed	

[flew the coop](#)[long gone](#)[tail lights](#)

departing

[on my way](#)

departure

[exit stage left](#)

depend

[bank on](#)[count on](#)[count your chickens before they hatch](#)[rest on your laurels](#)[ride his coattails](#)[trickle-down economics](#)

dependable

[a brick](#)

dependent

[messed up](#)[tied to your mother's apron strings](#)

depending

[all your eggs in one basket](#)

deposit

[up the ante](#)

depressed

[blue](#)[cabin fever](#)[down](#)[down in the dumps](#)[hit rock bottom](#)[low](#)[messed up](#)

derived

[props](#)

describe

[bam](#)[paint a picture](#)[pow](#)

desert

[comeuppance](#)[duck out](#)

deserve

[ask for it](#)

[comeuppance](#)  
[damn you \[B\]](#)  
[deserve credit](#)  
[got it coming](#)  
[have it coming](#)  
[more power to you](#)  
[no rest for the wicked](#)  
[serve them right](#)  
[take that](#)

designed

[grunge \(fashion\)](#)  
[neat](#)  
[out of step](#)  
[shagging wagon](#)

desire

[deadbeat](#)  
[go for](#)  
[got the hots for](#)  
[lose your appetite](#)  
[no use for](#)  
[the apple of his eye](#)  
[the grass is greener on the other side of the fence](#)

desk

[take your seat](#)

despair

[sinking feeling](#)

desperate

[last-ditch](#)

destiny

[fate is sealed](#)

destroy

[blow to kingdom come](#)  
[kill the goose that lays the golden eggs](#)  
[wreak havoc](#)

destroyed

[go up in smoke](#)  
[up in smoke](#)

detail

[a fine-toothed comb](#)  
[anal retentive](#)  
[eagle eyes](#)  
[fill me in](#)

[fly in the ointment](#)  
[go into detail](#)  
[in brief](#)  
[letter-perfect](#)  
[nitpick](#)  
[paint a picture](#)  
[pernickety/persnickety](#)  
[put the finishing touches on](#)  
[tie up loose ends](#)  
[to the nth degree](#)  
[touch up](#)

detention

[cool your heels](#)

determine

[get a fix on](#)  
[pinpoint](#)  
[shoot-out \(sports\)](#)

determined

[fate is sealed](#)  
[hang on like grim death](#)  
[hang tough](#)  
[hell bent for election](#)  
[mean business](#)  
[tough customer](#)  
[where there's a will, there's a way](#)

develop

[come of](#)  
[show promise](#)  
[take its course](#)  
[the makings of](#)  
[turn out](#)  
[up and coming](#)

developed

[half-baked](#)

developing

[in the making](#)

developments

[stay abreast](#)

device

[a double-edged sword](#)  
[a fifth wheel](#)  
[bag of tricks](#)

[every trick in the book](#)  
[loaded](#)  
[necessity is the mother of invention](#)  
[sleeper](#)

devil

[behind the eight ball](#)  
[better the devil you know...](#)  
[damned if you do and damned if you don't](#)  
[like the wind](#)  
[wekabi](#)

devil-may-care

[footloose and fancy free](#)

diagonally

[kitty-corner](#)

dice

[no chancy](#)

dick

[diddly-squat](#)  
[dork \[B\]](#)

dickens

[a hell of a time](#)

did

[a piece of my mind](#)  
[all hell broke loose](#)  
[beg your pardon](#)  
[broken dreams](#)  
[come again](#)  
[did good](#)  
[did yourself proud](#)  
[done good](#)  
[eat humble pie](#)  
[face up](#)  
[give you flack](#)  
[give you static](#)  
[good on you](#)  
[how's that again](#)  
[huh](#)  
[make a clean breast of it](#)  
[my eye](#)  
[no rest for the wicked](#)  
[pardon me](#)  
[pay a compliment](#)

[pay him back](#)  
[say what](#)  
[see you/see your](#)  
[she peed](#)  
[sour grapes](#)  
[straight from the horse's mouth](#)  
[turn yourself in](#)  
[what the dickens](#)  
[what was I thinking of](#)  
[what's the poop](#)

diddly

[fuck all](#)

diddly-squat

[bugger all \[B\]](#)

[zilch](#)

die

[bite the dust](#)  
[brush with death](#)  
[buy the farm](#)  
[cross over Jordan](#)  
[cross over to the other side](#)  
[death wish](#)  
[die off](#)  
[go down for the third time](#)  
[go the way of the dodo](#)  
[if you're born to hang, you won't drown](#)  
[it ain't over till it's over](#)  
[it's a matter of life and death](#)  
[kick the bucket](#)  
[lay down your life for](#)  
[not long for this world](#)  
[pass away](#)  
[pass on](#)  
[slip away](#)  
[there's no tomorrow](#)  
[want it so bad I can taste it](#)  
[wouldn't be caught dead](#)  
[you can't teach an old dog new tricks](#)  
[your number is up](#)

died

[broken dreams](#)

difference

[a fine line](#)  
[geezer gap](#)  
[keep them straight](#)  
[meet you half way](#)  
[so what](#)  
[split hairs](#)  
[split second](#)  
[split the difference](#)

## different

[a different kettle of fish](#)  
[a far cry](#)  
[a fresh pair of eyes](#)  
[a horse of a different color](#)  
[beauty is in the eye of the beholder](#)  
[beg to differ](#)  
[change your mind](#)  
[different strokes for different folks](#)  
[it's a whole nother world out there](#)  
[it's a whole other world out there](#)  
[new blood](#)  
[off-beat](#)  
[one and the same](#)  
[one man's garbage is another man's art](#)  
[part company](#)  
[stand out](#)  
[take on a new light](#)  
[there are two sides to every story](#)  
[to each his own](#)  
[twist your words](#)  
[worlds apart](#)

## difficult

[a dickens of a time](#)  
[a handful](#)  
[a hard row to hoe](#)  
[a hell of a time](#)  
[a tough call](#)  
[behind the eight ball](#)  
[between a rock and a hard place](#)  
[between the devil and the deep blue sea](#)  
[dirty work](#)  
[got you cornered](#)  
[hard to believe](#)

[hard to take](#)  
[have my work cut out](#)  
[heavy duty](#)  
[heavy going](#)  
[in a jam](#)  
[in a pickle](#)  
[in a pinch](#)  
[in a tight spot](#)  
[in tough](#)  
[leave you holding the bag](#)  
[one hell of a time](#)  
[over the hump](#)  
[rocky road](#)  
[rough going](#)  
[the bitter end](#)  
[the crunch](#)  
[the hard way](#)  
[under fire](#)  
[uphill battle](#)  
[when the going gets tough](#)  
[work cut out for](#)

difficulties

[in deep doo-doo \[B\]](#)  
[this mortal coil](#)

difficulty

[out of the woods](#)  
[snag](#)  
[up the creek](#)

dig

[dig deep](#)  
[dig it up](#)  
[eat up](#)  
[freeze wages](#)  
[get in deeper](#)  
[get my drift](#)  
[help yourself](#)  
[pad](#)

digest

[Fletcherize your food](#)

dilute

[water down](#)

diluted

[full strength](#)

diminish

[die down](#)[drop off](#)

diminishing

[no let-up](#)[on the wane](#)

dimwit

[dipstick](#)[numbskull](#)

dingbusted

[consarned](#)[dad-blamed](#)

dingle

[call up](#)

dink

[dick \[B\]](#)

diplomatic

[put the right spin on it](#)

dipstick

[ass](#)[dork \[B\]](#)[dumbo](#)[jerk](#)[lamebrain](#)[numbskull](#)[pinhead](#)[shithead \[B\]](#)[twit](#)[yoyo](#)

direct

[pin down/pin him down](#)

direction

[do a 180](#)[I smell where you're stepping](#)[left, right and center](#)[on track](#)[part company](#)[tunnel vision](#)[U-turn](#)[yonder over there](#)

directly

[due north](#)

[head on](#)  
[smack dab in the middle](#)  
[straight from the horse's mouth](#)  
[straight from the shoulder](#)

directors

[too many chiefs and not enough Indians](#)

dirt

[a dime a dozen](#)  
[as clean as a whistle](#)  
[grunge](#)

dirty

[blood money](#)  
[dirty thirties](#)  
[dump on](#)  
[in the gutter](#)  
[off color](#)  
[play hardball](#)  
[rotter](#)  
[scum/scumbag](#)  
[short cut](#)  
[snotty-nosed kid](#)

disabled

[three slices short \(of a full loaf\)](#)

disadvantages

[the downside](#)

disagree

[beg to differ](#)

disagreed

[to a man](#)

disagreement

[a falling out](#)  
[bone of contention](#)

disappear

[drop out of sight](#)

disappearing

[into thin air](#)

disappoint

[let down](#)

disapproval

[catcall](#)  
[put-down](#)  
[raised eyebrows](#)

	<a href="#">roll their eyes</a>
disaster	
	<a href="#">save your bacon</a>
disbelief	
	<a href="#">double take</a>
	<a href="#">eyes glaze over</a>
	<a href="#">freak/freak out</a>
discard	
	<a href="#">get rid of</a>
	<a href="#">leave out</a>
	<a href="#">throw out</a>
	<a href="#">throw the baby out with the bath water</a>
discipline	
	<a href="#">a firm hand</a>
	<a href="#">in hot water</a>
	<a href="#">open up a big can of whoop-ass</a>
	<a href="#">scot-free</a>
disciplined	
	<a href="#">ears pinned back</a>
	<a href="#">haul up on the carpet</a>
	<a href="#">out of hand</a>
discombobulated	
	<a href="#">shit or wind my watch</a>
discount	
	<a href="#">clear out</a>
discourage	
	<a href="#">throw cold water on</a>
discover	
	<a href="#">come across</a>
	<a href="#">crack this case</a>
	<a href="#">expand your horizons</a>
	<a href="#">figure out</a>
	<a href="#">find out</a>
	<a href="#">find your voice</a>
	<a href="#">put out feelers</a>
	<a href="#">run across</a>
	<a href="#">take the pulse</a>
discovered	
	<a href="#">found out</a>
discuss	
	<a href="#">a bone to pick</a>
	<a href="#">an axe to grind</a>
	<a href="#">clear up</a>

[hash it over](#)  
[have a word with you](#)  
[talk about](#)  
[talk it over](#)  
[talk turkey](#)  
[time out](#)  
[toss it around](#)  
[work things out](#)

discussed

[straw horse](#)

discussion

[the last word](#)

disease

[have a case of](#)  
[have an attack](#)  
[live on the edge](#)  
[too far gone](#)

disgust

[curl your hair](#)

disgusted

[fed up](#)

dishes

[put on the dog](#)

dishonest

[fly-by-night](#)

disk

[backup](#)  
[motormouth](#)

dislike

[cut off your nose to spite your face](#)  
[familiarity breeds contempt](#)  
[got it in for](#)  
[haven't got the stomach for it](#)  
[motherfucker \[B\]](#)  
[one man's garbage is another man's art](#)  
[so and so](#)

dismiss

[can](#)  
[fire](#)  
[give you the axe](#)  
[give you the boot](#)

dismissal

	<a href="#">save your skin/neck</a>
dismissed	
	<a href="#">down the road</a>
	<a href="#">get axed</a>
	<a href="#">heads will roll</a>
	<a href="#">history</a>
disorganized	
	<a href="#">at loose ends</a>
	<a href="#">come undone</a>
	<a href="#">harum-scarum</a>
dispatch	
	<a href="#">put down</a>
display	
	<a href="#">a hotshot</a>
	<a href="#">draw attention to</a>
	<a href="#">razzle-dazzle</a>
	<a href="#">show-off</a>
	<a href="#">showboat</a>
displaying	
	<a href="#">on parade</a>
dispose	
	<a href="#">do away with</a>
disrespect	
	<a href="#">dis/diss</a>
distance	
	<a href="#">a stone's throw</a>
	<a href="#">as the crow flies</a>
	<a href="#">at bay</a>
	<a href="#">by a country mile</a>
	<a href="#">the grass is greener on the other side of the fence</a>
	<a href="#">to hell and gone</a>
distant	
	<a href="#">a faraway look</a>
distinct	
	<a href="#">dasein</a>
distorted	
	<a href="#">grunge (music)</a>
distress	
	<a href="#">mayday (m'aidez)</a>
	<a href="#">SOS</a>
district	
	<a href="#">Cabbagetown</a>
	<a href="#">the burbs</a>

[toney neighborhood](#)

disturb

[raise hell \[B\]](#)[rock the boat](#)

disturbance

[raise Cain](#)

disturbed

[discombobulated](#)

ditch

[give him the slip](#)[lose him](#)

ditto

[back at ya](#)[same to you](#)

dive

[throw a game](#)

divide

[split the difference](#)

diving

[binner](#)

divorce

[breakup](#)

dizzy

[on queer street](#)[wonky](#)

do

[a chip off the old block](#)[a doggy bag](#)[a full plate](#)[a party to that](#)[a piece of cake](#)[a piece of piss](#)[act up](#)[all wet](#)[all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy](#)[an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure](#)[at ease](#)[back off](#)[back out](#)[bark is worse than his bite](#)[bark up the wrong tree](#)[basta la musica](#)

[be there or be square](#)  
[beauty is only skin deep](#)  
[beg your pardon](#)  
[bend over backwards](#)  
[better than a kick in the ass \[B\]](#)  
[big hairy deal](#)  
[bigger fish to fry](#)  
[bite your tongue](#)  
[blow me down](#)  
[Bob's your uncle](#)  
[botch it](#)  
[break a promise](#)  
[break the record](#)  
[breathe down my neck](#)  
[button your lip](#)  
[by all means](#)  
[call it square](#)  
[carry out](#)  
[carry your weight](#)  
[cat got your tongue](#)  
[catch on](#)  
[catch the wave](#)  
[catch up on](#)  
[catch you off guard](#)  
[choke](#)  
[clean up your act](#)  
[come off it](#)  
[come on](#)  
[come on strong](#)  
[come through](#)  
[cool under pressure](#)  
[cotton to that](#)  
[couldn't care less](#)  
[course you can](#)  
[cover for me](#)  
[crawl on my hands and knees over broken glass just to see her photo](#)  
[cross that bridge when I come to it](#)  
[cut a wide swath](#)  
[cut it](#)  
[cut it out](#)  
[cut off](#)  
[cut the mustard](#)

[damned if you do and damned if you don't](#)  
[dance with the one who brought you](#)  
[dig yourself in](#)  
[do a dime](#)  
[do a favor](#)  
[do the honors](#)  
[do without](#)  
[do you follow](#)  
[do you mind](#)  
[do your own thing](#)  
[do your part](#)  
[do your utmost](#)  
[do yourself proud](#)  
[don't borrow trouble](#)  
[don't count your chickens before they hatch](#)  
[don't eat that](#)  
[don't get mad; get even](#)  
[don't get me wrong](#)  
[don't get smart with me](#)  
[don't give a crap \[B\]](#)  
[don't give a damn \[B\]](#)  
[don't give me any of your lip](#)  
[don't give me that line/story etc.](#)  
[don't go away mad; just go away](#)  
[don't have a cow](#)  
[don't knock it](#)  
[don't know him from Adam](#)  
[don't know the first thing about it](#)  
[don't know the half of it](#)  
[don't know whether you're coming or going](#)  
[don't know which side your bread is buttered on](#)  
[don't look a gift horse in the mouth](#)  
[don't make a mountain out of a molehill](#)  
[don't make me laugh](#)  
[don't make waves](#)  
[don't push your luck](#)  
[don't put all your eggs in one basket](#)  
[don't rock the boat](#)  
[don't sweat it](#)  
[don't teach your grandmother how to suck eggs](#)  
[don't think so](#)  
[don't want to go there](#)

[down with](#)  
[draw the line](#)  
[drop it](#)  
[drop the ball](#)  
[duh](#)  
[duty calls](#)  
[easy as pie](#)  
[easy come, easy go](#)  
[easy time of it](#)  
[eat out of the palm of your hand](#)  
[egg me on](#)  
[even](#)  
[fall in line](#)  
[fall short](#)  
[familiarity breeds contempt](#)  
[feel free](#)  
[fill his shoes](#)  
[fill in for me](#)  
[fill the bill](#)  
[fill the gap](#)  
[first crack at](#)  
[first off](#)  
[first up](#)  
[fish or cut bait](#)  
[flatliner](#)  
[follow the rules](#)  
[follow through](#)  
[forget it](#)  
[fresh out](#)  
[get a grip on yourself](#)  
[get along](#)  
[get around to](#)  
[get at it](#)  
[get blood from a stone](#)  
[get busy](#)  
[get by/scrape by](#)  
[get caught up](#)  
[get even](#)  
[get into trouble](#)  
[get it over with](#)  
[get off on](#)  
[get off your high horse](#)

[get off your soap box](#)  
[get on it](#)  
[get out](#)  
[get out of](#)  
[get out of the road](#)  
[get out of town](#)  
[get rid of](#)  
[get serious](#)  
[get the hang of](#)  
[get this show on the road](#)  
[get to first base](#)  
[get to it](#)  
[get your feet wet](#)  
[get your way](#)  
[gimme a break](#)  
[give 110%](#)  
[give a damn / give a shit / give a fuck \[B\]](#)  
[give a little](#)  
[give a shit \[B\]](#)  
[give him a taste of his own medicine](#)  
[give it a rest](#)  
[give it a whirl](#)  
[give it all you've got](#)  
[give it the once-over](#)  
[give it to me straight](#)  
[give it your best shot](#)  
[go against the grain](#)  
[go all-out](#)  
[go along with](#)  
[go easy on](#)  
[go jump in the lake](#)  
[go off the deep end](#)  
[go one better](#)  
[go out of your way](#)  
[go overboard](#)  
[go places](#)  
[go to great lengths/ go to any lengths](#)  
[go with the flow](#)  
[go without](#)  
[goof up](#)  
[got no business](#)  
[had a bellyful](#)

[hang loose](#)  
[hard done by](#)  
[haul ass \[B\]](#)  
[have a go](#)  
[have a heart](#)  
[have a mind to](#)  
[have it your way](#)  
[have my work cut out](#)  
[have to hand it to you](#)  
[haven't got a hope](#)  
[haven't got the stomach for it](#)  
[haven't the foggiest](#)  
[hear me out](#)  
[heaven forbid](#)  
[hidden talent](#)  
[hit speeds of](#)  
[hold a candle](#)  
[hold on](#)  
[hold your mouth the right way](#)  
[hold your temper](#)  
[hold your tongue](#)  
[how about that](#)  
[how are you fixed for](#)  
[how are you getting along](#)  
[how are you making out](#)  
[how come](#)  
[how do you like them apples](#)  
[how does that grab you](#)  
[howdy](#)  
[hurry up](#)  
[hush up](#)  
[if you can't cut it, you can't stay](#)  
[if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen](#)  
[if you're born to hang, you won't drown](#)  
[if you're not with us you're against us](#)  
[in the mood](#)  
[in your bad books](#)  
[it ain't over till the fat lady sings](#)  
[it takes two to tango](#)  
[it's a matter of life and death](#)  
[it's a snap](#)  
[it's beyond me](#)

[it's now or never](#)  
[je ne sais quoi](#)  
[joe-job](#)  
[jog your memory](#)  
[jump through hoops](#)  
[keep a promise](#)  
[keep a stiff upper lip](#)  
[keep it down](#)  
[keep it quiet](#)  
[keep it to yourself](#)  
[keep on](#)  
[keep out](#)  
[keep quiet](#)  
[keep the faith](#)  
[keep up the good work](#)  
[keep you on track](#)  
[keep your distance](#)  
[keep your hair on](#)  
[keep your head](#)  
[keep your shirt on](#)  
[keep your word](#)  
[kill an elephant](#)  
[kill for](#)  
[kill two birds \(with one stone\)](#)  
[King Shit on Turd Island](#)  
[knock it off](#)  
[know better](#)  
[know which end is up](#)  
[kowitz](#)  
[last me](#)  
[leave well enough alone](#)  
[leave you holding the bag](#)  
[let down](#)  
[let George do it](#)  
[let it be](#)  
[let me have it](#)  
[let off](#)  
[let sleeping dogs lie](#)  
[let the chips fall where they may](#)  
[let up](#)  
[lift a finger](#)  
[lighten up](#)

[like it or lump it](#)  
[look up a dead horse's ass \[B\]](#)  
[love is blind](#)  
[make a point of](#)  
[make every effort](#)  
[make good](#)  
[make me do it](#)  
[make my day](#)  
[make out](#)  
[make the grade](#)  
[make the most of it](#)  
[make trouble](#)  
[make yourself scarce](#)  
[measure up](#)  
[mess up](#)  
[mind over matter](#)  
[mind your own business](#)  
[mind your P's and Q's](#)  
[miss your chance](#)  
[mum's the word](#)  
[my eye](#)  
[never mind](#)  
[no can do](#)  
[no offense, but...](#)  
[no problem \(no prob\)](#)  
[no rest for the wicked](#)  
[no rush](#)  
[no way](#)  
[none of your lip](#)  
[not at all](#)  
[not long for this world](#)  
[not to worry](#)  
[nothing to sneeze at](#)  
[of course you can](#)  
[on drugs](#)  
[on the run](#)  
[out of circulation](#)  
[out of sight, out of mind](#)  
[outdo yourself](#)  
[over my dead body](#)  
[over my head](#)  
[pass up](#)

[pave the way](#)  
[pay him back](#)  
[pick yourself up](#)  
[pipe down](#)  
[plate is full](#)  
[play a big part](#)  
[play dumb](#)  
[play hard to get](#)  
[play into his hand](#)  
[play it cool](#)  
[play it safe](#)  
[play my cards right](#)  
[play with fire](#)  
[pony up](#)  
[practice what you preach](#)  
[pride goeth before a fall](#)  
[pull that](#)  
[pull up your socks](#)  
[pull your weight](#)  
[push the right buttons](#)  
[put a lid on it](#)  
[put my foot down](#)  
[put off](#)  
[put out](#)  
[put up or shut up](#)  
[put your best foot forward](#)  
[put your foot in it](#)  
[put your heart into it](#)  
[quit while you're ahead](#)  
[rise to the occasion](#)  
[rock the boat](#)  
[scoop them](#)  
[search me](#)  
[second guess](#)  
[serve notice](#)  
[serve the purpose](#)  
[set the world on fire](#)  
[set up shop](#)  
[shit or get off the pot](#)  
[shoot up](#)  
[show your stuff](#)  
[shut up](#)

[skip out](#)  
[sluff off](#)  
[smarten up](#)  
[so help me](#)  
[spare me](#)  
[spell you off](#)  
[spend holidays](#)  
[stay put](#)  
[step aside](#)  
[step out of line](#)  
[step up to the plate](#)  
[stop at nothing](#)  
[straight from the shoulder](#)  
[strike while the iron is hot](#)  
[suck it up](#)  
[swallow your pride](#)  
[take care of business](#)  
[take drugs](#)  
[take it easy](#)  
[take it like a man](#)  
[take it with a grain of salt](#)  
[take me seriously](#)  
[take on](#)  
[take over](#)  
[take the trouble](#)  
[take up the slack](#)  
[take your time](#)  
[talk shop](#)  
[teach you the tricks of the trade](#)  
[tempt fate](#)  
[that'll be the frosty Friday](#)  
[the best-laid plans of mice and men go oft astray](#)  
[the buck stops here](#)  
[the devil makes work for idle hands](#)  
[the devil you say](#)  
[The Golden Rule](#)  
[the hell you say](#)  
[the jig's up](#)  
[the Peter Principle](#)  
[the proof of the pudding is in the eating](#)  
[there's more than one way to skin a cat](#)  
[there's no love lost](#)

[there's no tomorrow](#)  
[there's nothing to it](#)  
[think better of it](#)  
[time on your hands](#)  
[to go](#)  
[toe the line](#)  
[top that](#)  
[try it](#)  
[try that](#)  
[try your hand at](#)  
[turn on a dime](#)  
[U-turn](#)  
[under pressure](#)  
[up to it](#)  
[up your alley](#)  
[vegetate \(veg out\)](#)  
[walk the talk](#)  
[want to make something of it](#)  
[waste no time](#)  
[waste not, want not](#)  
[watch your every move](#)  
[watch your language](#)  
[well off](#)  
[what-cha-ma-call-it](#)  
[what the dickens](#)  
[what was I thinking of](#)  
[what you don't know won't hurt you](#)  
[what's the big idea](#)  
[what's your poison](#)  
[when in Rome, do as the Romans do](#)  
[where do they get off](#)  
[who do you think you are](#)  
[wipe that smile off your face](#)  
[work cut out for](#)  
[work to rule](#)  
[wouldn't be caught dead](#)  
[yellow belly](#)  
[you can't teach an old dog new tricks](#)  
[you don't miss the water till the well runs dry](#)  
[you're only as good as your last shift](#)

do-funny

[do-dad](#)

## doctor

[a checkup](#)  
[a clean bill of health](#)  
[checkup](#)  
[doctor it/doctor it up](#)  
[get a shot](#)  
[put the right spin on it](#)

## documents

[cover your ass \[B\]](#)

## dodo

[go the way of the dodo](#)

## does

[a blank look](#)  
[a flash in the pan](#)  
[all talk and no action](#)  
[black sheep](#)  
[bozo](#)  
[can't stand](#)  
[cheap skate](#)  
[do you mind](#)  
[doesn't add up](#)  
[doesn't mince words](#)  
[doesn't wash](#)  
[dog in the manger](#)  
[doughhead](#)  
[dumbbell](#)  
[fair-weather friend](#)  
[figurehead](#)  
[fill his shoes](#)  
[girl Friday](#)  
[give him a taste of his own medicine](#)  
[hatchet man](#)  
[health nut](#)  
[hold-out](#)  
[it don't make no nevermind](#)  
[it makes no difference](#)  
[it's beyond me](#)  
[joker](#)  
[junkie](#)  
[knucklehead](#)  
[landlubber](#)  
[lazy bones](#)

[no matter how you slice it](#)  
[no-show](#)  
[pinch](#)  
[pinhead](#)  
[so what](#)  
[stick-in-the-mud](#)  
[sucks](#)  
[what the heck](#)  
[who cares](#)  
[you can't tell a book by its cover](#)

dog

[a coon's age](#)  
[a duke's mixture](#)  
[all in](#)  
[as sick as a parrot](#)  
[doggy doo](#)  
[in a coon's age](#)  
[in a long time](#)  
[in sick bay](#)  
[number one](#)  
[potlicker](#)  
[shit or get off the pot](#)  
[tired out](#)  
[you can't teach an old dog new tricks](#)

doggone

[blasted](#)  
[cotton-picking](#)

doggy

[doo-doo](#)

doing

[ass into gear](#)  
[at it again](#)  
[at your beck and call](#)  
[bit by bit](#)  
[break a habit](#)  
[break away](#)  
[brownie points](#)  
[by any means](#)  
[call it quits](#)  
[catch me doing that](#)  
[caught in the act](#)  
[caught with his pants down](#)

[coming up roses](#)  
[cop out](#)  
[cry over spilt milk](#)  
[cut off](#)  
[cut the crap \[B\]](#)  
[every trick in the book](#)  
[fall in line](#)  
[get caught](#)  
[get out of](#)  
[going strong](#)  
[hands on](#)  
[how are you getting along](#)  
[how are you making out](#)  
[how goes it](#)  
[in a rut](#)  
[in her good graces](#)  
[in step](#)  
[keep it up](#)  
[lay off](#)  
[on the beat](#)  
[on the verge](#)  
[onto us](#)  
[putting on the ritz](#)  
[see to it/see to that](#)  
[sluff off](#)  
[so far, so good](#)  
[talk is cheap](#)  
[the whole nine yards](#)  
[to a fault](#)  
[trial run](#)  
[under your thumb](#)  
[up to](#)  
[up to no good](#)  
[walk the talk](#)  
[what's the big idea](#)  
[wise to us](#)  
[you got it](#)

dollar

[bang for your buck](#)  
[bet you dollars to donuts](#)  
[buck](#)  
[clam](#)

[cold, hard cash](#)  
[dough](#)  
[filthy lucre](#)  
[green stuff](#)  
[greenback](#)  
[megabucks](#)  
[penny wise, pound foolish](#)  
[shekel](#)  
[stretch the dollar](#)  
[you can bet your bottom dollar](#)

dolled	
--------	--

[dressed fit to kill](#)

dominate	
----------	--

[lord it over](#)

donated	
---------	--

[courtesy of](#)  
[laundered money](#)

done	
------	--

['at a boy \(that a boy\)](#)  
['at a girl \(that a girl\)](#)  
[all in](#)  
[and that's that](#)  
[attaboy \(that a boy\)](#)  
[attagirl \(that a girl\)](#)  
[Bob's your uncle](#)  
[carry the can](#)  
[check up on](#)  
[claim to fame](#)  
[dead meat](#)  
[did good](#)  
[did yourself proud](#)  
[dog tired](#)  
[done it all](#)  
[dust](#)  
[half the battle](#)  
[it's a matter of life and death](#)  
[it's over/ it's over with](#)  
[no chancy](#)  
[on our last legs](#)  
[on target](#)  
[on the back burner](#)  
[out of the way](#)

[over and done with](#)  
[over with](#)  
[see to it/see to that](#)  
[she peed](#)  
[take care of business](#)  
[that a boy/that a girl](#)  
[what was I thinking of](#)

donnybrook

[a free-for-all](#)  
[brouhaha](#)  
[knock them down, drag them out](#)

donuts

[bet you dollars to donuts](#)

do

[doo-doo](#)

doo-doo

[doggy doo](#)  
[doo-doo](#)

door

[as poor as a church mouse](#)  
[break into](#)  
[brush with death](#)  
[Fibber McGee's closet](#)  
[on my deathbed](#)  
[won't see you stuck](#)

doornail

[stone dead](#)

dope

[junk](#)

dork

[dick \[B\]](#)  
[dink \[B\]](#)  
[hoo-haw \[B\]](#)  
[lamebrain](#)  
[prick \[B\]](#)

dose

[a hit](#)

dot

[sharp](#)

double

[DINKS](#)  
[double or nothing](#)  
[get your buns over here](#)

[right away](#)

doubt

[for sure](#)[keep the faith](#)[my ass](#)[no doubt](#)[no qualms](#)[no question](#)[take your word for it](#)[without question](#)

dough

[bread](#)[coin](#)[lettuce](#)

doughhead

[knucklehead](#)

down

[badmouth](#)[bed down](#)[blue](#)[bottom out](#)[bow out](#)[bowl me over](#)[bury the hatchet](#)[by heart](#)[calm down](#)[cascade \(business\)](#)[catch a cold \(catch cold\)](#)[caught in the act](#)[cool off](#)[crash](#)[cream you](#)[curl up with a good book](#)[cut off](#)[dead set against](#)[deck him](#)[dis/diss](#)[down in the dumps](#)[down the hatch](#)[down the line](#)[down the pike](#)[down to a T](#)

[downhearted](#)  
[drive around](#)  
[drop off](#)  
[drop your drawers](#)  
[fall ill](#)  
[feel blue](#)  
[fever breaks](#)  
[flake out](#)  
[floor it](#)  
[fuck that noise \[B\]](#)  
[get down to brass tacks](#)  
[get me down](#)  
[get this show on the road](#)  
[get you down](#)  
[get your head out of the clouds](#)  
[give you the boot](#)  
[go down](#)  
[go downhill](#)  
[go haywire](#)  
[go on](#)  
[gone to pot](#)  
[goose it](#)  
[grab a chair](#)  
[have a chair](#)  
[have a seat](#)  
[head up there](#)  
[history](#)  
[hose it down/ hose it off](#)  
[inhale](#)  
[jump for joy](#)  
[keep it down](#)  
[kiss that one goodbye](#)  
[knock](#)  
[knock flat](#)  
[knock me over with a feather](#)  
[knock the wind out of his sails](#)  
[led to believe](#)  
[life is not all guns and roses](#)  
[look like he was dragged through a knothole](#)  
[low](#)  
[nail down](#)  
[no contest](#)

[out of sorts](#)  
[pedal to the metal](#)  
[pipe down](#)  
[play dead](#)  
[punch your lights out](#)  
[put a lid on it](#)  
[put out of its misery](#)  
[put to death](#)  
[run down](#)  
[set a spell](#)  
[settle down](#)  
[slam](#)  
[spread out](#)  
[stand up to](#)  
[take a load off your feet](#)  
[take a shot](#)  
[throw the book at](#)  
[tight race](#)  
[time stands still](#)  
[to a T](#)  
[wash down](#)  
[what's cooking](#)  
[what's going down](#)  
[what's going on](#)  
[what's the poop](#)

downbeat

[strike up the band](#)

downhearted

[in a bad way](#)

downhill

[hit the skids](#)

downplay

[soft pedal](#)

downtown

[paint the town red](#)

doze

[drop off](#)

draft

[straw horse](#)

drag

[have a drag](#)

[lay rubber](#)

drain	<a href="#">kiss that one goodbye</a>
dramatize	<a href="#">play it for all it's worth</a>
draw	<a href="#">call attention to</a> <a href="#">get the jump on</a> <a href="#">have a drag</a> <a href="#">work to rule</a>
dream	<a href="#">hopes dashed</a> <a href="#">keep your fingers crossed</a> <a href="#">pipe dream</a>
dreaming	<a href="#">head in the clouds</a> <a href="#">I'll be a monkey's uncle</a>
dress	<a href="#">bundle up</a> <a href="#">dolloed up</a> <a href="#">dress down</a> <a href="#">dress up</a> <a href="#">dressed fit to kill</a> <a href="#">glad rags</a> <a href="#">rug up</a>
dressed	<a href="#">all spruced up</a> <a href="#">drag queen</a> <a href="#">dressed fit to kill</a> <a href="#">dressed to the nines</a> <a href="#">drugstore cowboy</a> <a href="#">gussied up</a> <a href="#">look sharp</a>
dresses	<a href="#">dude</a>
dressng	<a href="#">greasy kid's stuff</a> <a href="#">putting on the ritz</a>
drift	<a href="#">dig me</a> <a href="#">follow me</a> <a href="#">I smell where you're stepping</a>
drink	<a href="#">a bar star</a>

[a cheap drunk](#)  
[a hollow leg](#)  
[a short one](#)  
[a snootful](#)  
[a spot of tea](#)  
[a tall one](#)  
[bar hop](#)  
[be my guest](#)  
[bend your elbow](#)  
[boozing buddies](#)  
[bottoms up](#)  
[buy a round](#)  
[chaser](#)  
[cry in your beer](#)  
[drink like a fish](#)  
[drink up](#)  
[drink you under the table](#)  
[drive you to drink](#)  
[drown your sorrow](#)  
[had a belt](#)  
[had a couple](#)  
[happy hour](#)  
[have a sip](#)  
[have a smash](#)  
[have one on me](#)  
[here's mud in your eye](#)  
[hit the bar](#)  
[hit the bottle](#)  
[hold her liquor](#)  
[hold your drinks](#)  
[last call](#)  
[mind your P's and Q's](#)  
[one for the road](#)  
[polish off/polish it off](#)  
[pub crawl](#)  
[put away](#)  
[skoal](#)  
[spike a drink](#)  
[this one is on me](#)  
[tie one on](#)  
[tip a few](#)  
[touch a drop](#)

[wash it down](#)  
[wet your whistle](#)  
[what's your poison](#)

## drinking

[break a habit](#)  
[hungover](#)  
[into the sauce](#)  
[off the wagon](#)  
[on the wagon](#)  
[there's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip](#)

## drive

[back up](#)  
[bomb around](#)  
[boogie](#)  
[boot it](#)  
[break in](#)  
[cruise](#)  
[cut off](#)  
[do \(a speed\)](#)  
[drive around](#)  
[drive me batty](#)  
[drive you nuts](#)  
[drive you to distraction](#)  
[drop off](#)  
[fido](#)  
[fly low](#)  
[get rolling](#)  
[give no quarter](#)  
[go for a spin](#)  
[highball it](#)  
[hold out for](#)  
[pass through](#)  
[ride the clutch](#)  
[run up](#)  
[spinnny](#)  
[tailgate](#)  
[take a drive/trip](#)  
[take it for a spin](#)  
[tear around](#)  
[test drive](#)  
[try it out](#)

## driven

[thrash](#)

driver

[flag a cab](#)[hit and run \(traffic\)](#)

driving

[at the wheel](#)[heavy foot](#)[in the Monford lane](#)

drop

[die down](#)[drop](#)[drop in](#)[drop-in](#)[dump her/him](#)[fall asleep](#)[fall behind](#)[forget it](#)[go to hell \[B\]](#)[grow a tail](#)[have you over](#)[name-dropper](#)[pay a visit](#)[pinch off a loaf \[B\]](#)[pop in](#)[pop over](#)[quick on the draw](#)[take a dump \[B\]](#)[touch a drop](#)[tube him](#)

dropped

[beat the rap](#)

droppings

[poop](#)

drought

[dirty thirties](#)[hard times](#)

drove

[get a ticket](#)

drown

[go down for the third time](#)

drug

[a downer \(drug\)](#)

[a hit](#)  
[brain is fried](#)  
[deadhead](#)  
[do drugs](#)  
[get a fix](#)  
[have a fix](#)  
[head \(headbanger\)](#)  
[high](#)  
[junk](#)  
[junkie](#)  
[live on the edge](#)  
[messed up](#)  
[on drugs](#)  
[pusher](#)  
[shoot up](#)  
[skids](#)  
[stoned](#)  
[strung out](#)  
[take drugs](#)  
[the pill](#)

drugged

[stoned](#)  
[wasted](#)

drugstore

[dude](#)

drunk

[a cheap drunk](#)  
[a glow on](#)  
[as drunk as a skunk](#)  
[bash](#)  
[blasted](#)  
[bombed](#)  
[corked](#)  
[draw a sober breath](#)  
[drive you to drink](#)  
[fall off the wagon](#)  
[feeling good](#)  
[feeling no pain](#)  
[had a few](#)  
[half-corked](#)  
[hammered](#)  
[hangover](#)

[high](#)  
[higher than a kite](#)  
[hit the bottle](#)  
[hold her liquor](#)  
[in the bag](#)  
[liquored up](#)  
[loaded](#)  
[looped](#)  
[off the wagon](#)  
[on the wagon](#)  
[pie-eyed](#)  
[pissed \[B\]](#)  
[pissed to the gills \[B\]](#)  
[plastered](#)  
[polluted](#)  
[shit-faced \[B\]](#)  
[sloshed to the gills](#)  
[smashed](#)  
[snapped](#)  
[sober up](#)  
[tank](#)  
[tanked/tanked up](#)  
[three sheets to the wind](#)  
[tie one on](#)  
[tipsy](#)  
[under the influence of alcohol](#)  
[wino](#)

dry

[bone dry](#)  
[dress rehearsal](#)

dubs

[Dutch treat](#)

duck

[skip out](#)

dude

[drugstore cowboy](#)

due

[crack under the strain](#)  
[high time](#)

duel

[shoot-out](#)

duesenberg

[it's a Duesey](#)

dull

[wear down](#)

dumb

[as dumb as a sack of hammers](#)

[crazy like a fox](#)

[penny wise, pound foolish](#)

dumbbell

[as dumb as a sack of hammers](#)

[nitwit](#)

dumbo

[birdbrain](#)

[turkey](#)

dummies

[character density](#)

dump

[take a shit \[B\]](#)

[the short end of the stick](#)

dumpster

[binner](#)

[bottle man](#)

dung

[cow-pie](#)

during

[a blackout \(TV\)](#)

[a tower of strength](#)

[at one time](#)

[baby boomer](#)

[cool under pressure](#)

[for better or worse](#)

[grow up](#)

[in your prime](#)

[spend holidays](#)

[through thick and thin](#)

[wet the bed](#)

dust

[collecting dust](#)

[come out in the wash](#)

[dust bunny](#)

[gathering dust](#)

[pass on](#)

[tail lights](#)

dutch

	<a href="#">dubs</a>
duties	
	<a href="#">all in a day's work</a> <a href="#">on my plate</a>
duty	
	<a href="#">beg off</a> <a href="#">big time</a> <a href="#">duty calls</a> <a href="#">lay a trip</a> <a href="#">ride me</a> <a href="#">the call of duty</a>
dying	
	<a href="#">at death's door</a> <a href="#">drop like flies</a>
dynamite	
	<a href="#">blow up</a>

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Definition Index E

each

[a wash](#)  
[absence makes the heart grow fonder](#)  
[an apple a day keeps the doctor away](#)  
[at loggerheads](#)  
[beauty is in the eye of the beholder](#)  
[bit by bit](#)  
[call it square](#)  
[chip in](#)  
[different strokes for different folks](#)  
[ducks in a row \(ducks in order\)](#)  
[duke it out](#)  
[even](#)  
[even up](#)  
[float your boat](#)  
[grow on you](#)  
[high five](#)  
[in cahoots](#)  
[little by little](#)  
[musical chairs](#)  
[not speaking](#)  
[on the same wavelength](#)  
[one man's garbage is another man's art](#)  
[one man's meat is another man's poison](#)  
[salt away](#)  
[shoot it out](#)  
[shoot-out \(sports\)](#)  
[spell out](#)  
[square off](#)  
[stretch the dollar](#)  
[there's no love lost](#)  
[trade insults](#)  
[variety is the spice of life](#)

eager

[all fired up](#)

[chomping at the bit](#)  
[on fire](#)

ear

[a babe in arms](#)  
[cauliflower ear](#)  
[kiss curls \(hair style\)](#)  
[the tender age of](#)  
[tin ear](#)  
[up the wahoozey](#)  
[up to my ears](#)  
[wing it](#)

earful

[a bawling out](#)

earlier

[long gone](#)

early

[jump the gun](#)  
[on the dot](#)

earn

[crack the line-up](#)  
[eke out a living](#)  
[live off](#)  
[make a bundle](#)  
[make a go of it](#)  
[make a killing](#)  
[make a living](#)  
[make money](#)  
[put yourself through college](#)  
[raise money](#)  
[rake in the dough](#)  
[strike it rich](#)

earned

[chalk one up for you](#)  
[new money](#)

earning

[below the poverty line](#)

earth

[down to earth](#)  
[get your head out of the clouds](#)  
[life is not all guns and roses](#)  
[this mortal coil](#)  
[vale of tears \(valley of tears\)](#)

ease

[at ease](#)  
[break the ice](#)  
[go easy on](#)  
[let up](#)  
[pull punches](#)  
[slow down](#)

easier

[a picture is worth a thousand words](#)  
[over the hump](#)  
[pave the way](#)  
[talk is cheap](#)

easily

[a hothead](#)  
[an easy mark](#)  
[blow you away](#)  
[come naturally](#)  
[eat you for breakfast](#)  
[hands down](#)  
[hard put](#)  
[have you for breakfast](#)  
[high strung](#)  
[like shit through a goose](#)  
[no contest](#)  
[run circles around you](#)  
[set in her ways](#)

east

[The Rock](#)

easy

[a bed of roses](#)  
[a fool and his money are soon parted](#)  
[a piece of cake](#)  
[a piece of piss](#)  
[a sitting duck](#)  
[a soft touch](#)  
[a tough act to follow](#)  
[as plain as day](#)  
[as plain as the nose on your face](#)  
[at your fingertips](#)  
[blue sky](#)  
[clear as a bell](#)  
[duck soup](#)

[ease up](#)  
[easy as pie](#)  
[easy pickings](#)  
[easy street](#)  
[easy time of it](#)  
[Fletcherize your food](#)  
[hard to believe](#)  
[in broad daylight](#)  
[in plain view](#)  
[it was a lark](#)  
[it's a snap](#)  
[it's as plain as the nose on your face](#)  
[like shit through a goose](#)  
[money doesn't grow on trees](#)  
[one born every minute](#)  
[open and shut](#)  
[plain as day](#)  
[plain as the nose on your face](#)  
[pull punches](#)  
[quick and dirty](#)  
[roll off the tongue](#)  
[shooting fish in a barrel](#)  
[smooth sailing](#)  
[sucker](#)  
[take it easy on](#)  
[teach you the tricks of the trade](#)  
[there's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip](#)  
[there's nothing to it](#)  
[under my nose](#)  
[user friendly](#)

eat

[a doggy bag](#)  
[a sweet tooth](#)  
[an apple a day keeps the doctor away](#)  
[buy that](#)  
[chow](#)  
[chow down](#)  
[clean up your plate](#)  
[dig in](#)  
[do lunch](#)  
[eat it up](#)  
[eat like a horse](#)

[eat out](#)  
[eat up](#)  
[eat you out of house and home](#)  
[eat your fill](#)  
[fall for that](#)  
[fill your face](#)  
[finish off](#)  
[go hungry](#)  
[grab a bite to eat](#)  
[have a bite](#)  
[health nut](#)  
[help yourself](#)  
[inhale](#)  
[lose your appetite](#)  
[nosebag](#)  
[pig out](#)  
[polish off/polish it off](#)  
[put away](#)  
[shove down my throat](#)  
[swallow that](#)  
[sweet tooth](#)  
[wolf down](#)

eaten

[fish and company stink after three days](#)  
[have your cake and eat it, too](#)  
[left over](#)  
[leftovers](#)

eating

[clean up your plate](#)  
[eat it up](#)  
[on a full stomach](#)  
[wash it down](#)

eccentric

[mad as a hatter](#)  
[over the rainbow](#)  
[spinnny](#)

economy

[trickle-down economics](#)  
[when the crunch comes](#)

edge

[a bee in her bonnet](#)  
[hang ten \(surfing\)](#)

[state of the art](#)

edgy

[on edge](#)

[touchy](#)

edit

[doctor it/doctor it up](#)

education

[put yourself through college](#)

effect

[a fart in a windstorm](#)

[catch 22](#)

[fall-out](#)

[pack a punch](#)

[take effect](#)

[wear off](#)

[you reap whatsoever you sow](#)

effective

[get it together](#)

[the right stuff](#)

effectively

[hit the ground running](#)

[out to lunch](#)

effort

[all-out](#)

[fido](#)

[get down to business](#)

[half-hearted](#)

[hunker down](#)

[make your way](#)

[on your side](#)

[piggyback](#)

[props](#)

[self-made man](#)

[spin your wheels](#)

[the old college try](#)

[too little too late](#)

[whole hog](#)

eg

[a full house \(cards\)](#)

[blue-collar worker](#)

egg

[a good head](#)

[cackleberries](#)  
[feather your nest](#)  
[over easy](#)  
[pin your hopes on](#)  
[skunk](#)

eighty-six

[smithwright it](#)

either

[boom or bust](#)  
[feast or famine](#)  
[it makes no difference](#)  
[sit the fence](#)

ejaculate

[blow your stones \[B\]](#)  
[come \[B\]](#)

elbow

[tip a few](#)

elders

[hand down](#)

election

[cast your vote](#)  
[lickety-split](#)  
[run for office](#)

electrical

[juice](#)

electricity

[juice](#)

eliminate

[take him out](#)

eliminated

[knocked out](#)

else

[bow out](#)  
[get off your high horse](#)  
[green with envy](#)  
[part with](#)  
[pirate](#)  
[step aside](#)  
[the buck stops here](#)

embark

[set out for](#)

embarrass

[a loose cannon](#)

[cut you to ribbons](#)[fall flat on my face](#)

embarrassed

[egg on my face](#)[red-faced](#)[sheesh](#)

embarrassment

[put your foot in your mouth](#)[save face](#)

embrace

[make love](#)

emigration

[brain drain](#)

emotion

[a poker face](#)[chill out](#)[cool off](#)[flatliner](#)[go bonkers](#)[lose your cool](#)[wear your heart on your sleeve](#)[work off](#)

emotional

[burn out](#)[cost you](#)[get a grip on yourself](#)[get carried away](#)[play on my heart strings](#)[pre-menstrual syndrome](#)

employ

[lay off](#)[take on](#)

employed

[out of work](#)

employee

[a go-getter](#)[a loose cannon](#)[a new broom sweeps clean](#)[cascade \(business\)](#)[girl Friday](#)[gofer](#)[grandfather clause](#)

[headhunter](#)  
[on probation](#)  
[proby](#)  
[team player](#)

employer

[cold call](#)  
[put in a good word for](#)

employment

[fire](#)  
[pogey](#)

empty

[fill the gap](#)  
[on a full stomach](#)

encore

[bravo](#)

encounter

[cross paths](#)  
[meet up with](#)

encourage

[come on](#)  
[egg me on](#)  
[give you a boost](#)  
[heart is in the right place](#)  
[keep the ball rolling](#)  
[spur on](#)  
[stick up for](#)

encouragement

[a shot in the arm](#)

end

[a cliff-hanger](#)  
[all's well that ends well](#)  
[at my wits' end](#)  
[become of](#)  
[beside myself](#)  
[bits and pieces](#)  
[bum](#)  
[cash up/cash out](#)  
[come undone](#)  
[curtains](#)  
[down to the wire](#)  
[end up](#)  
[five o'clock shadow](#)

[go overboard](#)  
[how it plays out](#)  
[keester](#)  
[kick](#)  
[land up](#)  
[loose ends](#)  
[make out](#)  
[odds and ends](#)  
[on his last legs](#)  
[pull it out](#)  
[put an end to](#)  
[shut-down](#)  
[suck the hind tit \[B\]](#)  
[that's all she wrote](#)  
[the bitter end](#)  
[the last of it](#)  
[till hell freezes over](#)  
[turn out](#)  
[under the wire](#)  
[win going away](#)  
[wind up](#)  
[wrap it up](#)  
[wrap up](#)

ending

[all's well that ends well](#)  
[uptalk](#)  
[wind up](#)

endurance

[put you through the mill](#)

endure

[pay the penalty](#)  
[pay the price](#)  
[put up with](#)  
[stand it](#)  
[take it](#)  
[take your lumps](#)  
[the price you have to pay](#)

endured

[had enough](#)

enemies

[the man in the middle](#)

enemy

[cut your own throat](#)  
[fight fire with fire](#)  
[run the gauntlet](#)  
[shoot yourself in the foot](#)  
[the underground](#)  
[turn on you](#)

energetic

[feeling his oats](#)  
[on fire](#)

energy

[a lift](#)  
[a pick-me-up](#)  
[a shot in the arm](#)  
[bandwidth](#)  
[burn out](#)  
[carry the day](#)  
[come on strong](#)  
[cost you](#)  
[don't get mad; get even](#)  
[feeling bum](#)  
[flat](#)  
[full of piss and vinegar \[B\]](#)  
[get-up-and-go](#)  
[keep you going](#)  
[second wind](#)  
[to beat the band](#)  
[up to it](#)  
[whole hog](#)

enjoy

[dig/dig it](#)  
[feast your eyes on](#)  
[get a bang out of](#)  
[get a charge out of](#)  
[get off on](#)  
[get your kicks](#)  
[have a ball](#)  
[have a blast](#)  
[have a good time](#)  
[have fun](#)  
[haven't got the stomach for it](#)  
[let the good times roll](#)  
[make my day](#)

[take time to smell the roses](#)

enjoyable

[good time](#)

enjoying

[into fitness/dancing etc.](#)

[out on the town](#)

enjoyment

[for kicks](#)

[get a kick out of](#)

[get my kicks](#)

enlarge

[blow it up \(photo\)](#)

enlighten

[shed a little light on](#)

enlist

[join up](#)

[sign up](#)

enough

[a chicken in every pot](#)

[below the poverty line](#)

[carry the day](#)

[carry your weight](#)

[come of age](#)

[cut it a little fine](#)

[don't borrow trouble](#)

[eke out a living](#)

[enough is enough](#)

[fed up](#)

[for good measure](#)

[get by/scrape by](#)

[get up a head of steam](#)

[give him enough rope and he'll hang himself](#)

[go hungry](#)

[had it up to here](#)

[half-hearted](#)

[how are you fixed for](#)

[if a mussel doesn't open don't eat it](#)

[keep your head above water](#)

[last me](#)

[live off](#)

[look out for number one](#)

[love conquers all](#)

[make a go of it](#)  
[make a living](#)  
[make ends meet](#)  
[measure up](#)  
[nip and tuck](#)  
[out loud](#)  
[out of range](#)  
[run out](#)  
[scrape by](#)  
[set for life](#)  
[shortchange](#)  
[stay alive](#)  
[take your time](#)  
[too little too late](#)  
[too many chiefs and not enough Indians](#)  
[turn up your nose at](#)  
[under my breath](#)  
[up to it](#)  
[up to par](#)  
[up to scratch](#)  
[within earshot](#)

enrol

[join up](#)  
[sign up](#)

enter

[age before beauty](#)  
[break and enter](#)  
[break into](#)  
[log on](#)  
[make an entrance](#)

enterprise

[a going concern.](#)

entertain

[bag of tricks](#)

entertainment

[cup of tea](#)  
[drawing card](#)  
[out on the town](#)

enthused

[all fired up](#)

enthusiasm

[come on strong](#)

[dampen your spirits](#)[perk up](#)[talk it up](#)

enthusiastic

[fired up](#)[gung ho](#)[hale and hearty](#)

entirely

[every cloud has a silver lining](#)

envelope

[take risks](#)

envious

[green with envy](#)

envy

[claws are showing](#)[eat your heart out](#)[have designs on](#)

equal

[a level playing field](#)[a tough act to follow](#)[an eye for an eye \(a tooth for a tooth\)](#)[even-steven](#)[even up](#)[hold your own](#)[it's a toss-up](#)[level the playing field](#)[no match for](#)[on even terms](#)[play fair](#)[six of one, half a dozen of the other](#)[there's not much to choose between them](#)[time is money](#)[tit for tat](#)

equipment

[gear up](#)[the whole works](#)

equitable

[meet you half way](#)

era

[hip hop \(generation\)](#)

erect

[a hard-on \[B\]](#)

error

[a slip of the tongue](#)  
[ass on the line](#)  
[check over](#)  
[eagle eyes](#)  
[gloss over](#)  
[hit and miss](#)  
[make a booboo](#)  
[nitpick](#)  
[pick holes in](#)  
[put you off your game](#)  
[stand corrected](#)  
[step on his dick](#)  
[trial and error](#)  
[typo](#)

erupt

[break out](#)

escape

[back yourself into a corner](#)  
[break out](#)  
[bust out](#)  
[chickens come home to roost](#)  
[draw their fire](#)  
[let a fart \[B\]](#)

escaping

[whew](#)

especially

[Donnybrook](#)

essay

[a picture is worth a thousand words](#)

et

[and stuff](#)

eternity

[forever and a day](#)

ethic

[Generation X](#)  
[the devil makes work for idle hands](#)

ethical

[something smells](#)

european

[Cabbagetown](#)

evaluate

[sit in judgement on](#)

[size up](#)  
[test drive](#)

even

[a dead heat](#)  
[call it square](#)  
[get revenge](#)  
[heart is in the right place](#)  
[it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all](#)  
[out to get you](#)  
[saw-off](#)  
[take revenge](#)  
[where angels fear to tread](#)

even-steven

[neck and neck](#)

evening

[bar hop](#)  
[moonlighting](#)

evenly

[even-steven](#)

event

[a bitter pill](#)  
[a blackout \(TV\)](#)  
[a bummer](#)  
[a crying shame](#)  
[a downer \(sadness\)](#)  
[a fart in a windstorm](#)  
[a hell of a time](#)  
[a paper trail](#)  
[a yawner](#)  
[big deal](#)  
[blue moon](#)  
[chain reaction](#)  
[double whammy](#)  
[have fun](#)  
[in the driver's seat](#)  
[it ain't over till the fat lady sings](#)  
[last hurrah](#)  
[prepare like crazy](#)  
[string of good luck](#)  
[stroke of good luck](#)  
[there are two sides to every story](#)  
[there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so](#)

ever	<a href="#">if that doesn't beat all</a>
every	<a href="#">a chicken in every pot</a> <a href="#">bat a thousand</a> <a href="#">by heart</a> <a href="#">day in, day out</a> <a href="#">done it all</a> <a href="#">drink like a fish</a> <a href="#">every cloud has a silver lining</a> <a href="#">every trick in the book</a> <a href="#">every walk of life</a> <a href="#">from hand to mouth</a> <a href="#">full blown</a> <a href="#">hang on every word</a> <a href="#">kill off</a> <a href="#">know like the back of your hand</a> <a href="#">left, right and center</a> <a href="#">letter-perfect</a> <a href="#">the whole shebang</a> <a href="#">the whole shooting match</a> <a href="#">to a man</a> <a href="#">watch me like a hawk</a> <a href="#">whole hog</a> <a href="#">work my buns off</a>
everybody	<a href="#">a hit</a> <a href="#">all hell broke loose</a> <a href="#">blab</a> <a href="#">chip in</a> <a href="#">dog eat dog</a> <a href="#">for Pete's sake</a> <a href="#">go with the flow</a> <a href="#">King Shit on Turd Island</a> <a href="#">pay the shot</a> <a href="#">public property</a> <a href="#">spread the word</a> <a href="#">the laughing stock</a> <a href="#">the talk of the town</a>
everyone	<a href="#">a hot number</a> <a href="#">a household name</a>

[a level playing field](#)  
[all things to all people](#)  
[buy a round](#)  
[clear up](#)  
[dubs](#)  
[Dutch treat](#)  
[for goodness sake](#)  
[for heaven's sake](#)  
[get off your high horse](#)  
[laid bare](#)  
[level the playing field](#)  
[on my best behavior](#)  
[play fair](#)  
[stand on ceremony](#)

everything

[across the board](#)  
[all ears](#)  
[all in all](#)  
[all teed up](#)  
[at your beck and call](#)  
[bag and baggage](#)  
[big-sky thinking](#)  
[blabbermouth](#)  
[breathe down my neck](#)  
[business as usual](#)  
[check up on](#)  
[clean me out](#)  
[come clean](#)  
[everything but the kitchen sink](#)  
[Fibber McGee's closet](#)  
[have it made](#)  
[kit and caboodle](#)  
[let the chips fall where they may](#)  
[lock, stock and barrel](#)  
[make every effort](#)  
[promise the moon](#)  
[sell the farm](#)  
[shipshape](#)  
[spill your guts](#)  
[tell all](#)  
[the long and the short of it](#)  
[the whole shebang](#)

[the whole shooting match](#)  
[the whole works](#)  
[throw the baby out with the bath water](#)  
[time stands still](#)  
[wait on you hand and foot](#)  
[wear the pants](#)

everywhere

[all over hell's half acre](#)  
[leave no stone unturned](#)  
[left, right and center](#)  
[look high and low](#)  
[yin yang](#)

evidence

[armed to the teeth](#)  
[caught red-handed](#)  
[hot on the trail](#)  
[send him up](#)  
[smoking gun](#)

evil

[a scandal is brewing](#)  
[a wolf in sheep's clothing](#)  
[dark side](#)  
[give him the evil eye](#)  
[if looks could kill](#)  
[low-down](#)  
[pride goeth before a fall](#)  
[scandal is brewing](#)  
[the devil makes work for idle hands](#)  
[wekabi](#)

exact

[can't put my finger on it](#)  
[pinpoint](#)

exactly

[bang on](#)  
[can't put my hands on it](#)  
[down to a T](#)  
[on the dot](#)  
[stop on a dime](#)  
[to be perfectly honest](#)  
[word for word](#)

exaggerate

[blow it out of proportion](#)

[make a mountain out of a mole hill](#)

[talk big](#)

exaggerated

[over the top](#)

[tall tale](#)

examination

[a checkup](#)

[checkup](#)

examine

[look over](#)

example

[a case of](#)

[case in point](#)

[it's a case of](#)

[there you go](#)

excellent

[better than sex](#)

[first class](#)

[out of this world](#)

[picture-perfect](#)

[speak highly of](#)

[super mint](#)

[top drawer](#)

[totally awesome](#)

exceptions

[bar none](#)

excite

[make your bum hum](#)

[turn-on](#)

excited

[all shook up](#)

[bananas](#)

[blood is up](#)

[don't have a cow](#)

[go ape](#)

[go bananas](#)

[go too far](#)

[have a fit](#)

[keep your cool](#)

[play it cool](#)

[psyched/psyched up](#)

[pumped/pumped up](#)

[steam up](#)  
[turn you on](#)  
[wired](#)  
[worked up](#)  
[wound up](#)

excitement

[a tempest in a teapot](#)  
[have a bird](#)  
[liven up](#)

exciting

[a barnburner](#)  
[a nail-biter](#)  
[a whale of a game](#)  
[cut to the chase](#)  
[holy cow](#)  
[holy Toledo](#)  
[super-duper](#)  
[the spice of life](#)  
[wicked](#)  
[wild](#)

exclude

[leave out in the cold](#)

excluded

[black-listed](#)  
[on the bubble](#)

excrement

[doo-doo](#)  
[poop](#)

excuse

[beg your pardon](#)  
[cop out](#)  
[cover for me](#)  
[give you an out](#)  
[tell me another one](#)

excused

[beg off](#)

execute

[carry out](#)

executed

[death row](#)

executioner

[The Grim Reaper](#)

exempt

	<a href="#">grandfather</a>
exercise	<a href="#">get in shape</a> <a href="#">health nut</a> <a href="#">keep fit</a> <a href="#">look up a dead horse's ass [B]</a> <a href="#">natural high</a> <a href="#">no pain, no gain</a> <a href="#">warm up</a> <a href="#">work off</a> <a href="#">work out</a> <a href="#">work up a sweat</a>
exercising	<a href="#">workout</a>
exhausted	<a href="#">all in</a> <a href="#">blotto</a> <a href="#">dog tired</a> <a href="#">play out</a> <a href="#">zonked</a>
existence	<a href="#">navel-gazing</a>
exit	<a href="#">log off</a>
expand	<a href="#">branch out</a> <a href="#">stretch the envelope</a>
expect	<a href="#">anything goes</a> <a href="#">bark up the wrong tree</a> <a href="#">beggars can't be choosers</a> <a href="#">catch you off guard</a> <a href="#">don't count your chickens before they hatch</a> <a href="#">get out of town</a> <a href="#">knock your socks off</a> <a href="#">prima donna</a> <a href="#">stand on ceremony</a> <a href="#">take for granted</a>
expected	<a href="#">above and beyond the call of duty</a> <a href="#">come through</a> <a href="#">go the extra mile</a>

[let down](#)  
[not half bad](#)  
[out of the blue](#)  
[piss pot full \[B\]](#)

expecting

[a bun in the oven](#)  
[high hopes](#)

expense

[foot the bill](#)  
[in a big way](#)  
[live off](#)  
[make ends meet](#)  
[out of pocket](#)  
[pad an expense account](#)  
[pay your way](#)  
[write it off](#)

expensive

[cheap like borsch](#)  
[cost an arm and a leg](#)  
[dirt cheap](#)  
[dress clothes](#)  
[high on the hog](#)  
[toney neighborhood](#)

experience

[a bitter pill](#)  
[a must](#)  
[an old hand at](#)  
[bare your soul](#)  
[by gosh](#)  
[done it all](#)  
[double whammy](#)  
[expand your horizons](#)  
[good time](#)  
[it takes two to tango](#)  
[it's been a slice \(of life\)](#)  
[joyride](#)  
[know the ropes](#)  
[lose a family member](#)  
[suck eggs](#)  
[the in's and out's](#)  
[variety is the spice of life](#)  
[virtual reality](#)

[wasn't born yesterday](#)

experienced

[been around](#)

[relate to that](#)

[through the wringer](#)

expired

[it ain't over till it's over](#)

explain

[account for](#)

[act out](#)

[clear the air](#)

[clear up](#)

[how come](#)

[how so](#)

[no questions asked](#)

[on the carpet](#)

[rake you over the coals](#)

[shed a little light on](#)

[spell out](#)

[take you to task](#)

[throw some light on](#)

[what the dickens](#)

explanation

[just like that](#)

explode

[blow to kingdom come](#)

[blow up](#)

exposed

[catch up with](#)

[laid bare](#)

[see the light of day](#)

express

[eyes glaze over](#)

[let off steam](#)

[open up](#)

[put it](#)

[roll their eyes](#)

[take it out on](#)

expression

[a poker face](#)

[buzzword](#)

[chimo](#)

[so to speak](#)  
[vote of thanks](#)  
[whew](#)

extend

[stretch the envelope](#)

extinct

[die off](#)  
[go the way of the dodo](#)  
[you don't miss the water till the well runs dry](#)

extra

[above and beyond the call of duty](#)  
[all in a day's work](#)  
[all the bells and whistles](#)  
[bare bones](#)  
[bend over backwards](#)  
[brownie points](#)  
[buy time](#)  
[fifth business](#)  
[icing on the cake](#)  
[know which side your bread is buttered on](#)  
[loaded](#)  
[on the side](#)  
[pin money](#)  
[pinch-hitter \(baseball\)](#)  
[pull the goalie \(hockey\)](#)  
[push the boat out](#)  
[spending money](#)  
[take pains](#)  
[take the trouble](#)  
[try your darndest](#)  
[XL](#)

extreme

[middle of the road](#)

extremely

[doggone](#)  
[go ape](#)  
[worried sick](#)

eye

[a blank look](#)  
[a faraway look](#)  
[bat her eyes](#)  
[black eye](#)

[come-on](#)  
[cry her heart out](#)  
[double take](#)  
[eyes glaze over](#)  
[get a load of that](#)  
[get your attention](#)  
[give an arm and a leg](#)  
[give him a taste of his own medicine](#)  
[give my right arm](#)  
[in the back of my mind](#)  
[keep an eye out](#)  
[look daggers](#)  
[peek-a-boo](#)  
[pound of flesh](#)  
[roll their eyes](#)  
[take a gander](#)  
[the lights are on but nobody's home](#)  
[tit for tat](#)  
[watch out for](#)  
[watch over like a mother hawk](#)  
[without turning a hair](#)

eyeball

[check this out](#)  
[peep this](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version

as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Definition Index F

f-word	
	<a href="#">eff 'im [B]</a>
face	
	<a href="#">a poker face</a> <a href="#">come to grips with</a> <a href="#">come to terms with</a> <a href="#">down in the mouth</a> <a href="#">face the music</a> <a href="#">hell to pay [B]</a> <a href="#">if looks could kill</a> <a href="#">keep a straight face</a> <a href="#">make a face</a> <a href="#">nosebag</a> <a href="#">pig out</a> <a href="#">pull a face</a> <a href="#">shitface [B]</a> <a href="#">snotty-nosed kid</a> <a href="#">square off</a> <a href="#">the Man in the Moon</a> <a href="#">written all over your face</a>
faced	
	<a href="#">hard pressed</a>
facing	
	<a href="#">heaven help us</a> <a href="#">in the lurch</a> <a href="#">nerves of steel</a>
fact	
	<a href="#">a crash course</a> <a href="#">after all</a> <a href="#">an ace up your sleeve</a> <a href="#">as a matter of fact</a> <a href="#">come to grips with</a> <a href="#">come to terms with</a> <a href="#">don't know the half of it</a> <a href="#">get to the bottom of</a>

[give it to me straight](#)  
[honestly](#)  
[in fact](#)  
[inside information](#)  
[jump to conclusions](#)  
[know your stuff](#)  
[look into](#)  
[pin down/pin him down](#)  
[scratch the surface](#)  
[set you straight](#)  
[straight talk](#)  
[straighten you out](#)  
[the benefit of the doubt](#)  
[the lowdown](#)  
[the straight dope](#)  
[the straight goods](#)  
[to be perfectly honest](#)  
[what's what](#)

factor

[a question of](#)  
[call into account](#)  
[come into play](#)  
[in the picture](#)  
[it's not a question of](#)  
[out of the picture](#)  
[play a big part](#)  
[the key to success](#)

faded

[mousy](#)

fag

[light in the loafers](#)

fail

[bomb out](#)  
[break down](#)  
[crash](#)  
[drop the ball](#)  
[fall flat on my face](#)  
[flunk out](#)  
[go down for the third time](#)  
[go downhill](#)  
[go under](#)  
[hit the skids](#)

[lose out](#)  
[Murphy's Law](#)  
[on shaky ground](#)  
[on the bubble](#)  
[strike out \(baseball\)](#)  
[suffer a setback](#)  
[the wheels fall off](#)  
[when the crunch comes](#)

failed

[all washed up](#)  
[Black Friday](#)  
[goose is cooked](#)  
[something snapped](#)  
[the bottom fell out](#)

failing

[in the drink](#)

failure

[a wash-out](#)  
[ass on the line](#)  
[be my undoing](#)  
[bounce back](#)  
[breakdown](#)  
[checkered career](#)  
[dig your own grave](#)  
[dirt file](#)  
[dodge a bullet](#)  
[hold that over my head](#)  
[into the tank](#)  
[kiss of death](#)  
[save your bacon](#)  
[saw sawdust](#)  
[sinking feeling](#)  
[the first pancake is always spoiled](#)  
[throw good money after bad](#)

faint

[black out](#)  
[pass out](#)

fair

[a fair shake](#)  
[a fighting chance](#)  
[a good sport](#)  
[after all](#)

[by the same token](#)  
[fishy](#)  
[in good faith](#)  
[keep an open mind](#)  
[middle ground](#)  
[no fair](#)  
[settle it](#)  
[so-so](#)  
[square deal](#)  
[square shooter](#)  
[talk turkey](#)  
[the benefit of the doubt](#)

faith

[put stock in](#)

faithful

[true blue](#)

fake

[drugstore cowboy](#)

[fudge it](#)

[funny money](#)

[pass off](#)

fall

[bet on a lame rooster](#)

[break your fall](#)

[breakdown](#)

[come undone](#)

[come unglued](#)

[drop off](#)

[fall for](#)

[Fibber McGee's closet](#)

[give a black eye](#)

[hook, line and sinker](#)

[in love](#)

[lose ground](#)

[lose time](#)

[play into his hand](#)

[rolling in the aisles](#)

[saw logs](#)

[send him flying](#)

[the bigger they are the harder they fall](#)

[the bottom fell out](#)

[the wheels fall off](#)

fall-out	<a href="#">splashback</a>
fallen	<a href="#">hooker</a>
falling	<a href="#">ass over teakettle</a> <a href="#">drop like flies</a> <a href="#">zonked</a>
false	<a href="#">a bad taste in my mouth</a> <a href="#">a snow job</a> <a href="#">baloney</a> <a href="#">bunk</a> <a href="#">crocodile tears</a> <a href="#">don't give me that line/story etc.</a> <a href="#">famous last words</a> <a href="#">give you a line</a> <a href="#">hand you a line</a> <a href="#">hogwash</a> <a href="#">horse feathers</a> <a href="#">hot air</a> <a href="#">lead you down the garden path</a> <a href="#">pad an expense account</a> <a href="#">pull your leg</a> <a href="#">red herring</a> <a href="#">smoke and mirrors</a> <a href="#">snow them</a>
fame	<a href="#">set the world on fire</a>
familiar	<a href="#">mainstream</a> <a href="#">on the fringe</a> <a href="#">plug into</a> <a href="#">puppy</a>
family	<a href="#">a chicken in every pot</a> <a href="#">born with a silver spoon in his mouth</a> <a href="#">bring home the bacon</a> <a href="#">cut from the same cloth</a> <a href="#">hand me down</a> <a href="#">knock up [B]</a> <a href="#">lose a family member</a>

[make a life for yourself](#)  
[next of kin](#)  
[old money](#)  
[put down roots](#)  
[the day of the family farm](#)

famine

[boom or bust](#)  
[hard times](#)  
[it never rains but it pours](#)  
[when it rains it pours](#)

famous

[a household name](#)  
[claim to fame](#)  
[drop a name / drop names](#)  
[has-been](#)  
[make a name for yourself](#)  
[name-dropper](#)  
[who do you think you are](#)

fancy

[putting on the ritz](#)

fans

[grunge \(fashion\)](#)

fantastic

[better than sex](#)  
[far out](#)  
[totally awesome](#)

far

[blow me over](#)  
[coming out of your yin yang](#)  
[get carried away](#)  
[hot on your heels](#)  
[out of range](#)  
[out of sight](#)  
[out of the corner of my eye](#)  
[so far, so good](#)  
[the odd one](#)  
[to hell and gone](#)  
[to the best of my knowledge](#)  
[totally awesome](#)

farm

[cross over Jordan](#)  
[kick the bucket](#)

[the day of the family farm](#)

farmer

[stubblejumper](#)

fart

[cut the cheese \[B\]](#)

[let a fart \[B\]](#)

[pass wind](#)

fashion

[dressed to the nines](#)

[everything old is new again](#)

[new wave](#)

[old hat](#)

fashionable

[hip](#)

[trendy](#)

fashioned

[down home](#)

[passé](#)

fast

[at a good clip](#)

[boot it](#)

[fall behind](#)

[faster than a minnow can swim a dipper](#)

[faster than a speeding bullet](#)

[flat out](#)

[fly low](#)

[full out](#)

[full tilt](#)

[give her shit \[B\]](#)

[go like crazy](#)

[go like stink](#)

[greased lightning](#)

[hand over fist](#)

[heavy foot](#)

[hell bent for election](#)

[highball it](#)

[in the Monford lane](#)

[keep pace](#)

[keep up](#)

[lickety-split](#)

[lightning fast](#)

[like a bat out of hell](#)

[like hell \[B\]](#)  
[like the devil](#)  
[like the wind](#)  
[motormouth](#)  
[quick and dirty](#)  
[rat race](#)  
[see me for dust](#)  
[sell like hotcakes](#)  
[start with a bang](#)  
[talk a mile a minute](#)  
[tear around](#)  
[thrash](#)

fast-moving

[zoom](#)

fast-paced

[life in the fast lane](#)

fastball

[burn it in](#)

fasten

[buckle up](#)

faster

[faster than a minnow can swim a dipper](#)

[get the jump on](#)

[get the lead out](#)

[greased lightning](#)

[kick](#)

[lightning fast](#)

[move it](#)

[pick up the pace](#)

[put the hammer down](#)

[run circles around you](#)

[speed up](#)

[step on it](#)

[take your sweet time](#)

fat

[lard butt/lard ass \[B\]](#)

[pinch an inch](#)

[shoot the breeze](#)

[tub of guts](#)

[work off](#)

fate

[c'est la vie](#)

[famous last words](#)  
[fate is sealed](#)  
[fucked by the fickle finger of fate \[B\]](#)  
[if you're born to hang, you won't drown](#)  
[stroke of good luck](#)  
[that's the way the ball bounces](#)  
[that's the way the cookie crumbles](#)  
[The Grim Reaper](#)  
[twist of fate](#)

father

[like father, like son](#)  
[my old man](#)  
[the apple doesn't fall far from the tree](#)  
[the old man](#)

fathom

[make sense of it](#)

fault

[find fault](#)  
[glitch](#)  
[gloss over](#)  
[lay the blame](#)  
[love is blind](#)  
[people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones](#)  
[pick holes in](#)  
[tear me apart](#)  
[the knock against](#)  
[to blame](#)

favorable

[sitting pretty](#)

avored

[the odds-on favorite](#)

favorite

[chestnut](#)  
[cup of tea](#)  
[fair-haired boy](#)  
[steal the show](#)  
[the apple of his eye](#)

favors

[kiss ass \[B\]](#)

faze

[psych out](#)

fear

[hang-up](#)  
[tail between his legs](#)  
[where angels fear to tread](#)  
[with his tail between his legs](#)  
[without turning a hair](#)

feast

[boom or bust](#)  
[get a load of that](#)  
[it never rains but it pours](#)  
[take a gander](#)  
[when it rains it pours](#)

feather

[good hands](#)

feature

[all the bells and whistles](#)  
[beauty is only skin deep](#)  
[know like the back of your hand](#)  
[selling point](#)

feces

[doggy doo](#)

fed

[had enough](#)  
[had it](#)  
[keep the wolf from the door](#)  
[sick to death](#)

federal

[make a big to-do](#)  
[The Rock](#)

fee

[the going rate](#)

feed

[a paltry sum](#)  
[know which side your bread is buttered on](#)  
[peanuts](#)

feedback

[splashback](#)

feeding

[the way to a man's heart is through his stomach](#)

feel

[all thumbs](#)  
[anchor you](#)  
[break your heart](#)  
[breathe a sigh of relief](#)

[burn a hole in your pocket](#)  
[catch a buzz](#)  
[climb the walls](#)  
[cocoon](#)  
[come back to haunt you](#)  
[cut me to the quick](#)  
[cut you down to size](#)  
[do your own thing](#)  
[drive me crazy](#)  
[drive me up the wall](#)  
[drive you nuts](#)  
[eat humble pie](#)  
[fall in love](#)  
[falling in love](#)  
[feel a draft](#)  
[feel blue](#)  
[feel for](#)  
[feel free](#)  
[feel the pinch](#)  
[fucked by the fickle finger of fate \[B\]](#)  
[get high](#)  
[get me down](#)  
[get worked up](#)  
[get you down](#)  
[give a shit \[B\]](#)  
[give me a lift](#)  
[give me the creeps](#)  
[got a crush on](#)  
[got it bad](#)  
[got the blues](#)  
[got the hots for](#)  
[have a soft spot for](#)  
[have an attack](#)  
[hit rock bottom](#)  
[how does that grab you](#)  
[hurt my feelings](#)  
[it phased me out](#)  
[leave the door open](#)  
[lose your appetite](#)  
[make a pass](#)  
[make me sick/mad etc.](#)  
[make yourself at home](#)

[miss you](#)  
[more than welcome](#)  
[move you to tears](#)  
[pick you up](#)  
[play on my heart strings](#)  
[pluck at the heart strings](#)  
[pop your buttons](#)  
[put the heat on](#)  
[put to shame](#)  
[put you in a bad mood](#)  
[quake in his boots](#)  
[raise your spirits](#)  
[reach me](#)  
[run you ragged](#)  
[same here](#)  
[scratch your head](#)  
[sleep it off](#)  
[speak your mind](#)  
[stroke your ego](#)  
[take it the wrong way](#)  
[take it to heart](#)  
[take offense](#)  
[take umbrage](#)  
[the sweet spot](#)  
[to be perfectly honest](#)  
[touch you](#)  
[turn you on](#)  
[turn your stomach](#)

## feeling

[a bad taste in my mouth](#)  
[a crush on](#)  
[a lift](#)  
[a new lease on life](#)  
[a royal pain](#)  
[at heart](#)  
[at peace](#)  
[baby blues](#)  
[back on your feet](#)  
[bad blood](#)  
[birds of a feather flock together](#)  
[body language](#)  
[cabin fever](#)

[cup runneth over](#)  
[ego trip](#)  
[feeling bum](#)  
[feeling his oats](#)  
[from the bottom of my heart](#)  
[get high](#)  
[give me a lift](#)  
[go to hell in a handbasket](#)  
[half-corked](#)  
[hangover](#)  
[hard feelings](#)  
[have a heart](#)  
[have a soft spot for](#)  
[high](#)  
[how are you doing](#)  
[in a bad way](#)  
[in agreement](#)  
[in bad shape](#)  
[in cold blood](#)  
[in love](#)  
[in seventh heaven](#)  
[in the mood](#)  
[in the pink](#)  
[light at the end of the tunnel](#)  
[mind games](#)  
[mixed feelings](#)  
[natural high](#)  
[no hard feelings](#)  
[not feeling myself](#)  
[not with it](#)  
[of two minds](#)  
[on the edge of your seat](#)  
[open up](#)  
[out of it](#)  
[out of sorts](#)  
[pissing into the wind \[B\]](#)  
[pour out your soul](#)  
[read you](#)  
[riding high](#)  
[same here](#)  
[second wind](#)  
[sinking feeling](#)

[sour grapes](#)  
[sour puss](#)  
[spaced out](#)  
[swelled head](#)  
[take the pulse](#)  
[test the water](#)  
[the call of duty](#)  
[things are looking up](#)  
[trifle with me](#)  
[under my skin](#)  
[under pressure](#)  
[under the weather](#)  
[up to speed](#)  
[wear your heart on your sleeve](#)  
[what a rush](#)  
[white knuckles](#)  
[with all my heart](#)  
[woozy](#)  
[young at heart](#)

feet

[grab a chair](#)  
[kick back](#)  
[point-blank range](#)

fellatio

[a blow job \[B\]](#)  
[give head \[B\]](#)

fellow

[hail-fellow-well-met](#)

felt

[used to](#)

fend

[leave you in the lurch](#)

fever

[fever breaks](#)

few

[a chunk of change](#)  
[a man of few words](#)  
[a pocket of resistance](#)  
[a rolling stone gathers no moss](#)  
[and then some](#)  
[bend your elbow](#)  
[bevy of beauties](#)

[down the road](#)  
[feeling good](#)  
[few and far between](#)  
[get off a few good ones](#)  
[in dribs and drabs](#)  
[point-blank range](#)  
[pop over](#)  
[scarce as hen's teeth](#)  
[scratch the surface](#)  
[slow day](#)  
[soft market](#)  
[sound bite](#)  
[take a break](#)  
[the dying seconds](#)  
[the in-crowd](#)  
[the odd one](#)  
[tide me over](#)  
[tip a few](#)  
[zinger](#)

fib

[white lie](#)

fibber

[a duke's mixture](#)

fickle

[stroke of good luck](#)

fiddle

[take a back seat](#)

[the picture of health](#)

fiddlesticks

[fuddle duddle\\*](#)

field

[a level playing field](#)

[level the playing field](#)

[out of bounds](#)

[the naked eye](#)

fierce

[give him the evil eye](#)

fifth

[fifth column](#)

fight

[a dust-up](#)

[a free-for-all](#)

[armed to the teeth](#)

[beat up on](#)

[blood is up](#)

[chip on his shoulder](#)

[come of age](#)

[come to a head](#)

[cruising for a bruising](#)

[Donnybrook](#)

[drop your gloves \(hockey\)](#)

[duke it out](#)

[fight fire with fire](#)

[fight tooth and nail](#)

[gang up on](#)

[guard is down](#)

[hair off the dog that bit you](#)

[hammer and tongs](#)

[have it out](#)

[it takes two to tango](#)

[make trouble](#)

[make war](#)

[mess with](#)

[mix it up](#)

[pick a fight](#)

[run-in](#)

[set-to](#)

[shake hands](#)

[shop-floor struggle](#)

[showdown](#)

[spoil for a fight](#)

[square off](#)

[take a round out of](#)

[take on](#)

[tangle with](#)

[the gloves are off](#)

[the shit hit the fan](#)

[the underground](#)

[throw you to the dogs](#)

[touch off](#)

[tough customer](#)

[turn the other cheek](#)

[two-fisted attack](#)

[up in arms](#)

[want to make something of it](#)  
[when push comes to shove](#)  
[when the dust settles](#)  
[whup you](#)

## fighting

[all hell broke loose](#)  
[at the hands of](#)  
[brouhaha](#)  
[bury the hatchet](#)  
[chip on his shoulder](#)  
[knock them down, drag them out](#)  
[lay down your arms](#)  
[patch things up](#)  
[the fat hit the fire](#)  
[throw down your arms](#)  
[throw in the towel](#)  
[turn ugly](#)  
[when push comes to shove](#)

## figure

[a ball-park figure](#)  
[duh](#)  
[get a fix on](#)  
[get it straight](#)

## file

[circular file](#)  
[one by one](#)

## fill

[a fill-up](#)  
[carry the day](#)  
[do the honors](#)  
[fill her up](#)  
[fill out](#)  
[fill the bill](#)  
[fill the gap](#)  
[fill up](#)  
[nosebag](#)  
[pig out](#)  
[run a tub](#)  
[take up the slack](#)  
[top it up](#)

## fill-up

[fill her up](#)

film	<a href="#">chick flick</a>
filthy	<a href="#">deep pockets</a> <a href="#">money to burn</a> <a href="#">rolling in it</a>
final	<a href="#">and that's that</a> <a href="#">bottom line</a> <a href="#">don't count your chickens before they hatch</a> <a href="#">finish off</a> <a href="#">finishing touch</a> <a href="#">go all the way (sports)</a> <a href="#">have the final say</a> <a href="#">it ain't over till the fat lady sings</a> <a href="#">rubber match</a> <a href="#">showdown</a> <a href="#">the bottom line</a> <a href="#">wait for the other shoe to drop</a> <a href="#">written in stone</a>
finalize	<a href="#">nail it down</a>
finance	<a href="#">put up the money</a>
financial	<a href="#">cut losses</a> <a href="#">in the black</a> <a href="#">in the red</a> <a href="#">write it off</a>
find	<a href="#">a bar star</a> <a href="#">at your fingertips</a> <a href="#">bed down</a> <a href="#">belly up to the bar</a> <a href="#">bottle man</a> <a href="#">catch me doing that</a> <a href="#">check it out</a> <a href="#">check out</a> <a href="#">come across</a> <a href="#">come by</a> <a href="#">come into your own</a> <a href="#">curiosity killed the cat</a>

[drum up](#)  
[Dumpster diving](#)  
[fall into my lap](#)  
[find a way around](#)  
[find your way](#)  
[gear up](#)  
[get a handle on](#)  
[get around it](#)  
[get to the bottom of](#)  
[get to the root of the problem](#)  
[get wind of](#)  
[go figure](#)  
[hole up](#)  
[look into](#)  
[look up/look it up](#)  
[make do](#)  
[meet you half way](#)  
[musical chairs](#)  
[nail down](#)  
[nitpick](#)  
[open a window](#)  
[pair off/pair up](#)  
[pound the pavement](#)  
[price out](#)  
[read between the lines](#)  
[send him up](#)  
[strike a bargain](#)  
[strike it rich](#)  
[take a poll](#)  
[take cover](#)  
[take solace](#)  
[tear me apart](#)  
[try me](#)  
[where there's a will, there's a way](#)  
[work things out](#)

fine

[a jim dandy](#)  
[A-OK](#)  
[bonzer](#)  
[check up on](#)  
[class act](#)  
[cool](#)

[copacetic](#)  
[ducky](#)  
[how are you doing](#)  
[just ducky](#)  
[melt in your mouth](#)  
[neat](#)  
[okay, OK](#)  
[pay the penalty](#)  
[peachy](#)  
[so far, so good](#)  
[the end justifies the means](#)  
[walk](#)  
[work](#)

finest

[cream of the crop](#)  
[put on the dog](#)  
[the lap of luxury](#)

finger

[a pinch of salt](#)  
[all thumbs](#)  
[bust my butt](#)  
[cement hands](#)  
[fingers the size of bananas](#)  
[get the finger \[B\] \(get the bird\)](#)  
[on a string](#)  
[peek-a-boo](#)  
[stroke of good luck](#)

finish

[a score to settle](#)  
[bottoms up](#)  
[bring to a close](#)  
[clean up your plate](#)  
[cook your goose](#)  
[drag it out](#)  
[eat it up](#)  
[end up](#)  
[get it over with](#)  
[go the distance](#)  
[holding the bag](#)  
[leave you holding the bag](#)  
[make out](#)  
[nip and tuck](#)

[see it through](#)  
[stick it out](#)  
[tie up loose ends](#)  
[to top it off](#)  
[top it off](#)  
[wind up](#)  
[wrap it up](#)

finished

[ahead of the game](#)  
[caught up](#)  
[dead meat](#)  
[done with it](#)  
[down to the short strokes](#)  
[game over](#)  
[home free](#)  
[it ain't over till it's over](#)  
[it ain't over till the fat lady sings](#)  
[it's all over but the crying](#)  
[it's all over but the shouting](#)  
[it's over/ it's over with](#)  
[light at the end of the tunnel](#)  
[over with](#)  
[school's out](#)  
[the proof of the pudding is in the eating](#)  
[under my belt](#)  
[when the dust settles](#)

finishes

[a dead heat](#)

finishing

[tie up loose ends](#)

fink

[jerk](#)  
[rat fink](#)

fire

[can](#)  
[give you the axe](#)  
[give you the boot](#)  
[go up in smoke](#)  
[hair off the dog that bit you](#)  
[in the pipe five by five](#)  
[make your mark](#)  
[set fire](#)

[shoot](#)  
[take chances](#)  
[up in smoke](#)  
[world beater](#)

fired

[down the road](#)  
[get axed](#)  
[heads will roll](#)  
[history](#)  
[on fire](#)

firing

[hatchet man](#)  
[in the pipe five by five](#)

firm

[give a little](#)  
[hard nosed](#)  
[seller's market](#)  
[stick to your guns](#)  
[take the bull by the horns](#)

firmly

[drive a hard bargain](#)  
[won't see you stuck](#)

first

[a dead heat](#)  
[a flash in the pan](#)  
[a leg up](#)  
[a new broom sweeps clean](#)  
[age before beauty](#)  
[at first glance](#)  
[at the crack of dawn](#)  
[back to square one](#)  
[bottom rung](#)  
[break a story](#)  
[charity begins at home](#)  
[class act](#)  
[double or nothing](#)  
[draw first blood](#)  
[first and foremost](#)  
[first come, first served](#)  
[first crack at](#)  
[first dibs](#)  
[first down/first and ten](#)

[first off](#)  
[first up](#)  
[for openers](#)  
[from day one](#)  
[get in on the ground floor](#)  
[get off the ground](#)  
[get the hang of](#)  
[get to first base](#)  
[in person](#)  
[learn the ropes](#)  
[look out for number one](#)  
[love at first sight](#)  
[right off the bat](#)  
[scoop them](#)  
[show you the ropes](#)  
[spade work](#)  
[the early bird gets the worm](#)  
[the first leg](#)  
[the first pancake is always spoiled](#)  
[top drawer](#)  
[top notch](#)

firstly	
---------	--

[first and foremost](#)

fish	
------	--

[fall between two stools](#)  
[fish and company stink after three days](#)  
[the one that got away](#)

fishy	
-------	--

[something smells](#)  
[there's something rotten in the state of Denmark](#)

fist	
------	--

[drop your gloves \(hockey\)](#)  
[duke it out](#)  
[take a poke at](#)

fisted	
--------	--

[tight-ass \[B\]](#)

fit	
-----	--

[fit as a fiddle](#)  
[get in shape](#)  
[have a bird](#)  
[have a conniption](#)  
[keep in good shape](#)

[stick out like a sore thumb](#)  
[the picture of health](#)  
[try it on](#)  
[whip you into shape](#)  
[work out](#)

fitness

[into fitness/dancing etc.](#)  
[whip you into shape](#)

fitting

[potato sack](#)

five

[power play \(hockey\)](#)  
[take five](#)

fix

[have a fix](#)  
[up shit creek \[B\]](#)

flack

[give you static](#)

flag

[hail a cab](#)

flap

[gab](#)  
[in a tizzy](#)

flash

[in a split second](#)  
[like a bolt from the blue](#)  
[like a chicken on a June bug](#)

flat

[a blowout](#)  
[cream you](#)  
[full out](#)  
[full tilt](#)  
[have a flat](#)  
[in full flight](#)  
[in tune \(music\)](#)  
[kiss curls \(hair style\)](#)  
[pedal to the metal](#)  
[strapped](#)

flatfoot

[pig](#)

flattery

[kiss the blarney stone](#)

flavor

	<a href="#">spice up</a>
flaw	
	<a href="#">nitpick</a> <a href="#">seconds</a> <a href="#">to perfection</a>
flesh	
	<a href="#">cheesecake</a>
flew	
	<a href="#">take a powder</a>
flexible	
	<a href="#">give a little</a> <a href="#">roll with the punches</a>
flies	
	<a href="#">time flies when you're having fun</a>
flight	
	<a href="#">on the wing</a> <a href="#">take a flight</a>
flinch	
	<a href="#">bat an eye</a>
fling	
	<a href="#">live it up</a>
flip	
	<a href="#">flip you for it</a> <a href="#">freak/freak out</a> <a href="#">tump</a>
flipping	
	<a href="#">cotton-picking</a> <a href="#">friggin</a>
floating	
	<a href="#">a pine float</a> <a href="#">piss like a race horse [B]</a>
flock	
	<a href="#">a gaggle of geese</a>
floor	
	<a href="#">drop like flies</a> <a href="#">dust bunny</a> <a href="#">full throttle</a> <a href="#">gun it</a> <a href="#">put the hammer down</a>
flourish	
	<a href="#">make an entrance</a>
flow	
	<a href="#">cascade (business)</a>

flustered	
	<a href="#">in a tizzy</a>
fly	
	<a href="#">a fly on the wall</a> <a href="#">fly low</a>
flying	
	<a href="#">on the wing</a>
focused	
	<a href="#">put your mind to it</a> <a href="#">stuck on</a>
fold	
	<a href="#">camel toes [B]</a> <a href="#">cave in</a>
folk	
	<a href="#">raisins</a> <a href="#">stubblejumper</a>
follow	
	<a href="#">according to Hoyle</a> <a href="#">breathe down my neck</a> <a href="#">chaser</a> <a href="#">dog me</a> <a href="#">drop the ball</a> <a href="#">get your shit together [B]</a> <a href="#">I smell where you're stepping</a> <a href="#">live by</a> <a href="#">make good</a> <a href="#">see it through</a> <a href="#">toe the line</a>
followed	
	<a href="#">seven come eleven</a>
following	
	<a href="#">hot on the trail</a> <a href="#">hot on your heels</a> <a href="#">in keeping with</a> <a href="#">look over your shoulder</a> <a href="#">on his tail</a> <a href="#">on the heels</a> <a href="#">Roaring Twenties</a>
food	
	<a href="#">a chicken in every pot</a> <a href="#">a doggy bag</a> <a href="#">a handout</a>

[bag lady](#)  
[chow](#)  
[clean up your plate](#)  
[dubs](#)  
[eat it up](#)  
[eat you out of house and home](#)  
[everything from soup to nuts](#)  
[fill your face](#)  
[Fletcherize your food](#)  
[freeload](#)  
[greasy spoon](#)  
[have a bite](#)  
[health nut](#)  
[junk food](#)  
[keep you going](#)  
[leftovers](#)  
[live on](#)  
[melt in your mouth](#)  
[natural high](#)  
[nosebag](#)  
[on a full stomach](#)  
[on an empty stomach](#)  
[seconds](#)  
[take-out restaurant](#)  
[take you in](#)  
[the way to a man's heart is through his stomach](#)

fool

[a fool and his money are soon parted](#)  
[a horse's ass \[B\]](#)  
[an airhead](#)  
[ass](#)  
[crazy like a fox](#)  
[deke you](#)  
[ding-a-ling](#)  
[ditz](#)  
[do a number on](#)  
[dumbo](#)  
[fink](#)  
[give you the gears](#)  
[goof off](#)  
[have an affair](#)  
[horse around](#)

[jerk](#)  
[joke around](#)  
[josh](#)  
[kid](#)  
[nitwit](#)  
[play a joke on](#)  
[play the fool](#)  
[pull the wool over your eyes](#)  
[pull your leg](#)  
[snow them](#)  
[sucker you](#)  
[take leave of your senses](#)  
[tool around](#)  
[turkey](#)  
[twit](#)  
[yoyo](#)

fooled

[taken in](#)

fooling

[horseplay](#)  
[putting me on](#)  
[tongue in cheek](#)

foolish

[a bimbo](#)  
[a lot of folderol](#)  
[crazy like a fox](#)  
[dork \[B\]](#)  
[hold your drinks](#)  
[lamebrain](#)  
[numbskull](#)  
[nut](#)  
[penny wise, dollar dumb](#)  
[play the fool](#)  
[prick \[B\]](#)  
[shithead \[B\]](#)  
[soft in the head](#)  
[wacky](#)

foolishness

[monkey business](#)

foot

[add insult to injury](#)  
[ride the clutch](#)

[step on your dick](#)  
[your own worst enemy](#)

football

[a good arm](#)  
[first down/first and ten](#)

for

[a chicken in every pot](#)  
[a dead heat](#)  
[a doggy bag](#)  
[a feather in your cap](#)  
[a fine-toothed comb](#)  
[a hollow leg](#)  
[a hotdog](#)  
[a keeper](#)  
[a lost cause](#)  
[a marked man](#)  
[a steal](#)  
[a sweet tooth](#)  
[all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy](#)  
[an apple a day keeps the doctor away](#)  
[ask for the moon](#)  
[ass on the line](#)  
[at heart](#)  
[at your beck and call](#)  
[bag lady](#)  
[bang for your buck](#)  
[be there](#)  
[becomes you](#)  
[bet on a lame rooster](#)  
[bite me \[B\]](#)  
[bite the hand that feeds you](#)  
[bleeding heart](#)  
[bomb around](#)  
[bottle drive](#)  
[brownie points](#)  
[bully for you](#)  
[buy a round](#)  
[buy time](#)  
[call for](#)  
[call into account](#)  
[cash in](#)  
[catch a glimpse](#)

[check-out](#)  
[check over](#)  
[cheerio](#)  
[cherrypicker \(hockey\)](#)  
[chick flick](#)  
[chimo](#)  
[chip in](#)  
[chip on his shoulder](#)  
[collecting dust](#)  
[cool your heels](#)  
[cover for me](#)  
[cramp your style](#)  
[cruise](#)  
[cruising for a bruising](#)  
[cut out for](#)  
[cut rate](#)  
[dead meat](#)  
[deal me in](#)  
[do a dime](#)  
[do a favor](#)  
[do a gig](#)  
[do the honors](#)  
[dog eat dog](#)  
[don't look a gift horse in the mouth](#)  
[don't push your luck](#)  
[drag it out](#)  
[drag on](#)  
[drop out of sight](#)  
[dubs](#)  
[dust](#)  
[Dutch treat](#)  
[eat you for breakfast](#)  
[even up](#)  
[faze me out](#)  
[feel for](#)  
[fend for yourself](#)  
[find fault](#)  
[flash a smile](#)  
[flat](#)  
[for a song](#)  
[for crying out loud](#)  
[for goodness sake](#)

[for gosh sake](#)  
[for heaven's sake](#)  
[for kicks](#)  
[for laughs](#)  
[for long](#)  
[for love nor money](#)  
[for Pete's sake](#)  
[for the fun of it](#)  
[forever and a day](#)  
[front me](#)  
[fuss over](#)  
[get your tits in a wringer](#)  
[give a black eye](#)  
[give him a taste of his own medicine](#)  
[go for a spin](#)  
[go to bat for](#)  
[gofer](#)  
[good on you](#)  
[got the hots for](#)  
[grunge \(fashion\)](#)  
[guard is down](#)  
[gussied up](#)  
[handout](#)  
[hands up](#)  
[have a looksee](#)  
[have a soft spot for](#)  
[have it coming](#)  
[have one on me](#)  
[headhunter](#)  
[high hopes](#)  
[hit me for a loan](#)  
[hold a grudge](#)  
[hook, line and sinker](#)  
[horny \[B\]](#)  
[hot on the trail](#)  
[if the shoe fits, wear it](#)  
[in a coon's age](#)  
[in a long time](#)  
[in a slump](#)  
[in charge](#)  
[in good hands](#)  
[in heaven's name](#)

[in my care](#)

[in the long haul](#)

[in the long run](#)

[in the meantime](#)

[in the running](#)

[it has your name on it](#)

[it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all](#)

[it's all over but the crying](#)

[jam session](#)

[jump queue](#)

[jump ship](#)

[keep an eye on](#)

[keep an eye out](#)

[keep in good shape](#)

[keep your ear to the ground](#)

[keep your eyes peeled](#)

[killer instinct](#)

[laid bare](#)

[land on your feet](#)

[last call](#)

[last hurrah](#)

[last me](#)

[last resort](#)

[lay down your life for](#)

[leave you in the lurch](#)

[let George do it](#)

[level the playing field](#)

[lickety-split](#)

[long for](#)

[long time no see](#)

[look after](#)

[look out for number one](#)

[low-ball him](#)

[make a false move](#)

[make amends](#)

[make an offer](#)

[make money](#)

[make something of yourself](#)

[make your mark](#)

[mayday \(m'aidez\)](#)

[nest egg](#)

[no use for](#)

[not worth a plugged nickel](#)  
[nothing ventured, nothing gained](#)  
[old money](#)  
[on behalf of](#)  
[on my case](#)  
[on our last legs](#)  
[on purpose](#)  
[on side](#)  
[on the books](#)  
[on the make](#)  
[on the market](#)  
[one false move](#)  
[out of his element](#)  
[out of luck](#)  
[out of my hair](#)  
[out of step](#)  
[out to get you](#)  
[over my head](#)  
[own medicine](#)  
[pay my respects](#)  
[pay the shot](#)  
[pay through the nose](#)  
[pay your dues](#)  
[pick holes in](#)  
[picky](#)  
[piggy bank](#)  
[pin your hopes on](#)  
[Plan B](#)  
[play a prank on](#)  
[play a trick on](#)  
[play the ham](#)  
[play to the crowd](#)  
[pop over](#)  
[pound of flesh](#)  
[pound the pavement](#)  
[power play \(business\)](#)  
[prepare like crazy](#)  
[props](#)  
[psyched/psyched up](#)  
[pull for](#)  
[pull out all the stops](#)  
[pull your chain](#)

[puppy](#)  
[put 'em up](#)  
[put down roots](#)  
[put up or shut up](#)  
[put up the money](#)  
[put yourself through college](#)  
[rain check](#)  
[raise money](#)  
[rattle sabres](#)  
[road apple](#)  
[root for](#)  
[saddled with](#)  
[save for a rainy day](#)  
[school's out](#)  
[see to it/see to that](#)  
[set a spell](#)  
[set foot](#)  
[set you back](#)  
[set your price](#)  
[settle it](#)  
[shagging wagon](#)  
[shell out](#)  
[shipshape](#)  
[shit out of luck \[B\]](#)  
[shop-floor struggle](#)  
[shuck on down to the fraidy hole](#)  
[shut my mouth](#)  
[sick to death](#)  
[snowbirds](#)  
[something borrowed, something blue](#)  
[SOS](#)  
[spade work](#)  
[spell you off](#)  
[spend holidays](#)  
[spending money](#)  
[spoil for a fight](#)  
[spring for](#)  
[square deal](#)  
[squat](#)  
[stag](#)  
[stand by me](#)  
[stand for](#)

[stand up and be counted](#)  
[stand up for](#)  
[stay up](#)  
[step on your dick](#)  
[stiff](#)  
[stretch the dollar](#)  
[suck up to](#)  
[sweet tooth](#)  
[tail lights](#)  
[take a break](#)  
[take a drive/trip](#)  
[take care of](#)  
[take five](#)  
[take it to heart](#)  
[take my hat off to](#)  
[take your word for it](#)  
[taken in](#)  
[the acid test](#)  
[the benefit of the doubt](#)  
[the buck stops here](#)  
[the eye of a needle](#)  
[the goat](#)  
[the root of the problem](#)  
[thing-a-ma-bob / thing-a-ma-jig](#)  
[this one is on me](#)  
[through thick and thin](#)  
[throw on a dog for you](#)  
[tide me over](#)  
[till the cows come home](#)  
[time out](#)  
[time ran out](#)  
[time's up](#)  
[tit for tat](#)  
[tits and ass \(T & A\) \[B\]](#)  
[tough bananas](#)  
[tough luck](#)  
[try it out](#)  
[turncoat](#)  
[two for one](#)  
[under my care](#)  
[up for sale](#)  
[up to it](#)

[visit a spell](#)  
[wait a minute](#)  
[wait a sec](#)  
[wait for the other shoe to drop](#)  
[wait up](#)  
[want it so bad I can taste it](#)  
[watch out for](#)  
[watch over](#)  
[way to go](#)  
[what did I do to deserve this](#)  
[what's good for the goose is good for the gander](#)  
[why in the world](#)  
[wired for sound](#)  
[with his tail between his legs](#)  
[without a doubt](#)  
[work ethic](#)  
[work out](#)  
[x marks the spot](#)  
[x-rated](#)

force

[an offer I couldn't refuse](#)  
[browbeat](#)  
[fifth column](#)  
[if a mussel doesn't open don't eat it](#)  
[like a ton of bricks](#)  
[make me do it](#)  
[Mother Nature](#)  
[muscle in](#)  
[railroad](#)  
[run roughshod](#)  
[run you out](#)  
[shove down my throat](#)  
[take by storm](#)  
[you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink](#)

forced

[grinding halt](#)  
[grounded](#)  
[press into service](#)  
[walk the plank](#)

forefathers

[family tree](#)

foregone

[as sure as shit](#)[lead pipe cinch](#)[sure as shit](#)

forehead

[kiss curls \(hair style\)](#)

foreign

[it was Greek to me](#)

foreman

[head honcho](#)

forest

[Bigfoot](#)[Sasquatch](#)[the big picture](#)

forever

[for good](#)

forget

[fake it](#)[forget your manners](#)[get over](#)[hit the bottle](#)[lose count](#)[lose my train of thought](#)[lose sight of](#)[lose track](#)[never mind](#)[not](#)[out of sight, out of mind](#)[slip your mind](#)[so and so](#)[stick it up your ass \[B\]](#)[stuff it](#)[throw you](#)

forgetful

[lose it](#)

forgotten

[over and done with](#)

fork

[hand over](#)[shell out](#)

form

[jump to conclusions](#)[line up](#)

[red tape](#)

[team up](#)

[written in stone](#)

formed

[The Group of Seven](#)

former

[comeback kid](#)

[ex](#)

[make a comeback](#)

[old flame](#)

formula

[trade secret](#)

forth

[rattle on](#)

fortunate

[laughing](#)

[stroke of good luck](#)

fortune

[a lucky break](#)

[pot of gold](#)

found

[caught with his pants down](#)

[found money](#)

[get caught](#)

[onto something](#)

[turn up](#)

foundation

[on shaky ground](#)

four

[as useless as a fifth wheel](#)

[Gang of Four](#)

[power play \(hockey\)](#)

four-letter

[swear like a sailor](#)

fowl

[fall between two stools](#)

fraction

[split second](#)

fragile

[a bull in a china shop](#)

fraidy

[scaredy cat](#)

frame

[set you up](#)  
[state of mind](#)

francisco

[The Rock](#)

freak

[flip](#)  
[go ballistic](#)  
[go bonkers](#)  
[press the panic button](#)

free

[a handout](#)  
[at liberty](#)  
[beggars can't be choosers](#)  
[bogof](#)  
[easy come, easy go](#)  
[freebie](#)  
[freeload](#)  
[home free](#)  
[leave the door open](#)  
[let go of](#)  
[more than welcome](#)  
[on parole](#)  
[on the loose](#)  
[put in a plug for](#)  
[scot-free](#)  
[the best things in life are free](#)  
[the life of Riley](#)  
[the rest is gravy](#)

freedom

[a free hand](#)  
[cut me some slack](#)  
[give him an inch and he'll take a mile](#)  
[give him enough rope and he'll hang himself](#)  
[peace of mind](#)

freeload

[a handout](#)

freely

[at will](#)

freeze

[freeze-up](#)

frequently

[Net surfer](#)

fresh	<a href="#">a new lease on life</a> <a href="#">fish and company stink after three days</a> <a href="#">make advances</a>
friday	<a href="#">blue moon</a> <a href="#">TGIF</a>
fried	<a href="#">over easy</a>
friend	<a href="#">a bar star</a> <a href="#">a brick</a> <a href="#">a faraway look</a> <a href="#">a little bird told me</a> <a href="#">absence makes the heart grow fonder</a> <a href="#">Bob's your uncle</a> <a href="#">boozing buddies</a> <a href="#">bosom buddy</a> <a href="#">break off</a> <a href="#">call off the dogs</a> <a href="#">cruise</a> <a href="#">cry the blues</a> <a href="#">dance with the one who brought you</a> <a href="#">draw their fire</a> <a href="#">fair-weather friend</a> <a href="#">familiarity breeds contempt</a> <a href="#">fast friends</a> <a href="#">fine-feathered friend</a> <a href="#">friends with</a> <a href="#">get around</a> <a href="#">go around with</a> <a href="#">hit it off</a> <a href="#">hobnob</a> <a href="#">in good hands</a> <a href="#">in the doghouse</a> <a href="#">it takes two to tango</a> <a href="#">knock around with</a> <a href="#">make friends</a> <a href="#">make up</a> <a href="#">name-dropper</a> <a href="#">on my good side</a> <a href="#">patch things up</a>

[shake hands](#)  
[stand by me](#)  
[the one that got away](#)  
[turn on you](#)

friendly

[a good head](#)  
[a good sport](#)  
[hail-fellow-well-met](#)  
[make friends](#)  
[not speaking](#)  
[on speaking terms](#)  
[on the outs](#)  
[shmooze](#)  
[standoffish](#)

friendship

[a falling out](#)

friggin

[consarned](#)  
[flipping](#)  
[fuddle duddle\\*](#)  
[gosh darn \(gol darn\)](#)  
[ruddy](#)  
[the F-word](#)

fright

[jump out of your skin](#)

frighten

[buffalo](#)  
[scare the life out of me](#)

frightened

[hair stand on end](#)  
[petrified](#)  
[piss your pants \[B\]](#)  
[scared shitless \[B\]](#)  
[scared spitless](#)  
[scared stiff](#)  
[shitting bricks \[B\]](#)

fringe

[rad](#)

frisky

[bright-eyed and bushy-tailed](#)

from

[a clean bill of health](#)

[a hit](#)  
[a major](#)  
[at bay](#)  
[back on your feet](#)  
[back to square one](#)  
[bad breath](#)  
[beat a hasty retreat](#)  
[beg off](#)  
[big-sky thinking](#)  
[black out](#)  
[bounce back](#)  
[break away](#)  
[call tabs](#)  
[cash in](#)  
[change of heart](#)  
[courtesy of](#)  
[cover-up](#)  
[cut from the same cloth](#)  
[cut off](#)  
[Denver boot](#)  
[doesn't mince words](#)  
[door to door](#)  
[draft dodger](#)  
[drag race](#)  
[feel a draft](#)  
[fire](#)  
[force of habit](#)  
[from day one](#)  
[from pillar to post](#)  
[from rags to riches](#)  
[from stem to stern](#)  
[from the frying pan into the fire](#)  
[from the get-go](#)  
[from the word go](#)  
[get a shot](#)  
[get in on it](#)  
[get something out of](#)  
[give him the brush-off](#)  
[give you the cold shoulder](#)  
[go straight](#)  
[got him covered](#)  
[grandfather](#)

[have a case of](#)  
[have an attack](#)  
[have designs on](#)  
[hole in one \(golf\)](#)  
[hose it down/ hose it off](#)  
[keep you honest](#)  
[knocked out](#)  
[lick your wounds](#)  
[like a bolt from the blue](#)  
[live on the edge](#)  
[log off](#)  
[lose him](#)  
[milk it](#)  
[mount a comeback](#)  
[natural high](#)  
[Newfie](#)  
[nip it in the bud](#)  
[off the kitchen etc.](#)  
[off the shelf](#)  
[on tap](#)  
[on the lam](#)  
[on the move](#)  
[on the run](#)  
[on vacation](#)  
[out of pocket](#)  
[out of the woodwork](#)  
[pass around](#)  
[peace of mind](#)  
[pecking order](#)  
[peer sneer](#)  
[piano tied to your ass \[B\]](#)  
[play hooky](#)  
[plug the team](#)  
[pogey](#)  
[pound the pavement](#)  
[props](#)  
[quit this place](#)  
[rob Peter to pay Paul](#)  
[run interference](#)  
[running water](#)  
[rye](#)  
[save your bacon](#)

[save your skin/neck](#)  
[scrape me off the ceiling](#)  
[scratch](#)  
[shoplifting](#)  
[shuck on down to the fraidy hole](#)  
[single out](#)  
[splashback](#)  
[start from scratch](#)  
[stop you in your tracks](#)  
[straight from the horse's mouth](#)  
[swear off](#)  
[take the heat](#)  
[the grass is greener on the other side of the fence](#)  
[the middleman](#)  
[the school of hard knocks](#)  
[turn a profit](#)  
[turn on you](#)  
[turn your back on](#)  
[vote of thanks](#)  
[wake up](#)  
[wash your hands of it](#)  
[wasn't born yesterday](#)  
[write it off](#)  
[you can run but you can't hide](#)  
[you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear](#)

front

[bankroll](#)  
[cut off](#)  
[get in my face](#)  
[in your face](#)  
[jump queue](#)  
[kiss curls \(hair style\)](#)  
[put up the money](#)  
[right before my eyes](#)  
[strip mall](#)  
[tailgate](#)  
[the cart before the horse](#)

frosty

[blue moon](#)

frozen

[road apple](#)

fruit

[wacky](#)

fruition

[come true](#)

frustrated

[had it](#)

[in a funk](#)

[put up with](#)

frustrating

[damn it \[B\]](#)

[gol dang/gol darn](#)

[gosh darn \(gol darn\)](#)

[sheesh](#)

fuck

[blow me \[B\]](#)

[bugger all \[B\]](#)

[eff 'im \[B\]](#)

[the F-word](#)

fudge

[fake it](#)

full

[a beehive of activity](#)

[a bull in a china shop](#)

[a fill-up](#)

[a hard day](#)

[bright-eyed and bushy-tailed](#)

[cash on the line](#)

[chock full](#)

[chockablock](#)

[cup runneth over](#)

[cut rate](#)

[Fibber McGee's closet](#)

[full as a tick](#)

[full of it \[B\]](#)

[full of piss and vinegar \[B\]](#)

[full out](#)

[full steam ahead](#)

[full up](#)

[got my hands full](#)

[hold out for](#)

[in a pig's ass \[B\]](#)

[in full flight](#)

[irons in the fire](#)

[let her rip](#)  
[on a full stomach](#)  
[on an empty stomach](#)  
[plump full](#)  
[pop your buttons](#)  
[square meal](#)  
[steamy](#)  
[straight up](#)  
[strip](#)  
[wear out](#)  
[you're full of it \[B\]](#)

## fully

[full Monty](#)  
[hook, line and sinker](#)  
[loaded to the hilt](#)  
[the full Monty](#)  
[wide awake](#)

## fun

[a barrel of laughs](#)  
[a blast](#)  
[a cut-up](#)  
[a riot](#)  
[bang for your buck](#)  
[bomb around](#)  
[buzz-kill](#)  
[cruise](#)  
[for kicks](#)  
[for laughs](#)  
[for the fun of it](#)  
[fun and games](#)  
[gas](#)  
[get a bang out of](#)  
[get my kicks](#)  
[get your kicks](#)  
[have a ball](#)  
[heavy](#)  
[horseplay](#)  
[it was a lark](#)  
[joyride](#)  
[kick up your heels](#)  
[make fun of](#)  
[make light of](#)

[play a trick on](#)  
[poke fun at](#)  
[rain on their parade](#)  
[spending money](#)  
[tubular](#)  
[with bells on](#)

fun-filled

[joyride](#)

function

[as useless as tits on a boar](#)  
[put out](#)

funds

[out of pocket](#)

funk

[out of sorts](#)

funniest

[take the cake](#)

funny

[a sharp wit](#)  
[crack a joke](#)  
[do-funny](#)  
[get it](#)  
[get off a few good ones](#)  
[ham it up](#)  
[monkey business](#)  
[nutty as a fruit cake](#)  
[sense of humor](#)  
[the life of the party](#)  
[touched in the head](#)  
[warped sense of humor](#)  
[you had to be there](#)

fur

[dust bunny](#)

furiously

[hammer and tongs](#)

furnace

[chain smoker](#)

furnacefireplace

[take the chill off](#)

further

[drop back](#)  
[drop behind](#)  
[stop you in your tracks](#)

fuss	<a href="#">don't make a mountain out of a molehill</a> <a href="#">make a scene</a>
fussy	<a href="#">pernickety/persnickety</a> <a href="#">picky</a> <a href="#">split hairs</a>
futile	<a href="#">beat your head against a stone wall</a> <a href="#">pissing into the wind [B]</a>
future	<a href="#">down the line</a> <a href="#">down the road</a> <a href="#">feather your nest</a> <a href="#">future looks bright</a> <a href="#">in store for</a> <a href="#">in the long run</a> <a href="#">roll around</a> <a href="#">the family jewels</a>
fuzz	<a href="#">cop</a> <a href="#">pig</a>

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).



## Idiom Definition Index G

gab	
	<a href="#">a way with words</a> <a href="#">flap your gums</a> <a href="#">talk the leg off the lamb of God</a>
gadzooks	
	<a href="#">the dickens you say</a>
gain	
	<a href="#">at stake</a> <a href="#">chill out</a> <a href="#">first down/first and ten</a> <a href="#">nothing ventured, nothing gained</a> <a href="#">seize the opportunity</a> <a href="#">suck up to</a>
gamble	
	<a href="#">a pig in a poke</a> <a href="#">bet on</a> <a href="#">risky business</a> <a href="#">take a chance</a>
gambling	
	<a href="#">a hot hand</a> <a href="#">blow a bundle</a> <a href="#">drop a bundle</a> <a href="#">high roller</a> <a href="#">in the hole</a> <a href="#">skins game</a>
game	
	<a href="#">a barnburner</a> <a href="#">a cliff-hanger</a> <a href="#">a hot hand</a> <a href="#">a nail-biter</a> <a href="#">a quickie</a> <a href="#">a whale of a game</a> <a href="#">Donnybrook</a> <a href="#">game for anything</a> <a href="#">goose is cooked</a>

[hat trick](#)  
[it ain't over till it's over](#)  
[jack me around](#)  
[losing streak](#)  
[make a clean sweep](#)  
[mind games](#)  
[musical chairs](#)  
[play games](#)  
[political football](#)  
[rough and ready](#)  
[rubber match](#)  
[saw-off](#)  
[shellack](#)  
[shooting fish in a barrel](#)  
[shutout \(sports\)](#)  
[skins game](#)  
[spin the bottle](#)  
[suffer a setback](#)  
[take a dive](#)  
[the dying seconds](#)  
[throw a game](#)  
[time ran out](#)  
[time's up](#)  
[trifle with me](#)  
[whip you](#)  
[whup you](#)  
[win going away](#)  
[winner take all](#)  
[winning streak](#)

gang

[ring leader](#)

gap

[carry the day](#)

[fill the bill](#)

garage

[garage kept](#)

garbage

[beauty is in the eye of the beholder](#)

[binner](#)

[bottle man](#)

[chuck it](#)

[circular file](#)

[clean up](#)[Dumpster diving](#)[file 13](#)[junk it](#)[smithwright it](#)[throw away](#)[throw out](#)[to each his own](#)

garden

[dig it up](#)

gardener

[green thumb](#)

garment

[try it on](#)

gas

[cut the cheese \[B\]](#)[floor it](#)[full throttle](#)[goose it](#)[let a fart \[B\]](#)[pass wind](#)[pit stop](#)[step on it](#)

gasoline

[a fill-up](#)[fill her up](#)

gathering

[collecting dust](#)

gauntlet

[put you through the mill](#)[test your metal](#)

gave

[not for all the tea in China](#)

gay

[fag/faggot](#)[light in the loafers](#)

gears

[drive standard](#)

gee

[gee whiz](#)[geez](#)[golly](#)[golly gee](#)

[gosh](#)[jeepers](#)[wow](#)

geek

[book worm](#)

geese

[a gaggle of geese](#)

geez

[holy cow](#)[jimminy crickets](#)

geezer

[old coot](#)

general

[rule of thumb](#)

generalize

[paint with the same brush](#)

generally

[all in all](#)[on the whole](#)

generate

[get up a head of steam](#)

generation

[Generation X](#)

generous

[a good head](#)[cheap](#)[tight/tight fisted](#)

genitals

[the family jewels](#)

gentle

[a love tap](#)[go soft](#)

gentleman

[class act](#)

genuine

[honest-to-goodness](#)[pass off](#)[the real McCoy](#)

gestures

[act out](#)

get

[a cheap drunk](#)[a hothead](#)

[a snootful](#)

[bail me out](#)

[beat it](#)

[beat the rap](#)

[beg off](#)

[bogof](#)

[break out](#)

[bug \(someone\)](#)

[bump and grind \(hockey\)](#)

[bust out](#)

[butt out](#)

[buzz off](#)

[carry the can](#)

[catch a plane/bus/train](#)

[catch a ride](#)

[catch as catch can](#)

[catch hell \[B\]](#)

[catch it](#)

[catch on](#)

[catch some rays](#)

[catch some z's](#)

[catch your eye](#)

[check that](#)

[clean up your act](#)

[clear out](#)

[come across \[B\]](#)

[come by](#)

[come down to earth](#)

[come to the point](#)

[comeuppance](#)

[cry me a river](#)

[cut to the chase](#)

[dig me](#)

[don't count your chickens before they hatch](#)

[don't get mad; get even](#)

[don't push your luck](#)

[draw their fire](#)

[dream on](#)

[easy come, easy go](#)

[feast your eyes on](#)

[fido](#)

[find a way around](#)

[first come, first served](#)

[fish or cut bait](#)

[fix you](#)

[fix your wagon](#)

[follow me](#)

[fuck off \[B\]](#)

[gear up](#)

[get a bang out of](#)

[get a grip](#)

[get a kick out of](#)

[get a life](#)

[get a lift](#)

[get a rise](#)

[get a shot](#)

[get at it](#)

[get away with](#)

[get back at](#)

[get bageled](#)

[get burned](#)

[get busy](#)

[get even](#)

[get going](#)

[get hell \[B\]](#)

[get her way](#)

[get him back](#)

[get it](#)

[get it together](#)

[get laid \[B\]](#)

[get my kicks](#)

[get off](#)

[get off my back](#)

[get on it](#)

[get on your horse](#)

[get out of your hair](#)

[get real](#)

[get revenge](#)

[get shit \[B\]](#)

[get the drop on](#)

[get the finger \[B\] \(get the bird\)](#)

[get the green light](#)

[get this show on the road](#)

[get this straight](#)

[get to it](#)  
[get to the bottom of](#)  
[get to the root of the problem](#)  
[get under my skin](#)  
[get up a head of steam](#)  
[get up on the wrong side of bed](#)  
[get your act together](#)  
[get your back up](#)  
[get your goat](#)  
[get your head out of the clouds](#)  
[get your head together](#)  
[get your knuckles rapped](#)  
[get your tits in a wringer](#)  
[get your wires crossed](#)  
[get yours](#)  
[git](#)  
[give and take](#)  
[give you the axe](#)  
[go tell your mother she wants you](#)  
[go too far](#)  
[got it coming](#)  
[got your number](#)  
[haul ass \[B\]](#)  
[have a fix](#)  
[have it your way](#)  
[have my ears lowered](#)  
[he who hesitates is lost](#)  
[hell bent for election](#)  
[hire on](#)  
[hit the bottle](#)  
[Hobson's choice](#)  
[hold her liquor](#)  
[hold out for](#)  
[hunker down](#)  
[I smell where you're stepping](#)  
[it never rains but it pours](#)  
[joking aside](#)  
[keep you going](#)  
[keep your head above water](#)  
[keep your shirt on](#)  
[kill for](#)  
[kill two birds \(with one stone\)](#)

[kiss ass \[B\]](#)

[kiss off](#)

[kiss the blarney stone](#)

[lay \[B\]](#)

[let off](#)

[look into](#)

[look out for number one](#)

[lose him](#)

[lose your temper](#)

[make advances](#)

[make headway](#)

[make out](#)

[make whoopee](#)

[make yourself scarce](#)

[milk it](#)

[miss the point](#)

[money doesn't grow on trees](#)

[move it](#)

[move your ass](#)

[nail down](#)

[no offense, but...](#)

[one false move](#)

[out of circulation](#)

[out to get you](#)

[pay him back](#)

[pick on](#)

[pin down/pin him down](#)

[play it for all it's worth](#)

[political football](#)

[pull through](#)

[pull yourself together](#)

[put up with](#)

[quick on the draw](#)

[rattle my chain](#)

[repay in kind](#)

[rise and shine](#)

[ruffle your feathers](#)

[run an errand](#)

[scoop them](#)

[scot-free](#)

[scrape by](#)

[screw](#)

[seek revenge](#)  
[set your sights](#)  
[shack up \[B\]](#)  
[shaft](#)  
[shape up](#)  
[shoot up](#)  
[sound off](#)  
[spoiled brat](#)  
[spread the word](#)  
[start a fire under him](#)  
[step on people](#)  
[stick in my craw](#)  
[suck it up](#)  
[suck the hind tit \[B\]](#)  
[take a hike](#)  
[take him down a peg](#)  
[take off, eh](#)  
[take revenge](#)  
[the early bird gets the worm](#)  
[the end of the line](#)  
[the hell you say](#)  
[the squeaky wheel gets the grease](#)  
[the straight dope](#)  
[the upper hand](#)  
[together](#)  
[turn about is fair play](#)  
[vamoose](#)  
[wake up and smell the coffee](#)  
[walk](#)  
[weed out](#)  
[what goes around comes around](#)  
[when it rains it pours](#)  
[when push comes to shove](#)  
[where do they get off](#)  
[where there's a will, there's a way](#)  
[winner take all](#)  
[winning isn't everything; it's the only thing](#)  
[wrap your mind around](#)  
[wysiwyg](#)  
[you've got to be kidding](#)  
[zinger](#)

[Canada goose](#)  
[fixing to](#)  
[get on in years](#)  
[hot and bothered](#)  
[on the wagon](#)  
[shit fire and apple butter](#)

ghetto

[boom box](#)

ghost

[into thin air](#)

giant

[fingers the size of bananas](#)

gift

[a way with words](#)  
[come into](#)  
[don't look a gift horse in the mouth](#)  
[on a silver platter](#)  
[talk the leg off the lamb of God](#)

gigantic

[shoes like boats](#)

gills

[bombed](#)  
[three sheets to the wind](#)

gimme

[give me a break](#)

girl

[a bar star](#)  
[a bimbo](#)  
[attagirl \(that a girl\)](#)  
[blind date](#)  
[broad](#)  
[chick](#)  
[date](#)  
[gash](#)  
[girl Friday](#)  
[good going](#)  
[lovelies](#)  
[stacked](#)  
[sweater girl](#)  
[that a boy/that a girl](#)  
[the apple of his eye](#)  
[wall flower](#)

[what a brain](#)

[what a dish](#)

girlfriend

[babe](#)

[beat your time](#)

[ex](#)

give

[a lick and a promise](#)

[a pick-me-up](#)

[act up](#)

[bet you dollars to donuts](#)

[buckle under](#)

[call his bluff](#)

[call up](#)

[check your bags](#)

[chew him out](#)

[come across](#)

[come-on](#)

[conk out](#)

[cut me some slack](#)

[deserve credit](#)

[dig a little deeper](#)

[dig deep](#)

[dingle you](#)

[ditch him](#)

[don't give a crap \[B\]](#)

[don't give a damn \[B\]](#)

[don't make me laugh](#)

[drop a hint](#)

[dump on](#)

[get after](#)

[get along](#)

[give a damn / give a shit / give a fuck \[B\]](#)

[give a shit \[B\]](#)

[give an arm and a leg](#)

[give and take](#)

[give head \[B\]](#)

[give her](#)

[give her shit \[B\]](#)

[give him an inch and he'll take a mile](#)

[give it to me straight](#)

[give me a bad time](#)

[give me a break](#)  
[give me a dingle](#)  
[give me a lift](#)  
[give my eye teeth](#)  
[give my right arm](#)  
[give notice](#)  
[give them what for](#)  
[give you a ribbing](#)  
[give you an out](#)  
[give you shit \[B\]](#)  
[give you static](#)  
[give you the shirt off his back](#)  
[give you what for](#)  
[go all-out](#)  
[go down on \[B\]](#)  
[go into detail](#)  
[go the extra mile](#)  
[go to great lengths/ go to any lengths](#)  
[grease my palm](#)  
[hand in](#)  
[hand out](#)  
[hand over](#)  
[hand you a line](#)  
[hassle me](#)  
[haul up on the carpet](#)  
[have at me](#)  
[have to hand it to you](#)  
[hit me \(card games\)](#)  
[hit me](#)  
[in the running](#)  
[it ain't over till the fat lady sings](#)  
[kick ass \[B\]](#)  
[lay you](#)  
[lead you down the garden path](#)  
[lend a hand](#)  
[lift my spirits](#)  
[make a mistake](#)  
[mete out](#)  
[milk it](#)  
[never say die](#)  
[on the carpet](#)  
[pay off](#)

[pick you up](#)  
[play fair](#)  
[pony up](#)  
[push the boat out](#)  
[put you through the mill](#)  
[put your heart into it](#)  
[put yourself out](#)  
[ream out](#)  
[repay in kind](#)  
[ring me](#)  
[roll over and play dead](#)  
[serve them right](#)  
[set you straight](#)  
[sock it to me](#)  
[stand away](#)  
[strike up the band](#)  
[take a strip off](#)  
[take oath](#)  
[take you in](#)  
[tear a strip off](#)  
[throw in the towel](#)  
[throw some light on](#)  
[tie into](#)  
[turn about is fair play](#)  
[turn in](#)  
[what goes around comes around](#)

given

[courtesy of](#)  
[led to believe](#)  
[parachute](#)

giving

[a blow job \[B\]](#)  
[half-hearted](#)  
[in brief](#)  
[own medicine](#)

glad

[dress up](#)  
[Sunday best](#)  
[TGIF](#)  
[threads](#)

glance

[a fleeting glance](#)

glass	<a href="#">a pine float</a> <a href="#">piggy bank</a>
glasses	<a href="#">shades</a> <a href="#">the naked eye</a>
glitch	<a href="#">snag</a>
global	<a href="#">surf the Net</a>
gloves	<a href="#">drop your gloves (hockey)</a>
glowing	<a href="#">sing his praises</a>
go	<a href="#">a fool and his money are soon parted</a> <a href="#">a.k.a. (aka)</a> <a href="#">above and beyond the call of duty</a> <a href="#">a.k.a. (aka)</a> <a href="#">all-out</a> <a href="#">back to the grind</a> <a href="#">back up</a> <a href="#">be off</a> <a href="#">beat it</a> <a href="#">bend over backwards</a> <a href="#">between the devil and the deep blue sea</a> <a href="#">boogie</a> <a href="#">bottom out</a> <a href="#">break a promise</a> <a href="#">break away</a> <a href="#">butt out</a> <a href="#">buzz off</a> <a href="#">can</a> <a href="#">catch a plane/bus/train</a> <a href="#">chomping at the bit</a> <a href="#">clear out</a> <a href="#">climb the walls</a> <a href="#">come across [B]</a> <a href="#">come of age</a> <a href="#">copacetic</a> <a href="#">crash</a> <a href="#">crash a party</a>

[cross someone](#)

[damn you \[B\]](#)

[darken a church door](#)

[date](#)

[dilly-dally](#)

[do a 180](#)

[do it the hard way](#)

[don't know whether you're coming or going](#)

[drag on](#)

[draw a blank](#)

[drive me up the wall](#)

[drop dead](#)

[drop in](#)

[drop off](#)

[duh](#)

[fever breaks](#)

[fits and starts](#)

[freak/freak out](#)

[fuck off \[B\]](#)

[full out](#)

[gang up on](#)

[get a move on](#)

[get along](#)

[get carried away](#)

[get going](#)

[get lost](#)

[get out of my face](#)

[get over](#)

[get rolling](#)

[get the green light](#)

[git](#)

[give her shit \[B\]](#)

[go ape](#)

[go bananas](#)

[go berserk](#)

[go bonkers](#)

[go bust](#)

[go crazy](#)

[go down](#)

[go downtown \[B\]](#)

[go for a spin](#)

[go for broke](#)

[go hog wild](#)  
[go jump in the lake](#)  
[go like stink](#)  
[go mad](#)  
[go nuts](#)  
[go off the deep end](#)  
[go overboard](#)  
[go pound salt](#)  
[go steady](#)  
[go tell your mother she wants you](#)  
[go to hell \[B\]](#)  
[go to hell in a handbasket](#)  
[go under](#)  
[gofer](#)  
[good going](#)  
[good to go](#)  
[ground me](#)  
[grounded](#)  
[have a boo](#)  
[have a whiz](#)  
[have it both ways](#)  
[head down there](#)  
[head up there](#)  
[hit the bar](#)  
[hit the bricks](#)  
[hit the hay](#)  
[hit the skids](#)  
[hold up](#)  
[home free](#)  
[itchy feet](#)  
[jump in with both feet](#)  
[jump queue](#)  
[jump ship](#)  
[keep a low profile](#)  
[keep on trucking](#)  
[keep pace](#)  
[keep up](#)  
[kick at the cat](#)  
[kick up your heels](#)  
[killer instinct](#)  
[kiss off](#)  
[landlubber](#)

[lay off](#)  
[let her rip](#)  
[like a bat out of hell](#)  
[like hell \[B\]](#)  
[live it up](#)  
[lose your mind](#)  
[make a beeline](#)  
[make it](#)  
[move it](#)  
[Murphy's Law](#)  
[nature calls](#)  
[nothing ventured, nothing gained](#)  
[off with you](#)  
[on the run](#)  
[on the wing](#)  
[one for the money, two for the show...](#)  
[paint the town red](#)  
[pan out](#)  
[part company](#)  
[part with](#)  
[pay a visit](#)  
[pick up the pace](#)  
[piss off \[B\]](#)  
[pit stop](#)  
[play along](#)  
[play the field](#)  
[pound salt](#)  
[powder my nose](#)  
[power to burn](#)  
[pull out all the stops](#)  
[pull up stakes](#)  
[push the boat out](#)  
[put the hammer down](#)  
[put yourself out](#)  
[quit this place](#)  
[read it over](#)  
[run a red light](#)  
[run amuck](#)  
[run an errand](#)  
[run down](#)  
[run its course](#)  
[run rampant](#)

[run the gauntlet](#)  
[run through](#)  
[run up](#)  
[see](#)  
[see a man about a dog](#)  
[shape up or ship out](#)  
[show up](#)  
[shuck on down to the fraidy hole](#)  
[shut-in](#)  
[skidaddle](#)  
[slip away](#)  
[slow down](#)  
[snowbirds](#)  
[something is haywire](#)  
[speed up](#)  
[spend holidays](#)  
[split](#)  
[spread like wildfire](#)  
[start from scratch](#)  
[start over](#)  
[stay up](#)  
[steer clear](#)  
[step on it](#)  
[stick-in-the-mud](#)  
[string along](#)  
[suck eggs](#)  
[swelled head](#)  
[take a drive/trip](#)  
[take a flight](#)  
[take a hike](#)  
[take it easy on](#)  
[take its course](#)  
[take off, eh](#)  
[take out](#)  
[take the stage](#)  
[tear around](#)  
[tell him where to go](#)  
[that's the spirit](#)  
[the breaking point](#)  
[the hell you say](#)  
[the turning point](#)  
[tip the scales at](#)

[to a fault](#)  
[try your darndest](#)  
[turn in](#)  
[U-turn](#)  
[vamoose](#)  
[wait up for](#)  
[walk](#)  
[what the dickens](#)  
[when the dust settles](#)  
[where angels fear to tread](#)  
[whiz](#)  
[with wings](#)  
[work out](#)  
[you and the horse you rode in on](#)  
[you don't miss the water till the well runs dry](#)  
[zip](#)

go-getter

[self-starter](#)

goal

[a lost cause](#)  
[blank](#)  
[chasing rainbows](#)  
[expand your horizons](#)  
[hat trick](#)  
[kill a penalty \(hockey\)](#)  
[kitty bar the door](#)  
[mount a comeback](#)  
[play catch-up](#)  
[set your sights](#)  
[shoot-out \(sports\)](#)  
[shutout \(sports\)](#)  
[skunk](#)  
[turn the corner](#)

goaltender

[pull the goalie \(hockey\)](#)

goat

[the butt of the joke](#)

god

[for gosh sake](#)  
[thank heavens](#)  
[the Lord helps those who help themselves](#)

god-damn

[doggone](#)

godwin

[The Group of Five/The Regina Five](#)

goes

[a bar fly](#)

[a bar star](#)

[drown your sorrow](#)

[front man](#)

[good riddance](#)

[needless to say](#)

[that's life](#)

[time flies when you're having fun](#)

[turn about is fair play](#)

[turncoat](#)

goesblank

[lose your tongue](#)

goeth

[give a black eye](#)

gofer

[joe-job](#)

[low on the totem pole](#)

going

[a going concern.](#)

[away to the races](#)

[blind date](#)

[bottle drive](#)

[don't hold your breath](#)

[door to door](#)

[down the pike](#)

[frazzled](#)

[git](#)

[go on](#)

[going great guns](#)

[going to the mountains](#)

[got him covered](#)

[haul ass \[B\]](#)

[heavy going](#)

[hell bent for election](#)

[in full flight](#)

[in store for](#)

[leg work](#)

[move it](#)

[move your ass](#)  
[offside \(hockey\)](#)  
[on the move](#)  
[on the road](#)  
[out of here \(outa here\)](#)  
[press on](#)  
[rocky road](#)  
[stop you in your tracks](#)  
[tough sledding](#)  
[uphill battle](#)  
[vamoose](#)  
[way to go](#)  
[what gives](#)  
[what in the name of heaven](#)  
[what's cooking](#)  
[what's going down](#)  
[what's going on](#)  
[what's the poop](#)  
[when push comes to shove](#)  
[where there's a will, there's a way](#)  
[win going away](#)

gold

[strike it rich](#)  
[you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear](#)

golden

[a window of opportunity](#)  
[sunset years](#)  
[twilight years](#)

golf

[all teed up](#)  
[skins game](#)

golly

[by gosh](#)  
[gee willickers](#)  
[gee whiz](#)  
[gosh](#)

gone

[cry the blues](#)  
[down the tubes](#)  
[game over](#)  
[gonzo](#)  
[goose is cooked](#)

[history](#)  
[see hide nor hair](#)  
[tail lights](#)

goner

[too far gone](#)

gonzo

[exit stage left](#)

good

['at a boy \(that a boy\)](#)  
['at a girl \(that a girl\)](#)  
[a clean bill of health](#)  
[a fighting chance](#)  
[a golden opportunity](#)  
[a good egg](#)  
[a good head](#)  
[a hoot](#)  
[a lucky break](#)  
[a new broom sweeps clean](#)  
[a notch below](#)  
[a regular guy](#)  
[a riot](#)  
[a sure bet](#)  
[ain't half-bad](#)  
[all goes well](#)  
[all it's cracked up to be](#)  
[an apple a day keeps the doctor away](#)  
[an even keel](#)  
[as luck would have it](#)  
[attaboy \(that a boy\)](#)  
[attagirl \(that a girl\)](#)  
[becomes you](#)  
[being there](#)  
[better than sex](#)  
[bonzer](#)  
[break a leg](#)  
[bully for you](#)  
[call a spade a spade](#)  
[checkered career](#)  
[cheers](#)  
[cook](#)  
[cool it](#)  
[cut a fine figure](#)

[did good](#)  
[did yourself proud](#)  
[done good](#)  
[down home](#)  
[dress clothes](#)  
[fair to middling](#)  
[fit as a fiddle](#)  
[for better or worse](#)  
[for goodness sake](#)  
[for Pete's sake](#)  
[for the fun of it](#)  
[friends with](#)  
[fuck that noise \[B\]](#)  
[fun and games](#)  
[future looks bright](#)  
[garage kept](#)  
[get high](#)  
[go to bat for](#)  
[good afternoon](#)  
[good bet](#)  
[good day](#)  
[good for you](#)  
[good going](#)  
[good morning](#)  
[good on you](#)  
[good riddance](#)  
[good show](#)  
[good time](#)  
[great Scot](#)  
[green thumb](#)  
[hail-fellow-well-met](#)  
[half-bad](#)  
[happy motoring](#)  
[have fun](#)  
[haven't got a hope](#)  
[hell's bells](#)  
[hit the nail on the head](#)  
[how are you doing](#)  
[how do you do](#)  
[how goes it](#)  
[howdy](#)  
[if my memory serves me correctly](#)

[in his good books](#)  
[in my good books](#)  
[in seventh heaven](#)  
[it works](#)  
[jolly good fellow](#)  
[keep up the good work](#)  
[lay it on the line](#)  
[lead you on](#)  
[level with you](#)  
[live up to](#)  
[look down your nose at](#)  
[luck out](#)  
[lucky streak](#)  
[make a life for yourself](#)  
[make hay while the sun shines](#)  
[mean well](#)  
[music to my ears](#)  
[natural high](#)  
[no news is good news](#)  
[none the worse for wear](#)  
[not](#)  
[not half bad](#)  
[not too shabby](#)  
[not worth a plugged nickel](#)  
[nothing to sneeze at](#)  
[off to a bad start](#)  
[off to the races](#)  
[okay, OK](#)  
[on a roll](#)  
[on good terms](#)  
[on my good side](#)  
[pale by comparison](#)  
[pay a compliment](#)  
[put in a good word for](#)  
[rest on your laurels](#)  
[right as rain](#)  
[right on](#)  
[rock](#)  
[rocks socks](#)  
[see fit](#)  
[seen better days](#)  
[seller's market](#)

[she peed](#)  
[shit fire and apple butter](#)  
[sitting pretty](#)  
[so far, so good](#)  
[so-so](#)  
[start with a bang](#)  
[straight talk](#)  
[suck the hind tit \[B\]](#)  
[suits you](#)  
[swear by](#)  
[sweeten the pot](#)  
[take a back seat](#)  
[take a joke](#)  
[that a boy/that a girl](#)  
[that's the spirit](#)  
[the end justifies the means](#)  
[the life of Riley](#)  
[the luck of the Irish](#)  
[the old college try](#)  
[the pits](#)  
[the road to hell is paved with good intentions](#)  
[the sweet spot](#)  
[the way to a man's heart is through his stomach](#)  
[there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so](#)  
[through thick and thin](#)  
[throw the baby out with the bath water](#)  
[to hell with that \[B\]](#)  
[top notch](#)  
[top of the morning](#)  
[touch wood](#)  
[turn up your nose at](#)  
[up to par](#)  
[up to scratch](#)  
[up to snuff](#)  
[up with](#)  
[upside](#)  
[way to go](#)  
[what's what](#)  
[wheeler-dealer](#)  
[work ethic](#)  
[you have to be good to be lucky](#)  
[yum](#)

[zinger](#)

good-for-nothing

[deadbeat](#)

good-natured

[a good egg](#)

goodbye

[bye](#)[bye for now](#)[cheerio](#)[cheers](#)[cheery-bye](#)[ciao](#)[sign off](#)[so long](#)[toodles/toodle-oo](#)

goodfineok

[that's cool](#)

goodies

[all the bells and whistles](#)

goodness

[for gosh sake](#)[for heaven's sake](#)[heavens](#)[TGIF](#)[thank heavens](#)[whew](#)

goof

[fart around \[B\]](#)[fool around](#)[horse around](#)[tool around](#)

goose

[all around Robin Hood's barn](#)[cook your goose](#)[gun it](#)[skunk](#)

goosed

[Canada goose](#)

gorgeous

[hunk](#)

gosh

[by golly](#)[for crying out loud](#)

[gee](#)  
[gee willickers](#)  
[gee whiz](#)  
[geez](#)  
[golly](#)  
[good golly](#)  
[good gravy](#)  
[goodness gracious](#)  
[great Scot](#)  
[heavens](#)  
[hokey Dinah](#)  
[holy cow](#)  
[holy Moses](#)  
[jeepers](#)  
[jimminy crickets](#)  
[yikes](#)

gospel

[scout's honor](#)  
[the gospel truth](#)  
[without a word of a lie](#)

gossip

[bush telegraph](#)  
[keep your ear to the ground](#)  
[muckrake](#)  
[through the grapevine](#)  
[water-cooler talk](#)

got

[dead in the water](#)  
[give her](#)  
[go all-out](#)  
[got a corner on](#)  
[got a light](#)  
[got the balls \[B\]](#)  
[got what it takes](#)  
[got you by the balls \[B\]](#)  
[have your period \[B\]](#)  
[lose your tongue](#)  
[own medicine](#)  
[sweet on](#)  
[the fat hit the fire](#)  
[the one that got away](#)  
[you betcha](#)

gotcha	<a href="#">got you by the short hairs</a>
government	<a href="#">granola</a> <a href="#">red tape</a> <a href="#">trickle-down economics</a>
grab	<a href="#">glom onto</a> <a href="#">power play (business)</a> <a href="#">take a load off your feet</a>
grade	<a href="#">ahead of the curve</a> <a href="#">The Grim Reaper</a>
gradually	<a href="#">cold turkey</a> <a href="#">die down</a> <a href="#">grow on you</a> <a href="#">peter out</a>
grain	<a href="#">a grain of truth</a> <a href="#">breadbasket</a> <a href="#">do it the hard way</a> <a href="#">stubblejumper</a>
grand	<a href="#">a chunk of change</a> <a href="#">home run (baseball)</a> <a href="#">life is just a bowl of cherries</a>
grandfather	<a href="#">grandfather</a>
grapevine	<a href="#">bush telegraph</a> <a href="#">by word of mouth</a> <a href="#">put out feelers</a> <a href="#">rumor has it</a>
grass	<a href="#">twerp</a>
grateful	<a href="#">don't look a gift horse in the mouth</a> <a href="#">much obliged</a>
grave	<a href="#">deep six</a>
graveyard	<a href="#">pushing up daisies</a>

gravy	<a href="#">gravy train</a> <a href="#">great Scot</a> <a href="#">icing on the cake</a>
grease	<a href="#">grunge</a> <a href="#">money talks</a>
greased	<a href="#">faster than a speeding bullet</a> <a href="#">lightning fast</a>
greasy	<a href="#">greaser</a> <a href="#">greasy spoon</a>
great	<a href="#">a blast</a> <a href="#">a going concern,</a> <a href="#">a hell of a time</a> <a href="#">awesome</a> <a href="#">be-all, end-all</a> <a href="#">blow snakes (music)</a> <a href="#">blue sky</a> <a href="#">bravo</a> <a href="#">cool beans</a> <a href="#">drop like flies</a> <a href="#">ducky</a> <a href="#">gas</a> <a href="#">have a blast</a> <a href="#">it's the duck's guts</a> <a href="#">not so hot</a> <a href="#">nothing to write home about</a> <a href="#">peachy</a> <a href="#">pocket Hercules</a> <a href="#">riding high</a> <a href="#">right on</a> <a href="#">rock</a> <a href="#">set the world on fire</a> <a href="#">she peed</a> <a href="#">some chick</a> <a href="#">speak highly of</a> <a href="#">swell</a> <a href="#">twinkle toes</a> <a href="#">unsung hero</a>

[what a rush](#)

greatest

[the be-all, end-all](#)[the living end](#)[the most](#)[to the max](#)

greatly

[think the world of](#)

greenback

[buck](#)

greeting

[cheers](#)

gretzky

[The Great One](#)

grew

[bosom buddy](#)[cut my teeth on](#)

grief

[have a bird](#)[hell's bells](#)[hold up](#)[shit fire and apple butter](#)

grime

[grunge](#)

grin

[grinning like a bushel basketful of possum heads](#)

grind

[stop you cold](#)

grinning

[grinning like a bushel basketful of possum heads](#)

grip

[face facts](#)[pull yourself together](#)

groaty

[to the max](#)

groceries

[everything from soup to nuts](#)

groom

[let yourself go](#)

groomed

[clean cut](#)[gussied up](#)[look sharp](#)

[spiffy](#)

groovy

[cool](#)

[hip](#)

[spinork/spinorky](#)

[that's cool](#)

gross

[yuk](#)

grouchy

[get up on the wrong side of bed](#)

ground

[baptism by fire](#)

[crawl on my hands and knees over broken glass just to see her photo](#)

[drop behind](#)

[fence sitter](#)

[freeze-up](#)

[land on your feet](#)

[slip](#)

[think the world of](#)

group

[a pocket of resistance](#)

[a slug](#)

[bevy of beauties](#)

[cream of the crop](#)

[dasein](#)

[fifth column](#)

[Gang of Four](#)

[have the floor](#)

[jam](#)

[of the lot](#)

[Old Boys' Club](#)

[on behalf of](#)

[on side](#)

[on the whole](#)

[one of the boys](#)

[out in the cold](#)

[paint with the same brush](#)

[piss parade \[B\]](#)

[ride herd](#)

[single out](#)

[take sides](#)

[The Group of Seven](#)

[the runt of the litter](#)

[turnout](#)

[vote of thanks](#)

grouse

[bitch](#)

grow

[a pinch to grow an inch](#)

[eke out a living](#)

[leaf out](#)

[nip it in the bud](#)

[snowball](#)

[toughen up](#)

growing

[in leaf](#)

[in the making](#)

[on the rise](#)

grown-up

[smelling yourself](#)

growth

[five o'clock shadow](#)

grudge

[no hard feelings](#)

[there's no love lost](#)

grunge

[grunge \(fashion\)](#)

guarantee

[stand behind](#)

guaranteed

[the best-laid plans of mice and men go oft astray](#)

guess

[a shot in the dark](#)

[hazard a guess](#)

[second guess](#)

[take a guess](#)

guests

[a pinch to grow an inch](#)

[fish and company stink after three days](#)

guidance

[under my wing](#)

guide

[all's fair in love and war](#)

[live by](#)

[show you around](#)

guideline	<a href="#">rule of thumb</a>
guilt	<a href="#">bat an eye</a> <a href="#">lay a trip</a> <a href="#">peace of mind</a>
guilty	<a href="#">come back to haunt you</a> <a href="#">crack this case</a> <a href="#">frame</a> <a href="#">point a finger at</a> <a href="#">pot calling the kettle black</a> <a href="#">sentence to death</a> <a href="#">set you up</a> <a href="#">to blame</a>
gullible	<a href="#">sucker</a>
gums	<a href="#">gab</a>
gun	<a href="#">a going concern.</a> <a href="#">cross that bridge when I come to it</a> <a href="#">got him covered</a> <a href="#">gun down</a> <a href="#">hold up</a> <a href="#">jump to conclusions</a> <a href="#">make a false move</a> <a href="#">pack a rod</a> <a href="#">shoot up</a> <a href="#">shoot-up</a> <a href="#">sometimes life is a bucket of shit and the handle is inside [B]</a> <a href="#">take a shot</a>
gunbattle	<a href="#">shoot-out</a>
gung	<a href="#">a go-getter</a> <a href="#">all fired up</a> <a href="#">fired up</a> <a href="#">game for anything</a> <a href="#">on fire</a> <a href="#">whole hog</a>
guru	

[hack/hacker](#)

gussied

[dolloed up](#)[dressed fit to kill](#)[dressed to the nines](#)

gut

[crack me up](#)[hoot](#)[kill ourselves laughing](#)[laugh yourself sick](#)[spill the beans](#)

guy

[a regular guy](#)[dude](#)[hoser](#)[one of the boys](#)[play the heavy](#)[the bigger they are the harder they fall](#)[throw you to the dogs](#)[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Definition Index H

habit	<a href="#">back at it</a> <a href="#">by its very nature</a> <a href="#">fall off the wagon</a> <a href="#">force of habit</a> <a href="#">get this monkey off my back</a> <a href="#">kick a habit</a> <a href="#">kick the weed</a> <a href="#">ride me</a> <a href="#">set in her ways</a> <a href="#">shake a habit</a>
habitof	<a href="#">kick the weed</a>
had	<a href="#">cost a pretty penny</a> <a href="#">done it all</a> <a href="#">eat your heart out</a> <a href="#">fed up</a> <a href="#">feeling good</a> <a href="#">had a bellyful</a> <a href="#">had a belt</a> <a href="#">had a couple</a> <a href="#">had it</a> <a href="#">had it up to here</a> <a href="#">shot</a> <a href="#">skin virgin</a> <a href="#">what was I thinking of</a>
hail	<a href="#">flag a cab</a>
hair	<a href="#">dolloed up</a> <a href="#">greaser</a> <a href="#">greasy kid's stuff</a> <a href="#">have my ears lowered</a> <a href="#">pony tail</a>

[put too fine a point on](#)

hairbrain

[kooky](#)[nitwit](#)[pie in the sky](#)

haircut

[brush cut](#)[have my ears lowered](#)[skinhead](#)

hairstyle

[hairdo](#)

half

[all the way to Egery and back](#)[bat five hundred](#)[feeling no pain](#)[half-assed \[B\]](#)[half-corked](#)[half-hearted](#)[half-pint](#)[half the battle](#)[no slouch](#)[yin yang](#)

half-bad

[half-bad](#)

half-baked

[pie in the sky](#)

half-corked

[feeling no pain](#)

half-there

[nitwit](#)

hallucinate

[seeing things](#)

halt

[stop you cold](#)

ham

[ham it up](#)[over the top](#)[play it for all it's worth](#)[play the ham](#)

hammered

[bombed](#)[pie-eyed](#)[pissed \[B\]](#)

[plastered](#)[smashed](#)

hand

[a helping hand](#)[a love tap](#)[blow a kiss](#)[butter fingers](#)[cement hands](#)[freshen up](#)[get your feet wet](#)[give it a whirl](#)[give me a hand](#)[give them a hand](#)[give you a line](#)[good hands](#)[hail a cab](#)[ham hands](#)[hands are tied](#)[hands on](#)[hands up](#)[help out](#)[high five](#)[in person](#)[know which side your bread is buttered on](#)[lend a hand](#)[no contest](#)[on all fours](#)[pack a rod](#)[pass around](#)[peek-a-boo](#)[put 'em up](#)[put 'er there](#)[put her there](#)[put them up](#)[reach for the sky](#)[read them and weep](#)[shake on it](#)[stick them up](#)[throw a kiss](#)[tip the scales](#)[try it](#)[turn in](#)

[worship the ground she walks on](#)

handout

[freeload](#)

handsome

[a lady-killer](#)

hang

[do your own thing](#)

[fart around \[B\]](#)

[go around with](#)

[hang around](#)

[hang ten \(surfing\)](#)

[knock around with](#)

[let yourself go](#)

[put in time](#)

[see](#)

[spend time](#)

[stick it out](#)

[stick to it](#)

[wait around](#)

hang-up

[get this monkey off my back](#)

hanged

[put to death](#)

hanging

[a necktie party](#)

[clotheslined \(hockey\)](#)

[know where we stand](#)

[wait for the other shoe to drop](#)

[with bated breath](#)

hangover

[hungover](#)

happen

[a ghost of a chance](#)

[a slim chance](#)

[a sure thing](#)

[against all odds](#)

[anything goes](#)

[as sure as shit](#)

[become of](#)

[being there](#)

[break out](#)

[call the shots](#)

[carry it off](#)  
[come hell or high water](#)  
[come of](#)  
[come off](#)  
[come true](#)  
[come up](#)  
[crop up](#)  
[don't hold your breath](#)  
[double whammy](#)  
[fall through](#)  
[famous last words](#)  
[find yourself](#)  
[go on](#)  
[havoc strikes](#)  
[how it plays out](#)  
[if a mussel doesn't open don't eat it](#)  
[in order](#)  
[in store for](#)  
[in the offing](#)  
[it never fails](#)  
[let the chips fall where they may](#)  
[love is where you find it](#)  
[my eye](#)  
[play out](#)  
[pull it off](#)  
[run across](#)  
[see it coming](#)  
[sure as shit](#)  
[take place](#)  
[that'll be the day](#)  
[that's the way the cookie crumbles](#)  
[turn out](#)  
[twist of fate](#)  
[wait around](#)  
[wait with bated breath](#)  
[what's going down](#)

happened

[by jove](#)  
[it appears to me](#)  
[leave me hanging](#)  
[make sense of it](#)  
[should be so lucky](#)

[what came over me](#)[what the Sam Hill](#)

happening

[big deal](#)[blue moon](#)[get real](#)[know the score](#)[what gives](#)[what in the world](#)[what's cooking](#)[what's going down](#)[what's going on](#)[what's new](#)[what's up](#)[where it's at](#)

happier

[two's company, three's a crowd](#)

happiness

[cup runneth over](#)

happy

[a sight for sore eyes](#)[all's well that ends well](#)[down in the dumps](#)[down on his luck](#)[get it together](#)[give me a lift](#)[got it made](#)[happy as a box of birds](#)[happy as a clam/lark](#)[happy as a peacock](#)[happy as a pig in shit \[B\]](#)[happy camper](#)[have a good time](#)[high](#)[in seventh heaven](#)[in the pink](#)[jump for joy](#)[lift my spirits](#)[mixed feelings](#)[music to my ears](#)[on a lark](#)[on cloud nine](#)

[pick you up](#)  
[pleased as punch](#)  
[raise your spirits](#)  
[rise and shine](#)  
[something borrowed, something blue](#)  
[take it and run](#)  
[tickled pink](#)  
[together](#)  
[with bells on](#)

harass

[browbeat](#)  
[hound](#)

harassing

[call off the dogs](#)

hard

[a dog's life](#)  
[a go-getter](#)  
[a hard day](#)  
[a hard-on \[B\]](#)  
[a heavy day](#)  
[a new broom sweeps clean](#)  
[a tough call](#)  
[burn it in](#)  
[bust my butt](#)  
[cash on the barrelhead](#)  
[chaser](#)  
[come down hard](#)  
[crack me up](#)  
[cry your eyes out](#)  
[fight tooth and nail](#)  
[get good wood on](#)  
[give her shit \[B\]](#)  
[give it all you've got](#)  
[give no quarter](#)  
[give you a ribbing](#)  
[go against the grain](#)  
[go easy on](#)  
[go like crazy](#)  
[going to town](#)  
[had his bell rung](#)  
[hard at it](#)  
[hard on me](#)

[hard pressed](#)  
[hard sell](#)  
[hard to swallow](#)  
[hard to take](#)  
[heavy going](#)  
[hit me with your best shot](#)  
[hold out for](#)  
[in stitches](#)  
[keep your nose to the grindstone](#)  
[kill ourselves laughing](#)  
[lean times](#)  
[overdo it](#)  
[pack a punch](#)  
[pay the price](#)  
[pay your dues](#)  
[pull out all the stops](#)  
[put in a hard day](#)  
[put you through the mill](#)  
[put your heart into it](#)  
[rack my brain](#)  
[raining cats and dogs](#)  
[roll over and play dead](#)  
[rolling in the aisles](#)  
[soft sell](#)  
[split a gut](#)  
[take it easy](#)  
[take pains](#)  
[the old college try](#)  
[the school of hard knocks](#)  
[thrash](#)  
[throw the book at](#)  
[throw yourself at him](#)  
[tight spot](#)  
[times were hard](#)  
[tough customer](#)  
[tough on me](#)  
[tough sledding](#)  
[tough times](#)  
[try your darndest](#)  
[up against it](#)  
[work cut out for](#)  
[work my buns off](#)

[work my fingers to the bone](#)  
[work up a sweat](#)  
[work your ass off \[B\]](#)  
[work your buns off](#)  
[you can't teach an old dog new tricks](#)

hard-working

[the salt of the earth](#)

hardball

[play dirty](#)  
[the gloves are off](#)

harder

[bear down](#)  
[bite the bullet](#)  
[buckle down](#)  
[dig a little deeper](#)  
[give 110%](#)  
[go one better](#)  
[go the extra mile](#)  
[have to go some](#)  
[knuckle down](#)  
[push the boat out](#)  
[the bigger they are the harder they fall](#)  
[the going gets rough](#)

hardest

[give it your best shot](#)  
[go for broke](#)

hardship

[dirty thirties](#)

harm

[keep an eye on](#)

harmful

[another nail in your coffin](#)  
[fall-out](#)

harsh

[baptism by fire](#)  
[snap at](#)  
[tone down](#)

harshly

[come down on like a ton of bricks](#)

harum-scarum

[pell-mell](#)

has

[a crash course](#)

[a cut-up](#)  
[a fart in a windstorm](#)  
[a fresh pair of eyes](#)  
[a level playing field](#)  
[a play on words](#)  
[a rolling stone gathers no moss](#)  
[beauty is in the eye of the beholder](#)  
[business as usual](#)  
[butter wouldn't melt in his mouth](#)  
[catch a ride](#)  
[clouds on the horizon](#)  
[come to think of it](#)  
[cry the blues](#)  
[deadhead](#)  
[every cloud has a silver lining](#)  
[go by the name of](#)  
[goose is cooked](#)  
[got it bad](#)  
[got you by the short hairs](#)  
[has-been](#)  
[has the makings](#)  
[hot off the press](#)  
[it ain't over till it's over](#)  
[it's been a slice \(of life\)](#)  
[jack of all trades](#)  
[Johnny-come-lately](#)  
[kill a penalty \(hockey\)](#)  
[laundered money](#)  
[lifer](#)  
[lucky dog](#)  
[mean well](#)  
[no fair](#)  
[old money](#)  
[one man's garbage is another man's art](#)  
[play catch-up](#)  
[popcorn brain](#)  
[see hide nor hair](#)  
[skin virgin](#)  
[smooth sailing](#)  
[speak of the devil](#)  
[the cat's out of the bag](#)  
[the inside track](#)

[there's more than meets the eye](#)

[toney neighborhood](#)

[unsung hero](#)

[word is out](#)

[your number is up](#)

hash

[talk it over](#)

hassle

[give you a hard time](#)

[give you a rough time](#)

[nag](#)

[needle](#)

[what a rigmarole](#)

hasty

[a lick and a promise](#)

[give it the once-over](#)

hat

[passé](#)

[pat on the back](#)

[vote of thanks](#)

hatchet

[lay down your arms](#)

[throw down your arms](#)

hate

[can't stand](#)

[one man's meat is another man's poison](#)

hateful

[if looks could kill](#)

[look daggers](#)

hatter

[nutty as a fruit cake](#)

haul

[give me the third degree](#)

[take you to task](#)

haunt

[catch up with](#)

have

[a contract out on](#)

[a perfect stranger](#)

[a total stranger](#)

[all goes well](#)

[an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure](#)

[back teeth are floating](#)

[back yourself into a corner](#)

[bag some rays](#)

[ball her \[B\]](#)

[bang \[B\]](#)

[bawl me out](#)

[be my guest](#)

[beat the rap](#)

[beg to differ](#)

[bite me \[B\]](#)

[bite your tongue](#)

[bitten by the same bug](#)

[bleeding heart](#)

[blind date](#)

[Bob's your uncle](#)

[break a leg](#)

[break out in a rash](#)

[built like a brick shithouse \[B\]](#)

[burn a hole in your pocket](#)

[cabin fever](#)

[can't have it both ways](#)

[can't see for looking](#)

[carry weight](#)

[catch some rays](#)

[catch up on](#)

[caught looking](#)

[chalk one up for you](#)

[change horses in mid stream](#)

[chew the fat/ chew the rag](#)

[chow down](#)

[claim to fame](#)

[clean me out](#)

[come \[B\]](#)

[come across \[B\]](#)

[come naturally](#)

[corner the market](#)

[count your chickens before they hatch](#)

[cut him off \[B\]](#)

[cut it a little fine](#)

[cut out for](#)

[damned if you do and damned if you don't](#)

[dead in the water](#)

[different strokes for different folks](#)

[DINKS](#)

[do lunch](#)

[do without](#)

[don't borrow trouble](#)

[don't know him from Adam](#)

[don't know the half of it](#)

[don't know which side your bread is buttered on](#)

[drop a log \[B\]](#)

[eat you for breakfast](#)

[fair-weather friend](#)

[feast or famine](#)

[fool around](#)

[fresh out](#)

[full steam ahead](#)

[gas](#)

[get a bang out of](#)

[get by/scrape by](#)

[get her way](#)

[get high](#)

[get into her pants \[B\]](#)

[get laid \[B\]](#)

[get my kicks](#)

[get off](#)

[get out of](#)

[get together](#)

[get your kicks](#)

[get your way](#)

[give off an odor](#)

[go all the way \(sex\)](#)

[go downtown \[B\]](#)

[go hog wild](#)

[go hungry](#)

[go without](#)

[got a light](#)

[got guts](#)

[got no business](#)

[got rocks in your head](#)

[got the rags on \[B\]](#)

[grab a bite to eat](#)

[grab a chair](#)

[green with envy](#)

[happy motoring](#)

[have a ball](#)  
[have a bird](#)  
[have a blast](#)  
[have a boo](#)  
[have a case of](#)  
[have a chair](#)  
[have a conniption](#)  
[have a drag](#)  
[have a fit](#)  
[have a flat](#)  
[have a good time](#)  
[have a heart](#)  
[have a seat](#)  
[have a shot at](#)  
[have a sip](#)  
[have a smash](#)  
[have a soft spot for](#)  
[have an inkling](#)  
[have deep pockets](#)  
[have fun](#)  
[have it both ways](#)  
[have it in hand](#)  
[have it made](#)  
[have my ears lowered](#)  
[have my work cut out](#)  
[have nookie](#)  
[have one on me](#)  
[have sex](#)  
[have to go](#)  
[have to go some](#)  
[have your cake and eat it, too](#)  
[haven't got a hope](#)  
[haven't got a hope in hell](#)  
[haven't seen hide nor hair](#)  
[haven't the foggiest](#)  
[hear me out](#)  
[hit me \(card games\)](#)  
[horny \[B\]](#)  
[how are you fixed for](#)  
[how are you making out](#)  
[if my memory serves me correctly](#)  
[if that doesn't beat all](#)

[if you can't cut it, you can't stay](#)  
[if you're not with us you're against us](#)  
[ignorance is bliss](#)  
[it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all](#)  
[it takes two to tango](#)  
[joyride](#)  
[jump \[B\]](#)  
[jump at the chance](#)  
[jump to conclusions](#)  
[keep a straight face](#)  
[keep your head above water](#)  
[kick at the cat](#)  
[kick up your heels](#)  
[know the ropes](#)  
[know where we stand](#)  
[know which side your bread is buttered on](#)  
[know your stuff](#)  
[lay \[B\]](#)  
[lead a life](#)  
[let it go to your head](#)  
[let off](#)  
[live it up](#)  
[live on](#)  
[long time no see](#)  
[lose track](#)  
[love is where you find it](#)  
[luck out](#)  
[make a life for yourself](#)  
[make amends](#)  
[make ends meet](#)  
[make hay while the sun shines](#)  
[make love](#)  
[nature calls](#)  
[not long for this world](#)  
[out of](#)  
[pack a punch](#)  
[pack a rod](#)  
[pack Uzis](#)  
[paint the town red](#)  
[people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones](#)  
[photo op](#)  
[pinch off a loaf \[B\]](#)

[piss like a race horse \[B\]](#)  
[play around](#)  
[pussyfoot around](#)  
[put stock in](#)  
[relate to that](#)  
[rest my case](#)  
[run out](#)  
[run short](#)  
[same here](#)  
[saw off a chunk \[B\]](#)  
[scrape by](#)  
[screw \[B\]](#)  
[search me](#)  
[see eye to eye](#)  
[set for life](#)  
[shit out of luck \[B\]](#)  
[shoot the shit \[B\]](#)  
[shoot your wad](#)  
[square off](#)  
[suck eggs](#)  
[take a load off your feet](#)  
[take a shit \[B\]](#)  
[take after](#)  
[take effect](#)  
[take heart](#)  
[take on a new light](#)  
[take that](#)  
[take your time](#)  
[talk the leg off the lamb of God](#)  
[tangle with](#)  
[the call of duty](#)  
[the crunch](#)  
[The Golden Rule](#)  
[the more the merrier](#)  
[the past is slipping by without a trace](#)  
[there's no tomorrow](#)  
[there's no two ways about it](#)  
[throw a party](#)  
[top of the morning](#)  
[touch a drop](#)  
[up to it](#)  
[up to my ears](#)

[up yours \[B\]](#)

[use up](#)

[walk](#)

[want a piece of me](#)

[wear off](#)

[wet your whistle](#)

[whiz](#)

[with bells on](#)

[word is out](#)

[work to rule](#)

[you can't sell anybody if you don't love everybody](#)

[you got it](#)

[you had to be there](#)

[you need money to make money](#)

[you're on](#)

having

[a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush](#)

[a nail-biter](#)

[a roll in the hay \[B\]](#)

[ahead of the curve](#)

[all show](#)

[armed to the teeth](#)

[as poor as a church mouse](#)

[as useless as tits on a boar](#)

[back at it](#)

[behind the curve](#)

[coffee talk](#)

[coming out of our ears](#)

[coming out of your yin yang](#)

[cover your ass \[B\]](#)

[crawling with](#)

[dead even](#)

[down in the mouth](#)

[flat broke](#)

[frazzled](#)

[grinning like a bushel basketful of possum heads](#)

[high on the hog](#)

[horseplay](#)

[hungover](#)

[in dire straits](#)

[in hock](#)

[in leaf](#)

[in the doghouse](#)  
[in the gutter](#)  
[in the hole](#)  
[in the poorhouse](#)  
[liquored up](#)  
[loaded](#)  
[mean streak](#)  
[natural high](#)  
[nip and tuck](#)  
[of two minds](#)  
[on a roll](#)  
[on even terms](#)  
[on the run](#)  
[on vacation](#)  
[out of hock](#)  
[out of my depth](#)  
[out of patience](#)  
[set in her ways](#)  
[shagging wagon](#)  
[smelling yourself](#)  
[stacked](#)  
[strapped](#)  
[under my wing](#)  
[used to](#)  
[well hung \[B\]](#)  
[worldly wise](#)

hawk

[watch your every move](#)

hay

[time is of the essence](#)  
[too little too late](#)  
[turn in](#)

haywire

[run amuck](#)  
[something is haywire](#)

hazard

[a shot in the dark](#)  
[take a guess](#)

head

[a good egg](#)  
[a three-bagger](#)  
[ass over teakettle](#)

[big cheese](#)  
[boggle your mind](#)  
[come down to earth](#)  
[dream on](#)  
[fall in love](#)  
[from stem to stern](#)  
[get blood from a stone](#)  
[hail-fellow-well-met](#)  
[hands up](#)  
[head down there](#)  
[head up there](#)  
[hoot](#)  
[keep your head](#)  
[laugh yourself silly](#)  
[let it go to your head](#)  
[mad about](#)  
[out of my depth](#)  
[out of touch](#)  
[stick them up](#)  
[swelled head](#)  
[the best of both worlds](#)  
[the big cheese](#)  
[too big for his britches](#)  
[top dog](#)  
[touched in the head](#)

headache

[hungover](#)

healing

[on the mend](#)

health

[an apple a day keeps the doctor away](#)

[breakdown](#)

[cheers](#)

[health nut](#)

healthier

[better off](#)

healthy

[hale and hearty](#)

[health nut](#)

[in the pink](#)

[keep fit](#)

[lick your wounds](#)

[on the mend](#)  
[the picture of health](#)  
[up to speed](#)

hear

[a fly on the wall](#)  
[a word to the wise is sufficient](#)  
[all ears](#)  
[can't believe my ears](#)  
[clear as a bell](#)  
[ears are burning](#)  
[first hand](#)  
[get wind of](#)  
[hard of hearing](#)  
[out loud](#)  
[read me \(CB radio\)](#)  
[really deaf](#)  
[ten-four \(CB radio\)](#)  
[under my breath](#)  
[what's the poop](#)  
[within earshot](#)  
[yo](#)

heard

[compare notes](#)  
[don't know the half of it](#)  
[eyes glaze over](#)  
[word is out](#)

hearing

[in one ear and out the other](#)  
[read my lips](#)

heart

[cry your eyes out](#)  
[eat out of the palm of your hand](#)  
[steal your heart](#)  
[take your pulse](#)  
[under oath](#)  
[you can't sell anybody if you don't love everybody](#)

heat

[dead even](#)  
[nuke](#)  
[take the flack](#)  
[zap](#)

heaven

[great Scot](#)  
[heavens to Betsy](#)  
[in heaven's name](#)  
[like a bolt from the blue](#)  
[thank goodness](#)

heavily

[count your chickens before they hatch](#)  
[like a ton of bricks](#)  
[raining cats and dogs](#)

heavy

[a heavyweight](#)  
[a sack of hammers](#)  
[big time](#)  
[greasy kid's stuff](#)  
[heavy going](#)  
[rush hour](#)  
[tough sledding](#)

heavyweight

[a heavy hitter](#)  
[a shogun](#)  
[The Great White Hope](#)

heck

[shucks](#)  
[what the hell \[B\]](#)

heckling

[catcall](#)

hedge

[all your eggs in one basket](#)

heel

[ass over teakettle](#)  
[be my undoing](#)  
[fall in love](#)  
[freeze wages](#)  
[mad about](#)  
[the sin bin \(hockey\)](#)

held

[a pinch of salt](#)  
[mugged](#)

hell

[a dickens of a time](#)  
[all the way to Egery and back](#)  
[catch it](#)

[chew him out](#)  
[damn you \[B\]](#)  
[drop dead](#)  
[four-letter words](#)  
[get after](#)  
[get hell \[B\]](#)  
[get it](#)  
[get shit \[B\]](#)  
[get your knuckles rapped](#)  
[give them what for](#)  
[give you shit \[B\]](#)  
[give you what for](#)  
[go to hell in a handbasket](#)  
[got it coming](#)  
[have at me](#)  
[heck](#)  
[in deep trouble](#)  
[kick ass \[B\]](#)  
[lickety-split](#)  
[like the devil](#)  
[one hell of a time](#)  
[ream out](#)  
[road to hell is paved...](#)  
[shit fire and apple butter](#)  
[take a strip off](#)  
[tear a strip off](#)  
[tell him where to go](#)  
[tie into](#)  
[toast](#)  
[what in tarnation](#)  
[what the Sam Hill](#)  
[yin yang](#)

hello

[good afternoon](#)  
[good day](#)  
[good morning](#)  
[hi](#)  
[hi there](#)  
[how do you do](#)  
[howdy](#)  
[hyah](#)  
[on speaking terms](#)

[yo](#)[help](#)[a brick](#)[a double-edged sword](#)[a goner](#)[a helping hand](#)[a party to that](#)[a pinch to grow an inch](#)[a tower of strength](#)[bail me out](#)[be my guest](#)[be there for me](#)[bend over backwards](#)[bend the rules](#)[bridge the gap](#)[charity begins at home](#)[chip in](#)[choose sides](#)[dig in](#)[do a favor](#)[do the trick](#)[fill the gap](#)[flattery will get you nowhere](#)[give me a hand](#)[give me a hint](#)[give you the shirt off his back](#)[go out of your way](#)[go to bat for](#)[go with the flow](#)[have a say](#)[heart is in the right place](#)[heaven help us](#)[help out](#)[hold your hand](#)[in order](#)[jog your memory](#)[Johnny on the spot](#)[lend a hand](#)[lift a finger](#)[look out for number one](#)[make it better](#)[make my day](#)

[mayday \(m'aidez\)](#)  
[mean well](#)  
[one false move](#)  
[open some doors](#)  
[out of the goodness of my heart](#)  
[play a big part](#)  
[press into service](#)  
[pull a few strings](#)  
[pull the rug out](#)  
[raise your spirits](#)  
[reach out](#)  
[repay in kind](#)  
[rest on your laurels](#)  
[rope into](#)  
[scrape me off the ceiling](#)  
[see you through](#)  
[set your mind at ease](#)  
[shed a little light on](#)  
[slap my afro / slap my fro](#)  
[so help me](#)  
[SOS](#)  
[stick my neck out](#)  
[the Lord helps those who help themselves](#)  
[think nothing of it](#)  
[tied to your mother's apron strings](#)  
[tied up](#)  
[trickle-down economics](#)  
[turn you around](#)  
[under his own steam](#)  
[under my wing](#)  
[wash it down](#)  
[whip you into shape](#)  
[won't see you stuck](#)  
[work the room](#)

helped

[dance with the one who brought you](#)  
[give her credit](#)  
[repay in kind](#)

helper

[along for the ride](#)  
[make hay while the sun shines](#)

helping

[in cahoots](#)  
[on the bandwagon](#)  
[rope into](#)  
[seconds](#)

her

[a fill-up](#)  
[at the top of her game](#)  
[ball her \[B\]](#)  
[chat her up](#)  
[come-on](#)  
[crawl on my hands and knees over broken glass just to see her photo](#)  
[cry your eyes out](#)  
[deserve credit](#)  
[drop her/him](#)  
[dump her/him](#)  
[familiarity breeds contempt](#)  
[full of herself](#)  
[get fresh](#)  
[get her way](#)  
[get into her pants \[B\]](#)  
[give her shit \[B\]](#)  
[give her the eye](#)  
[got your number](#)  
[have to hand it to you](#)  
[in her good graces](#)  
[let George do it](#)  
[worship the ground she walks on](#)

herb

[get into her pants \[B\]](#)

herd

[round up](#)

here

[behind your back](#)  
[don't go away mad; just go away](#)  
[exit stage left](#)  
[fuck off \[B\]](#)  
[get along](#)  
[get your buns over here](#)  
[go tell your mother she wants you](#)  
[gonzo](#)  
[hang your hat](#)  
[here's mud in your eye](#)

[kicking around](#)[long gone](#)[miss you](#)[quit this place](#)[sit tight](#)[tear around](#)[tip of the hat](#)

herhim

[get laid \[B\]](#)

hero

[behind the scenes](#)[on a pedestal](#)

heroic

[bigger than life](#)

herself

[full of herself](#)[handle herself](#)

hesitate

[he who hesitates is lost](#)[it's now or never](#)

hesitation

[at the drop of a hat](#)[head on](#)[hook, line and sinker](#)[no qualms](#)

hi

[a chip off the old block](#)[a fool and his money are soon parted](#)[a man's home is his castle](#)[a three-bagger](#)[call his bluff](#)[caught in the act](#)[cheap skate](#)[deadhead](#)[different strokes for different folks](#)[dubs](#)[ducks in a row \(ducks in order\)](#)[dyed in the wool](#)[familiarity breeds contempt](#)[fill his shoes](#)[float your boat](#)[good afternoon](#)

[good morning](#)  
[hard nosed](#)  
[hi there](#)  
[his nibs](#)  
[his own man](#)  
[His Royal Highness](#)  
[hyah](#)  
[in his blood](#)  
[in his good books](#)  
[knock you down a peg](#)  
[low-ball him](#)  
[mind of his own](#)  
[name-dropper](#)  
[on a string](#)  
[on his last legs](#)  
[one man's garbage is another man's art](#)  
[one man's meat is another man's poison](#)  
[over the hill](#)  
[pinhead](#)  
[play into his hand](#)  
[praise him to the skies](#)  
[pussy whipped](#)  
[rest his soul \(God rest his soul\)](#)  
[ride his coattails](#)  
[run roughshod](#)  
[self-made man](#)  
[spoil for a fight](#)  
[tailgate](#)  
[that's his bible](#)  
[the apple of his eye](#)  
[the be-all, end-all](#)  
[the knock against](#)  
[variety is the spice of life](#)  
[what's-his-face](#)

hidden

[above board](#)  
[ace in the hole](#)  
[close to the vest](#)  
[keep under wraps](#)  
[out and out](#)  
[out of the woodwork](#)  
[read between the lines](#)

[the underground](#)  
[there's a catch to it](#)  
[under the table](#)  
[up your sleeve](#)

## hide

[cover up](#)  
[hole up](#)  
[in broad daylight](#)  
[run for the hills](#)  
[shuck on down to the fraidy hole](#)  
[squirrel away](#)  
[sweep under the carpet](#)  
[take cover](#)  
[you can run but you can't hide](#)

## hiding

[blow my cover](#)  
[cover-up](#)  
[out of the closet](#)

## high

[a little steep](#)  
[a pretty penny](#)  
[a rip-off](#)  
[about time](#)  
[at a good clip](#)  
[big bucks](#)  
[catch a buzz](#)  
[cost a pretty penny](#)  
[dressed to the nines](#)  
[first class](#)  
[higher than a kite](#)  
[his nibs](#)  
[hit the high notes](#)  
[hoity-toity](#)  
[in the lap of luxury](#)  
[leave no stone unturned](#)  
[measure up](#)  
[on a pedestal](#)  
[on cloud nine](#)  
[out of sight \(outa sight\)](#)  
[pay through the nose](#)  
[pick you up](#)  
[putting on the ritz](#)

[seller's market](#)  
[stoned](#)  
[take him down a peg](#)  
[twerp](#)  
[upper crust](#)  
[wasted](#)

highball

[boot it](#)

higher

[ahead of the curve](#)  
[raise the bar](#)

highly

[crack shot/salesman etc.](#)

highness

[his nibs](#)

hike

[take a powder](#)

hill

[get on in years](#)  
[long in the tooth](#)  
[with his tail between his legs](#)

him

[a suicide pass \(hockey\)](#)  
[bark is worse than his bite](#)  
[break off](#)  
[chew him out](#)  
[cut him off \[B\]](#)  
[deck him](#)  
[ditch him](#)  
[don't know him from Adam](#)  
[drop her/him](#)  
[drop him like a hot potato](#)  
[dump her/him](#)  
[eff 'im \[B\]](#)  
[get revenge](#)  
[give him a taste of his own medicine](#)  
[give him an inch and he'll take a mile](#)  
[give him enough rope and he'll hang himself](#)  
[give him the slip](#)  
[give it to him](#)  
[go easy on](#)  
[got him covered](#)

[haven't seen hide nor hair](#)  
[in glowing terms](#)  
[in his blood](#)  
[knock the wind out of his sails](#)  
[knock you down a peg](#)  
[let George do it](#)  
[let you have it](#)  
[lose him](#)  
[low-ball him](#)  
[nail him](#)  
[on his tail](#)  
[out of his element](#)  
[play hard to get](#)  
[praise him to the skies](#)  
[pussy whipped](#)  
[put him in his place](#)  
[rock](#)  
[send him flying](#)  
[send him up](#)  
[shake him](#)  
[sing his praises](#)  
[start a fire under him](#)  
[take him down a peg](#)  
[take him out](#)  
[tell him a thing or two](#)  
[tell him off](#)  
[tell him where to get off](#)  
[tell him where to go](#)  
[the way to a man's heart is through his stomach](#)  
[throw yourself at him](#)  
[tube him](#)  
[wrap around his finger](#)

himher

[got my eye on](#)  
[shoulder to shoulder](#)

himself

[a man's home is his castle](#)  
[a sucker for punishment](#)  
[dog eat dog](#)  
[give him enough rope and he'll hang himself](#)  
[under his own steam](#)

hinder

[make it worse](#)

hint

[fish for a compliment](#)

hip

[cool](#)

hip-hop

[wack](#)

hire

[catch on](#)[take on](#)

hired

[get in on the ground floor](#)[hit man](#)[spin crew](#)

hiring

[a freeze on](#)

hisher

[comeback kid](#)[Dutch treat](#)

history

[checkered career](#)[toast](#)[water under the bridge](#)

hit

[a clutch hitter \(baseball\)](#)[a fat lip](#)[a love tap](#)[a three-bagger \(baseball\)](#)[bam](#)[baptism by fire](#)[bat a thousand](#)[bat five hundred](#)[beat up](#)[beat up on](#)[belt you](#)[click in](#)[cream you](#)[dawn on me](#)[draw first blood](#)[drive you](#)[fat lip](#)[get a fix](#)

[get good wood on](#)  
[get yours](#)  
[give it to him](#)  
[go one better](#)  
[had his bell rung](#)  
[hit and run \(baseball\)](#)  
[hit me with your best shot](#)  
[hit on all cylinders](#)  
[hole in one \(golf\)](#)  
[home run \(baseball\)](#)  
[knock out](#)  
[land on your feet](#)  
[lay the lumber](#)  
[let you have it](#)  
[nail him](#)  
[pack a punch](#)  
[pow](#)  
[punch your lights out](#)  
[raise your hand against](#)  
[shoot up](#)  
[sock it to me](#)  
[spike the ball](#)  
[strike out \(baseball\)](#)  
[take a poke at](#)  
[take your lumps](#)  
[tick over](#)  
[trial and error](#)  
[turn in](#)  
[vamoose](#)

hitter

[a heavyweight](#)

ho

[a go-getter](#)  
[all fired up](#)  
[fired up](#)  
[game for anything](#)  
[on fire](#)  
[whole hog](#)

hobby

[birder](#)  
[bitten by the same bug](#)  
[into fitness/dancing etc.](#)

[take up](#)

hockey

[Donnybrook](#)[hat trick](#)[lay the lumber](#)[road apple](#)

hodgepodge

[a dog's breakfast](#)

hoe

[work cut out for](#)

hog

[in the lap of luxury](#)[jump in with both feet](#)

hogwash

[baloney](#)[hot air](#)

hold

[all thumbs](#)[butter fingers](#)[dig in their heels](#)[got you by the short hairs](#)[hang on](#)[hold her liquor](#)[hold it](#)[hold your horses](#)[hold your mouth the right way](#)[knock them down, drag them out](#)[mugged](#)[rattle on](#)[that'll be the frosty Friday](#)[the way you hold your mouth](#)[there's no love lost](#)[wait a minute](#)

holding

[in the lurch](#)[pull the rug out](#)

hole

[have a flat](#)[penny wise, dollar dumb](#)[the eye of a needle](#)[two pee holes in the snow](#)[wear out](#)

holiday

[on vacation](#)  
[spend holidays](#)  
[time off](#)

holy

[boy, oh boy](#)  
[gadzooks](#)  
[hokey Dinah](#)  
[holy Moses](#)  
[holy smoke](#)  
[holy Toledo](#)  
[jimminy crickets](#)  
[jumping Jehoshaphat](#)  
[tons](#)

home

[a man's home is his castle](#)  
[bring home the bacon](#)  
[cocoon](#)  
[flew the coop](#)  
[get home](#)  
[going to the mountains](#)  
[grand slam](#)  
[ground me](#)  
[home free](#)  
[kick](#)  
[make a life for yourself](#)  
[make yourself at home](#)  
[motherhood and apple pie](#)  
[on approval](#)  
[on your way](#)  
[strike out on your own](#)  
[wait up for](#)  
[you reap whatsoever you sow](#)

homebrew

[hooch](#)

homemade

[moonshine](#)  
[rot gut](#)  
[screech](#)

homosexual

[fag/faggot](#)  
[light in the loafers](#)

honcho	<a href="#">big cheese</a> <a href="#">the big cheese</a> <a href="#">top dog</a>
honest	<a href="#">as a matter of fact</a> <a href="#">in fact</a> <a href="#">jerk me around</a> <a href="#">level with you</a> <a href="#">square shooter</a> <a href="#">straight man</a> <a href="#">the salt of the earth</a>
honestly	<a href="#">cross my heart and hope to die upon my word</a>
honesty	<a href="#">honesty is the best policy</a> <a href="#">make something of yourself</a>
honey	<a href="#">babe</a> <a href="#">sweetie pie</a>
honor	<a href="#">a feather in your cap</a> <a href="#">hats off</a> <a href="#">pay tribute</a> <a href="#">take oath</a>
honored	<a href="#">jolly good fellow</a> <a href="#">unsung hero</a>
hoo-haw	<a href="#">dick [B]</a> <a href="#">dink [B]</a> <a href="#">dork [B]</a> <a href="#">prick [B]</a>
hooch	<a href="#">booze</a> <a href="#">moonshine</a> <a href="#">rot gut</a> <a href="#">screech</a>
hood	<a href="#">all the way to Egery and back</a> <a href="#">greaser</a>

[to hell and gone](#)

hoodlum

[greaser](#)

[hood](#)

hooker

[fallen woman](#)

hooky

[skip classes](#)

hoot

[a riot](#)

[give a damn / give a shit / give a fuck \[B\]](#)

[kill ourselves laughing](#)

[laugh your head off](#)

hop

[supercharge](#)

[tweak](#)

hope

[beat a dead horse](#)

[broken dreams](#)

[dead in the water](#)

[get your hopes up](#)

[keep your fingers crossed](#)

[last resort](#)

[more power to you](#)

[pin your hopes on](#)

[rest his soul \(God rest his soul\)](#)

[set out to](#)

[up yours \[B\]](#)

hopeful

[get your hopes up](#)

[light at the end of the tunnel](#)

hopeless

[done for](#)

[pissing into the wind \[B\]](#)

hoping

[give up the ghost](#)

[high hopes](#)

[in good faith](#)

[in your corner](#)

[read into](#)

[touch wood](#)

hopping

[boiling mad](#)  
[pub crawl](#)

horizon

[big-sky thinking](#)  
[stretch the envelope](#)  
[the sky isn't blue](#)

hork

[barf](#)  
[hurl](#)  
[ralph](#)  
[upchuck](#)  
[woof your cookies](#)

horn

[crash a party](#)  
[jump queue](#)

horse

[common sense](#)  
[fool around](#)  
[good bet](#)  
[goof off](#)  
[hedge your bets](#)  
[nag](#)  
[play the ponies](#)  
[pull a muscle](#)  
[saddle up](#)  
[take him down a peg](#)  
[the point of no return](#)  
[you and the horse you rode in on](#)

horsepower

[power to burn](#)

horseturd

[road apple](#)

hose

[hose it down/ hose it off](#)  
[wash down](#)  
[wash it off](#)

hospital

[lock you up](#)  
[loony bin](#)  
[nut house](#)

hospitality

[roll out the red carpet](#)

[royal treatment](#)

hosts

[when in Rome, do as the Romans do](#)

hot

[a hothead](#)

[all talk and no action](#)

[hogwash](#)

[hopping mad](#)

[hot under the collar](#)

[no great shakes](#)

[phat](#)

[short temper](#)

[spitting nails](#)

[talk through your hat](#)

[the talk of the town](#)

[up in arms](#)

hotdog

[play to the crowd](#)

[throw on a dog for you](#)

hotshot

[the cat's meow](#)

hottest

[dog days of summer](#)

hound

[browbeat](#)

hour

['round the clock](#)

[around the clock](#)

[drag on](#)

[happy hour](#)

[no rest for the wicked](#)

[rush hour](#)

house

[bottle drive](#)

[digs](#)

[door to door](#)

[loony bin](#)

[low-ball him](#)

[settle in](#)

[the lap of luxury](#)

[toney neighborhood](#)

[walk-through](#)

## how

[account for](#)  
[but good](#)  
[catch on](#)  
[do you follow](#)  
[duh](#)  
[get with it](#)  
[good gravy](#)  
[got your number](#)  
[hold the purse strings](#)  
[holy Toledo](#)  
[how are you fixed for](#)  
[how are you getting along](#)  
[how are you making out](#)  
[how come](#)  
[how does that grab you](#)  
[how goes it](#)  
[how it plays out](#)  
[how so](#)  
[how time flies](#)  
[howdy](#)  
[if you're born to hang, you won't drown](#)  
[know the ropes](#)  
[know your way around](#)  
[lose count](#)  
[lose track](#)  
[make sense of it](#)  
[no matter how you slice it](#)  
[say jump...how high](#)  
[set you straight](#)  
[street smarts](#)  
[take a poll](#)  
[teach you the tricks of the trade](#)  
[the devil you say](#)  
[there you go](#)  
[time flies when you're having fun](#)  
[to be perfectly honest](#)  
[what the dickens](#)  
[what the hell \[B\]](#)  
[what's in it for me](#)  
[where do they get off](#)  
[worldly wise](#)

[you don't say](#)

howdy

[hi](#)

[how do you do](#)

hug

[get it on](#)

[make out](#)

[make whoopee](#)

[neck](#)

huge

[ham hands](#)

[humongous](#)

[major](#)

human

[cauliflower ear](#)

[landlubber](#)

[there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so](#)

humanitarian

[lowlife](#)

humble

[down to earth](#)

[eat humble pie](#)

[hat in hand](#)

humiliate

[blow you out of the water](#)

humongous

[fingers the size of bananas](#)

humor

[corny](#)

[match wits](#)

humorous

[ham](#)

[lighthearted](#)

[take a poke at](#)

hump

[hump day](#)

hunger

[keep the wolf from the door](#)

hungover

[strung out](#)

hungry

[go hungry](#)

[lose your appetite](#)

[make your mouth water](#)

[whet your appetite](#)

hunk

[a lady-killer](#)

hunt

[fair game](#)

[open season](#)

hurl

[throw chunks](#)

hurry

[get the lead out](#)

[get your shirt in a knot/ get your shit in a knot \[B\]](#)

[haul ass \[B\]](#)

[hightail it](#)

[in a flap](#)

[make it snappy](#)

[make tracks](#)

[no rush](#)

[shake a leg](#)

[waste no time](#)

hurt

[a double-edged sword](#)

[a heavy hitter](#)

[a sucker for punishment](#)

[cut me to the quick](#)

[cut off your nose to spite your face](#)

[cut your own throat](#)

[fix your wagon](#)

[get revenge](#)

[get yours](#)

[give him enough rope and he'll hang himself](#)

[got it coming](#)

[leave yourself open](#)

[make amends](#)

[nail him](#)

[no skin off my nose](#)

[none the worse for wear](#)

[out for blood](#)

[play hardball](#)

[raise your hand against](#)

[seek revenge](#)

[step on people](#)

[take advantage of](#)  
[take it like a man](#)  
[take offense](#)  
[take revenge](#)  
[take umbrage](#)  
[turn the other cheek](#)  
[want a piece of me](#)  
[your own worst enemy](#)

hurtful

[reduce to tears](#)

hurting

[killing me](#)

husband

[better half](#)

[ex](#)

[my old man](#)

[the old man](#)

[what's good for the goose is good for the gander](#)

hypothesis

[what-if](#)

hysterical

[crack under the strain](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).



## Idiom Definition Index I

i'll	<a href="#">hit me (card games)</a> <a href="#">over my dead body</a>
ice	<a href="#">cherrypicker (hockey)</a> <a href="#">put you at ease</a>
iceberg	<a href="#">a drop in the bucket</a>
idea	<a href="#">a common thread</a> <a href="#">a hit</a> <a href="#">a takeoff on</a> <a href="#">beauty is in the eye of the beholder</a> <a href="#">brain storm</a> <a href="#">expand your horizons</a> <a href="#">food for thought</a> <a href="#">fuck that noise [B]</a> <a href="#">get the point</a> <a href="#">haven't the foggiest</a> <a href="#">hit the nail on the head</a> <a href="#">in the gutter</a> <a href="#">new blood</a> <a href="#">new wave</a> <a href="#">not</a> <a href="#">old hat</a> <a href="#">sounding board</a> <a href="#">straw horse</a> <a href="#">stroke of genius</a> <a href="#">to hell with that [B]</a>
ideal	<a href="#">Prince Charming</a>
identify	<a href="#">keep them straight</a> <a href="#">make of it</a>
identity	

[blow my cover](#)

idiom

[catch phrase](#)

[learn the lingo](#)

[say jump...how high](#)

idiot

[numbskull](#)

idiotic

[half-there](#)

idle

[collecting dust](#)

[lollygag](#)

[yada](#)

idolize

[look up to](#)

if

[according to Hoyle](#)

[all things being equal](#)

[be there or be square](#)

[check out](#)

[check over](#)

[check up on](#)

[claws are showing](#)

[damned if you do and damned if you don't](#)

[double or nothing](#)

[easy come, easy go](#)

[eat my hat/shirt](#)

[even a blind pig can find an acorn](#)

[familiarity breeds contempt](#)

[give you odds](#)

[he who hesitates is lost](#)

[heart is in the right place](#)

[hold your mouth the right way](#)

[if a mussel doesn't open don't eat it](#)

[if my memory serves me correctly](#)

[if the shoe fits, wear it](#)

[if you can't cut it, you can't stay](#)

[if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen](#)

[if you're not with us you're against us](#)

[in heaven's name](#)

[is you is, or is you ain't my baby](#)

[it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all](#)

[it's a matter of life and death](#)  
[jump at the chance](#)  
[know where we stand](#)  
[know which side your bread is buttered on](#)  
[leave well enough alone](#)  
[like it or lump it](#)  
[look down on](#)  
[no news is good news](#)  
[not for all the tea in China](#)  
[nothing ventured, nothing gained](#)  
[on approval](#)  
[out of sight, out of mind](#)  
[play dead](#)  
[play dumb](#)  
[shape up or ship out](#)  
[should be so lucky](#)  
[so help me](#)  
[take a joke](#)  
[talk about](#)  
[the devil makes work for idle hands](#)  
[the end justifies the means](#)  
[the Lord helps those who help themselves](#)  
[the more the merrier](#)  
[there's no tomorrow](#)  
[trial run](#)  
[try it on](#)  
[try that on for size](#)  
[try your luck](#)  
[up your sleeve](#)  
[waste not, want not](#)  
[watch your every move](#)  
[what you don't know won't hurt you](#)  
[won't see you stuck](#)  
[wysiwyg](#)  
[you can't sell anybody if you don't love everybody](#)  
[you snooze, you lose](#)

ignorance

[duh](#)  
[go to hell in a handbasket](#)

ignorant

[as dumb as a sack of hammers](#)  
[clueless](#)

[don't know your ass from a hole in the ground \[B\]](#)

[ignorance is bliss](#)

[the blind leading the blind](#)

ignore

[nothing to sneeze at](#)

[turn the other way](#)

ii

[baby boomer](#)

iii

[a bad taste in my mouth](#)

[as sick as a dog](#)

[catch your death](#)

[come down with](#)

[hangover](#)

[in sick bay](#)

[low](#)

[on my deathbed](#)

[on your deathbed](#)

[over the edge](#)

[shut-in](#)

[strung out](#)

[suffer a setback](#)

[turn your stomach](#)

[under the weather](#)

illegal

[brush with the law](#)

[junk](#)

[pusher](#)

[shoot up](#)

illegally

[bootleg](#)

[break and enter](#)

[dirty money](#)

[get a ticket](#)

[hot goods](#)

[on the sly](#)

illness

[a touch of](#)

[back on your feet](#)

[have an attack](#)

imagine

[capture the imagination](#)

[make believe](#)  
[make up](#)  
[mind boggling](#)  
[seeing things](#)  
[think outside the box](#)  
[think up](#)

immature

[suck](#)

immediately

[at once](#)  
[hit it off](#)  
[on the heels](#)  
[on the spot](#)  
[on the spur of the moment](#)  
[pronto](#)  
[right away](#)  
[then and there](#)

immigrants

[Cabbagetown](#)

immoral

[dirty dog/dirty rat](#)  
[slimebucket \[B\]](#)

immortal

[tempt fate](#)

implied

[read between the lines](#)

implies

[name-dropper](#)

imply

[get at](#)

impolite

[cheeky](#)  
[lippy](#)  
[off color](#)  
[sassy](#)  
[shirty](#)

importance

[ego trip](#)

important

[a big shot](#)  
[a big wig](#)  
[a question of](#)  
[all hat and no cattle](#)

[all's well that ends well](#)  
[an ace up your sleeve](#)  
[big deal](#)  
[big hairy deal](#)  
[big shot](#)  
[big wigs](#)  
[bigger fish to fry](#)  
[come to the point](#)  
[cut you down to size](#)  
[don't know which side your bread is buttered on](#)  
[downplay](#)  
[first and foremost](#)  
[get to the point](#)  
[go by the boards](#)  
[hold it](#)  
[in his blood](#)  
[it don't make no nevermind](#)  
[it's not a question of](#)  
[it's not what you know, it's who you know](#)  
[last but not least](#)  
[make a federal case of it](#)  
[on the back burner](#)  
[onto something](#)  
[out of context](#)  
[play it up](#)  
[pop the question](#)  
[soft pedal](#)  
[the key to success](#)  
[the moment of truth](#)  
[the nitty-gritty](#)  
[time is of the essence](#)  
[VIP](#)  
[where it's at](#)  
[x marks the spot](#)

impose

[there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so](#)

impossible

[beat your head against a stone wall](#)

[chasing rainbows](#)

[get blood from a stone](#)

impractical

[airy-fairy](#)

impress

[dude](#)  
[sweep you off your feet](#)  
[throw yourself at him](#)

impressed

[by golly](#)  
[full of herself](#)

impresses

[strike me](#)

impression

[a new broom sweeps clean](#)  
[it strikes me](#)  
[smoke and mirrors](#)

improbable

[not likely](#)

improve

[build a better mousetrap](#)  
[change for the better](#)  
[doctor it/doctor it up](#)  
[get the wrinkles out](#)  
[gild the lily](#)  
[have to go some](#)  
[make it better](#)  
[no pain, no gain](#)  
[pick up](#)  
[pull up your socks](#)  
[shape up](#)  
[shape up or ship out](#)  
[top that](#)  
[tune up](#)  
[whet your appetite](#)  
[whip you into shape](#)  
[you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear](#)

improving

[on the road](#)

improvise

[ad lib \(ad libitum\)](#)  
[blow snakes \(music\)](#)  
[jury-rig](#)  
[play it by ear](#)  
[wing it](#)

impulsively

on the spur of the moment

in

[a basket case](#)

[a bull in a china shop](#)

[a dead heat](#)

[a falling out](#)

[a hard day](#)

[a hot hand](#)

[a lift](#)

[a little steep](#)

[a losing streak](#)

[a lucky streak](#)

[a man's home is his castle](#)

[a pain in the butt](#)

[a quick study](#)

[a raw deal](#)

[a royal pain](#)

[add insult to injury](#)

[airy-fairy](#)

[all in](#)

[all spruced up](#)

[all washed up](#)

[all's fair in love and war](#)

[along those lines](#)

[an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure](#)

[ante up](#)

[as a matter of fact](#)

[as new](#)

[as plain as day](#)

[as sick as a dog](#)

[as slow as a dead snail](#)

[at all](#)

[at heart](#)

[at odds](#)

[at one time](#)

[at sixes and sevens](#)

[back up](#)

[back yourself into a corner](#)

[backroom boys](#)

[bag lady](#)

[bag some rays](#)

[bar hop](#)

[bark up the wrong tree](#)  
[bat her eyes](#)  
[beat up on](#)  
[beater](#)  
[been had](#)  
[before you can say Jack Robinson](#)  
[behind bars](#)  
[behind the eight ball](#)  
[being there](#)  
[best interests at heart](#)  
[better off](#)  
[between a rock and a hard place](#)  
[between the devil and the deep blue sea](#)  
[big boys](#)  
[Bigfoot](#)  
[binner](#)  
[birthday suit](#)  
[Black Friday](#)  
[bottle man](#)  
[bottle up](#)  
[branch office](#)  
[buckstop \(military\)](#)  
[bump and grind](#)  
[burned](#)  
[buy up](#)  
[by no means](#)  
[by the way](#)  
[Cabbagetown](#)  
[call a spade a spade](#)  
[call into account](#)  
[Canada goose](#)  
[carry a tune](#)  
[cash on the line](#)  
[cast your vote](#)  
[caught flatfooted](#)  
[caught red-handed](#)  
[caught with his pants down](#)  
[chain of command](#)  
[charity begins at home](#)  
[charley horse](#)  
[check over](#)  
[chip on his shoulder](#)

[chockablock](#)

[chuck it](#)

[clued in](#)

[clunker](#)

[cold comfort](#)

[come of age](#)

[come onto](#)

[come to a head](#)

[cotton to that](#)

[crash a party](#)

[cruise](#)

[curl up with a good book](#)

[cut a fine figure](#)

[cut off](#)

[cut you to ribbons](#)

[damaged goods](#)

[dead duck](#)

[dead to the world](#)

[deep six](#)

[didn't have a stitch of clothes on](#)

[die for](#)

[do a 180](#)

[do a dime](#)

[do a number on](#)

[do the honors](#)

[do time](#)

[dog tired](#)

[dolloed up](#)

[don't know whether you're coming or going](#)

[don't put all your eggs in one basket](#)

[done in](#)

[Donnybrook](#)

[doo-doo](#)

[double take](#)

[down in the dumps](#)

[down the line](#)

[down the road](#)

[drag queen](#)

[dress down](#)

[dress up](#)

[dressed fit to kill](#)

[dressed to the nines](#)

[drop-in](#)  
[drop like flies](#)  
[drum up](#)  
[Dumpster diving](#)  
[ears are burning](#)  
[eat up](#)  
[elbow room](#)  
[fall for](#)  
[falling in love](#)  
[fat cat](#)  
[faze me](#)  
[fence sitter](#)  
[fill in](#)  
[fill out](#)  
[fill your face](#)  
[filthy rich](#)  
[first down/first and ten](#)  
[first hand](#)  
[fit as a fiddle](#)  
[for a dog's age](#)  
[for dear life](#)  
[for the life of me](#)  
[frazzled](#)  
[freeze wages](#)  
[from time to time](#)  
[garage kept](#)  
[Generation X](#)  
[get caught](#)  
[get fresh](#)  
[get in deeper](#)  
[get in my face](#)  
[get it on](#)  
[get screwed](#)  
[get with it](#)  
[give him the evil eye](#)  
[glued to the set](#)  
[go for a spin](#)  
[go in circles](#)  
[go into detail](#)  
[go to bat for](#)  
[go up in smoke](#)  
[gone to pot](#)

[gone to the dogs](#)  
[got my eye on](#)  
[granola](#)  
[grounded](#)  
[hale and hearty](#)  
[hand in](#)  
[hands are tied](#)  
[happy motoring](#)  
[hard up](#)  
[hat trick](#)  
[have a flat](#)  
[hazard a guess](#)  
[head over heels](#)  
[help yourself](#)  
[heyday](#)  
[high on the hog](#)  
[hightail it](#)  
[hip hop \(generation\)](#)  
[hit and run \(baseball\)](#)  
[hit and run \(traffic\)](#)  
[hit on](#)  
[hit the brakes](#)  
[hit the bricks](#)  
[hit town](#)  
[hold up](#)  
[hole in one \(golf\)](#)  
[honestly](#)  
[hood](#)  
[horn in](#)  
[in a bit](#)  
[in a coon's age](#)  
[in a family way](#)  
[in a fix](#)  
[in a flap](#)  
[in a flash](#)  
[in a funk](#)  
[in a jam](#)  
[in a jiffy](#)  
[in a pickle](#)  
[in a pinch](#)  
[in a sec](#)  
[in a snit](#)

[in a split second](#)  
[in a stew](#)  
[in a tight spot](#)  
[in a tizzy](#)  
[in any way, shape or form](#)  
[in black and white](#)  
[in charge](#)  
[in control](#)  
[in deep doo-doo \[B\]](#)  
[in deep shit \[B\]](#)  
[in deep trouble](#)  
[in dire straits](#)  
[in his blood](#)  
[in hock](#)  
[in hot water](#)  
[in love](#)  
[in mind](#)  
[in mint condition](#)  
[in no time](#)  
[in one fell swoop](#)  
[in place](#)  
[in plain view](#)  
[in seventh heaven](#)  
[in step](#)  
[in store for](#)  
[in the back of my mind](#)  
[in the black](#)  
[in the boonies](#)  
[in the clink](#)  
[in the drink](#)  
[in the driver's seat](#)  
[in the hole](#)  
[in the know](#)  
[in the lap of luxury](#)  
[in the least](#)  
[in the Monford lane](#)  
[in the nick of time](#)  
[in the nude](#)  
[in the pipe five by five](#)  
[in the slammer](#)  
[in the tank](#)  
[in the throes](#)

[in the wink of an eye](#)  
[in the works](#)  
[in these parts](#)  
[in touch](#)  
[in tough](#)  
[in two shakes \(of a lamb's tail\)](#)  
[in writing](#)  
[in your face](#)  
[in your mind's eye](#)  
[into fitness/dancing etc.](#)  
[it goes with the territory](#)  
[it's a whole nother world out there](#)  
[it's a whole other world out there](#)  
[jam](#)  
[jump queue](#)  
[junk it](#)  
[just in time](#)  
[keep in line](#)  
[keep out](#)  
[keep the faith](#)  
[keep your shirt on](#)  
[kill for](#)  
[kill time](#)  
[kiss curls \(hair style\)](#)  
[kiss of death](#)  
[knock up \[B\]](#)  
[knock you down a peg](#)  
[know the score](#)  
[last call](#)  
[leaf out](#)  
[left, right and center](#)  
[letter-perfect](#)  
[life in the fast lane](#)  
[lifer](#)  
[like a chicken on a June bug](#)  
[line of authority](#)  
[live on the edge](#)  
[lock you up](#)  
[look up/look it up](#)  
[lose favor](#)  
[lousy](#)  
[love is blind](#)

[lump together](#)  
[lush](#)  
[make a clean sweep](#)  
[make friends](#)  
[make love](#)  
[make yourself at home](#)  
[moonlighting](#)  
[musical chairs](#)  
[naked as a jay bird](#)  
[name is cleared](#)  
[neck of the woods](#)  
[new kid on the block](#)  
[none the worse for wear](#)  
[not for all the tea in China](#)  
[nuke](#)  
[off key \(music\)](#)  
[old money](#)  
[on a lark](#)  
[on a pedestal](#)  
[on a silver platter](#)  
[on an empty stomach](#)  
[on deck](#)  
[on good terms](#)  
[on my best behavior](#)  
[on my good side](#)  
[on parade](#)  
[on the edge of your seat](#)  
[on the loose](#)  
[on the shit list \[B\]](#)  
[on the side](#)  
[on the stand](#)  
[on the throne](#)  
[on the wing](#)  
[on thin ice](#)  
[on track](#)  
[on trial](#)  
[once in a blue moon](#)  
[open to criticism](#)  
[out in the cold](#)  
[out of harm's way](#)  
[out of place](#)  
[out of sorts](#)

[out of the loop](#)  
[out of the woods](#)  
[out of touch](#)  
[out of tune \(music\)](#)  
[out on a limb](#)  
[paint a picture](#)  
[paint with the same brush](#)  
[pair off/pair up](#)  
[parachute](#)  
[part company](#)  
[pass around](#)  
[pell-mell](#)  
[penny wise, dollar dumb](#)  
[pick you up](#)  
[pipe dream](#)  
[plain as day](#)  
[play a bit-part](#)  
[play my cards right](#)  
[pokey](#)  
[pop in](#)  
[pub crawl](#)  
[pull the pin](#)  
[pull the plug](#)  
[pull up stakes](#)  
[pushing up daisies](#)  
[put a different slant on it](#)  
[put down roots](#)  
[put stock in](#)  
[put the right spin on it](#)  
[put to bed \(print media\)](#)  
[rat race](#)  
[rearend](#)  
[rest his soul \(God rest his soul\)](#)  
[right before my eyes](#)  
[roll out the red carpet](#)  
[run down](#)  
[run for office](#)  
[Sasquatch](#)  
[seen better days](#)  
[sell the farm](#)  
[settle down](#)  
[settle in](#)

[shellack](#)  
[shit myself \[B\]](#)  
[shit or get off the pot](#)  
[shoot-up](#)  
[shop-floor struggle](#)  
[shutout \(sports\)](#)  
[sign in](#)  
[sing his praises](#)  
[sit the fence](#)  
[sitting pretty](#)  
[skinny dip](#)  
[sleep in](#)  
[smack dab in the middle](#)  
[smithwright it](#)  
[snap at](#)  
[sold on](#)  
[something smells](#)  
[spend time](#)  
[spike a drink](#)  
[split second](#)  
[squirrel away](#)  
[stand for](#)  
[stay alive](#)  
[step on your dick](#)  
[stick it out](#)  
[stick to it](#)  
[strip](#)  
[strip mall](#)  
[sucked in](#)  
[swear by](#)  
[tail between his legs](#)  
[tailgate](#)  
[take a poke at](#)  
[take a round out of](#)  
[take a shine to](#)  
[take action](#)  
[take by storm](#)  
[take charge](#)  
[take sides](#)  
[take the stand](#)  
[take up the slack](#)  
[take your seat](#)

[taken for a ride](#)

[talk to the hand](#)

[The Big O](#)

[the dying seconds](#)

[the eye of a needle](#)

[the fickle finger of fate](#)

[the fifth column](#)

[The Group of Seven](#)

[the last word](#)

[the life of Riley](#)

[the past is slipping by without a trace](#)

[the pit of my stomach](#)

[the point of no return](#)

[the powers that be](#)

[The Rock](#)

[the runt of the litter](#)

[there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so](#)

[think outside the box](#)

[think through](#)

[throw a monkey wrench into the works](#)

[throw away](#)

[throw out](#)

[tip the scales at](#)

[to boot](#)

[toast](#)

[touch base](#)

[touched in the head](#)

[trash the place](#)

[turn in](#)

[two cents' worth](#)

[typo](#)

[under my nose](#)

[under my skin](#)

[under oath](#)

[under the wire](#)

[up shit creek \[B\]](#)

[up the creek](#)

[up the stump \[B\]](#)

[wait on customers](#)

[walk up](#)

[washed up](#)

[weak-kneed](#)

[wet the bed](#)  
[what's new](#)  
[whip you](#)  
[whup you](#)  
[why in the name of...](#)  
[wino](#)  
[with his tail between his legs](#)  
[with it](#)  
[woozy](#)  
[work the room](#)  
[world beater](#)  
[World Wide Web \(www\)](#)  
[write up](#)  
[written in stone](#)  
[you can't sell anybody if you don't love everybody](#)  
[your own worst enemy](#)  
[zap](#)

in-crowd

[in the loop](#)

inappropriate

[way out of line \(away out of line\)](#)

inch

[pinch an inch](#)

incidentally

[by the way](#)

include

[big-sky thinking](#)[come to](#)[leave out](#)[paint with the same brush](#)[stretch the truth](#)[the lap of luxury](#)

included

[fall through the cracks](#)[on the bubble](#)[out in the cold](#)[out of the loop](#)[thrown in](#)

including

[bar none](#)[the whole nine yards](#)

income

[DINKS](#)[write it off](#)

incompetent

[the blind leading the blind](#)

incomplete

[half-assed \[B\]](#)

inconvenient

[catch you at a bad time](#)

increase

[beef it up](#)[build up](#)[freeze wages](#)[hop up](#)[pick up](#)[rack up](#)[run up](#)[tweak](#)[up the ante](#)

increasing

[on the rise](#)

independent

[fend for yourself](#)[his own man](#)[mind of his own](#)[on your own](#)[paddle your own canoe](#)[strike out on your own](#)

indicate

[point out](#)

indirect

[all around Robin Hood's barn](#)[all the way to Egery and back](#)[the runaround](#)

indirectly

[put out feelers](#)

individual

[paddle your own canoe](#)

industry

[oilpatch](#)

inebriated

[loaded](#)

ineffectual

[lame duck](#)

infected	
	<a href="#">fall ill</a>
inferior	
	<a href="#">a notch below</a> <a href="#">show you up</a>
inflecting	
	<a href="#">uptalk</a>
influence	
	<a href="#">carry weight</a> <a href="#">come into play</a> <a href="#">tip the scales</a>
inform	
	<a href="#">keep you posted</a>
informal	
	<a href="#">jam session</a>
informally	
	<a href="#">dress down</a>
information	
	<a href="#">backup</a> <a href="#">brain traffic</a> <a href="#">cascade (business)</a> <a href="#">deep, dark secret</a> <a href="#">flesh out</a> <a href="#">handout</a> <a href="#">in the loop</a> <a href="#">it's not a state secret</a> <a href="#">led to believe</a> <a href="#">mouth off</a> <a href="#">no truth to it</a> <a href="#">onto something</a> <a href="#">public property</a> <a href="#">sell out</a> <a href="#">throw some light on</a> <a href="#">top secret</a>
informed	
	<a href="#">clueless</a> <a href="#">in the dark</a> <a href="#">in the know</a> <a href="#">on top of</a> <a href="#">the last word</a> <a href="#">up on</a> <a href="#">with it</a>

ingredients	<a href="#">has the makings</a>
inhale	<a href="#">wolf down</a>
inherit	<a href="#">come into</a>
inheritance	<a href="#">old money</a>
inherited	<a href="#">new money</a>
initiation	<a href="#">baptism by fire</a>
inject	<a href="#">shoot up</a>
injure	<a href="#">beat up</a> <a href="#">beat up on</a> <a href="#">pull a muscle</a>
injured	<a href="#">a fat lip</a> <a href="#">fat lip</a> <a href="#">get yours</a> <a href="#">laid up</a> <a href="#">suffer a setback</a> <a href="#">wasted</a>
injuries	<a href="#">take your lumps</a>
injury	<a href="#">a close shave</a> <a href="#">black eye</a> <a href="#">break your fall</a> <a href="#">dodge a bullet</a> <a href="#">on the limp</a> <a href="#">rub salt in the wound</a> <a href="#">take a bullet</a>
innocence	<a href="#">butter wouldn't melt in his mouth</a>
innocent	<a href="#">a wolf in sheep's clothing</a> <a href="#">squeaky clean</a> <a href="#">take it out on</a>
innovate	<a href="#">push the envelope</a>

inquire	<a href="#">check it out</a>
insane	<a href="#">around the bend</a> <a href="#">bonkers</a> <a href="#">drive me batty</a> <a href="#">drive me to the edge</a> <a href="#">go berserk</a> <a href="#">go mad</a> <a href="#">go nuts</a>
inside	<a href="#">cabin fever</a> <a href="#">cocoon</a> <a href="#">fifth column</a> <a href="#">hotdog</a> <a href="#">inside information</a> <a href="#">inside joke</a>
insignificant	<a href="#">small potatoes</a>
insist	<a href="#">corner you</a>
inspect	<a href="#">spotcheck</a> <a href="#">walk-through</a>
inspection	<a href="#">shipshape</a>
inspiration	<a href="#">cook</a>
inspire	<a href="#">turn your crank</a>
instant	<a href="#">quick and dirty</a>
instead	<a href="#">cry over spilt milk</a> <a href="#">fart around [B]</a> <a href="#">fish or cut bait</a> <a href="#">put up or shut up</a> <a href="#">zig when you should zag</a>
instinct	<a href="#">go for the jugular</a>
instrument	<a href="#">idiot lights</a>
insufficient	

	<a href="#">a sick building</a>
insult	
	<a href="#">catcall</a>
	<a href="#">cross someone</a>
	<a href="#">dis/diss</a>
	<a href="#">get back at</a>
	<a href="#">laugh it off</a>
	<a href="#">mudsling</a>
	<a href="#">rub salt in the wound</a>
	<a href="#">slam</a>
	<a href="#">take a shot</a>
	<a href="#">throw insults</a>
	<a href="#">trade insults</a>
insulted	
	<a href="#">no offense, but...</a>
insurance	
	<a href="#">pogey</a>
intelligence	
	<a href="#">grey matter</a>
	<a href="#">sharpen up</a>
	<a href="#">smarts</a>
intelligent	
	<a href="#">a budding genius</a>
	<a href="#">a lot on the ball</a>
	<a href="#">brain drain</a>
	<a href="#">bright</a>
	<a href="#">more money than brains</a>
	<a href="#">nobody's fool</a>
	<a href="#">on the ball</a>
	<a href="#">sharp</a>
	<a href="#">stroke of genius</a>
	<a href="#">swift</a>
	<a href="#">what a brain</a>
intentional	
	<a href="#">on purpose</a>
intentionally	
	<a href="#">weasel word</a>
intentions	
	<a href="#">mean well</a>
	<a href="#">the road to hell is paved with good intentions</a>
intercourse	
	<a href="#">a piece of ass [B]</a>

[go all the way \(sex\)](#)

[go downtown \[B\]](#)

[have nookie](#)

[have sex](#)

[make love](#)

[nookie \[B\]](#)

[poontang \[B\]](#)

[saw off a chunk \[B\]](#)

## interest

[bitten by the same bug](#)

[dampen your spirits](#)

[drum up](#)

[float your boat](#)

[give a hoot](#)

[give a shit \[B\]](#)

[give her the eye](#)

[jazz up](#)

[perk up](#)

[second nature](#)

[strike your fancy](#)

[take a shine to](#)

[throw cold water on](#)

[turn your crank](#)

[up your alley](#)

## interested

[don't give a damn \[B\]](#)

[glued to the set](#)

[got my eye on](#)

[gung ho](#)

[on the edge of your seat](#)

[sick of](#)

[talk to the hand](#)

[tired of](#)

## interesting

[a yawner](#)

[by gosh](#)

[food for thought](#)

[how about that](#)

[it's been a slice \(of life\)](#)

[variety is the spice of life](#)

## interfere

[horn in](#)

[play havoc with](#)

internet

[electronic superhighway](#)

[Net surfer](#)

[Netwar](#)

[surf the Net](#)

[World Wide Web \(www\)](#)

interrupt

[butt in](#)

[cut off](#)

[hear me out](#)

intersection

[kitty-corner](#)

[run a red light](#)

intimate

[lovelife](#)

intimately

[pet](#)

intimidate

[buffalo](#)

[Gang of Four](#)

into

[account for](#)

[boarding \(hockey\)](#)

[born with a silver spoon in his mouth](#)

[bump into](#)

[come onside](#)

[cut off](#)

[dasein](#)

[down the hatch](#)

[get burned](#)

[get laid \[B\]](#)

[get your tits in a wringer](#)

[give you hell \[B\]](#)

[go off half-cocked](#)

[hole in one \(golf\)](#)

[into the tank](#)

[look up a dead horse's ass \[B\]](#)

[Lovers' Leap](#)

[monkeywrenching](#)

[offside \(hockey\)](#)

[over the hump](#)

[play into his hand](#)  
[realize your potential](#)  
[ream out](#)  
[rearend](#)  
[rope into](#)  
[round up](#)  
[run across](#)  
[run into](#)  
[spirit away](#)  
[turn into](#)  
[turn yourself in](#)

intolerant

[a redneck](#)

intoxicated

[buzzed](#)  
[catch a buzz](#)  
[corked](#)  
[pie-eyed](#)

introduce

[bring up](#)

introduction

[baptism by fire](#)  
[out of nowhere](#)

intrude

[butt in](#)  
[horn in](#)

inuit

[chimo](#)

invaluable

[worth their weight in gold](#)

invent

[necessity is the mother of invention](#)

invention

[make your mark](#)

inventory

[buy out](#)

invest

[don't put all your eggs in one basket](#)  
[get in on the ground floor](#)  
[sell the farm](#)

invested

[laundered money](#)  
[lose your shirt](#)

investigate	<a href="#">look into</a>
investing	<a href="#">in the hole</a>
investment	<a href="#">a golden opportunity</a> <a href="#">all your eggs in one basket</a>
investors	<a href="#">movers and shakers</a>
invitation	<a href="#">come-on</a>
invite	<a href="#">ask for it</a> <a href="#">don't borrow trouble</a> <a href="#">have you over</a> <a href="#">leave out in the cold</a> <a href="#">leave the door open</a> <a href="#">more than welcome</a> <a href="#">phone-in</a> <a href="#">throw a party</a>
invited	<a href="#">black-listed</a> <a href="#">out in the cold</a> <a href="#">wall flower</a>
inviting	<a href="#">cruising for a bruising</a> <a href="#">death wish</a>
involved	<a href="#">burned</a> <a href="#">caught up</a> <a href="#">hood</a> <a href="#">into fitness/dancing etc.</a> <a href="#">jump in with both feet</a> <a href="#">name is cleared</a> <a href="#">wash your hands of it</a>
involves	<a href="#">come to</a>
involving	<a href="#">Donnybrook</a>
irish	<a href="#">the luck of the Irish</a>
irk	

[set your teeth on edge](#)

iron

[you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear](#)

irrational

[crack under the strain](#)

[hairbrain](#)

irrelevant

[beside the point](#)

irritate

[a thorn in my side](#)

[bug \(someone\)](#)

[burn your ass \[B\]](#)

[get on my nerves](#)

[rub the wrong way](#)

[set your teeth on edge](#)

[stick in my craw](#)

irritation

[a royal pain](#)

is

[ain't](#)

[clouds on the horizon](#)

island

[The Rock](#)

issue

[a horse of a different color](#)

[a question of](#)

[big hairy deal](#)

[can of worms](#)

[political football](#)

[red herring](#)

[the crux of the matter](#)

item

[a duke's mixture](#)

[a hot ticket](#)

[a must](#)

[hot goods](#)

[loss leader](#)

[set your price](#)

itself

[there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so](#)

itsy-bitsy

[teeny-weeny](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Definition Index J

jack	<a href="#">faster than a minnow can swim a dipper</a> <a href="#">jerk me around</a> <a href="#">just like that</a> <a href="#">like a chicken on a June bug</a> <a href="#">quicker than you can say Jack Robinson</a>
jacket	
jail	<a href="#">potato sack</a> <a href="#">bail me out</a> <a href="#">behind bars</a> <a href="#">hit the bricks</a> <a href="#">in the clink</a> <a href="#">in the hole</a> <a href="#">in the slammer</a> <a href="#">in the tank</a> <a href="#">pokey</a> <a href="#">walk</a>
jam	<a href="#">duck out</a> <a href="#">get cold feet</a> <a href="#">in a fix</a> <a href="#">in a pickle</a> <a href="#">in a pinch</a> <a href="#">jam session</a> <a href="#">play it by ear</a> <a href="#">up the creek</a>
jargon	<a href="#">bafflegab</a> <a href="#">buzzword</a>
jay	<a href="#">stark naked</a> <a href="#">without a stitch of clothes on</a>
jazz	<a href="#">blow snakes (music)</a>

[cook](#)  
[jam](#)  
[spice up](#)  
[the whole ball of wax](#)

jealousy

[claws are showing](#)

jeans

[camel toes \[B\]](#)

jehoshaphat

[hell's bells](#)

jerk

[a horse's ass \[B\]](#)

[ass](#)

[ding-a-ling](#)

[ditz](#)

[dork \[B\]](#)

[fink](#)

[lamebrain](#)

[prick \[B\]](#)

[pull your wire \[B\]](#)

[shithead \[B\]](#)

[turkey](#)

[yoyo](#)

jiffy

[in a sec](#)

jimmy

[jumping Jehoshaphat](#)

job

[a helping hand](#)

[back to the grind](#)

[by any means](#)

[carry the can](#)

[catch on](#)

[cut it](#)

[cut the mustard](#)

[did good](#)

[did yourself proud](#)

[do your part](#)

[down to the short strokes](#)

[ducks in a row \(ducks in order\)](#)

[dump on](#)

[easy pickings](#)

[fill in for me](#)  
[fill the bill](#)  
[fire](#)  
[girl Friday](#)  
[give it the once-over](#)  
[half the battle](#)  
[hatchet man](#)  
[hire on](#)  
[hit the ground running](#)  
[home free](#)  
[how are you making out](#)  
[it goes with the territory](#)  
[kill two birds \(with one stone\)](#)  
[laid off](#)  
[leave you holding the bag](#)  
[let George do it](#)  
[make a life for yourself](#)  
[mess up](#)  
[moonlighting](#)  
[on the beat](#)  
[parachute](#)  
[pay a compliment](#)  
[pissing into the wind \[B\]](#)  
[pound the pavement](#)  
[pull your weight](#)  
[push the boat out](#)  
[put my neck on the line](#)  
[screw-up](#)  
[serve the purpose](#)  
[smooth sailing](#)  
[spell you off](#)  
[step aside](#)  
[stick to it](#)  
[take care of business](#)  
[take over](#)  
[take this job and shove it \[B\]](#)  
[talk shop](#)  
[the Peter Principle](#)  
[the short end of the stick](#)  
[the whole nine yards](#)

jockey

[motormouth](#)

joe	<a href="#">Joe Who</a>
john	<a href="#">bad date</a> <a href="#">biff/biffy</a> <a href="#">have a whiz</a> <a href="#">on the throne</a> <a href="#">the can</a> <a href="#">the loo</a>
johnny	<a href="#">Canuck</a>
join	<a href="#">black-listed</a> <a href="#">catch the wave</a> <a href="#">catch up</a> <a href="#">hook up with</a> <a href="#">take part in</a>
joint	<a href="#">quit this place</a>
joke	<a href="#">a cut-up</a> <a href="#">crack a joke</a> <a href="#">get off a few good ones</a> <a href="#">get serious</a> <a href="#">ham it up</a> <a href="#">horse around</a> <a href="#">inside joke</a> <a href="#">joke around</a> <a href="#">joker</a> <a href="#">kid</a> <a href="#">kid you not</a> <a href="#">make light of</a> <a href="#">play a trick on</a> <a href="#">pull your leg</a> <a href="#">sense of humor</a> <a href="#">take a joke</a> <a href="#">the joke is on you</a> <a href="#">up to something</a> <a href="#">you've got to be kidding</a>
joker	<a href="#">a cut-up</a> <a href="#">ham</a>

[such a card](#)

joking

[joking aside](#)

[lighthearted](#)

[no kidding](#)

[no nonsense](#)

[putting me on](#)

[straight man](#)

[strictly business](#)

[tongue in cheek](#)

[you're kidding](#)

[you're not kidding/ you aren't kidding](#)

jolly

[hail-fellow-well-met](#)

josh

[give you the gears](#)

[kid](#)

journalist

[hack/hacker](#)

journey

[end up](#)

[home stretch](#)

[on my way](#)

[start out](#)

[the first leg](#)

joy

[cup runneth over](#)

joyful

[happy as a box of birds](#)

joyride

[along for the ride](#)

judge

[actions speak louder than words](#)

[beauty is only skin deep](#)

[big wigs](#)

[hold that over my head](#)

[open and shut](#)

[sit in judgement on](#)

[the proof of the pudding is in the eating](#)

judged

[you're only as good as your last shift](#)

judgement

[cool your heels](#)

[the benefit of the doubt](#)

judging

[by the same token](#)

jugular

[killer instinct](#)

juice

[spike a drink](#)

jump

[bushwhack](#)

[coldcock](#)

[cross that bridge when I come to it](#)

[fraidy cat](#)

[get the drop on](#)

[jump for joy](#)

[jump out of your skin](#)

[jump to conclusions](#)

[kick start](#)

[Lovers' Leap](#)

[the proof of the pudding is in the eating](#)

[the upper hand](#)

[wake with a start](#)

[walk the plank](#)

jumping

[hell's bells](#)

jungle

[bad breath](#)

[it's a zoo in there](#)

junk

[chuck it](#)

[junkie](#)

[smithwright it](#)

[you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear](#)

junkie

[head \(headbanger\)](#)

junky

[crappy](#)

jury-rig

[make do](#)

just

[a fair shake](#)

[all in a day's work](#)

[along for the ride](#)

[at first light](#)  
[brand new/ brand spanking new](#)  
[come to think of it](#)  
[comeuppance](#)  
[cut it a little fine](#)  
[down pat](#)  
[get by/scrape by](#)  
[horseplay](#)  
[hot off the press](#)  
[in the nick of time](#)  
[just a smidgeon](#)  
[just a titch](#)  
[just ducky](#)  
[keep your head above water](#)  
[life is just a bowl of cherries](#)  
[lucky dog](#)  
[nip and tuck](#)  
[play to the crowd](#)  
[pull it out](#)  
[pure luck](#)  
[scrape by](#)  
[speak of the devil](#)  
[the calm before the storm](#)  
[under the wire](#)  
[walk-through](#)

justifies

[all's well that ends well](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Definition Index K

k	
	<a href="#">The Group of Five/The Regina Five</a>
kaput	
	<a href="#">crash</a> <a href="#">dead duck</a> <a href="#">tits up [B]</a>
keep	
	<a href="#">a keeper</a> <a href="#">bottle up</a> <a href="#">carry on</a> <a href="#">even a blind pig can find an acorn</a> <a href="#">freeze wages</a> <a href="#">grandfather</a> <a href="#">ground me</a> <a href="#">hang in there</a> <a href="#">hold down</a> <a href="#">hold your own</a> <a href="#">hound</a> <a href="#">hush up</a> <a href="#">hushed up</a> <a href="#">in mind</a> <a href="#">in touch</a> <a href="#">keep a lid on it</a> <a href="#">keep a secret</a> <a href="#">keep an eye out</a> <a href="#">keep in good shape</a> <a href="#">keep it quiet</a> <a href="#">keep it to yourself</a> <a href="#">keep pace</a> <a href="#">keep tabs on</a> <a href="#">keep the wolf from the door</a> <a href="#">keep under wraps</a> <a href="#">keep up</a> <a href="#">keep up with the Joneses</a> <a href="#">keep you honest</a>

[keep your hair on](#)  
[keep your word](#)  
[pipe down](#)  
[press on](#)  
[put a lid on it](#)  
[shut up](#)  
[stay abreast](#)  
[take this job and shove it \[B\]](#)  
[the wolf is at the door](#)  
[touch base](#)  
[watch out for](#)  
[watch over like a mother hawk](#)  
[watch your step](#)  
[won't tell a soul](#)

keeper

[shutout \(sports\)](#)

keg

[on tap](#)

kept

[garage kept](#)

key

[a word to the wise is sufficient](#)

[take possession](#)

kibosh

[rule out](#)

kick

[bite the dust](#)

[blow them away](#)

[buy the farm](#)

[cross over to the other side](#)

[get a bang out of](#)

[jump start](#)

[kick ass](#)

[kick the weed](#)

[make a scene](#)

[pass on](#)

[shake a habit](#)

kid

[DINKS](#)

[josh](#)

[make a comeback](#)

[the apple doesn't fall far from the tree](#)

[wait up for](#)

kidding

[come off it](#)[get out](#)[go on](#)[is that so](#)[no guff](#)[no shit \[B\]](#)[putting me on](#)[tongue in cheek](#)[you've got to be kidding](#)

kill

[claws are showing](#)[do me in](#)[finish off](#)[gun down](#)[kill off](#)[kill time](#)[knock off](#)[open season](#)[put down](#)[put out of its misery](#)[time on your hands](#)[time to kill](#)

killed

[a contract out on](#)[lay down your life for](#)[put to death](#)[sentence to death](#)[shoot it out](#)[walk the plank](#)

killer

[go for the jugular](#)[hit man](#)

killing

[go for the jugular](#)

kilter

[out of whack](#)

kind

[a full house \(cards\)](#)[more power to you](#)[out of the goodness of my heart](#)

king	<a href="#">a full house (cards)</a> <a href="#">His Royal Highness</a>
kiss	<a href="#">a little thick</a> <a href="#">bite me [B]</a> <a href="#">blow a kiss</a> <a href="#">blow me [B]</a> <a href="#">flattery will get you nowhere</a> <a href="#">get it on</a> <a href="#">make advances</a> <a href="#">make out</a> <a href="#">make whoopee</a> <a href="#">neck</a> <a href="#">one for the road</a> <a href="#">pet</a> <a href="#">spin the bottle</a> <a href="#">throw a kiss</a>
kit	<a href="#">lock, stock and barrel</a>
kitchen	<a href="#">Fibber McGee's closet</a> <a href="#">off the kitchen etc.</a>
knee	<a href="#">on all fours</a> <a href="#">the cat's ass [B]</a> <a href="#">twerp</a>
knob	<a href="#">tune in</a>
knock	<a href="#">better than a kick in the ass [B]</a> <a href="#">can it</a> <a href="#">cool it</a> <a href="#">cream you</a> <a href="#">cut it out</a> <a href="#">deck him</a> <a href="#">do me in</a> <a href="#">knock flat</a> <a href="#">knock the wind out of his sails</a> <a href="#">pop a cap [B]</a> <a href="#">punch your lights out</a> <a href="#">put down</a>

[put you away](#)[slam](#)

knocked

[had his bell rung](#)[out cold](#)

knot

[keep your shirt on](#)

know

[a household name](#)[all wet](#)[clued in](#)[don't know him from Adam](#)[don't know the first thing about it](#)[don't know the half of it](#)[don't know which side your bread is buttered on](#)[don't teach your grandmother how to suck eggs](#)[drop a name / drop names](#)[ducks in a row \(ducks in order\)](#)[duh](#)[dying to know](#)[eh](#)[get it](#)[get the hang of](#)[get with it](#)[go along with](#)[got my eye on](#)[got your number](#)[have a clue](#)[have an inkling](#)[haven't the foggiest](#)[is you is, or is you ain't my baby](#)[je ne sais quoi](#)[keep the faith](#)[keep them straight](#)[know better](#)[know inside out](#)[know like the back of your hand](#)[know the ropes](#)[know the score](#)[know where we stand](#)[know which end is up](#)[know which side your bread is buttered on](#)

[know your stuff](#)  
[know your way around](#)  
[larger than life](#)  
[leak](#)  
[learn the lingo](#)  
[learn the ropes](#)  
[learn your place](#)  
[make a clean breast of it](#)  
[make of it](#)  
[onto us](#)  
[pick your brains](#)  
[play dumb](#)  
[preach to the choir/preach to the converted](#)  
[public property](#)  
[pull a few strings](#)  
[reach out](#)  
[relate to that](#)  
[search me](#)  
[spill your guts](#)  
[stand on ceremony](#)  
[tell all](#)  
[the burning question](#)  
[the cat's out of the bag](#)  
[the jig's up](#)  
[the long and the short of it](#)  
[the rest is history](#)  
[there's more than one way to skin a cat](#)  
[to the best of my knowledge](#)  
[wait with bated breath](#)  
[what you don't know won't hurt you](#)  
[wise to us](#)  
[with it](#)

knowing

[sense of humor](#)  
[street smarts](#)  
[the in's and out's](#)  
[worldly wise](#)

knowledge

[as far as I know](#)  
[out of my depth](#)  
[the in's and out's](#)  
[the last word](#)

knowledgeable	<a href="#">in the know</a>
known	<a href="#">a.k.a. (aka)</a> <a href="#">a marked man</a> <a href="#">a.k.a. (aka)</a> <a href="#">fate is sealed</a> <a href="#">make a name for yourself</a> <a href="#">make your mark</a> <a href="#">the benefit of the doubt</a> <a href="#">the rest is history</a> <a href="#">ticketed</a>
knuckle	<a href="#">get down to brass tacks</a>
knucklehead	<a href="#">dumbbell</a>
kooky	<a href="#">hairbrain</a> <a href="#">nutty as a fruit cake</a> <a href="#">wacky</a>

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Definition Index L

la	
	<a href="#">that's life</a>
labeled	
	<a href="#">ticketed</a>
lace	
	<a href="#">do up</a>
lacking	
	<a href="#">feeling bum</a>
	<a href="#">flat</a>
	<a href="#">no truth to it</a>
	<a href="#">weak-kneed</a>
	<a href="#">wimpy</a>
	<a href="#">yellow</a>
ladies	
	<a href="#">a lady-killer</a>
	<a href="#">lovelies</a>
	<a href="#">powder my nose</a>
lady	
	<a href="#">bag lady</a>
	<a href="#">class act</a>
laid	
	<a href="#">come across [B]</a>
	<a href="#">lay [B]</a>
	<a href="#">out of work</a>
lakes	
	<a href="#">freeze-up</a>
lamebrain	
	<a href="#">dork [B]</a>
land	
	<a href="#">know like the back of your hand</a>
	<a href="#">parachute</a>
	<a href="#">put down roots</a>
landlocked	
	<a href="#">landlubber</a>
lane	

[bumper to bumper](#)  
[cut off](#)  
[in the Monford lane](#)

language

[bafflegab](#)  
[call a spade a spade](#)  
[it was Greek to me](#)  
[learn the lingo](#)  
[swear like a sailor](#)  
[watch your language](#)  
[written all over your face](#)

lard

[tub of guts](#)

large

[a blowout](#)  
[a chunk of change](#)  
[a shitload](#)  
[a stitch in time saves nine](#)  
[a tall one](#)  
[beat the pants off](#)  
[Bigfoot](#)  
[boom or bust](#)  
[by leaps and bounds](#)  
[fingers the size of bananas](#)  
[grey power](#)  
[ham hands](#)  
[humongous](#)  
[in hock](#)  
[life in the fast lane](#)  
[make a bundle](#)  
[rake in the dough](#)  
[Sasquatch](#)  
[shoes like boats](#)  
[stacked](#)  
[super-duper](#)  
[way out \(away out\)](#)  
[well hung \[B\]](#)  
[XL](#)

larger

[bigger than life](#)  
[larger than life](#)

largest

[motherlode](#)  
[the lion's share](#)

lark

[devil-may-care](#)

last

[curtains](#)  
[dead last](#)  
[do me for/do me until](#)  
[do or die](#)  
[down to the wire](#)  
[drag on](#)  
[dress rehearsal](#)  
[finish off](#)  
[home stretch](#)  
[last but not least](#)  
[last call](#)  
[last-ditch](#)  
[last hurrah](#)  
[last resort](#)  
[over the hill](#)  
[put the finishing touches on](#)  
[scrape the bottom of the barrel](#)  
[set for life](#)  
[TGIF](#)  
[the dying seconds](#)  
[the last word](#)  
[tide me over](#)  
[to the nth degree](#)  
[top it off](#)  
[you can bet your bottom dollar](#)

lasting

[all the livelong day](#)

late

[about time](#)  
[better late than never](#)  
[burn the midnight oil](#)  
[high time](#)  
[hold you up](#)  
[in the nick of time](#)  
[just in time](#)  
[on the dot](#)  
[on time](#)

[play catch-up](#)  
[pull it out](#)  
[sleep in](#)  
[strike while the iron is hot](#)  
[the point of no return](#)

lately

[down on his luck](#)

later

[break curfew](#)  
[catch up](#)  
[catch you later](#)  
[ciao](#)  
[come out in the wash](#)  
[down the line](#)  
[on the back burner](#)  
[put off](#)  
[rain check](#)  
[so long](#)  
[spade work](#)

latest

[buzzword](#)  
[cutting edge](#)  
[new wave](#)  
[the cutting edge](#)  
[what's up](#)

laugh

[a barrel of laughs](#)  
[crack me up](#)  
[for the fun of it](#)  
[get a kick out of](#)  
[get a laugh](#)  
[have a laugh](#)  
[hit my funny bone](#)  
[hoot](#)  
[joker](#)  
[keep a straight face](#)  
[kill me](#)  
[kill ourselves laughing](#)  
[laugh it off](#)  
[laugh up your sleeve](#)  
[laugh your head off](#)  
[laugh yourself sick](#)

[laugh yourself silly](#)  
[make fun of](#)  
[play a prank on](#)  
[poke fun at](#)  
[split a gut](#)  
[the life of the party](#)

laughed

[the butt of the joke](#)

laughing

[in stitches](#)  
[rolling in the aisles](#)  
[the joke is on you](#)  
[the laughing stock](#)

laughter

[a hoot](#)  
[bring the house down](#)

laurels

[you're only as good as your last shift](#)

law

[above the law](#)  
[break the law/rules](#)  
[get around it](#)  
[get into trouble](#)  
[mete out](#)  
[on the up and up](#)  
[the underground](#)  
[written in blood](#)

law-abiding

[go straight](#)

lawsuit

[take you to court](#)

lay

[ball her \[B\]](#)  
[bang \[B\]](#)  
[get into her pants \[B\]](#)  
[hold me responsible](#)  
[keep a low profile](#)  
[on the lam](#)  
[wreak havoc](#)

layoffs

[hatchet man](#)

lazy

[dog it](#)  
[feeling bum](#)  
[lazy bones](#)  
[slackass \[B\]](#)

lead

[a slippery slope](#)  
[fido](#)  
[head up](#)  
[led to believe](#)  
[life you lead](#)  
[nothing succeeds like success](#)  
[slippery slope](#)  
[spell disaster](#)

leader

[bogof](#)  
[do the honors](#)  
[drawing card](#)  
[front runner](#)  
[read along](#)  
[ring leader](#)  
[the blind leading the blind](#)  
[top dog](#)

leading

[off the kitchen etc.](#)

leaf

[leaf out](#)  
[turn you around](#)

leak

[take a pee \[B\]](#)  
[take a piss \[B\]](#)  
[take a whiz](#)  
[whiz](#)

leakb

[pass water](#)

learn

[a quick study](#)  
[bone up on](#)  
[catch on](#)  
[come naturally](#)  
[find out](#)  
[get caught up](#)  
[get something out of](#)

[get the hang of](#)  
[get with it](#)  
[if the shoe fits, wear it](#)  
[know the ropes](#)  
[learn the lingo](#)  
[learn the ropes](#)  
[learn your place](#)  
[not all there](#)  
[pay your dues](#)  
[pick up](#)  
[pick your brains](#)  
[plug into](#)  
[sharp](#)  
[show you the ropes](#)  
[take up](#)  
[teach you the tricks of the trade](#)  
[the tricks of the trade](#)  
[thick as a brick](#)  
[trial and error](#)  
[user friendly](#)  
[you can't teach an old dog new tricks](#)

**learned**

[cut my teeth on](#)  
[don't know which side your bread is buttered on](#)  
[popcorn brain](#)

**learning**

[a mental block](#)  
[how's tricks](#)  
[the school of hard knocks](#)

**least**

[at all](#)  
[in any way, shape or form](#)  
[last but not least](#)  
[the short end of the stick](#)

**leave**

[bail out](#)  
[be off](#)  
[beat a hasty retreat](#)  
[begs the question](#)  
[blow this joint](#)  
[blow this Popsicle stand](#)  
[break the bank](#)

[burn your bridges](#)  
[chomping at the bit](#)  
[Christmas graduate](#)  
[clear out](#)  
[cut it a little fine](#)  
[ditch him](#)  
[don't go away mad; just go away](#)  
[drop her/him](#)  
[drop him like a hot potato](#)  
[drop off](#)  
[duck out](#)  
[dump her/him](#)  
[fair-weather friend](#)  
[fall through the cracks](#)  
[get lost](#)  
[get out of your hair](#)  
[git](#)  
[give him the slip](#)  
[go pound salt](#)  
[go to hell \[B\]](#)  
[good to go](#)  
[head out](#)  
[hightail it](#)  
[hit and run \(traffic\)](#)  
[hit the road/trail](#)  
[if a mussel doesn't open don't eat it](#)  
[if you can't cut it, you can't stay](#)  
[if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen](#)  
[in leaf](#)  
[itchy feet](#)  
[jump the gun](#)  
[know where we stand](#)  
[leaf out](#)  
[leave me hanging](#)  
[leave you holding the bag](#)  
[leave you in the lurch](#)  
[let it be](#)  
[let sleeping dogs lie](#)  
[look high and low](#)  
[make yourself scarce](#)  
[off with you](#)  
[one for the road](#)

[pack it in](#)  
[party-pooper](#)  
[piss off \[B\]](#)  
[pound salt](#)  
[pull the pin](#)  
[pull the plug](#)  
[pull the rug out](#)  
[quit this place](#)  
[run you out](#)  
[see me for dust](#)  
[set out for](#)  
[skidaddle](#)  
[skip out](#)  
[slip out](#)  
[split](#)  
[square up](#)  
[start out](#)  
[step down](#)  
[stiff](#)  
[strike out on your own](#)  
[suck eggs](#)  
[take a flight](#)  
[take a hike](#)  
[take a powder](#)  
[take off](#)  
[take off, eh](#)  
[the end of the line](#)  
[tube him](#)  
[vamoose](#)  
[wait for the other shoe to drop](#)  
[walk the plank](#)  
[with bated breath](#)  
[won't see you stuck](#)

**leaving**

[give notice](#)  
[on your way](#)  
[out of here \(outa here\)](#)  
[pony tail](#)

**lecture**

[a bawling out](#)  
[a dressing down](#)  
[a talking to](#)

[a tongue-lashing](#)  
[an earful](#)  
[catch hell \[B\]](#)  
[catch it](#)  
[chew him out](#)  
[get after](#)  
[get shit \[B\]](#)  
[give it to him](#)  
[give them what for](#)  
[give you hell \[B\]](#)  
[give you shit \[B\]](#)  
[give you what for](#)  
[hold forth](#)  
[kick ass \[B\]](#)  
[rake you over the coals](#)  
[take a strip off](#)  
[tear a strip off](#)  
[tie into](#)

led

[sucked in](#)

left

[dump on](#)  
[flew the coop](#)  
[holding the bag](#)  
[mop up](#)  
[out of luck](#)  
[out of the corner of my eye](#)  
[shit out of luck \[B\]](#)  
[to go](#)  
[zig when you should zag](#)

left-handed

[lefty](#)  
[southpaw](#)

lefty

[southpaw](#)

leg

[a leg up](#)  
[get the lead out](#)  
[give you the gears](#)  
[long johns](#)  
[on the limp](#)  
[over the hill](#)

[spread out](#)  
[the first leg](#)

legal

[above board](#)  
[fair game](#)  
[on the up and up](#)  
[open season](#)  
[underhanded](#)

legally

[clean up your act](#)

lend

[a helping hand](#)  
[front me](#)  
[give me a hand](#)  
[good for a loan](#)  
[help out](#)

length

[hold forth](#)

less

[couldn't care less](#)  
[cut corners](#)  
[cut rate](#)  
[feel the pinch](#)  
[fish or cut bait](#)  
[go by the boards](#)  
[go easy on](#)  
[granola](#)  
[in a split second](#)  
[run short](#)  
[slip a notch](#)  
[suck the hind tit \[B\]](#)  
[take it easy on](#)  
[the crunch](#)  
[when the crunch comes](#)

lesson

[if the shoe fits, wear it](#)  
[the school of hard knocks](#)

let

[brush it off](#)  
[can](#)  
[cut the cheese \[B\]](#)  
[do your own thing](#)

[ease up](#)  
[get over](#)  
[give an inch](#)  
[give up the blue line \(hockey\)](#)  
[hang ten \(surfing\)](#)  
[have it both ways](#)  
[hold the phone](#)  
[lay off](#)  
[let George do it](#)  
[let on](#)  
[let the chips fall where they may](#)  
[let the good times roll](#)  
[let yourself go](#)  
[live and let live](#)  
[off the hook](#)  
[part with](#)  
[pass wind](#)  
[play along](#)  
[put 'er there](#)  
[put her there](#)  
[reach out](#)  
[shrug it off](#)  
[swallow your pride](#)  
[swelled head](#)  
[throw you to the dogs](#)

letter

[a paper trail](#)  
[any word](#)  
[chain letter](#)  
[dash off a note/letter](#)  
[drop a line](#)  
[give notice](#)  
[in touch](#)  
[junk mail](#)  
[keep in touch](#)  
[no word](#)

letter-perfect

[picture-perfect](#)

letting

[soft sell](#)  
[wash down](#)

lettuce

[green stuff](#)  
[rabbit food](#)

level

[a level playing field](#)  
[a little off](#)  
[brush cut](#)  
[comeback kid](#)  
[level the playing field](#)  
[raise the bar](#)  
[up front](#)

liar

[dirty dog/dirty rat](#)  
[you're full of it \[B\]](#)

licensed

[watering hole](#)

lick

[by the seat of your pants](#)  
[give it the once-over](#)

lid

[keep it quiet](#)

lie

[a bare-faced lie](#)  
[a lot of bunk](#)  
[a pack of lies](#)  
[bag some rays](#)  
[bed down](#)  
[crap](#)  
[cut the crap \[B\]](#)  
[fib](#)  
[flake out](#)  
[full of it \[B\]](#)  
[go down](#)  
[horse feathers](#)  
[jack me around](#)  
[no truth to it](#)  
[out and out](#)  
[play dead](#)  
[rotter](#)  
[spread out](#)  
[stretch the truth](#)  
[tell me another one](#)  
[there's nothing to it](#)

[white lie](#)  
[without a word of a lie](#)

## life

[a bed of roses](#)  
[a dog's life](#)  
[a fresh start](#)  
[a new lease on life](#)  
[a pick-me-up](#)  
[all's fair in love and war](#)  
[bigger than life](#)  
[blue sky](#)  
[bright-eyed and bushy-tailed](#)  
[c'est la vie](#)  
[dead as a doornail](#)  
[don't know which side your bread is buttered on](#)  
[easy street](#)  
[easy time of it](#)  
[for dear life](#)  
[get it together](#)  
[have a fling](#)  
[how are you doing](#)  
[how goes it](#)  
[how goes the battle](#)  
[how's tricks](#)  
[it takes two to tango](#)  
[it's a matter of life and death](#)  
[larger than life](#)  
[lead a life](#)  
[life in the fast lane](#)  
[life is just a bowl of cherries](#)  
[life is not all guns and roses](#)  
[life you lead](#)  
[lifer](#)  
[live and let live](#)  
[lovelife](#)  
[make a life for yourself](#)  
[messed up](#)  
[nest egg](#)  
[not on your tintype](#)  
[sometimes life is a bucket of shit and the handle is inside \[B\]](#)  
[sow wild oats](#)  
[square up](#)

[stone dead](#)  
[street wise](#)  
[that'll be the day](#)  
[that's life](#)  
[that's the way the ball bounces](#)  
[the fickle finger of fate](#)  
[the life of Riley](#)  
[the living daylights](#)  
[the school of hard knocks](#)  
[the spice of life](#)  
[things are looking up](#)  
[this mortal coil](#)  
[touch and go](#)  
[turn you around](#)  
[vale of tears \(valley of tears\)](#)  
[variety is the spice of life](#)  
[what's new](#)  
[why in the world](#)

lifeless

[the lights are on but nobody's home](#)

lifestyle

[all walks of life](#)  
[every walk of life](#)  
[get a life](#)  
[life you lead](#)  
[the lap of luxury](#)  
[walk of life](#)

lifetime

[set for life](#)

lift

[a shot in the arm](#)  
[catch a ride](#)  
[hunker down](#)  
[lift my spirits](#)  
[pick you up](#)

lifted

[clotheslined \(hockey\)](#)

light

[a blackout \(war\)](#)  
[a blank look](#)  
[a breath of wind](#)  
[a love tap](#)

[at the crack of dawn](#)  
[deck out](#)  
[drag race](#)  
[Florida green](#)  
[idiot lights](#)  
[light up](#)  
[like a bolt from the blue](#)  
[run a red light](#)  
[see me for dust](#)  
[set fire](#)  
[throw some light on](#)  
[when the dust settles](#)

lighter

[a shadow of his former self](#)  
[got a light](#)

lightning

[faster than a speeding bullet](#)  
[lightning fast](#)

like

[a chip off the old block](#)  
[a dead ringer](#)  
[a dildo \[B\]](#)  
[a hit](#)  
[absence makes the heart grow fonder](#)  
[all thumbs](#)  
[as all get-out](#)  
[as American as apple pie](#)  
[as new](#)  
[bodacious](#)  
[brush cut](#)  
[can't stand](#)  
[cauliflower ear](#)  
[chain smoker](#)  
[crazy about](#)  
[deep sleep](#)  
[dig/dig it](#)  
[do unto others as you would have them do unto you](#)  
[do with](#)  
[drugstore cowboy](#)  
[dude](#)  
[dust bunny](#)  
[fight tooth and nail](#)

[get off on](#)  
[get off your high horse](#)  
[go like crazy](#)  
[go the way of the dodo](#)  
[grow on you](#)  
[hawk](#)  
[hold your nose](#)  
[how do you like them apples](#)  
[if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen](#)  
[in cahoots](#)  
[in her good graces](#)  
[in his good books](#)  
[in my good books](#)  
[in your bad books](#)  
[into thin air](#)  
[it was Greek to me](#)  
[it's a dilly](#)  
[joker](#)  
[letter-perfect](#)  
[life is not all guns and roses](#)  
[like a bat out of hell](#)  
[like a bolt from the blue](#)  
[like a dirty shirt](#)  
[like father, like son](#)  
[like hell \[B\]](#)  
[like it or lump it](#)  
[like nobody's business](#)  
[like the devil](#)  
[like the wind](#)  
[mad about](#)  
[make a good impression](#)  
[nuts about](#)  
[on a silver platter](#)  
[one man's garbage is another man's art](#)  
[one man's meat is another man's poison](#)  
[pass for](#)  
[play it up](#)  
[power to burn](#)  
[salty](#)  
[saw logs](#)  
[shades of](#)  
[six of one, half a dozen of the other](#)

[steal your heart](#)  
[suit yourself](#)  
[sweet on](#)  
[take a bow](#)  
[take a shine to](#)  
[take leave of your senses](#)  
[the air was blue](#)  
[the apple doesn't fall far from the tree](#)  
[the old college try](#)  
[the spitting image](#)  
[there's no love lost](#)  
[to beat the band](#)  
[to each his own](#)  
[try that on for size](#)  
[up your alley](#)  
[watch your every move](#)  
[what's your poison](#)  
[wild about](#)  
[wild and woolly](#)  
[wimpy](#)  
[win the hearts](#)  
[with his tail between his legs](#)  
[wouldn't be caught dead](#)  
[written in blood](#)  
[written in stone](#)  
[you can't teach an old dog new tricks](#)  
[you have to be good to be lucky](#)  
[you need money to make money](#)  
[yum](#)

liked

[go over](#)  
[in her good graces](#)

likely

[a ghost of a chance](#)  
[a slim chance](#)  
[against all odds](#)  
[fat chance](#)  
[in deep shit \[B\]](#)  
[like hell \[B\]](#)  
[not by a long shot](#)  
[underdog](#)

likeness

[a dead ringer](#)

lily-livered

[faint of heart](#)

limit

[beyond the pale](#)

[in time](#)

limp

[have a hitch in your getalong](#)

limping

[on the limp](#)

line

[brand new/ brand spanking new](#)

[chain of command](#)

[don't make me laugh](#)

[follow the rules](#)

[get off a few good ones](#)

[give you a line](#)

[hand you a line](#)

[in that vein](#)

[jump queue](#)

[keep in line](#)

[keep your nose clean](#)

[lead you down the garden path](#)

[line up](#)

[out of bounds](#)

[pecking order](#)

[pen those words/lines](#)

[put him in his place](#)

[rubberneck](#)

[stick my neck out](#)

[what it boils down to](#)

[work to rule](#)

lip

[a fat lip](#)

[cheek](#)

[chops](#)

[fat lip](#)

[read my lips](#)

[rented lips](#)

[talk back](#)

lippy

[cheeky](#)

[sassy](#)  
[shirty](#)  
[smartass \[B\]](#)

## liquor

[a short one](#)  
[a tall one](#)  
[bend your elbow](#)  
[booze](#)  
[boozing buddies](#)  
[bottle drive](#)  
[drink like a fish](#)  
[drink you under the table](#)  
[hard liquor](#)  
[have a smash](#)  
[hit the bottle](#)  
[hold your drinks](#)  
[hooch](#)  
[hungover](#)  
[liquored up](#)  
[moonshine](#)  
[on the wagon](#)  
[piss away \[B\]](#)  
[rot gut](#)  
[screech](#)  
[tie one on](#)  
[touch a drop](#)  
[what's your poison](#)

## list

[card-carrying member](#)  
[eighty-six it](#)  
[first off](#)  
[first up](#)  
[in his good books](#)  
[in the loop](#)  
[last but not least](#)  
[on my plate](#)  
[on the shit list \[B\]](#)  
[out of the loop](#)  
[scratch](#)  
[sign up](#)  
[thrown in](#)  
[track record](#)

listed	<a href="#">on the books</a>
listen	<a href="#">bend your ear</a> <a href="#">corner you</a> <a href="#">fall on deaf ears</a> <a href="#">hang on every word</a> <a href="#">hear me out</a> <a href="#">hey</a> <a href="#">keep your ear to the ground</a> <a href="#">listen up</a> <a href="#">mark my words</a> <a href="#">mend fences</a> <a href="#">pay attention</a> <a href="#">really deaf</a> <a href="#">rubberneck</a> <a href="#">sounding board</a> <a href="#">take the flack</a> <a href="#">take the heat</a> <a href="#">two heads are better than one</a>
listening	<a href="#">all ears</a> <a href="#">in one ear and out the other</a> <a href="#">shoot</a> <a href="#">talk to the hand</a> <a href="#">tune me out</a>
listless	<a href="#">lollygag</a>
litter	<a href="#">the pick of the litter</a>
little	<a href="#">a hill of beans</a> <a href="#">a little steep</a> <a href="#">a man of few words</a> <a href="#">a pinch of coon shit [B]</a> <a href="#">a screw loose</a> <a href="#">a slim chance</a> <a href="#">a snowball's chance in hell</a> <a href="#">a touch of</a> <a href="#">all show</a> <a href="#">all talk and no action</a> <a href="#">as poor as a church mouse</a>

[at a moment's notice](#)  
[at least](#)  
[bit by bit](#)  
[browned off](#)  
[by the seat of your pants](#)  
[by the skin of their teeth](#)  
[chip in](#)  
[cold comfort](#)  
[cut it a little fine](#)  
[dead-cat bounce](#)  
[dig a little deeper](#)  
[dig deep](#)  
[fat chance](#)  
[feast or famine](#)  
[feel the pinch](#)  
[feeling good](#)  
[for a song](#)  
[funny in the head](#)  
[give an inch](#)  
[give him an inch and he'll take a mile](#)  
[had a few](#)  
[hill of beans](#)  
[in dribs and drabs](#)  
[in the poorhouse](#)  
[junk food](#)  
[just a smidgeon](#)  
[lay it on](#)  
[little by little](#)  
[motormouth](#)  
[move over](#)  
[neither fish nor fowl](#)  
[not by a long shot](#)  
[not likely](#)  
[old wives' tale](#)  
[pick up the pace](#)  
[piddly](#)  
[play catch-up](#)  
[potlicker](#)  
[put a bug in my ear](#)  
[rough up](#)  
[salt away](#)  
[slow day](#)

[so much as](#)  
[spinny](#)  
[strapped](#)  
[throw some light on](#)  
[ticked off](#)  
[tipsy](#)  
[too bad](#)  
[woozy](#)

live

[a kept woman](#)  
[all it's cracked up to be](#)  
[all things to all people](#)  
[Cabbagetown](#)  
[cut a wide swath](#)  
[get along](#)  
[grow up](#)  
[hang your hat](#)  
[have a fling](#)  
[keep your head above water](#)  
[life you lead](#)  
[live and let live](#)  
[live it up](#)  
[live on the edge](#)  
[make a go of it](#)  
[make a life for yourself](#)  
[make a living](#)  
[make your way](#)  
[not long for this world](#)  
[play with fire](#)  
[pull up stakes](#)  
[put down roots](#)  
[scrape by](#)  
[settle down](#)  
[shack up \[B\]](#)  
[sow wild oats](#)  
[take chances](#)  
[throw caution to the wind](#)  
[weather the storm](#)

lived

[Johnny-come-lately](#)

lively

[bright-eyed and bushy-tailed](#)

[come alive](#)  
[full of piss and vinegar \[B\]](#)  
[the life of the party](#)

living

[Bigfoot](#)  
[granola](#)  
[in the lap of luxury](#)  
[lead a life](#)  
[life in the fast lane](#)  
[make your way](#)  
[Sasquatch](#)  
[turn over a new leaf](#)

livingworking

[rat race](#)

lo

[wonder of wonders](#)

load

[check that](#)  
[feast your eyes on](#)  
[grab a chair](#)

loaded

[all the bells and whistles](#)  
[blasted](#)  
[deep pockets](#)  
[goodies](#)  
[in the bag](#)  
[in the money](#)  
[loaded to the hilt](#)  
[looped](#)  
[moneybags](#)  
[on board](#)  
[polluted](#)  
[rolling in it](#)  
[sloshed to the gills](#)  
[snapped](#)  
[well to do](#)

loan

[hit me for a loan](#)  
[sign out](#)

local

[hick](#)  
[local yokel](#)

[oilpatch](#)[rube](#)

locate

[pinpoint](#)

location

[branch office](#)[go for the jugular](#)[in place](#)

lock

[break and enter](#)

lockhead

[The Group of Five/The Regina Five](#)

loco

[mad as a hatter](#)

log

[deep sleep](#)[grow a tail](#)[pinch off a loaf \[B\]](#)[saw logs](#)[take a dump \[B\]](#)

loggerheads

[at odds](#)[at sixes and sevens](#)

logic

[talk through your hat](#)

logical

[a few bricks short of a full load](#)[common sense](#)[doesn't add up](#)[doesn't wash](#)[hold water](#)[horse sense](#)[it figures](#)[make sense](#)[no rhyme or reason](#)[out in left field](#)[point is well taken](#)

logically

[out of your mind](#)

lonely

[break your heart](#)[miss you](#)

long

[a dog's age](#)  
[a keeper](#)  
[a month of Sundays](#)  
[a wild goose chase](#)  
[all the way to Eger and back](#)  
[all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy](#)  
[by a country mile](#)  
[can't see for looking](#)  
[cheerio](#)  
[collecting dust](#)  
[drag it out](#)  
[drag on](#)  
[fish and company stink after three days](#)  
[for a dog's age](#)  
[for long](#)  
[forever and a day](#)  
[give up the ghost](#)  
[hold a grudge](#)  
[hotdog](#)  
[in a coon's age](#)  
[in the long haul](#)  
[Johnny-come-lately](#)  
[laugh your head off](#)  
[long johns](#)  
[long time no see](#)  
[no rest for the wicked](#)  
[not long for this world](#)  
[once in a blue moon](#)  
[once upon a time](#)  
[the bitter end](#)  
[till the cows come home](#)  
[to hell and gone](#)  
[toodles/toodle-oo](#)  
[wear out your welcome](#)

long-term

[you reap whatsoever you sow](#)

longer

[go the extra mile](#)

[lay off](#)

[lose patience](#)

[out of the way](#)

longing

[pluck at the heart strings](#)

loo

[biff/biffy](#)

[the can](#)

look

[a fleeting glance](#)

[a suicide pass \(hockey\)](#)

[a three-bagger](#)

[a wolf in sheep's clothing](#)

[at a glance](#)

[bag lady](#)

[bark up the wrong tree](#)

[becomes you](#)

[bend the rules](#)

[catch your eye](#)

[cauliflower ear](#)

[check over](#)

[check that](#)

[check this out](#)

[claws are showing](#)

[cut a fine figure](#)

[double take](#)

[dust bunny](#)

[eye candy](#)

[eyeball this](#)

[find fault](#)

[frame](#)

[future looks bright](#)

[get a load of that](#)

[give her the eye](#)

[give him the evil eye](#)

[give it the once-over](#)

[have a boo](#)

[have a looksee](#)

[head in the sand](#)

[headhunter](#)

[hold the fort](#)

[hold your nose](#)

[if looks could kill](#)

[it works](#)

[jive ass \[B\]](#)

[keep an eye out](#)

[keep fit](#)  
[keep your eyes peeled](#)  
[lay eyes on](#)  
[leave no stone unturned](#)  
[lo and behold](#)  
[look daggers](#)  
[look down on](#)  
[look down your nose at](#)  
[look high and low](#)  
[look like death warmed over](#)  
[look out for](#)  
[look over](#)  
[look over your shoulder](#)  
[look sharp](#)  
[no matter how you slice it](#)  
[pass for](#)  
[peep this](#)  
[peer sneer](#)  
[pick holes in](#)  
[pound the pavement](#)  
[read up on](#)  
[run down](#)  
[run the gamut](#)  
[show you up](#)  
[stick out like a sore thumb](#)  
[suits you](#)  
[take a boo](#)  
[take a gander](#)  
[take a look](#)  
[take care of](#)  
[the grass is greener on the other side of the fence](#)  
[the spitting image](#)  
[till you're blue in the face](#)  
[turn a blind eye](#)  
[turn the other way](#)  
[under my care](#)  
[watch out](#)  
[watch over](#)  
[x marks the spot](#)

looking

[can't see for looking](#)  
[caught looking](#)

[chip on his shoulder](#)  
[cruise](#)  
[down in the mouth](#)  
[even a blind pig can find an acorn](#)  
[fall into my lap](#)  
[feast your eyes on](#)  
[hot on the trail](#)  
[in the long run](#)  
[in the pink](#)  
[navel-gazing](#)  
[on my case](#)  
[on the make](#)  
[open a window](#)  
[picky](#)  
[the picture of health](#)  
[tunnel vision](#)  
[without batting an eye](#)

loonie	
--------	--

[buck](#)  
[shekel](#)

loony	
-------	--

[nut house](#)  
[out of your tree](#)

loop	
------	--

[faze me out](#)  
[out of the loop](#)

looped	
--------	--

[plastered](#)  
[snapped](#)

loose	
-------	--

[beside myself](#)  
[come undone](#)  
[odds and ends](#)  
[potato sack](#)

loot	
------	--

[a piece of the action](#)  
[coin](#)

lose	
------	--

[at stake](#)  
[at the end of my rope/ at the end of my tether](#)  
[bite the dust](#)  
[blow a bundle](#)

[blow up](#)  
[blow your lid/stack/top](#)  
[buckle under](#)  
[burn up](#)  
[cat got your tongue](#)  
[come undone](#)  
[come unglued](#)  
[dampen your spirits](#)  
[ditch him](#)  
[drive you to distraction](#)  
[drop a bundle](#)  
[drop behind](#)  
[easy come, easy go](#)  
[fly off the handle](#)  
[get bageled](#)  
[get mad](#)  
[give and take](#)  
[give you odds](#)  
[go bonkers](#)  
[go crazy](#)  
[go downhill](#)  
[hit the ceiling](#)  
[hold up](#)  
[hold your temper](#)  
[hot tempered](#)  
[keep your head](#)  
[kill the goose that lays the golden eggs](#)  
[lose count](#)  
[lose favor](#)  
[lose ground](#)  
[lose it](#)  
[lose out](#)  
[lose track](#)  
[lose your appetite](#)  
[lose your cool](#)  
[lose your head](#)  
[lose your marbles](#)  
[lose your mind](#)  
[lose your shirt](#)  
[lose your touch](#)  
[make good time](#)  
[mind go blank](#)

[out of patience](#)  
[parachute](#)  
[peter out](#)  
[pride goeth before a fall](#)  
[psych out](#)  
[quit while you're ahead](#)  
[shake him](#)  
[slip](#)  
[snatch victory from the jaws of defeat](#)  
[stand to lose](#)  
[suffer a setback](#)  
[take a dive](#)  
[the price you have to pay](#)  
[there's no tomorrow](#)  
[throw a game](#)  
[throw cold water on](#)  
[wipe out](#)  
[you snooze, you lose](#)

loser

[bet on a lame rooster](#)  
[it's all over but the crying](#)

losing

[a losing streak](#)  
[at the end of my rope/ at the end of my tether](#)  
[in the red](#)  
[losing it](#)  
[losing streak](#)  
[mount a comeback](#)  
[put to shame](#)

loss

[a bitter pill](#)  
[a dead loss](#)  
[bogof](#)  
[dead-cat bounce](#)  
[dodge a bullet](#)  
[drawing card](#)  
[give a black eye](#)  
[in the red](#)  
[kiss of death](#)  
[peanuts](#)  
[shortfall](#)  
[write it off](#)

## losses

[boom or bust](#)[cut losses](#)

## lost

[a goner](#)[a wash-out](#)[beat it](#)[beyond help](#)[beyond repair](#)[butt out](#)[buzz off](#)[down the drain](#)[down the tubes](#)[fuck off \[B\]](#)[get going](#)[get out of your hair](#)[git](#)[go tell your mother she wants you](#)[hopes dashed](#)[in the drink](#)[in the hole](#)[it takes two to tango](#)[it's now or never](#)[kiss off](#)[kiss that one goodbye](#)[make yourself scarce](#)[pay up](#)[sob story](#)[take a hike](#)[take off, eh](#)[the one that got away](#)

## lot

[a bad time](#)[a barrel of laughs](#)[a blast](#)[a bunch of malarkey](#)[a full plate](#)[a heavyweight](#)[a hollow leg](#)[a holy pile](#)[a lot of bunk](#)[a lot of folderol](#)

[a pain in the ass \[B\]](#)  
[a pretty penny](#)  
[a riot](#)  
[a rough time](#)  
[a shitload](#)  
[a snootful](#)  
[a tempest in a teapot](#)  
[all talk and no action](#)  
[all the bells and whistles](#)  
[an old hand at](#)  
[and then some](#)  
[armed to the teeth](#)  
[as all get-out](#)  
[ask for the moon](#)  
[big bucks](#)  
[big time](#)  
[blow a bundle](#)  
[blow sky high](#)  
[book worm](#)  
[bring the house down](#)  
[by leaps and bounds](#)  
[cost a pretty penny](#)  
[cost an arm and a leg](#)  
[couch potato](#)  
[crazy about](#)  
[cry her heart out](#)  
[cry me a river](#)  
[cry your eyes out](#)  
[done it all](#)  
[drink like a fish](#)  
[drive me crazy](#)  
[easy street](#)  
[eat like a horse](#)  
[everything from soup to nuts](#)  
[fill your face](#)  
[fun and games](#)  
[gas](#)  
[give an arm and a leg](#)  
[give him an inch and he'll take a mile](#)  
[grill you](#)  
[had enough](#)  
[have deep pockets](#)

[heaven help us](#)  
[high roller](#)  
[hit paydirt](#)  
[in a big way](#)  
[in clover](#)  
[in the worst way](#)  
[kill me](#)  
[kiss the blarney stone](#)  
[know your stuff](#)  
[like crazy/like mad](#)  
[like nobody's business](#)  
[live it up](#)  
[mad about](#)  
[make a big deal of it](#)  
[make a bundle](#)  
[megabucks](#)  
[money to burn](#)  
[more than you can shake a stick at](#)  
[nuts about](#)  
[one born every minute](#)  
[oodles](#)  
[pig out](#)  
[piss pot full \[B\]](#)  
[pot of gold](#)  
[pour it on](#)  
[power to burn](#)  
[power user](#)  
[praise him to the skies](#)  
[put in time](#)  
[put yourself out](#)  
[raise a stink](#)  
[rake in the dough](#)  
[roll out the red carpet](#)  
[run off at the mouth](#)  
[save a bundle](#)  
[scads](#)  
[scare the life out of me](#)  
[serious coin](#)  
[sing his praises](#)  
[smoke like a furnace](#)  
[speak volumes](#)  
[steamy](#)

[strike it rich](#)  
[strip mall](#)  
[talk big](#)  
[talk the leg off the lamb of God](#)  
[talk your head off](#)  
[thanks a bunch](#)  
[thanks a million](#)  
[there's one born every minute](#)  
[through the mill](#)  
[through the wringer](#)  
[tie one on](#)  
[to beat the band](#)  
[toast](#)  
[tons](#)  
[tube head](#)  
[under pressure](#)  
[up the wahoozey](#)  
[whack](#)  
[wild about](#)  
[win big](#)  
[windbag](#)  
[work cut out for](#)  
[worth their weight in gold](#)  
[yak](#)

loud

[at the top of his voice](#)  
[bigmouth](#)  
[blabbermouth](#)  
[full blast](#)  
[laugh your head off](#)  
[make a scene](#)  
[out loud](#)  
[sing up a storm](#)  
[under my breath](#)

louder

[crank it up](#)  
[don't get mad; get even](#)  
[speak up](#)  
[the road to hell is paved with good intentions](#)

loudest

[that takes the cake](#)  
[the squeaky wheel gets the grease](#)

loudly	<a href="#">at the top of his voice</a>
lounges	<a href="#">a bar fly</a>
lousy	<a href="#">crummy</a> <a href="#">shabby</a>
love	<a href="#">a crush on</a> <a href="#">a roll in the hay [B]</a> <a href="#">all's fair in love and war</a> <a href="#">car buff</a> <a href="#">cup runneth over</a> <a href="#">cut a wide swath</a> <a href="#">cut him off [B]</a> <a href="#">do me</a> <a href="#">fall for</a> <a href="#">fall in love</a> <a href="#">falling in love</a> <a href="#">go all the way (sex)</a> <a href="#">have nookie</a> <a href="#">have sex</a> <a href="#">head over heels</a> <a href="#">in love</a> <a href="#">is you is, or is you ain't my baby</a> <a href="#">it takes two to tango</a> <a href="#">life is not all guns and roses</a> <a href="#">love at first sight</a> <a href="#">love conquers all</a> <a href="#">love is where you find it</a> <a href="#">love them and leave them</a> <a href="#">mad about</a> <a href="#">make whoopee</a> <a href="#">puppy love</a> <a href="#">screw [B]</a> <a href="#">sleep around [B]</a> <a href="#">sob story</a> <a href="#">steal your heart</a> <a href="#">steamy</a> <a href="#">sweep you off your feet</a> <a href="#">sweet on</a> <a href="#">the way to a man's heart is through his stomach</a>

[throw yourself at him](#)  
[touch you](#)  
[workaholic](#)  
[worship the ground she walks on](#)  
[you can't sell anybody if you don't love everybody](#)

loved

[it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all](#)  
[it takes two to tango](#)  
[love is where you find it](#)

lovelies

[bevy of beauties](#)  
[gash](#)

lovely

[ducky](#)

lover

[break up](#)  
[cry the blues](#)  
[have an affair](#)  
[love is blind](#)  
[Lovers' Leap](#)  
[old flame](#)

loving

[make love](#)

low

[a dime a dozen](#)  
[a steal](#)  
[behind the curve](#)  
[blue](#)  
[bottom out](#)  
[buyer's market](#)  
[clear out](#)  
[down](#)  
[drive a hard bargain](#)  
[feel blue](#)  
[for a song](#)  
[keep a low profile](#)  
[leave no stone unturned](#)  
[lemon](#)  
[low-ball him](#)  
[on the lam](#)  
[soft market](#)

low-priced

[loss leader](#)

lower

[behind the curve](#)[hard nosed](#)[play second fiddle](#)[slip](#)[take him down a peg](#)

lowest

[bottom rung](#)

loyal

[dance with the one who brought you](#)[pay your dues](#)[stand by me](#)[true blue](#)

luck

[a bummer](#)[a lucky break](#)[a rough time of it](#)[a tough time of it](#)[all goes well](#)[as luck would have it](#)[break a leg](#)[damn the luck \[B\]](#)[darn my luck](#)[every cloud has a silver lining](#)[fucked by the fickle finger of fate \[B\]](#)[luck out](#)[lucky streak](#)[on a roll](#)[out of luck](#)[pipe dream](#)[pure luck](#)[quit while you're ahead](#)[ride the wave](#)[take a chance](#)[tempt fate](#)[the luck of the Irish](#)[touch wood](#)[tough bananas](#)[tough luck](#)[you have to be good to be lucky](#)

lucky

[a hot hand](#)  
[big break](#)  
[bully for you](#)  
[down on his luck](#)  
[horse shoes up his ass \[B\]](#)  
[laughing](#)  
[luck out](#)  
[lucky dog](#)  
[lucky streak](#)  
[nine lives](#)  
[on a roll](#)  
[seven come eleven](#)  
[should be so lucky](#)  
[string of good luck](#)  
[stroke of good luck](#)  
[wysiwyg](#)  
[you can thank your lucky stars](#)

luggage

[check your bags](#)

lunch

[a bite to eat](#)  
[do lunch](#)  
[Dutch treat](#)  
[grab a bite to eat](#)  
[have a bite](#)  
[this one is on me](#)

lurch

[pull the plug](#)

lush

[tank](#)

luxuries

[no-frills](#)

luxurious

[cushy](#)  
[ritzy](#)

luxury

[high on the hog](#)  
[XL](#)

lying

[keep you honest](#)  
[kicking around](#)

lynching

## a necktie party

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Definition Index M

machine	<a href="#">downtime</a> <a href="#">hardware</a>
machine-printed	<a href="#">letter-perfect</a>
mad	<a href="#">boiling mad</a> <a href="#">choked</a> <a href="#">crazy about</a> <a href="#">drive me to the edge</a> <a href="#">fit to be tied</a> <a href="#">get your back up</a> <a href="#">good and dead/mad/sick</a> <a href="#">hot</a> <a href="#">lose your temper</a> <a href="#">make me sick/mad etc.</a> <a href="#">nutty as a fruit cake</a> <a href="#">pissed off [B]</a> <a href="#">spitting nails</a> <a href="#">take a joke</a> <a href="#">to beat the band</a> <a href="#">wild about</a> <a href="#">worship the ground she walks on</a>
made	<a href="#">caribouboo</a> <a href="#">how are you making out</a> <a href="#">picture-perfect</a> <a href="#">piss poor [B]</a> <a href="#">red-faced</a> <a href="#">rye</a> <a href="#">when the chips are down</a>
magic	<a href="#">under a spell</a>
magnify	<a href="#">blow it up (photo)</a>

[zoom in](#)

magpie

[Saskatchewan pheasant](#)

mail

[gofer](#)

main

[a crash course](#)[beat around the bush](#)[bread and butter](#)[corner the market](#)[major](#)[motherlode](#)[off the beaten track](#)[out of the way](#)[play a big part](#)[steal your thunder](#)[stock in trade](#)[that's his bible](#)[the burning question](#)[the crux of the matter](#)[the knock against](#)

mainframe

[log off](#)[log on](#)

mainly

[by and large](#)

mainstream

[on the fringe](#)

maintain

[keep it up](#)

maintained

[gone to the dogs](#)

majesty

[His Royal Highness](#)

major

[a major](#)[big deal](#)[grand slam](#)[one hell of a time](#)[upset the apple cart](#)

majority

[mainstream](#)[the tail wagging the dog](#)

## make

[a barrel of laughs](#)  
[a new broom sweeps clean](#)  
[a shitload](#)  
[add insult to injury](#)  
[anchor you](#)  
[big hairy deal](#)  
[blow it out of proportion](#)  
[boggle your mind](#)  
[call the shots](#)  
[caribouboo](#)  
[carry it off](#)  
[come onto](#)  
[common sense](#)  
[cover for me](#)  
[crack me up](#)  
[crack the line-up](#)  
[crank out](#)  
[cross that bridge when I come to it](#)  
[cut him off \[B\]](#)  
[cut off your nose to spite your face](#)  
[cut you down to size](#)  
[dig yourself in](#)  
[do me](#)  
[do without](#)  
[doesn't add up](#)  
[doesn't wash](#)  
[drive it home](#)  
[fake it](#)  
[fall flat on my face](#)  
[feather your nest](#)  
[flesh out](#)  
[fuck up \[B\]](#)  
[fudge it](#)  
[get ahead](#)  
[get by/scrape by](#)  
[get it on](#)  
[get your shit together \[B\]](#)  
[go all the way \(sex\)](#)  
[go for the jugular](#)  
[go places](#)  
[go to any trouble](#)

[go wrong](#)  
[got rocks in your head](#)  
[got you cornered](#)  
[hard on me](#)  
[have a say](#)  
[have nookie](#)  
[have sex](#)  
[have the final say](#)  
[hawk](#)  
[his own man](#)  
[hit paydirt](#)  
[hunker down](#)  
[hurry up](#)  
[hurt my feelings](#)  
[in order](#)  
[it figures](#)  
[it's beyond me](#)  
[jury-rig](#)  
[kick up a fuss](#)  
[klutz](#)  
[level the playing field](#)  
[make a big deal of it](#)  
[make a big to-do](#)  
[make a booboo](#)  
[make a bundle](#)  
[make a federal case of it](#)  
[make a killing](#)  
[make a living](#)  
[make a mistake](#)  
[make a mountain out of a mole hill](#)  
[make a point of](#)  
[make amends](#)  
[make believe](#)  
[make light of](#)  
[make of it](#)  
[make out](#)  
[make trouble](#)  
[make way](#)  
[make whoopee](#)  
[make your way](#)  
[miss the boat](#)  
[move over](#)

[music to my ears](#)  
[neck](#)  
[pave the way](#)  
[pick you up](#)  
[play it up](#)  
[play on my heart strings](#)  
[poke fun at](#)  
[pull a face](#)  
[put you off your game](#)  
[rabble-rouser](#)  
[raise Cain](#)  
[raise hell \[B\]](#)  
[red herring](#)  
[rock the boat](#)  
[run off](#)  
[run you ragged](#)  
[screw \[B\]](#)  
[shake him](#)  
[sleep around \[B\]](#)  
[slip up](#)  
[spin a yarn](#)  
[string a line](#)  
[sweeten the pot](#)  
[take in](#)  
[take the chill off](#)  
[the spice of life](#)  
[there's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip](#)  
[throw a tantrum](#)  
[throw on a dog for you](#)  
[time is of the essence](#)  
[to coin a phrase](#)  
[tone down](#)  
[too little too late](#)  
[touch up](#)  
[tough on me](#)  
[turn a profit](#)  
[turn your stomach](#)  
[up to something](#)  
[variety is the spice of life](#)  
[water down](#)  
[wax eloquent](#)  
[wear the pants](#)

[winning streak](#)  
[you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear](#)  
[you need money to make money](#)

## making

[a roll in the hay \[B\]](#)  
[between a rock and a hard place](#)  
[wheeler-dealer](#)

## malarkey

[horse feathers](#)

## male

[hunk](#)  
[the family jewels](#)

## man

[a blow job \[B\]](#)  
[a kept woman](#)  
[a lady-killer](#)  
[a man of few words](#)  
[a man's home is his castle](#)  
[a regular guy](#)  
[bad date](#)  
[beauty is in the eye of the beholder](#)  
[bottle man](#)  
[boy, oh boy](#)  
[cowpoke](#)  
[dapper Dan](#)  
[drag queen](#)  
[drugstore cowboy](#)  
[dude](#)  
[fag/faggot](#)  
[fair-haired boy](#)  
[geezer](#)  
[give head \[B\]](#)  
[go down on \[B\]](#)  
[greaser](#)  
[hail-fellow-well-met](#)  
[hatchet man](#)  
[his nibs](#)  
[his own man](#)  
[hunk](#)  
[Johnny-come-lately](#)  
[mind of his own](#)  
[my old man](#)

[old coot](#)  
[old goat](#)  
[pipsqueak](#)  
[play the heavy](#)  
[prick \[B\]](#)  
[Prince Charming](#)  
[rube](#)  
[stag](#)  
[stiff](#)  
[straight man](#)  
[the Man in the Moon](#)  
[the old man](#)  
[the strong, silent type](#)  
[the way to a man's heart is through his stomach](#)  
[to a man](#)  
[to each his own](#)

manage

[a handful](#)  
[bring it off](#)  
[do without](#)  
[fall apart \(at the seams\)](#)  
[get along](#)  
[got your number](#)  
[head up](#)  
[hold the fort](#)  
[in control](#)  
[mind the store](#)  
[run the show](#)

managed

[out of control](#)

manager

[brown nose \[B\]](#)  
[brownie points](#)  
[chief cook and bottle washer](#)  
[go to bat for](#)  
[hand in](#)  
[head honcho](#)  
[laid off](#)  
[low on the totem pole](#)  
[shop-floor struggle](#)  
[take over](#)  
[too many cooks spoil the broth](#)

[turn in](#)

maneuver

[fancy footwork](#)[stickhandle](#)

manger

[shit or get off the pot](#)

manner

[hit on](#)[mind your P's and Q's](#)[on my best behavior](#)[pell-mell](#)[stand on ceremony](#)[watch your P's and Q's](#)

manufacture

[crank out](#)

manufactured

[a dildo \[B\]](#)

manufacturer

[just-in-time](#)

many

[a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush](#)[a coon's age](#)[a dog's breakfast](#)[a hard row to hoe](#)[a little thick](#)[a month of Sundays](#)[a pack of lies](#)[a slow day](#)[as scarce as hen's teeth](#)[bar hop](#)[blue in the face](#)[coming out of our ears](#)[coming out of your yin yang](#)[crawling with](#)[cut a wide swath](#)[Donnybrook](#)[eighty-six it](#)[Fletcherize your food](#)[for long](#)[gang up on](#)[had it up to here](#)[how are you fixed for](#)

[in a coon's age](#)  
[in the long run](#)  
[jack of all trades](#)  
[lemon](#)  
[loaded](#)  
[lose count](#)  
[lose track](#)  
[mind boggling](#)  
[more than you can shake a stick at](#)  
[one born every minute](#)  
[piss pot full \[B\]](#)  
[play the field](#)  
[pub crawl](#)  
[ring off the hook](#)  
[saw sawdust](#)  
[scads](#)  
[scarce as hen's teeth](#)  
[sell like hotcakes](#)  
[shellack](#)  
[sleep around \[B\]](#)  
[take you to the cleaners](#)  
[the last straw](#)  
[there's more than one way to skin a cat](#)  
[time and again](#)  
[too many chiefs and not enough Indians](#)  
[too many cooks spoil the broth](#)  
[traffic jam](#)  
[under fire](#)  
[up to my ears](#)  
[wipe you](#)

margin

[by a country mile](#)

marijuana

[pot](#)

[reefer](#)

[toke up](#)

mark

[a black mark](#)

[a soft touch](#)

[as clean as a whistle](#)

[cast your vote](#)

[on the money](#)

[top it up](#)

marker

[buckstop \(military\)](#)

market

[Black Friday](#)[buyer's market](#)[firm market](#)[got a corner on](#)[seller's market](#)[soft market](#)[up for sale](#)

marketing

[bogof](#)

marriage

[blood is thicker than water](#)[cheat on](#)[something borrowed, something blue](#)

married

[DINKS](#)[shack up \[B\]](#)[stag](#)

marry

[pop the question](#)

masturbate

[jerk off \[B\]](#)[pull your wire \[B\]](#)

match

[got a light](#)[see you/see your](#)[showdown](#)

matched

[even-steven](#)

mate

[made for each other](#)[play around](#)[Prince Charming](#)[soul mate](#)

material

[cut corners](#)

matter

[a bone to pick](#)[a horse of a different color](#)[big hairy deal](#)

[come hell or high water](#)  
[do you mind](#)  
[even so](#)  
[in fact](#)  
[it don't make no nevermind](#)  
[it makes no difference](#)  
[no matter how you slice it](#)  
[put your mind to it](#)  
[small potatoes](#)  
[so what](#)  
[the bigger they are the harder they fall](#)  
[the nitty-gritty](#)  
[to be perfectly honest](#)  
[what the heck](#)  
[who cares](#)  
[winning isn't everything; it's the only thing](#)

mature

[grow up](#)  
[late bloomer](#)  
[x-rated](#)

maturity

[smelling yourself](#)

max

[as all get-out](#)  
[to the max](#)  
[to the nth degree](#)

maximum

[throw the book at](#)

may

[a loose cannon](#)  
[a stitch in time saves nine](#)  
[chances are](#)  
[curiosity killed the cat](#)  
[even a blind pig can find an acorn](#)  
[familiarity breeds contempt](#)  
[feel free](#)  
[have a mind to](#)  
[he who hesitates is lost](#)  
[if a mussel doesn't open don't eat it](#)  
[on the bubble](#)  
[rest his soul \(God rest his soul\)](#)  
[stand to lose](#)

mayday	<a href="#">SOS</a>
mccoy	<a href="#">honest-to-goodness</a>
mcgee	<a href="#">a duke's mixture</a>
mckay	<a href="#">The Group of Five/The Regina Five</a>
meal	<a href="#">chow down</a> <a href="#">grab a bite to eat</a> <a href="#">leftovers</a> <a href="#">on a full stomach</a> <a href="#">square meal</a>
mean	<a href="#">a black mark</a> <a href="#">by hook or by crook</a> <a href="#">come hell or high water</a> <a href="#">feel free</a> <a href="#">take it back</a> <a href="#">what it boils down to</a>
meaning	<a href="#">a play on words</a> <a href="#">cheers</a> <a href="#">chimo</a> <a href="#">follow me</a> <a href="#">get my drift</a> <a href="#">get your wires crossed</a> <a href="#">hit me</a> <a href="#">read between the lines</a> <a href="#">read into</a> <a href="#">take on a new light</a> <a href="#">there's no two ways about it</a> <a href="#">twist your words</a> <a href="#">wack</a>
meaningful	<a href="#">hit home</a>
meaningless	<a href="#">blow it out your ear</a>
meant	<a href="#">take it to heart</a>
meanwhile	<a href="#">in the meantime</a>

measure	<a href="#">hold a candle</a> <a href="#">make the grade</a> <a href="#">take your pulse</a> <a href="#">up to snuff</a> <a href="#">weigh in at</a>
measured	<a href="#">hard skill</a>
meat	<a href="#">square meal</a>
media	<a href="#">cover-up</a> <a href="#">leak</a> <a href="#">the fifth column</a>
mediate	<a href="#">bridge the gap</a>
medical	<a href="#">a checkup</a> <a href="#">checkup</a>
meet	<a href="#">bigger fish to fry</a> <a href="#">bump into</a> <a href="#">cross paths</a> <a href="#">how do you do</a> <a href="#">join you</a> <a href="#">love at first sight</a> <a href="#">make a good impression</a> <a href="#">meet up with</a> <a href="#">run into</a> <a href="#">stand up</a> <a href="#">work the room</a>
meeting	<a href="#">hidden agenda</a> <a href="#">hold a meeting</a> <a href="#">middle ground</a> <a href="#">turn up</a>
melee	<a href="#">brouhaha</a>
melt	<a href="#">smooth talker</a>
member	<a href="#">card-carrying member</a>

[dogan](#)  
[fifth business](#)  
[hand me down](#)  
[lose a family member](#)  
[make the team](#)  
[next of kin](#)  
[one of the boys](#)  
[skinhead](#)  
[try out](#)

membership

[card-carrying member](#)

memorable

[a red-letter day](#)

memorized

[a pat answer](#)  
[by heart](#)  
[canned](#)  
[down pat](#)

memory

[if my memory serves me correctly](#)  
[in the back of my mind](#)  
[in your mind's eye](#)

memos

[a paper trail](#)

men

[backroom boys](#)  
[big boys](#)  
[gotches](#)  
[Old Boys' Club](#)  
[tits and ass \(T & A\) \[B\]](#)

mend

[on the road](#)  
[pick up the pieces](#)

menstruate

[got the rags on \[B\]](#)  
[have your period \[B\]](#)

menstruation

[pre-menstrual syndrome](#)

mental

[bandwidth](#)  
[frame of mind](#)  
[lock you up](#)

[loony bin](#)  
[nut house](#)  
[smarts](#)  
[state of mind](#)

mentally

[one brick short of a full load](#)  
[three slices short \(of a full loaf\)](#)  
[without a full deck](#)

mention

[no problem \(no prob\)](#)  
[not at all](#)  
[sell yourself short](#)  
[throw that in](#)  
[touch on](#)

menwomen

[play the field](#)

meow

[the bee's knees](#)

merchant

[the middleman](#)

mercy

[in cold blood](#)  
[slash and burn](#)

merrier

[let the good times roll](#)

mess

[mix it up](#)  
[mop up](#)

message

[drive it home](#)  
[get the point](#)  
[get the word out](#)  
[music to my ears](#)  
[over and out](#)  
[preach to the choir/preach to the converted](#)  
[reach me](#)  
[read between the lines](#)  
[read me \(CB radio\)](#)  
[steal your thunder](#)  
[the handwriting is on the wall](#)  
[the moment of truth](#)

met

[blind date](#)  
[don't know him from Adam](#)

metal

[boot it](#)  
[flat out](#)  
[floor it](#)  
[full throttle](#)  
[goose it](#)  
[heavy foot](#)  
[in the Monford lane](#)  
[put the hammer down](#)  
[step on it](#)

metaphors

[so to speak](#)

method

[bag of tricks](#)  
[bogof](#)  
[by any means](#)  
[do it the hard way](#)  
[every trick in the book](#)  
[in a rut](#)  
[keep up with the times](#)  
[know inside out](#)  
[short cut](#)  
[the end justifies the means](#)  
[the hard way](#)  
[the long arm of the law](#)  
[there's more than one way to skin a cat](#)

metres

[a stone's throw](#)

microwave

[nuke](#)

[zap](#)

middle

[fence sitter](#)  
[get the finger \[B\] \(get the bird\)](#)  
[hump day](#)  
[in the throes](#)  
[sit the fence](#)  
[smack dab in the middle](#)  
[the eye of the storm](#)

middling

[so-so](#)

midsummer

[dog days of summer](#)

miffed

[put off](#)

mighty

[hoity-toity](#)

mile

[above and beyond the call of duty](#)[bend over backwards](#)[push the boat out](#)[try your darndest](#)

military

[draft dodger](#)

milk

[square meal](#)

mill

[off the shelf](#)[through the mill](#)

million

[much obliged](#)

millionaire

[from rags to riches](#)

mince

[straight from the shoulder](#)

mind

[a dressing down](#)[at heart](#)[back out](#)[best interests at heart](#)[bottle up](#)[caught flatfooted](#)[change your tune](#)[draw a blank](#)[ears are burning](#)[frame of mind](#)[get your mind around](#)[head is spinning](#)[in mind](#)[in the back of my mind](#)[in your mind's eye](#)[it don't make no nevermind](#)[it occurs to me](#)

[knock you out](#)  
[lose your marbles](#)  
[lose your mind](#)  
[lose your tongue](#)  
[make your head spin](#)  
[middle ground](#)  
[mind over matter](#)  
[mind your P's and Q's](#)  
[mix you up](#)  
[out of my head](#)  
[out of your tree](#)  
[play games](#)  
[put your mind to it](#)  
[say what's on your mind](#)  
[something snapped](#)  
[speak out](#)  
[stark raving mad](#)  
[state of mind](#)  
[the bigger they are the harder they fall](#)  
[trifle with me](#)  
[watch your P's and Q's](#)  
[wrap your mind around](#)

mine	
	<a href="#">strike it rich</a>
mini	
	<a href="#">itsy-bitsy / itty-bitty</a>
minister	
	<a href="#">a man of the cloth</a>
minor	
	<a href="#">a touch of</a> <a href="#">brush with the law</a> <a href="#">fender bender</a> <a href="#">play a bit-part</a> <a href="#">rob the cradle</a>
minority	
	<a href="#">the tail wagging the dog</a>
mint	
	<a href="#">as new</a> <a href="#">mint condition</a>
minute	
	<a href="#">down to the wire</a> <a href="#">for long</a>

[hold it](#)  
[hold the phone](#)  
[hold your horses](#)  
[in a bit](#)  
[in a jiffy](#)  
[pop over](#)  
[take a break](#)  
[take five](#)  
[the turning point](#)  
[time out](#)

misbehave

[act up](#)  
[step out of line](#)

misery

[put down](#)

misfortune

[sob story](#)

misinformed

[on your ass \[B\]](#)

misjudge

[miss the boat](#)

mispronounce

[rented lips](#)

miss

[let this chance go by](#)  
[skip classes](#)  
[trial and error](#)

missed

[get caught up](#)

missiles

[in the pipe five by five](#)

missing

[half-assed \[B\]](#)  
[on shaky ground](#)  
[out of context](#)

mistake

[a slip of the tongue](#)  
[blow it](#)  
[caribouboo](#)  
[check over](#)  
[dirty laundry](#)  
[fall flat on my face](#)  
[find fault](#)

[fuck up \[B\]](#)  
[go wrong](#)  
[hold that over my head](#)  
[klutz](#)  
[make a booboo](#)  
[miss the boat](#)  
[mop up](#)  
[on my case](#)  
[on the carpet](#)  
[own up](#)  
[screw-up](#)  
[slip up](#)  
[stand corrected](#)  
[sweep under the carpet](#)  
[the school of hard knocks](#)  
[there's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip](#)

mistaken

[all wet](#)  
[dead wrong](#)  
[don't know your ass from a hole in the ground \[B\]](#)  
[drop dead](#)  
[get out of town](#)

misunderstand

[don't get me wrong](#)  
[miss the boat](#)  
[take it the wrong way](#)

mix

[mess with](#)

mixed

[don't know which end is up](#)  
[don't know your ass from a hole in the ground \[B\]](#)  
[of two minds](#)

mixture

[a dog's breakfast](#)  
[a duke's mixture](#)

mo

[time stands still](#)

mobile

[moppie](#)

mockery

[a send-up](#)

model

[pilot project](#)

moderate

[middle of the road](#)

moderately

[fair to middling](#)

moguls

[big boys](#)

mom

[motherhood and apple pie](#)[tied to your mother's apron strings](#)

moment

[on short notice](#)

money

[a chunk of change](#)[a fool and his money are soon parted](#)[a handout](#)[a little steep](#)[a paltry sum](#)[a pretty penny](#)[all the marbles](#)[ante up](#)[bang for your buck](#)[bankroll](#)[big bucks](#)[blood money](#)[blow a bundle](#)[blow your wad](#)[bread](#)[burn a hole in your pocket](#)[by the seat of your pants](#)[call tabs](#)[cash cow](#)[cash flow](#)[cheap](#)[chicken feed](#)[coin](#)[cold, hard cash](#)[cost a pretty penny](#)[cost an arm and a leg](#)[cost you](#)[count your chickens before they hatch](#)[cut it a little fine](#)

[dig deep](#)  
[dirty money](#)  
[don't put all your eggs in one basket](#)  
[dough](#)  
[drop a bundle](#)  
[easy street](#)  
[feel the pinch](#)  
[filthy lucre](#)  
[flat broke](#)  
[for a song](#)  
[found money](#)  
[front me](#)  
[funny money](#)  
[get by/scrape by](#)  
[give you odds](#)  
[go without](#)  
[good for a loan](#)  
[grease my palm](#)  
[green stuff](#)  
[greenback](#)  
[have deep pockets](#)  
[hit me for a loan](#)  
[hit paydirt](#)  
[in clover](#)  
[in dire straits](#)  
[in hock](#)  
[in the hole](#)  
[in the poorhouse](#)  
[in the red](#)  
[keep you going](#)  
[laundered money](#)  
[lettuce](#)  
[live off](#)  
[lose your shirt](#)  
[make a bundle](#)  
[make a go of it](#)  
[make a living](#)  
[make an offer](#)  
[megabucks](#)  
[money doesn't grow on trees](#)  
[money is the root of all evil](#)  
[money talks](#)

[money to burn](#)  
[moola](#)  
[more money than brains](#)  
[nest egg](#)  
[new money](#)  
[old money](#)  
[out of hock](#)  
[pad an expense account](#)  
[pay back](#)  
[peanuts](#)  
[pin money](#)  
[pony up](#)  
[pot of gold](#)  
[put yourself through college](#)  
[raise money](#)  
[rake in the dough](#)  
[rob Peter to pay Paul](#)  
[salt away](#)  
[save a bundle](#)  
[save for a rainy day](#)  
[scratch](#)  
[serious coin](#)  
[set for life](#)  
[shell out](#)  
[shoot your wad](#)  
[shortchange](#)  
[spending money](#)  
[square deal](#)  
[strapped](#)  
[strike it rich](#)  
[take you for all you've got](#)  
[the crunch](#)  
[the rest is gravy](#)  
[the take](#)  
[tide me over](#)  
[tighten our belts](#)  
[time is money](#)  
[turn a profit](#)  
[when the crunch comes](#)  
[win big](#)  
[winner take all](#)  
[you need money to make money](#)

---

moneybags	<a href="#">loaded</a> <a href="#">more money than brains</a>
monkey	<a href="#">funny stuff</a> <a href="#">monkeywrenching</a>
monkeywrenching	<a href="#">throw a monkey wrench into the works</a>
monopoly	<a href="#">corner the market</a>
month	<a href="#">in a long time</a> <a href="#">salt away</a>
montreal	<a href="#">The Big O</a>
monty	<a href="#">strip</a>
mood	<a href="#">chip on his shoulder</a> <a href="#">frame of mind</a> <a href="#">in a funk</a> <a href="#">in seventh heaven</a> <a href="#">state of mind</a>
moola	<a href="#">dough</a> <a href="#">green stuff</a> <a href="#">lettuce</a> <a href="#">scratch</a>
moon	<a href="#">the Man in the Moon</a>
moonshine	<a href="#">booze</a> <a href="#">rot gut</a> <a href="#">screech</a>
morality	<a href="#">there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so</a>
morals	<a href="#">lowlife</a>
more	<a href="#">above and beyond the call of duty</a> <a href="#">absence makes the heart grow fonder</a> <a href="#">actions speak louder than words</a> <a href="#">add fuel to the fire</a>

[and then some](#)  
[ask for the moon](#)  
[beef it up](#)  
[bigger fish to fry](#)  
[bite off more than you can chew](#)  
[booked/booked up](#)  
[bravo](#)  
[choose up sides](#)  
[come on strong](#)  
[conk out](#)  
[cut me some slack](#)  
[cut off](#)  
[cut the crap \[B\]](#)  
[dig a little deeper](#)  
[dig deep](#)  
[don't get smart with me](#)  
[don't push your luck](#)  
[drink you under the table](#)  
[drop it](#)  
[fill me in](#)  
[fish or cut bait](#)  
[for good measure](#)  
[full up](#)  
[get in deeper](#)  
[get your head out of the clouds](#)  
[give 110%](#)  
[give her](#)  
[give up](#)  
[give you odds](#)  
[go one better](#)  
[grow on you](#)  
[had a bellyful](#)  
[had a couple](#)  
[hedge your bets](#)  
[keep on](#)  
[kill an elephant](#)  
[knuckle down](#)  
[leave well enough alone](#)  
[let the good times roll](#)  
[liven up](#)  
[mind boggling](#)  
[mop the floor with us](#)

[more power to you](#)  
[musical chairs](#)  
[nothing succeeds like success](#)  
[oodles](#)  
[out of](#)  
[out of patience](#)  
[out of the woods](#)  
[pad an expense account](#)  
[pay down](#)  
[piss pot full \[B\]](#)  
[plate is full](#)  
[pull the plug](#)  
[put to rest](#)  
[rest my case](#)  
[ride the wave](#)  
[save face](#)  
[seconds](#)  
[shit out of luck \[B\]](#)  
[sick of](#)  
[soften up](#)  
[sweeten the pot](#)  
[that's all she wrote](#)  
[the last of it](#)  
[the more the merrier](#)  
[think over](#)  
[throw good money after bad](#)  
[time ran out](#)  
[time's up](#)  
[two heads are better than one](#)  
[up the wahoozey](#)  
[wake up and smell the coffee](#)  
[you can't sell anybody if you don't love everybody](#)

morning

[good day](#)  
[sleep in](#)  
[top of the morning](#)

mortal

[vale of tears \(valley of tears\)](#)

mortgage

[in hock](#)

morton

[The Group of Five/The Regina Five](#)

moses	<a href="#">gadzooks</a> <a href="#">holy Toledo</a>
most	<a href="#">all's well that ends well</a> <a href="#">bear the brunt</a> <a href="#">by and large</a> <a href="#">first and foremost</a> <a href="#">golden age</a> <a href="#">got a corner on</a> <a href="#">happy camper</a> <a href="#">lose your shirt</a> <a href="#">play it for all it's worth</a> <a href="#">seize the opportunity</a> <a href="#">state of the art</a> <a href="#">steal the show</a> <a href="#">stretch the dollar</a> <a href="#">the day of the family farm</a> <a href="#">the key to success</a> <a href="#">the last word</a> <a href="#">the living end</a> <a href="#">you're only as good as your last shift</a>
mostly	<a href="#">by and large</a>
mother	<a href="#">go pound salt</a> <a href="#">the best things in life are free</a>
motion	<a href="#">slo mo</a> <a href="#">straw horse</a>
motivate	<a href="#">spur on</a> <a href="#">start a fire under him</a>
motivated	<a href="#">fired up</a> <a href="#">flat</a>
motive	<a href="#">see through</a>
mount	<a href="#">snatch victory from the jaws of defeat</a> <a href="#">turn the tables on</a>
mountain	

[make a big deal of it](#)  
[make a federal case of it](#)  
[red herring](#)

mounted

[Mounties](#)

mouse

[below the poverty line](#)  
[in the poorhouse](#)

mousetrap

[necessity is the mother of invention](#)

mousy

[shabby](#)

mouth

[bad breath](#)  
[bigmouth](#)  
[blabbermouth](#)  
[chops](#)  
[down in the dumps](#)  
[fill your face](#)  
[go on about](#)  
[hold your mouth the right way](#)  
[shoot from the hip](#)  
[slap my afro / slap my fro](#)  
[the way you hold your mouth](#)

movable

[as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar](#)

move

[a false move](#)  
[break away](#)  
[dig in their heels](#)  
[draw their fire](#)  
[elbow room](#)  
[fancy footwork](#)  
[finishing touch](#)  
[flip-flop](#)  
[get on your horse](#)  
[get out of the road](#)  
[get over](#)  
[get rolling](#)  
[get the lead out](#)  
[get up a head of steam](#)  
[got you by the balls \[B\]](#)

[got you cornered](#)  
[it's your move](#)  
[it's your turn](#)  
[make room](#)  
[make tracks](#)  
[make way](#)  
[make your way](#)  
[move over](#)  
[move your ass](#)  
[on tenterhooks](#)  
[on the double](#)  
[one false move](#)  
[play musical chairs](#)  
[pluck at the heart strings](#)  
[pull up stakes](#)  
[rob Peter to pay Paul](#)  
[shake a leg](#)  
[shit or get off the pot](#)  
[sit tight](#)  
[stay put](#)  
[tearjerker](#)  
[watch me like a hawk](#)  
[work the room](#)  
[zig when you should zag](#)  
[zoom in](#)

## movement

[act out](#)  
[body language](#)  
[drop a log \[B\]](#)  
[in the road](#)  
[mark a watershed](#)  
[pinch off a loaf \[B\]](#)  
[slo mo](#)  
[take a shit \[B\]](#)

## movie

[a hit](#)  
[a nail-biter](#)  
[chick flick](#)  
[date](#)  
[life is not all guns and roses](#)  
[on the edge of your seat](#)  
[play a bit-part](#)

## moving

[a rolling stone gathers no moss](#)  
[ass into gear](#)  
[at rest](#)  
[brain traffic](#)  
[Denver boot](#)  
[fits and starts](#)  
[get going](#)  
[lickety-split](#)  
[like shit through a goose](#)  
[off to the races](#)  
[on the move](#)  
[piano tied to your ass \[B\]](#)  
[shuffle the chairs on the deck](#)  
[time stands still](#)  
[traffic jam](#)

## much

[a fine line](#)  
[a holy pile](#)  
[a little steep](#)  
[a little thick](#)  
[a nail-biter](#)  
[a quick study](#)  
[a raw deal](#)  
[a shadow of his former self](#)  
[above and beyond the call of duty](#)  
[and how](#)  
[as all get-out](#)  
[at least](#)  
[big time](#)  
[burn out](#)  
[cash cow](#)  
[circles around you](#)  
[coming out of our ears](#)  
[coming out of your yin yang](#)  
[cost you](#)  
[die for](#)  
[dilly-dally](#)  
[do your utmost](#)  
[don't know which side your bread is buttered on](#)  
[don't push your luck](#)  
[ease up](#)

[easy time of it](#)  
[eat your fill](#)  
[feast or famine](#)  
[feel a draft](#)  
[full steam ahead](#)  
[fuss over](#)  
[go easy on](#)  
[go out on a limb](#)  
[go overboard](#)  
[got it bad](#)  
[had a bellyful](#)  
[had it](#)  
[hard done by](#)  
[hard sell](#)  
[hill of beans](#)  
[hold the purse strings](#)  
[in a big way](#)  
[in glowing terms](#)  
[in the worst way](#)  
[it never rains but it pours](#)  
[keep a low profile](#)  
[kill an elephant](#)  
[know the ropes](#)  
[let up](#)  
[like a ton of bricks](#)  
[like crazy/like mad](#)  
[liquored up](#)  
[long for](#)  
[mad about](#)  
[make a big to-do](#)  
[mind your P's and Q's](#)  
[nag](#)  
[offhand](#)  
[on short notice](#)  
[on the run](#)  
[out of sight \(outa sight\)](#)  
[over the top](#)  
[plate is full](#)  
[play a big part](#)  
[pour it on](#)  
[push me \(to the limit\)](#)  
[put yourself out](#)

[see you/see your](#)  
[so much as](#)  
[speak volumes](#)  
[talk your ear off](#)  
[talk your head off](#)  
[thanks a bunch](#)  
[thanks a million](#)  
[the air was blue](#)  
[tighten our belts](#)  
[to a fault](#)  
[two-fisted attack](#)  
[under pressure](#)  
[want it so bad I can taste it](#)  
[wear off](#)  
[when it rains it pours](#)  
[work to rule](#)  
[worship the ground she walks on](#)

muchmany

[tons](#)

muckrake

[character assassination](#)

mudslang

[trade insults](#)

mugged

[bushwhack](#)[hold up](#)

mum

[lips are sealed](#)

murder

[hit man](#)[pop a cap \[B\]](#)

murdered

[blood money](#)

muscle

[charley horse](#)[no pain, no gain](#)[pull a muscle](#)

music

[basta la musica](#)[cook](#)[disk jockey \(DJ\)](#)[do a gig](#)

[ear candy](#)  
[grunge \(fashion\)](#)  
[grunge \(music\)](#)  
[jam](#)  
[musical chairs](#)  
[rock](#)  
[tin ear](#)

musical

[musical chairs](#)  
[shuffle the chairs on the deck](#)

musicians

[jam session](#)

must

[cool under pressure](#)  
[duty calls](#)  
[gofer](#)  
[have my work cut out](#)  
[have to](#)  
[have to go some](#)  
[have to hand it to you](#)  
[I'll be a monkey's uncle](#)  
[it's a matter of life and death](#)  
[musical chairs](#)  
[no rest for the wicked](#)  
[sacred cow](#)  
[the heat is on](#)  
[the price you have to pay](#)  
[when the chips are down](#)  
[work ethic](#)  
[you've got to be kidding](#)

mutual

[meeting of minds](#)

my

[a dressing down](#)  
[a piece of my mind](#)  
[all in a day's work](#)  
[as far as I know](#)  
[at my wits' end](#)  
[be my undoing](#)  
[blow me \[B\]](#)  
[blow my cover](#)  
[browbeat](#)

[brush with death](#)  
[bust my butt](#)  
[case in point](#)  
[collect my thoughts](#)  
[cover for me](#)  
[cry me a river](#)  
[damn the luck \[B\]](#)  
[darn my luck](#)  
[dig me](#)  
[double take](#)  
[duty calls](#)  
[eat your heart out](#)  
[fill in for me](#)  
[follow me](#)  
[get my drift](#)  
[get my kicks](#)  
[get off my back](#)  
[give an arm and a leg](#)  
[give my eye teeth](#)  
[give my right arm](#)  
[goodness gracious](#)  
[got it in for](#)  
[have my ears lowered](#)  
[hold that over my head](#)  
[honestly](#)  
[I smell where you're stepping](#)  
[in my care](#)  
[in my good books](#)  
[in the back of my mind](#)  
[is you is, or is you ain't my baby](#)  
[it occurs to me](#)  
[it seems to me](#)  
[it strikes me](#)  
[kick myself](#)  
[lose my train of thought](#)  
[mind your own business](#)  
[money talks](#)  
[my old man](#)  
[on my back](#)  
[on my case](#)  
[on my good side](#)  
[on my plate](#)

[on my way](#)  
[out of my depth](#)  
[out of the corner of my eye](#)  
[pick on](#)  
[put my neck on the line](#)  
[rattle my chain](#)  
[read me \(CB radio\)](#)  
[read my lips](#)  
[rest my case](#)  
[say my piece](#)  
[scare the life out of me](#)  
[shit myself \[B\]](#)  
[shut my mouth](#)  
[slap my afro / slap my fro](#)  
[stand by me](#)  
[stand in](#)  
[stick my neck out](#)  
[take care of business](#)  
[take oath](#)  
[tear me apart](#)  
[the old man](#)  
[the pit of my stomach](#)  
[the way I see it](#)  
[think better of it](#)  
[think nothing of it](#)  
[trifle with me](#)  
[under my skin](#)  
[under my wing](#)  
[under oath](#)  
[watch me like a hawk](#)  
[with all my heart](#)  
[within earshot](#)  
[work your ass off \[B\]](#)  
[worship the ground she walks on](#)

myself

[at the end of my rope/ at the end of my tether](#)  
[fall flat on my face](#)  
[have a bird](#)  
[kick myself](#)  
[under the weather](#)  
[yours truly](#)

mysteriously

[spirit away](#)

mystery

[for the life of me](#)

[the way you hold your mouth](#)

myth

[old wives' tale](#)

[the Man in the Moon](#)

[the rabbit died](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Definition Index N

n	
	<a href="#">Bigfoot</a>
nada	
	<a href="#">dick</a>
	<a href="#">zilch</a>
	<a href="#">zip/zippo</a>
nags	
	<a href="#">a bitch [B]</a>
nail	
	<a href="#">hammer and tongs</a>
	<a href="#">two-fisted attack</a>
naive	
	<a href="#">a babe in the woods</a>
	<a href="#">been around</a>
naked	
	<a href="#">birthday suit</a>
	<a href="#">cheesecake</a>
	<a href="#">didn't have a stitch of clothes on</a>
	<a href="#">full Monty</a>
	<a href="#">in the buff</a>
	<a href="#">in the nude</a>
	<a href="#">naked as a jay bird</a>
	<a href="#">skinny dip</a>
	<a href="#">stark naked</a>
	<a href="#">the full Monty</a>
	<a href="#">without a stitch of clothes on</a>
name	
	<a href="#">a black mark</a>
	<a href="#">a household name</a>
	<a href="#">a.k.a. (aka)</a>
	<a href="#">do-dad</a>
	<a href="#">do-funny</a>
	<a href="#">go by the name of</a>
	<a href="#">John Hancock</a>
	<a href="#">John Henry</a>

[name-dropper](#)  
[name is cleared](#)  
[name is mud](#)  
[puppy](#)  
[sign in](#)  
[sign out](#)  
[so and so](#)  
[take your turn](#)  
[the luck of the draw](#)  
[thing-a-ma-bob / thing-a-ma-jig](#)  
[what's-his-face](#)

name-dropper

[drop a name / drop names](#)

named

[ticketed](#)

nameplate

[black out](#)

narrow

[so small you could barely swing a cat](#)

natural

[a way with words](#)  
[against the grain](#)  
[be yourself](#)  
[by its very nature](#)  
[catch a buzz](#)  
[come into your own](#)  
[come naturally](#)  
[cut out for](#)  
[go against the grain](#)  
[granola](#)  
[higher than a kite](#)  
[it goes with the territory](#)  
[let it all hang out](#)  
[let yourself go](#)  
[made for each other](#)  
[Mother Nature](#)  
[on a lark](#)  
[pick you up](#)  
[roll off the tongue](#)  
[second nature](#)  
[soul mate](#)  
[stoned](#)

[straight man](#)  
[the grass is greener on the other side of the fence](#)  
[wasted](#)  
[without batting an eye](#)

naturally

[green thumb](#)  
[let the chips fall where they may](#)  
[right as rain](#)  
[take its course](#)

nature

[dark side](#)  
[found money](#)  
[Mother Nature](#)  
[the best things in life are free](#)

nausea

[hangover](#)

navel

[navel-gazing](#)

navigate

[make your way](#)

nay

[nope](#)

nazi

[skinhead](#)

near

[a ball-park figure](#)  
[at death's door](#)  
[down to the wire](#)  
[hang around](#)  
[in the ball park](#)  
[kicking around](#)  
[win going away](#)

nearly

[about time](#)  
[bananas](#)  
[brush with death](#)  
[bumper to bumper](#)  
[down to the short strokes](#)  
[drive me to the edge](#)  
[fly low](#)  
[in the nick of time](#)  
[just about](#)

[on my deathbed](#)  
[on our last legs](#)  
[on the verge](#)  
[on your deathbed](#)  
[pushing fifty](#)  
[six of one, half a dozen of the other](#)  
[strapped](#)  
[there's not much to choose between them](#)  
[through the mill](#)

## neat

[apple-pie order](#)  
[clean cut](#)  
[cool](#)  
[fancy footwork](#)  
[groovy](#)  
[peachy](#)  
[slick](#)  
[snazzy](#)  
[spinork/spinorky](#)  
[tiddly](#)

## necessary

[a must](#)  
[as useless as tits on a boar](#)  
[bare bones](#)  
[cross that bridge when I come to it](#)  
[go to great lengths/ go to any lengths](#)  
[kill an elephant](#)  
[won't see you stuck](#)

## necessities

[from hand to mouth](#)

## neck

[in these parts](#)  
[put my neck on the line](#)  
[stick my neck out](#)  
[these parts](#)

## need

[a sweet tooth](#)  
[a three-bagger](#)  
[ask for the moon](#)  
[back teeth are floating](#)  
[be there for me](#)  
[best interests at heart](#)

[dog in the manger](#)  
[grow a tail](#)  
[have to go](#)  
[heaven help us](#)  
[it takes two to tango](#)  
[like a dirty shirt](#)  
[nature calls](#)  
[necessity is the mother of invention](#)  
[oodles](#)  
[run short](#)  
[save for a rainy day](#)  
[so help me](#)  
[sweet tooth](#)  
[take care of business](#)  
[the past is slipping by without a trace](#)  
[you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink](#)

needed

[as useless as a fifth wheel](#)  
[downtime](#)  
[got what it takes](#)  
[Johnny on the spot](#)  
[rise to the occasion](#)  
[too little too late](#)  
[up the wahoozey](#)

needing

[in hot water](#)  
[tied to your mother's apron strings](#)

needle

[a hit](#)  
[get a shot](#)  
[sweat it out](#)  
[the eye of a needle](#)

needless

[it goes without saying](#)

needy

[charity begins at home](#)  
[waste not, want not](#)

negative

[a bitter pill](#)  
[add insult to injury](#)  
[an attitude](#)  
[bad blood](#)

[change of heart](#)  
[don't knock it](#)  
[feeling bum](#)  
[get me down](#)  
[mixed feelings](#)  
[out of sorts](#)  
[owly](#)  
[sour grapes](#)  
[take a poke at](#)  
[the downside](#)

neglected

[catch up on](#)  
[go by the boards](#)  
[gone to pot](#)

negligible

[peanuts](#)

negotiate

[drive a hard bargain](#)  
[stickhandle](#)  
[talk turkey](#)

negotiations

[asking price](#)

neighbor

[hoser](#)  
[keep up with the Joneses](#)  
[the grass is greener on the other side of the fence](#)

neither

[fall between two stools](#)  
[so-so](#)

nerd

[bozo](#)  
[dingbat/ding-dong](#)  
[ditz](#)  
[fink](#)  
[geek](#)  
[yoyo](#)

nerves

[frazzled](#)  
[got guts](#)

nervous

[a basket case](#)  
[a bundle of nerves](#)

[all shook up](#)  
[at my wits' end](#)  
[buck fever](#)  
[choke](#)  
[edgy](#)  
[get the jitters](#)  
[high strung](#)  
[in a cold sweat](#)  
[on edge](#)  
[shake him](#)  
[sweat bullets](#)  
[uptight](#)

nest

[feather your nest](#)

net

[Netwar](#)

[spike the ball](#)

network

[electronic superhighway](#)

[surf the Net](#)

[World Wide Web \(www\)](#)

neutral

[caught flatfooted](#)

never

[a perfect stranger](#)

[a total stranger](#)

[do or die](#)

[don't know him from Adam](#)

[every cloud has a silver lining](#)

[for love nor money](#)

[go to great lengths/ go to any lengths](#)

[in a rut](#)

[it ain't over till it's over](#)

[it don't make no nevermind](#)

[Murphy's Law](#)

[never say die](#)

[not for all the tea in China](#)

[not on your tintype](#)

[skin virgin](#)

[that'll be the day](#)

[that'll be the frosty Friday](#)

new

[a breath of fresh air](#)

[a fresh start](#)

[a pick-me-up](#)

[as new](#)

[better the devil you know...](#)

[blow the lid off](#)

[break a story](#)

[break in](#)

[buzzword](#)

[down under](#)

[expand your horizons](#)

[grandfather](#)

[hit the ground running](#)

[how's tricks](#)

[in leaf](#)

[in mint condition](#)

[keep up with the times](#)

[keep you posted](#)

[keep your ear to the ground](#)

[leaf out](#)

[mint condition](#)

[music to my ears](#)

[new blood](#)

[new kid on the block](#)

[new wave](#)

[no news is good news](#)

[no word](#)

[open a window](#)

[proby](#)

[scoop](#)

[scoop them](#)

[sell the farm](#)

[settle in](#)

[steal your thunder](#)

[take on a new light](#)

[take over](#)

[take possession](#)

[The Big Apple](#)

[The Rock](#)

[the turn of the century](#)

[think outside the box](#)

[to coin a phrase](#)

[turn over a new leaf](#)[turn you around](#)[upside](#)[water-cooler talk](#)[what's new](#)[what's the poop](#)[what's up](#)

newfoundland

[Newfie](#)[The Rock](#)

newspaper

[the fifth column](#)

next

[door to door](#)[know which end is up](#)[move over](#)[on deck](#)

nibs

[the be-all, end-all](#)

nice

[a breath of fresh air](#)[a little thick](#)[butter up](#)[chimo](#)[cool beans](#)[doesn't mince words](#)[eye candy](#)[flattery will get you nowhere](#)[groaty to the max](#)[how do you do](#)[it works](#)[kiss ass \[B\]](#)[look sharp](#)[low-down](#)[pay a compliment](#)[phat](#)[pull punches](#)[ritzy](#)[smooth talker](#)[suck up to](#)[tubular](#)[wax eloquent](#)

[way cool](#)

nice-looking

[fine-feathered friend](#)

nice-talking

[silver-tongued](#)

nicer

[tone down](#)

nicest

[selling point](#)

nick

[just in time](#)

night

[burn the midnight oil](#)[wait up for](#)

nine

[riding high](#)[the whole ball of wax](#)

nip

[touch and go](#)

nitpick

[pick holes in](#)[typo](#)

nitty-gritty

[where the rubber hits the road](#)

nitwit

[half-there](#)

no

[a blowout](#)[a caution](#)[a fart in a windstorm](#)[a pack of lies](#)[a piece of cake](#)[a pinch of coon shit \[B\]](#)[a poker face](#)[a snowball's chance in hell](#)[all goes well](#)[all show](#)[all things being equal](#)[all's fair in love and war](#)[anything goes](#)[as useless as tits on a boar](#)[back yourself into a corner](#)[bar none](#)

[bare bones](#)

[beat a dead horse](#)

[before you can say Jack Robinson](#)

[between the devil and the deep blue sea](#)

[bite me \[B\]](#)

[Bob's your uncle](#)

[booked/booked up](#)

[break the bank](#)

[burn your bridges](#)

[cash and carry](#)

[catch as catch can](#)

[circles around you](#)

[come hell or high water](#)

[cut the crap \[B\]](#)

[darn it](#)

[dead as a doornail](#)

[deadbeat](#)

[DINKS](#)

[don't mention it](#)

[drat](#)

[even so](#)

[fiddlesticks](#)

[flat broke](#)

[for love nor money](#)

[for sure](#)

[full up](#)

[go figure](#)

[good grief](#)

[goose egg](#)

[got no business](#)

[got rocks in your head](#)

[half-corked](#)

[hands down](#)

[haven't got a hope in hell](#)

[haven't seen hide nor hair](#)

[haven't the foggiest](#)

[heavens to Betsy](#)

[in a flash](#)

[in dire straits](#)

[is that so](#)

[knock them down, drag them out](#)

[like hell \[B\]](#)

[lollygag](#)  
[look high and low](#)  
[mean business](#)  
[naked as a jay bird](#)  
[nay](#)  
[no can do](#)  
[no chancy](#)  
[no dice](#)  
[no doubt](#)  
[no guff](#)  
[no hard feelings](#)  
[no holds barred](#)  
[no news is good news](#)  
[no qualms](#)  
[no question](#)  
[no rhyme or reason](#)  
[no shit \[B\]](#)  
[no skin off my nose](#)  
[no sweat](#)  
[no use for](#)  
[no way](#)  
[no word](#)  
[nope](#)  
[not at all](#)  
[not for all the tea in China](#)  
[not on your life](#)  
[not on your tintype](#)  
[not so hot](#)  
[not to worry](#)  
[nothing to write home about](#)  
[nuts](#)  
[oh my gosh](#)  
[out of](#)  
[out of patience](#)  
[out of the question](#)  
[out of the way](#)  
[phooey](#)  
[put my foot down](#)  
[rats](#)  
[rest my case](#)  
[say the word](#)  
[scrut](#)

[shit out of luck \[B\]](#)  
[shutout \(sports\)](#)  
[smooth sailing](#)  
[stone dead](#)  
[strictly business](#)  
[take it or leave it](#)  
[take it the wrong way](#)  
[take your time](#)  
[that's all she wrote](#)  
[the buck stops here](#)  
[the last of it](#)  
[think nothing of it](#)  
[time ran out](#)  
[time's up](#)  
[to hell with that \[B\]](#)  
[uh-uh](#)  
[wall flower](#)  
[what did I do to deserve this](#)  
[wishy-washy](#)  
[without question](#)

nobody

[joe-job](#)

noise

[rabble-rouser](#)

[raise Cain](#)

[raise hell \[B\]](#)

noisy

[bash](#)

[boys will be boys](#)

[keep it down](#)

[pipe down](#)

[put a lid on it](#)

none

[nada](#)

[out of](#)

[scarce as hen's teeth](#)

[shit out of luck \[B\]](#)

[zilch](#)

nonsense

[bah](#)

[balderdash](#)

[claptrap](#)

[cock and bull \[B\]](#)  
[gibberish](#)  
[mean business](#)  
[monkey business](#)  
[strictly business](#)

nookie

[a piece of ass \[B\]](#)  
[poontang \[B\]](#)

nope

[nay](#)  
[uh-uh](#)

nor

[fall between two stools](#)  
[pinko](#)  
[so-so](#)

normal

[all his marbles](#)  
[business as usual](#)  
[on queer street](#)  
[out of the norm](#)  
[scrape me off the ceiling](#)  
[sleep it off](#)  
[up to speed](#)

normally

[be yourself](#)

north

[due north](#)  
[head up there](#)  
[The Great White North](#)

nose

[kiss ass \[B\]](#)  
[kowitz](#)  
[shoot yourself in the foot](#)  
[suck up to](#)  
[watch your step](#)

note

[dash off a note/letter](#)  
[get a ticket](#)  
[hit the high notes](#)  
[keep tabs on](#)  
[there are two sides to every story](#)

nothing

[blow me \[B\]](#)  
[bugger all \[B\]](#)  
[business as usual](#)  
[dick](#)  
[diddly-squat](#)  
[double or nothing](#)  
[fuck all](#)  
[Hobson's choice](#)  
[ignorance is bliss](#)  
[it's a matter of life and death](#)  
[nada](#)  
[nary a word](#)  
[not worth a plugged nickel](#)  
[nothing ventured, nothing gained](#)  
[out of luck](#)  
[stark naked](#)  
[the big 0](#)  
[the road to hell is paved with good intentions](#)  
[there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so](#)  
[think nothing of it](#)  
[you need money to make money](#)  
[zilch](#)  
[zip/zippo](#)

notice

[at a moment's notice](#)  
[at first glance](#)  
[burn your bridges](#)  
[call attention to](#)  
[draw attention to](#)  
[look the other way](#)  
[on short notice](#)  
[split hairs](#)

november

[freeze-up](#)

now

[at once](#)  
[at this point in time](#)  
[cheerio](#)  
[chimo](#)  
[come to think of it](#)  
[do or die](#)  
[front me](#)

[get on it](#)  
[get to it](#)  
[hit me](#)  
[in the meantime](#)  
[it's now or never](#)  
[it's your move](#)  
[it's your turn](#)  
[long gone](#)  
[on the double](#)  
[pronto](#)  
[right away](#)  
[seize the opportunity](#)  
[strike while the iron is hot](#)  
[the ball's in your court](#)

nth

[to perfection](#)

nuclear

[nukes](#)

nude

[birthday suit](#)  
[didn't have a stitch of clothes on](#)  
[full Monty](#)  
[in the buff](#)  
[naked as a jay bird](#)  
[the full Monty](#)  
[without a stitch of clothes on](#)

nuke

[zap](#)

number

[a ball-park figure](#)  
[bottom line](#)  
[character density](#)  
[drop like flies](#)  
[grey power](#)  
[out of the ball park](#)  
[play catch-up](#)  
[seven come eleven](#)  
[the bottom line](#)  
[the cat's ass \[B\]](#)  
[the luck of the draw](#)  
[turnout](#)

nut

[bonkers](#)  
[cracked](#)  
[crackers](#)  
[darn it](#)  
[ditz](#)  
[drat](#)  
[fiddlesticks](#)  
[fuddle duddle\\*](#)  
[go bananas](#)  
[go mad](#)  
[kooky](#)  
[loony bin](#)  
[nerd](#)  
[out of your tree](#)  
[phooey](#)  
[rats](#)  
[scrut](#)  
[sheesh](#)  
[wingnut](#)

nutritional

[junk food](#)

nutritious

[natural high](#)

nutty

[wacky](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Definition Index O

o'clock	<a href="#">on the clock</a>
oath	<a href="#">cross my heart and hope to die</a> <a href="#">word of honor</a>
obey	<a href="#">above the law</a> <a href="#">break the law/rules</a> <a href="#">eat out of the palm of your hand</a> <a href="#">fall in line</a> <a href="#">get away with</a> <a href="#">keep in line</a> <a href="#">stay in line</a>
object	<a href="#">a fifth wheel</a> <a href="#">a jim dandy</a> <a href="#">a sack of hammers</a> <a href="#">dig it up</a> <a href="#">do-dad</a> <a href="#">eye candy</a> <a href="#">gild the lily</a> <a href="#">pass off</a> <a href="#">take exception to</a> <a href="#">there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so</a> <a href="#">white elephant</a>
obligated	<a href="#">off the hook</a>
obsessed	<a href="#">stuck on</a>
obstacle	<a href="#">stumbling block</a>
obstructing	<a href="#">out of the way</a>
obtain	<a href="#">come by</a>

[pin down/pin him down](#)

obtained

[dirty money](#)

[hot goods](#)

obvious

[a dead giveaway](#)

[corny](#)

[don't teach your grandmother how to suck eggs](#)

[it goes without saying](#)

[needless to say](#)

[the handwriting is on the wall](#)

occasionally

[from time to time](#)

occupation

[all walks of life](#)

[back at it](#)

[every walk of life](#)

[know inside out](#)

[the tricks of the trade](#)

[walk of life](#)

occur

[all things being equal](#)

[come up](#)

[crop up](#)

[dawn on me](#)

[go on](#)

[havoc strikes](#)

[pop up](#)

[take place](#)

ocean

[salty](#)

[the best things in life are free](#)

odd

[a duke's mixture](#)

[bet you dollars to donuts](#)

[bits and pieces](#)

[few and far between](#)

[lay you](#)

[loose ends](#)

odor

[give off an odor](#)

[jungle mouth](#)

of

[a bad taste in my mouth](#)[a bad time](#)[a barrel of laughs](#)[a beehive of activity](#)[a blast](#)[a bull in a china shop](#)[a bunch of malarkey](#)[a case of](#)[a chunk of change](#)[a crush on](#)[a dickens of a time](#)[a dog's breakfast](#)[a dressing down](#)[a drop in the bucket](#)[a duke's mixture](#)[a faraway look](#)[a fill-up](#)[a full house \(cards\)](#)[a gaggle of geese](#)[a grain of truth](#)[a hard day](#)[a head start](#)[a heavyweight](#)[a hell of a time](#)[a hollow leg](#)[a hoot](#)[a hot topic](#)[a household name](#)[a jim dandy](#)[a.k.a. \(aka\)](#)[a little bird told me](#)[a long shot](#)[a lot of bunk](#)[a lot of folderol](#)[a lucky break](#)[a pain in the ass \[B\]](#)[a paltry sum](#)[a paper trail](#)[a piece of my mind](#)[a piece of piss](#)[a piece of the action](#)

[a pinch of salt](#)  
[a pine float](#)  
[a pretty penny](#)  
[a quickie](#)  
[a redneck](#)  
[a riot](#)  
[a rough time](#)  
[a rough time of it](#)  
[a royal pain](#)  
[a scandal is brewing](#)  
[a short one](#)  
[a snootful](#)  
[a spot of tea](#)  
[a tall one](#)  
[a tempest in a teapot](#)  
[a token gesture](#)  
[a tough time of it](#)  
[a way with words](#)  
[a wild goose chase](#)  
[age of majority](#)  
[a.k.a. \(aka\)](#)  
[all in a day's work](#)  
[all the bells and whistles](#)  
[an old hand at](#)  
[ante up](#)  
[armed to the teeth](#)  
[as far as I know](#)  
[as scarce as hen's teeth](#)  
[at a loss for words](#)  
[at first light](#)  
[at my wits' end](#)  
[at sixes and sevens](#)  
[at the crack of dawn](#)  
[at the end of my rope/ at the end of my tether](#)  
[backroom boys](#)  
[bag and baggage](#)  
[bail me out](#)  
[bark is worse than his bite](#)  
[bat an eye](#)  
[be my undoing](#)  
[beauty is in the eye of the beholder](#)  
[beg off](#)

[behind the scenes](#)

[best interests at heart](#)

[bevy of beauties](#)

[big bucks](#)

[Bigfoot](#)

[blood money](#)

[blow a bundle](#)

[blow sky high](#)

[boarding \(hockey\)](#)

[bone of contention](#)

[brain drain](#)

[brain storm](#)

[bread and butter](#)

[break down](#)

[breathe a sigh of relief](#)

[bright-eyed and bushy-tailed](#)

[bring the house down](#)

[bumper to bumper](#)

[butter wouldn't melt in his mouth](#)

[buy up](#)

[by and large](#)

[by dint of](#)

[by its very nature](#)

[camel toes \[B\]](#)

[Canuck](#)

[carry your weight](#)

[cash and carry](#)

[cash cow](#)

[cash flow](#)

[cash on the barrelhead](#)

[cash up/cash out](#)

[chain of command](#)

[chain reaction](#)

[character density](#)

[check that](#)

[checkered career](#)

[chicken feed](#)

[chickens come home to roost](#)

[chill out](#)

[come down to earth](#)

[come up with](#)

[comeback kid](#)

[cost a pretty penny](#)  
[cost an arm and a leg](#)  
[couch potato](#)  
[course you can](#)  
[crank issue](#)  
[crawling with](#)  
[cream of the crop](#)  
[cry over spilt milk](#)  
[cup of tea](#)  
[cup runneth over](#)  
[curtains](#)  
[cut off](#)  
[cutting edge](#)  
[dark side](#)  
[dawn on me](#)  
[dead as a doornail](#)  
[deked out of his jock](#)  
[die off](#)  
[dirt file](#)  
[do \(a speed\)](#)  
[do away with](#)  
[do yourself proud](#)  
[dog days of summer](#)  
[dogan](#)  
[don't know the half of it](#)  
[don't look a gift horse in the mouth](#)  
[done it all](#)  
[Donnybrook](#)  
[down for the count](#)  
[down to earth](#)  
[drain the swamp](#)  
[draw a blank](#)  
[draw it to my attention](#)  
[drink like a fish](#)  
[duck soup](#)  
[dust bunny](#)  
[dyed in the wool](#)  
[easy as pie](#)  
[easy pickings](#)  
[easy street](#)  
[eat it up](#)  
[ego trip](#)

[end up](#)  
[every trick in the book](#)  
[everything from soup to nuts](#)  
[exit stage left](#)  
[face the music](#)  
[family tree](#)  
[famous last words](#)  
[fart around \[B\]](#)  
[feast your eyes on](#)  
[fed up](#)  
[Fibber McGee's closet](#)  
[fifth column](#)  
[find my tongue](#)  
[fish or cut bait](#)  
[five o'clock shadow](#)  
[flat broke](#)  
[flip-flop](#)  
[foot the bill](#)  
[for goodness sake](#)  
[for heaven's sake](#)  
[for Pete's sake](#)  
[force of habit](#)  
[frame of mind](#)  
[friends with](#)  
[front runner](#)  
[fuck off \[B\]](#)  
[full of herself](#)  
[full of it \[B\]](#)  
[full of piss and vinegar \[B\]](#)  
[fun and games](#)  
[Gang of Four](#)  
[gas](#)  
[get a bang out of](#)  
[get a kick out of](#)  
[get in my face](#)  
[get in on it](#)  
[get in on the ground floor](#)  
[get off](#)  
[get out of my face](#)  
[get this monkey off my back](#)  
[get to the root of the problem](#)  
[get your attention](#)

[gild the lily](#)  
[girl Friday](#)  
[give a black eye](#)  
[give me a hint](#)  
[go bonkers](#)  
[go by the name of](#)  
[golden age](#)  
[golden years](#)  
[gonzo](#)  
[got a corner on](#)  
[got guts](#)  
[got it bad](#)  
[granola](#)  
[grey power](#)  
[grill you](#)  
[grunge \(music\)](#)  
[had a belt](#)  
[had a couple](#)  
[had it](#)  
[half-pint](#)  
[half the battle](#)  
[handout](#)  
[hands are tied](#)  
[hang ten \(surfing\)](#)  
[happy camper](#)  
[hard times](#)  
[have a smash](#)  
[have an inkling](#)  
[have deep pockets](#)  
[haven't got a hope](#)  
[haven't seen hide nor hair](#)  
[heads or tails](#)  
[heaven help us](#)  
[hit and run \(traffic\)](#)  
[hit on](#)  
[hit paydirt](#)  
[hit speeds of](#)  
[hobnob](#)  
[hold that over my head](#)  
[hold up](#)  
[home stretch](#)  
[horse feathers](#)

[how goes the battle](#)  
[hump day](#)  
[I smell where you're stepping](#)  
[idiot lights](#)  
[if you're born to hang, you won't drown](#)  
[in a big way](#)  
[in a pig's ass \[B\]](#)  
[in bad shape](#)  
[in clover](#)  
[in fact](#)  
[in heaven's name](#)  
[in his blood](#)  
[in his good books](#)  
[in mind](#)  
[in the boonies](#)  
[in the flesh](#)  
[in the loop](#)  
[in the picture](#)  
[in the throes](#)  
[in these parts](#)  
[in two shakes \(of a lamb's tail\)](#)  
[in your bad books](#)  
[in your face](#)  
[Internet](#)  
[it takes one to know one](#)  
[it was a lark](#)  
[it's a case of](#)  
[it's a snap](#)  
[jump queue](#)  
[just in time](#)  
[keep tabs on](#)  
[keep up with the times](#)  
[keep you in mind](#)  
[keep you on track](#)  
[keep your nose clean](#)  
[kick](#)  
[kill the goose that lays the golden eggs](#)  
[kiss curls \(hair style\)](#)  
[kiss the blarney stone](#)  
[kitty-corner](#)  
[knee high to a grasshopper](#)  
[know like the back of your hand](#)

[lay low](#)

[lead a life](#)

[lead pipe cinch](#)

[lean times](#)

[lemon](#)

[let the cat out of the bag](#)

[light at the end of the tunnel](#)

[like a bolt from the blue](#)

[line of authority](#)

[line up](#)

[live it up](#)

[lo and behold](#)

[local yokel](#)

[look after](#)

[look into](#)

[lord it over](#)

[lose a family member](#)

[lose my train of thought](#)

[lose out](#)

[lose patience](#)

[lose your cool](#)

[lose your marbles](#)

[lose your mind](#)

[lose your shirt](#)

[lose your touch](#)

[losing streak](#)

[Lotus Land](#)

[lovelife](#)

[lucky streak](#)

[mainstream](#)

[make a bundle](#)

[make friends](#)

[make it big](#)

[make light of](#)

[make of it](#)

[make room](#)

[make strange](#)

[make the team](#)

[megabucks](#)

[middle ground](#)

[money is the root of all evil](#)

[money to burn](#)

[neck of the woods](#)  
[neither fish nor fowl](#)  
[next of kin](#)  
[nine times out of ten](#)  
[no chancy](#)  
[no hard feelings](#)  
[no news is good news](#)  
[no truth to it](#)  
[not with it](#)  
[nothing to sneeze at](#)  
[of the lot](#)  
[off kilter](#)  
[off the beaten track](#)  
[off the shelf](#)  
[offside \(hockey\)](#)  
[Old Boys' Club](#)  
[on a full stomach](#)  
[on a pedestal](#)  
[on his last legs](#)  
[on my plate](#)  
[on parole](#)  
[on tap](#)  
[on the fritz](#)  
[one born every minute](#)  
[one hell of a time](#)  
[one of the boys](#)  
[open a window](#)  
[out of breath](#)  
[out of commission](#)  
[out of context](#)  
[out of harm's way](#)  
[out of luck](#)  
[out of my head](#)  
[out of the woods](#)  
[out of touch](#)  
[out of wind](#)  
[out of your tree](#)  
[over and done with](#)  
[part with](#)  
[pat on the back](#)  
[pay my respects](#)  
[pay your way](#)

[peanuts](#)  
[pecking order](#)  
[pernickety/persnickety](#)  
[piggyback](#)  
[pinch an inch](#)  
[piss in the pickles \[B\]](#)  
[piss parade \[B\]](#)  
[piss poor \[B\]](#)  
[play catch-up](#)  
[play it for all it's worth](#)  
[point of view](#)  
[poke fun at](#)  
[polish off/polish it off](#)  
[pony tail](#)  
[pop your buttons](#)  
[pot of gold](#)  
[power play \(business\)](#)  
[power to burn](#)  
[prairie oyster](#)  
[price out](#)  
[pull your weight](#)  
[put down](#)  
[put him in his place](#)  
[put to shame](#)  
[put up or shut up](#)  
[put your mind to it](#)  
[put yourself out](#)  
[rake in the dough](#)  
[rearend](#)  
[ride me](#)  
[right before my eyes](#)  
[ring leader](#)  
[rise and shine](#)  
[rob Peter to pay Paul](#)  
[roll out the red carpet](#)  
[rolling in the aisles](#)  
[run out of town](#)  
[run rampant](#)  
[run the gamut](#)  
[rush hour](#)  
[salty](#)  
[Sasquatch](#)

[save a bundle](#)  
[scandal is brewing](#)  
[scarce as hen's teeth](#)  
[scare the life out of me](#)  
[scot-free](#)  
[seconds](#)  
[seize the opportunity](#)  
[sell yourself short](#)  
[serious coin](#)  
[show promise](#)  
[shut-down](#)  
[sick of](#)  
[sick to death](#)  
[single file](#)  
[sinking feeling](#)  
[skinhead](#)  
[skins game](#)  
[smack of](#)  
[smell blood](#)  
[smelling yourself](#)  
[smoke like a furnace](#)  
[sold on](#)  
[something borrowed, something blue](#)  
[something smells](#)  
[Sophie's choice](#)  
[sound bite](#)  
[spade work](#)  
[spike a drink](#)  
[split second](#)  
[stark naked](#)  
[stark raving mad](#)  
[state of mind](#)  
[stay abreast](#)  
[steamy](#)  
[stick out like a sore thumb](#)  
[still wet behind the ears](#)  
[stone dead](#)  
[strike it rich](#)  
[string of good luck](#)  
[strip mall](#)  
[stroke of good luck](#)  
[strung out](#)

[suck the hind tit \[B\]](#)

[take it with a grain of salt](#)

[take oath](#)

[take the pulse](#)

[take you in](#)

[take your word for it](#)

[talk the leg off the lamb of God](#)

[tell him where to get off](#)

[TGIF](#)

[that's all she wrote](#)

[the age of majority](#)

[the benefit of the doubt](#)

[the best of both worlds](#)

[the best things in life are free](#)

[the bitter end](#)

[the bum's rush](#)

[the cutting edge](#)

[the eye of the storm](#)

[the family jewels](#)

[the first leg](#)

[the last of it](#)

[the luck of the Irish](#)

[the Man in the Moon](#)

[the odd one](#)

[the pick of the litter](#)

[the pit of my stomach](#)

[the pope's nose](#)

[the rest is gravy](#)

[the rest is history](#)

[the root of the problem](#)

[the runt of the litter](#)

[the take](#)

[the tender age of](#)

[the tip of the iceberg](#)

[the tricks of the trade](#)

[the turn of the century](#)

[the underground](#)

[the way I see it](#)

[the way you hold your mouth](#)

[the whole nine yards](#)

[there are two sides to every story](#)

[there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so](#)

[there's more than meets the eye](#)

[there's one born every minute](#)

[these parts](#)

[this mortal coil](#)

[through the wringer](#)

[tie one on](#)

[tie up](#)

[tie up loose ends](#)

[till hell freezes over](#)

[times were hard](#)

[tip of the hat](#)

[tip of the iceberg](#)

[to be perfectly honest](#)

[to beat the band](#)

[toast](#)

[top of the morning](#)

[touch a drop](#)

[track record](#)

[tranny](#)

[trendy](#)

[try out](#)

[tuckered out](#)

[turn over a new leaf](#)

[turn the corner](#)

[turnout](#)

[twig to that](#)

[twist your words](#)

[two for one](#)

[under pressure](#)

[up on](#)

[up the wahoozey](#)

[up to my ears](#)

[uptalk](#)

[use up](#)

[vale of tears \(valley of tears\)](#)

[variety is the spice of life](#)

[vote of thanks](#)

[wake with a start](#)

[watch your step](#)

[wear out](#)

[weed out](#)

[weigh in at](#)

[wheels](#)  
[whew](#)  
[why in the world](#)  
[win big](#)  
[win by a nose](#)  
[win going away](#)  
[winner take all](#)  
[wipe out](#)  
[without turning a hair](#)  
[work cut out for](#)  
[World Wide Web \(www\)](#)  
[writer's block](#)  
[you can bet your bottom dollar](#)  
[you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear](#)  
[you reap whatsoever you sow](#)  
[you're full of it \[B\]](#)  
[you've got to be kidding](#)  
[zig when you should zag](#)  
[zoom](#)

off

[a blackout \(war\)](#)  
[a dead loss](#)  
[ad lib \(ad libitum\)](#)  
[around the bend](#)  
[be off](#)  
[beat the rap](#)  
[beside the point](#)  
[bilk](#)  
[bite me \[B\]](#)  
[blow me \[B\]](#)  
[blow you away](#)  
[boys will be boys](#)  
[brand new/ brand spanking new](#)  
[bring it off](#)  
[browned off](#)  
[can it](#)  
[carry it off](#)  
[cheesed off](#)  
[chill out](#)  
[clear out](#)  
[cool it](#)  
[cut it out](#)

[cut the cheese \[B\]](#)  
[die down](#)  
[do me in](#)  
[eff 'im \[B\]](#)  
[eighty-six it](#)  
[fall asleep](#)  
[fall through](#)  
[fart around \[B\]](#)  
[fish or cut bait](#)  
[fool around](#)  
[fuck off \[B\]](#)  
[funny in the head](#)  
[get off my back](#)  
[get screwed](#)  
[get up on the wrong side of bed](#)  
[give it to him](#)  
[give you an out](#)  
[go jump in the lake](#)  
[go on about](#)  
[go overboard](#)  
[go the way of the dodo](#)  
[go to hell \[B\]](#)  
[going to town](#)  
[grab a chair](#)  
[have deep pockets](#)  
[hit on all cylinders](#)  
[honesty is the best policy](#)  
[hoot](#)  
[horse around](#)  
[into the sauce](#)  
[kiss it off](#)  
[kiss off](#)  
[laugh yourself silly](#)  
[let off](#)  
[let off steam](#)  
[let you have it](#)  
[like father, like son](#)  
[make way](#)  
[miffed](#)  
[nuts](#)  
[off kilter](#)  
[off the hook](#)

[off the top of my head](#)

[off the wall](#)

[off to the races](#)

[offhand](#)

[out of bounds](#)

[out of the way](#)

[out of whack](#)

[out of work](#)

[over and out](#)

[over the rainbow](#)

[pay down](#)

[piss off \[B\]](#)

[pissed \[B\]](#)

[pissed off \[B\]](#)

[pop a cap \[B\]](#)

[pound salt](#)

[pull your wire \[B\]](#)

[pussy whipped](#)

[put on the dog](#)

[put out about](#)

[rocks socks](#)

[run of the mill](#)

[scot-free](#)

[shoot from the hip](#)

[shoot yourself in the foot](#)

[short with me](#)

[simmer down](#)

[skidaddle](#)

[sound off](#)

[spitting mad](#)

[start with a bang](#)

[take a flight](#)

[take him down a peg](#)

[take leave of your senses](#)

[take off, eh](#)

[taken](#)

[talk back](#)

[teed off](#)

[tell him a thing or two](#)

[tell him where to get off](#)

[tell him where to go](#)

[the apple doesn't fall far from the tree](#)

[the bottom fell out](#)  
[the end of the line](#)  
[ticked off](#)  
[time off](#)  
[tool around](#)  
[touch off](#)  
[touched in the head](#)  
[walk](#)  
[wash it off](#)  
[well heeled](#)  
[work my buns off](#)  
[work your ass off \[B\]](#)  
[zinger](#)

offb

[mad about](#)

offend

[hurt my feelings](#)  
[step on their toes](#)

offended

[beg your pardon](#)  
[take offense](#)  
[take umbrage](#)

offense

[take it the wrong way](#)  
[take umbrage](#)

offer

[an offer I couldn't refuse](#)  
[low-ball him](#)  
[make an offer](#)  
[pass off](#)  
[reach out](#)  
[take it and run](#)  
[take it or leave it](#)

offered

[Hobson's choice](#)  
[on the table](#)  
[put your money where your mouth is](#)

offhand

[upon the words offhandedly spoken](#)

office

[branch office](#)  
[girl Friday](#)

[moppie](#)  
[new kid on the block](#)  
[water-cooler talk](#)

officestore

[branch out](#)

official

[off the record](#)

often

[a bar fly](#)  
[hidden talent](#)  
[nine lives](#)  
[nine times out of ten](#)  
[swell](#)  
[used to](#)

oh

[boy, oh boy](#)  
[darn it](#)  
[drat](#)  
[fiddlesticks](#)  
[gee](#)  
[gee willickers](#)  
[golly](#)  
[golly gee](#)  
[good golly](#)  
[good gravy](#)  
[good grief](#)  
[goodness gracious](#)  
[gosh](#)  
[heavens](#)  
[heavens to Betsy](#)  
[jeepers](#)  
[nuts](#)  
[oh my gosh](#)  
[phooey](#)  
[rats](#)  
[scrut](#)  
[shucks](#)  
[wow](#)  
[yeow](#)

ohgee

[yikes](#)

oil

[greasy kid's stuff](#)[oilpatch](#)

ok

[copacetic](#)

okay

[ain't half-bad](#)[check out](#)[copacetic](#)[half-bad](#)[how are you getting along](#)[how goes the battle](#)[how's tricks](#)[it makes no difference](#)[none the worse for wear](#)[right on](#)[ten-four \(CB radio\)](#)[yo](#)

old

[an old warhorse](#)[at the ripe old age](#)[better the devil you know...](#)[bone dry](#)[boys will be boys](#)[can of worms](#)[chestnut](#)[come of age](#)[down home](#)[fine-feathered friend](#)[geezer](#)[last hurrah](#)[like father, like son](#)[long in the tooth](#)[Old Boys' Club](#)[old coot](#)[old flame](#)[old goat](#)[old hat](#)[old wives' tale](#)[on his last legs](#)[over the hill](#)[passé](#)[pushing fifty](#)

[raisins](#)  
[set in her ways](#)  
[skeleton in the closet](#)  
[song and dance](#)  
[the apple doesn't fall far from the tree](#)  
[the old man](#)  
[tin Lizzie](#)  
[you can't teach an old dog new tricks](#)

older

[age before beauty](#)  
[comeback kid](#)  
[get on in years](#)  
[golden years](#)  
[grey power](#)  
[hand me down](#)

olympic

[The Big O](#)

omitted

[go by the boards](#)

on

[a bee in her bonnet](#)  
[a blank look](#)  
[a cheap drunk](#)  
[a clutch hitter \(baseball\)](#)  
[a fat lip](#)  
[a new broom sweeps clean](#)  
[a pinch to grow an inch](#)  
[a pine float](#)  
[a pocket of resistance](#)  
[a send-up](#)  
[a sure bet](#)  
[a takeoff on](#)  
[air rage](#)  
[all show](#)  
[all teed up](#)  
[all your eggs in one basket](#)  
[along those lines](#)  
[as far as I know](#)  
[as sick as a parrot](#)  
[at a moment's notice](#)  
[backup](#)  
[bang on](#)

[bank on](#)

[beat your head against a stone wall](#)

[becomes you](#)

[bet on a lame rooster](#)

[boot up](#)

[break a promise](#)

[break out in a rash](#)

[browbeat](#)

[brush cut](#)

[brush up on](#)

[brush with death](#)

[buckstop \(military\)](#)

[bundle up](#)

[button your lip](#)

[buy a round](#)

[card-carrying member](#)

[carry on](#)

[cash flow](#)

[catch a plane/bus/train](#)

[catch on](#)

[charge it](#)

[choose up sides](#)

[clean up your plate](#)

[click in](#)

[come onside](#)

[count on](#)

[count your chickens before they hatch](#)

[cowpoke](#)

[crack the line-up](#)

[crawl on my hands and knees over broken glass just to see her photo](#)

[dance with the one who brought you](#)

[dead on](#)

[deep, dark secret](#)

[devil-may-care](#)

[dimwit](#)

[dirty thirties](#)

[don't get mad; get even](#)

[double-cross](#)

[dress up](#)

[drive standard](#)

[drop like flies](#)

[dry out](#)

[dust bunny](#)  
[ease up](#)  
[fat lip](#)  
[fink](#)  
[first off](#)  
[first up](#)  
[float your boat](#)  
[found money](#)  
[from hand to mouth](#)  
[front man](#)  
[gathering dust](#)  
[get it straight](#)  
[get off my case](#)  
[get on your horse](#)  
[get the drop on](#)  
[get the jump on](#)  
[get your buns over here](#)  
[get your hopes up](#)  
[give me the third degree](#)  
[give your word](#)  
[go easy on](#)  
[good bet](#)  
[good for you](#)  
[got a crush on](#)  
[got it in for](#)  
[got you by the short hairs](#)  
[grand slam](#)  
[gun it](#)  
[hang in there](#)  
[hang on](#)  
[hard on me](#)  
[have a chair](#)  
[have one on me](#)  
[have your period \[B\]](#)  
[hedge your bets](#)  
[high roller](#)  
[hire on](#)  
[hit the brakes](#)  
[hold it](#)  
[hold your horses](#)  
[home run \(baseball\)](#)  
[idiot lights](#)

[if looks could kill](#)  
[in his good books](#)  
[in my good books](#)  
[in that vein](#)  
[in the lap of luxury](#)  
[in the loop](#)  
[in tune](#)  
[in your corner](#)  
[jock](#)  
[jungle mouth](#)  
[keep it quiet](#)  
[keep on trucking](#)  
[keep your hair on](#)  
[kill two birds \(with one stone\)](#)  
[kiss curls \(hair style\)](#)  
[last but not least](#)  
[make a living](#)  
[make out](#)  
[make the bed](#)  
[make whoopee](#)  
[make your bum hum](#)  
[make your mark](#)  
[messed up](#)  
[mothball](#)  
[mum's the word](#)  
[naked as a jay bird](#)  
[Netwar](#)  
[not on your tintype](#)  
[off the beaten track](#)  
[off topic](#)  
[on a full stomach](#)  
[on all fours](#)  
[on an empty stomach](#)  
[on board](#)  
[on moral grounds](#)  
[on my back](#)  
[on my plate](#)  
[on schedule](#)  
[on tap](#)  
[on target](#)  
[on the bandwagon](#)  
[on the beat](#)

[on the brink](#)  
[on the button](#)  
[on the clock](#)  
[on the dot](#)  
[on the mark](#)  
[on the money](#)  
[on the rails](#)  
[on the road](#)  
[on the run](#)  
[on the shit list \[B\]](#)  
[on the stand](#)  
[on the throne](#)  
[on top of](#)  
[on track](#)  
[on your way](#)  
[out of the blue](#)  
[out of the loop](#)  
[over easy](#)  
[over the hill](#)  
[pack a rod](#)  
[paint the town red](#)  
[pass away](#)  
[pick on](#)  
[pick up](#)  
[pick up the pace](#)  
[piggyback](#)  
[pin money](#)  
[pinch an inch](#)  
[pipe dream](#)  
[piss away \[B\]](#)  
[play a joke on](#)  
[play a trick on](#)  
[play along](#)  
[play musical chairs](#)  
[play the ponies](#)  
[pointed questions](#)  
[press on](#)  
[proby](#)  
[pull punches](#)  
[pull the plug](#)  
[pull yourself together](#)  
[push me \(to the limit\)](#)

[quick on the draw](#)

[rad](#)

[rain on their parade](#)

[rat on](#)

[rest assured](#)

[rest on your laurels](#)

[ride his coattails](#)

[ride the clutch](#)

[riding high](#)

[right away](#)

[ritzy](#)

[rubberneck](#)

[rule out](#)

[run a tab](#)

[run a tub](#)

[run roughshod](#)

[saddle up](#)

[seconds](#)

[see eye to eye](#)

[set the table](#)

[shake on it](#)

[sharp](#)

[sign out](#)

[skins game](#)

[snitch](#)

[soldier on](#)

[speed up](#)

[spin doctor](#)

[spoil for a fight](#)

[spot on](#)

[square up](#)

[squeal](#)

[stark naked](#)

[start out](#)

[step on it](#)

[stick my neck out](#)

[stoned](#)

[stuck on](#)

[suits you](#)

[sweat it out](#)

[sweet on](#)

[tailgate](#)

[take a drive/trip](#)

[take a flight](#)

[take it easy on](#)

[take off](#)

[take on](#)

[take the bus/plane](#)

[take the stage](#)

[take you to task](#)

[that'll be the day](#)

[the breaking point](#)

[the hell you say](#)

[the odds-on favorite](#)

[The Rock](#)

[the short end of the stick](#)

[the sky isn't blue](#)

[the third degree](#)

[the upper hand](#)

[then and there](#)

[there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so](#)

[this mortal coil](#)

[throw good money after bad](#)

[throw some light on](#)

[throw yourself at him](#)

[tick over](#)

[tied to your mother's apron strings](#)

[top that](#)

[touch it with a ten-foot pole](#)

[tough on me](#)

[traffic jam](#)

[trickle-down economics](#)

[tune in](#)

[tuned in](#)

[twiggy](#)

[under the table](#)

[under wraps](#)

[up for sale](#)

[up on](#)

[vale of tears \(valley of tears\)](#)

[virtual reality](#)

[walk down](#)

[walk on eggshells](#)

[walk up](#)

[warmed over](#)  
[watch me like a hawk](#)  
[watch out for](#)  
[watch over like a mother hawk](#)  
[what gives](#)  
[what goes around comes around](#)  
[what in the name of heaven](#)  
[when the dust settles](#)  
[word is good](#)  
[world beater](#)  
[worship the ground she walks on](#)  
[wrap around his finger](#)  
[written all over your face](#)  
[you bet your boots](#)  
[you can bet your bottom dollar](#)  
[you're only as good as your last shift](#)

once

[at one time](#)  
[from time to time](#)  
[in one fell swoop](#)

once-over

[a lick and a promise](#)

one

[a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush](#)  
[a bit off/a bit mental](#)  
[a cheap drunk](#)  
[a feather in your cap](#)  
[a fresh pair of eyes](#)  
[a hotdog](#)  
[a little bird told me](#)  
[a little off](#)  
[a loose cannon](#)  
[a screw loose](#)  
[a sucker for punishment](#)  
[a thorn in my side](#)  
[a total stranger](#)  
[all your eggs in one basket](#)  
[an apple a day keeps the doctor away](#)  
[an easy mark](#)  
[at a glance](#)  
[back to the drawing board](#)  
[bad apple](#)

[bag and baggage](#)  
[bar hop](#)  
[beauty is in the eye of the beholder](#)  
[betwixt and between](#)  
[birder](#)  
[bite the hand that feeds you](#)  
[black sheep](#)  
[bleeding heart](#)  
[bogof](#)  
[book worm](#)  
[buy a round](#)  
[by word of mouth](#)  
[can't have it both ways](#)  
[chain reaction](#)  
[chain smoker](#)  
[chip in](#)  
[chockablock](#)  
[choose sides](#)  
[cream of the crop](#)  
[dimwit](#)  
[don't put all your eggs in one basket](#)  
[door to door](#)  
[drop-in](#)  
[dumbbell](#)  
[eat your heart out](#)  
[eighty-six it](#)  
[fair-weather friend](#)  
[fall between two stools](#)  
[few and far between](#)  
[from pillar to post](#)  
[from the get-go](#)  
[front man](#)  
[front runner](#)  
[game for anything](#)  
[gang up on](#)  
[get in on the ground floor](#)  
[go steady](#)  
[hand over fist](#)  
[hat trick](#)  
[have one on me](#)  
[heads or tails](#)  
[his own man](#)

[hit me \(card games\)](#)  
[hold forth](#)  
[hole in one \(golf\)](#)  
[home run \(baseball\)](#)  
[in one fell swoop](#)  
[in your bad books](#)  
[it has your name on it](#)  
[it takes one to know one](#)  
[jive ass \[B\]](#)  
[kill off](#)  
[kill two birds \(with one stone\)](#)  
[klutz](#)  
[knucklehead](#)  
[last but not least](#)  
[lesser of two evils](#)  
[loud mouth](#)  
[make it big](#)  
[motormouth](#)  
[name-dropper](#)  
[no contest](#)  
[no fair](#)  
[not all there](#)  
[nothing succeeds like success](#)  
[on the bubble](#)  
[once upon a time](#)  
[one at a time](#)  
[one by one](#)  
[one false move](#)  
[one for the road](#)  
[one hell of a time](#)  
[one man's meat is another man's poison](#)  
[one on one](#)  
[one-track mind](#)  
[part and parcel](#)  
[party-pooper](#)  
[picky](#)  
[pin your hopes on](#)  
[pinhead](#)  
[pinko](#)  
[popcorn brain](#)  
[prima donna](#)  
[pub crawl](#)

[put down roots](#)  
[rat fink](#)  
[repay in kind](#)  
[rob Peter to pay Paul](#)  
[rotter](#)  
[rough and ready](#)  
[say jump...how high](#)  
[scrape the bottom of the barrel](#)  
[self-made man](#)  
[settle down](#)  
[shoot it out](#)  
[should be so lucky](#)  
[show-off](#)  
[shutout \(sports\)](#)  
[single file](#)  
[single out](#)  
[skunk](#)  
[smooth talker](#)  
[sour puss](#)  
[spoilsport](#)  
[square one](#)  
[squealer](#)  
[start from scratch](#)  
[start over](#)  
[stick-in-the-mud](#)  
[take revenge](#)  
[take sides](#)  
[take your pick](#)  
[the buck stops here](#)  
[the cat's ass \[B\]](#)  
[the early bird gets the worm](#)  
[the joke is on you](#)  
[the last straw](#)  
[the odd one](#)  
[the odds-on favorite](#)  
[the real McCoy](#)  
[the spitting image](#)  
[there's no two ways about it](#)  
[this one is on me](#)  
[three slices short \(of a full loaf\)](#)  
[to a man](#)  
[to each his own](#)

[tough customer](#)  
[traffic jam](#)  
[turncoat](#)  
[two for one](#)  
[two heads are better than one](#)  
[win by a nose](#)  
[without a full deck](#)  
[workaholic](#)  
[zinger](#)

one-dollar

[loonie](#)

one-tenth

[the tip of the iceberg](#)

[tip of the iceberg](#)

only

[a hotdog](#)

[as slow as molasses in January](#)

[bare bones](#)

[catch a glimpse](#)

[flash a smile](#)

[go steady](#)

[inside joke](#)

[kitty bar the door](#)

[one-track mind](#)

[point-blank range](#)

[rest on your laurels](#)

[scratch the surface](#)

[straight cash](#)

[the way to a man's heart is through his stomach](#)

[there's no two ways about it](#)

[winning isn't everything; it's the only thing](#)

[work to rule](#)

[you can't tell a book by its cover](#)

onside

[buy into](#)

[come around](#)

onto

[get fresh](#)

[hit on](#)

[make advances](#)

[take the stage](#)

[wise to us](#)

oodles

[crawling with more than you can shake a stick at](#)  
[scads](#)

open

[branch out](#)  
[cut and dried](#)  
[fair game](#)  
[laid bare](#)  
[make a splash](#)  
[the lights are on but nobody's home](#)  
[won't see you stuck](#)

opened

[Fibber McGee's closet](#)

opening

[the eye of a needle](#)  
[yin yang](#)

openly

[clear the air](#)  
[make no bones about it](#)  
[open up](#)

operate

[break down](#)  
[break in](#)  
[crash](#)  
[do you follow](#)  
[teed up](#)  
[user friendly](#)  
[wired for sound](#)

operating

[belly up](#)  
[fold](#)  
[give out](#)  
[hit on all cylinders](#)  
[on the fritz](#)  
[on the rails](#)  
[out of commission](#)  
[out of order](#)  
[shut down](#)  
[tickety-boo](#)  
[tits up \[B\]](#)  
[up and running](#)

## operation

[cash flow](#)  
[play musical chairs](#)  
[pull through](#)  
[shut-down](#)  
[smooth sailing](#)  
[tune up](#)

## opinion

[a redneck](#)  
[beg to differ](#)  
[flip-flop](#)  
[get her way](#)  
[it seems to me](#)  
[keep an open mind](#)  
[of two minds](#)  
[point is well taken](#)  
[point of view](#)  
[pull your chain](#)  
[say your piece](#)  
[see eye to eye](#)  
[soften your stance](#)  
[take a poll](#)  
[the way I see it](#)  
[two cents' worth](#)  
[two heads are better than one](#)

## opponent

[a run for your money](#)  
[down for the count](#)  
[give up the blueline \(hockey\)](#)  
[in tough](#)  
[killer instinct](#)  
[offside \(hockey\)](#)  
[outplay](#)  
[play catch-up](#)  
[play hardball](#)  
[smell blood](#)

## opportunities

[open some doors](#)

## opportunity

[a window of opportunity](#)  
[blue sky](#)  
[jump at the chance](#)

[let this chance go by](#)  
[make the most of it](#)  
[milk it](#)  
[miss your chance](#)  
[pass up](#)  
[photo op](#)  
[take advantage of](#)  
[you snooze, you lose](#)

oppose

[go against the grain](#)

opposed

[at loggerheads](#)

[at odds](#)

[dead set against](#)

opposing

[turncoat](#)

opposite

[do a 180](#)

[famous last words](#)

[fly in the face of](#)

[kitty-corner](#)

[lollygag](#)

[U-turn](#)

optimistic

[on the bright side](#)

oral

[a blow job \[B\]](#)

[give head \[B\]](#)

[go down on \[B\]](#)

order

[break down](#)

[catch as catch can](#)

[chain of command](#)

[fall in line](#)

[line of authority](#)

[lose my train of thought](#)

[low on the totem pole](#)

[on deck](#)

[on the fritz](#)

[out of commission](#)

[the past is slipping by without a trace](#)

[under control](#)

orderly	<a href="#">shipshape</a>
ordinary	<a href="#">low on the totem pole</a> <a href="#">sleeper</a>
organization	<a href="#">give a black eye</a> <a href="#">inside information</a>
organize	<a href="#">collect my thoughts</a> <a href="#">hold a meeting</a> <a href="#">pair off/pair up</a> <a href="#">set up shop</a> <a href="#">start up</a>
organized	<a href="#">apple-pie order</a> <a href="#">ducks in a row (ducks in order)</a> <a href="#">get it together</a> <a href="#">get your act together</a> <a href="#">get your shit together [B]</a>
orgasm	<a href="#">come [B]</a>
orientation	<a href="#">out of the closet</a>
original	<a href="#">mint condition</a>
originally	<a href="#">potlicker</a>
ornaments	<a href="#">deck out</a>
other	<a href="#">a common thread</a> <a href="#">a head start</a> <a href="#">a redneck</a> <a href="#">a wash</a> <a href="#">absence makes the heart grow fonder</a> <a href="#">all that jazz</a> <a href="#">and stuff</a> <a href="#">at loggerheads</a> <a href="#">bend the rules</a> <a href="#">betwixt and between</a> <a href="#">bump and grind (hockey)</a> <a href="#">call it square</a>

[can't have it both ways](#)

[chain letter](#)

[charity begins at home](#)

[duke it out](#)

[even](#)

[fall between two stools](#)

[fall in line](#)

[fastball](#)

[flip-flop](#)

[get the jump on](#)

[go with the flow](#)

[hand over fist](#)

[hands are tied](#)

[heads or tails](#)

[high and mighty](#)

[high five](#)

[high handed](#)

[hold your nose](#)

[hold your own](#)

[in cahoots](#)

[jump ship](#)

[keep a lid on it](#)

[keep up](#)

[kick some ass](#)

[lesser of two evils](#)

[let on](#)

[live and let live](#)

[look the other way](#)

[misery loves company](#)

[mop up](#)

[mudsling](#)

[not speaking](#)

[on the same wavelength](#)

[out of step](#)

[pass the buck](#)

[people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones](#)

[piggyback](#)

[play around](#)

[plug the team](#)

[potlicker](#)

[shoot it out](#)

[slowpoke](#)

[snowball](#)  
[spill the beans](#)  
[square off](#)  
[stand out](#)  
[suck the hind tit \[B\]](#)  
[team player](#)  
[The Golden Rule](#)  
[there's no love lost](#)  
[trade insults](#)  
[tunnel vision](#)  
[turn a blind eye](#)  
[turn the other way](#)

ought

[had better](#)

our

[chickens come home to roost](#)  
[come onside](#)  
[dark side](#)  
[face the music](#)  
[hands are tied](#)  
[if you're born to hang, you won't drown](#)  
[keep your fingers crossed](#)  
[know where we stand](#)  
[let the good times roll](#)  
[money doesn't grow on trees](#)  
[more than welcome](#)  
[necessity is the mother of invention](#)  
[on side](#)  
[own worst enemy](#)  
[SOS](#)  
[tighten our belts](#)  
[touch wood](#)  
[up the wahoozey](#)  
[up to my ears](#)  
[what goes around comes around](#)

out

[a slip of the tongue](#)  
[an earful](#)  
[bail me out](#)  
[beg off](#)  
[behind the scenes](#)  
[black out](#)

[blind date](#)  
[blow me over](#)  
[break curfew](#)  
[break down](#)  
[break out](#)  
[bushed](#)  
[bust out](#)  
[cash and carry](#)  
[check it out](#)  
[check out](#)  
[clear out](#)  
[come down to earth](#)  
[come out with](#)  
[conk out](#)  
[cool off](#)  
[cry her heart out](#)  
[cry your eyes out](#)  
[date](#)  
[deked out of his jock](#)  
[do away with](#)  
[do your own thing](#)  
[don't have a cow](#)  
[down for the count](#)  
[dream on](#)  
[drink you under the table](#)  
[drop](#)  
[duck out](#)  
[eat it up](#)  
[eat like a horse](#)  
[eat you out of house and home](#)  
[exit stage left](#)  
[eyeball this](#)  
[fall through](#)  
[fall through the cracks](#)  
[fart around \[B\]](#)  
[Fibber McGee's closet](#)  
[fido](#)  
[fill your face](#)  
[flake out](#)  
[flat broke](#)  
[flip](#)  
[fuck off \[B\]](#)

[full blast](#)

[full out](#)

[full tilt](#)

[get a bang out of](#)

[get a fix on](#)

[get a handle on](#)

[get a kick out of](#)

[get a load of that](#)

[get cold feet](#)

[get in shape](#)

[get it on](#)

[get it straight](#)

[get off](#)

[get wind of](#)

[give out](#)

[go around with](#)

[go ballistic](#)

[go bonkers](#)

[go downhill](#)

[go out of your way](#)

[go steady](#)

[go to any trouble](#)

[gonzo](#)

[got you by the balls \[B\]](#)

[ground me](#)

[grounded](#)

[had his bell rung](#)

[had it](#)

[had the bird](#)

[hands are tied](#)

[hang around](#)

[how it plays out](#)

[if you can't cut it, you can't stay](#)

[in bad shape](#)

[in full flight](#)

[in the boonies](#)

[iron out](#)

[it's a zoo in there](#)

[jam/jam out](#)

[keep a low profile](#)

[keep an eye on](#)

[keep your nose clean](#)

[knock out](#)

[lay low](#)

[lay off](#)

[let the cat out of the bag](#)

[let yourself go](#)

[lo and behold](#)

[look like he was dragged through a knothole](#)

[lose patience](#)

[lose your mind](#)

[make room](#)

[miffed](#)

[nail down](#)

[neck](#)

[not with it](#)

[off kilter](#)

[off the beaten track](#)

[on loan](#)

[on the fritz](#)

[out cold](#)

[out of](#)

[out of breath](#)

[out of commission](#)

[out of context](#)

[out of harm's way](#)

[out of luck](#)

[out of my head](#)

[out of the woods](#)

[out of wind](#)

[out of your tree](#)

[over and done with](#)

[paint the town red](#)

[pan out](#)

[pass around](#)

[pass wind](#)

[pedal to the metal](#)

[peep this](#)

[peter out](#)

[play it cool](#)

[play it for all it's worth](#)

[play out](#)

[play the field](#)

[price out](#)

[punch your lights out](#)  
[put away](#)  
[put down](#)  
[put him in his place](#)  
[put in time](#)  
[put my neck on the line](#)  
[put off](#)  
[put you away](#)  
[rant and rave](#)  
[rise and shine](#)  
[rolling in the aisles](#)  
[royal treatment](#)  
[run down](#)  
[run out of town](#)  
[run rampant](#)  
[run short](#)  
[run you ragged](#)  
[scare the life out of me](#)  
[see](#)  
[seen better days](#)  
[simmer down](#)  
[skip out](#)  
[slip away](#)  
[sound off](#)  
[speak your mind](#)  
[spend time](#)  
[spread the word](#)  
[stand up for](#)  
[stark raving mad](#)  
[step down](#)  
[stick-in-the-mud](#)  
[stick out like a sore thumb](#)  
[stoned](#)  
[take a poll](#)  
[take out](#)  
[tell all](#)  
[test drive](#)  
[the best-laid plans of mice and men go oft astray](#)  
[the bum's rush](#)  
[the hell you say](#)  
[there's no tomorrow](#)  
[through the mill](#)

[throw away](#)  
[throw me for a loop](#)  
[totally awesome](#)  
[trial run](#)  
[try me](#)  
[turf it](#)  
[up the wahoozey](#)  
[up to my ears](#)  
[wake with a start](#)  
[watch out](#)  
[watch your step](#)  
[wipe that smile off your face](#)  
[with wings](#)  
[work out](#)  
[work things out](#)  
[workout](#)  
[you've got to be kidding](#)

outa	
	<a href="#">exit stage left</a>
outdo	
	<a href="#">go one better</a>
outlook	
	<a href="#">an attitude</a>
outlying	
	<a href="#">the burbs</a>
outplay	
	<a href="#">deked out of his jock</a>
outside	
	<a href="#">big-sky thinking</a> <a href="#">fifth column</a> <a href="#">keep out</a> <a href="#">push the envelope</a> <a href="#">shut-in</a> <a href="#">take-out restaurant</a>
outsmarted	
	<a href="#">egg on my face</a>
oven	
	<a href="#">in a family way</a> <a href="#">nuke</a> <a href="#">up the stump [B]</a> <a href="#">zap</a>
over	

[a little thick](#)  
[a three-bagger](#)  
[all over hell's half acre](#)  
[all the way to Egery and back](#)  
[ass over teakettle](#)  
[beyond the pale](#)  
[clotheslined \(hockey\)](#)  
[do me for/do me until](#)  
[do the town](#)  
[drop in](#)  
[dump on](#)  
[fall in love](#)  
[floor you](#)  
[get on in years](#)  
[get over](#)  
[get together](#)  
[give you the shirt off his back](#)  
[goose is cooked](#)  
[hand over](#)  
[hang ten \(surfing\)](#)  
[hash it over](#)  
[have you over](#)  
[hump day](#)  
[it's a whole nother world out there](#)  
[it's a whole other world out there](#)  
[knock flat](#)  
[last me](#)  
[like a broken record](#)  
[long in the tooth](#)  
[mad about](#)  
[make every effort](#)  
[make room](#)  
[mull over](#)  
[out of my depth](#)  
[out of the way](#)  
[over with](#)  
[pay a visit](#)  
[pop over](#)  
[pull through](#)  
[put your mind to it](#)  
[read it over](#)  
[run down](#)

[send him flying](#)  
[shake hands](#)  
[shell out](#)  
[size up](#)  
[spike the ball](#)  
[sunset years](#)  
[talk it over](#)  
[the bigger they are the harder they fall](#)  
[try your darndest](#)  
[turn you around](#)  
[twilight years](#)  
[yin yang](#)

over-react

[sell the farm](#)

overboard

[get carried away](#)  
[go off the deep end](#)  
[to a fault](#)  
[walk the plank](#)

overcome

[have a bird](#)  
[love conquers all](#)

overdo

[kill an elephant](#)

overlooked

[fall through the cracks](#)

overnight

[lay over](#)

overpower

[jump](#)

overwhelm

[take by storm](#)

overwhelmed

[fall to pieces](#)

overworked

[hard done by](#)

owe

[call it square](#)  
[double or nothing](#)  
[even](#)  
[pay off](#)

owed

[pay up](#)

owing	<a href="#">a wash</a> <a href="#">in hock</a> <a href="#">out of hock</a>
own	<a href="#">a man's home is his castle</a> <a href="#">bag and baggage</a> <a href="#">charity begins at home</a> <a href="#">clean me out</a> <a href="#">come clean</a> <a href="#">cut your own throat</a> <a href="#">different strokes for different folks</a> <a href="#">dig your own grave</a> <a href="#">do your own thing</a> <a href="#">dubs</a> <a href="#">Dutch treat</a> <a href="#">face up</a> <a href="#">float your boat</a> <a href="#">full of herself</a> <a href="#">give you the shirt off his back</a> <a href="#">hip hop (generation)</a> <a href="#">his own man</a> <a href="#">make your way</a> <a href="#">make yourself at home</a> <a href="#">mind of his own</a> <a href="#">navel-gazing</a> <a href="#">no use for</a> <a href="#">one man's garbage is another man's art</a> <a href="#">one man's meat is another man's poison</a> <a href="#">own worst enemy</a> <a href="#">part with</a> <a href="#">read into</a> <a href="#">realize your potential</a> <a href="#">self-made man</a> <a href="#">shoot yourself in the foot</a> <a href="#">stand corrected</a> <a href="#">toot your own horn</a> <a href="#">turn yourself in</a> <a href="#">variety is the spice of life</a> <a href="#">you have to be good to be lucky</a>
owned	<a href="#">the day of the family farm</a>

owner

[cash on the barrelhead](#)

[change hands](#)

[movers and shakers](#)

[take possession](#)

[walk-through](#)

oxygen

[a sick building](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Definition Index P

p	
	<a href="#">mind your manners</a>
pace	
	<a href="#">hold your own</a>
	<a href="#">keep up</a>
	<a href="#">keep up with the Joneses</a>
	<a href="#">rat race</a>
	<a href="#">stay abreast</a>
	<a href="#">take your sweet time</a>
pacifist	
	<a href="#">dove</a>
pack	
	<a href="#">a lot of bunk</a>
	<a href="#">no truth to it</a>
	<a href="#">pull the pin</a>
packed	
	<a href="#">chockablock</a>
	<a href="#">loaded to the hilt</a>
pad	
	<a href="#">digs</a>
page	
	<a href="#">handout</a>
	<a href="#">hard copy</a>
paid	
	<a href="#">a kept woman</a>
	<a href="#">ahead of the game</a>
	<a href="#">blood money</a>
	<a href="#">hit man</a>
	<a href="#">out of pocket</a>
pain	
	<a href="#">a pain in the butt</a>
	<a href="#">a royal pain</a>
	<a href="#">act up</a>
	<a href="#">half-corked</a>
	<a href="#">have an attack</a>

[killing me](#)  
[put your foot in your mouth](#)  
[take the trouble](#)

painful

[a bitter pill](#)  
[got you by the short hairs](#)

painters

[The Group of Seven](#)

painting

[work of art](#)

pair

[a full house \(cards\)](#)

pale

[look like death warmed over](#)  
[stack up](#)

palm

[eat it up](#)  
[money talks](#)

paltry

[chicken feed](#)  
[peanuts](#)

pan

[fall through](#)  
[how it plays out](#)  
[play out](#)  
[work out](#)

panel

[idiot lights](#)

panic

[pell-mell](#)  
[press the panic button](#)

panting

[tuckered out](#)

pants

[blow you away](#)  
[caught in the act](#)  
[drop your drawers](#)  
[shit myself \[B\]](#)

paper

[check over](#)  
[hard copy](#)  
[hot off the press](#)  
[pass off](#)

par	<a href="#">up to scratch</a>
parade	<a href="#">on parade</a>
parcel	<a href="#">drop off</a> <a href="#">one and the same</a>
pardon	<a href="#">come again</a> <a href="#">huh</a> <a href="#">say what</a>
parent	<a href="#">backpack (business)</a> <a href="#">family tree</a> <a href="#">the apple doesn't fall far from the tree</a>
park	<a href="#">take my place</a>
parked	<a href="#">get a ticket</a>
parking	<a href="#">strip mall</a>
parrot	<a href="#">as sick as a dog</a> <a href="#">in sick bay</a> <a href="#">sicker than a dog</a>
part	<a href="#">a drop in the bucket</a> <a href="#">all in a day's work</a> <a href="#">cut to the chase</a> <a href="#">dark side</a> <a href="#">even up</a> <a href="#">fake it</a> <a href="#">give me a hint</a> <a href="#">heavy going</a> <a href="#">home stretch</a> <a href="#">in his blood</a> <a href="#">in the picture</a> <a href="#">in these parts</a> <a href="#">let go of</a> <a href="#">lovelife</a> <a href="#">neck of the woods</a> <a href="#">one and the same</a>

[over the hump](#)  
[pony up](#)  
[rob Peter to pay Paul](#)  
[sacred cow](#)  
[selling point](#)  
[split up](#)  
[the best of both worlds](#)  
[the big picture](#)  
[the first leg](#)  
[the lion's share](#)  
[the tip of the iceberg](#)  
[there's more than meets the eye](#)  
[these parts](#)  
[thing-a-ma-bob / thing-a-ma-jig](#)  
[tip of the iceberg](#)  
[turn the corner](#)  
[win by a nose](#)  
[World Wide Web \(www\)](#)

participant

[take part in](#)

parties

[kick up your heels](#)

[live it up](#)

partly

[hard of hearing](#)

[tall tale](#)

[under the influence of alcohol](#)

partner

[breakup](#)

[in cahoots](#)

[pair off/pair up](#)

[sleep around \[B\]](#)

party

[bash](#)

[boozing buddies](#)

[crash a party](#)

[cut a wide swath](#)

[do the town](#)

[dolled up](#)

[dressed fit to kill](#)

[gas](#)

[good time](#)

[gussied up](#)  
[have a blast](#)  
[it's a zoo in there](#)  
[jam/jam out](#)  
[let the good times roll](#)  
[paint the town red](#)  
[party-pooper](#)  
[rain on their parade](#)  
[rubberneck](#)  
[skinhead](#)  
[stag](#)  
[the more the merrier](#)  
[throw a party](#)  
[wingding](#)

party-pooper

[buzz-kill](#)  
[spoilsport](#)  
[stick-in-the-mud](#)

pass

[a suicide pass \(hockey\)](#)  
[black out](#)  
[buy the farm](#)  
[cherrypicker \(hockey\)](#)  
[cross over Jordan](#)  
[cross over to the other side](#)  
[cut the cheese \[B\]](#)  
[drink you under the table](#)  
[feather a pass \(hockey\)](#)  
[good hands](#)  
[hand out](#)  
[kick the bucket](#)  
[let a fart \[B\]](#)  
[let this chance go by](#)  
[on the bubble](#)  
[pass around](#)  
[pass away](#)  
[slip away](#)  
[the buck stops here](#)  
[the runaround](#)  
[up to par](#)

pass\_html\_eacute\_

[old hat](#)

passed	<a href="#">what goes around comes around</a>
passenger	<a href="#">air rage</a> <a href="#">along for the ride</a>
passes	<a href="#">how time flies</a> <a href="#">roll around</a>
passing	<a href="#">in the Monford lane</a>
passion	<a href="#">got the hots for</a>
passionate	<a href="#">nuts about</a>
past	<a href="#">at one time</a> <a href="#">back at it</a> <a href="#">high time</a> <a href="#">over the hump</a> <a href="#">rest on your laurels</a> <a href="#">run the gauntlet</a> <a href="#">the past is slipping by without a trace</a> <a href="#">water under the bridge</a> <a href="#">you can run but you can't hide</a>
pastry	<a href="#">melt in your mouth</a>
pat	<a href="#">by heart</a> <a href="#">canned</a> <a href="#">down to a T</a>
path	<a href="#">a slippery slope</a> <a href="#">fast track</a> <a href="#">find your way</a> <a href="#">make way</a> <a href="#">out of the way</a> <a href="#">pave the way</a> <a href="#">rocky road</a> <a href="#">short cut</a> <a href="#">slippery slope</a>
patience	<a href="#">at the end of my rope/ at the end of my tether</a> <a href="#">lose patience</a>

[out of patience](#)

patient

[hang in there](#)[lose patience](#)

pause

[chill out](#)[dilly-dally](#)[just like that](#)[strike me](#)[wait a minute](#)

pausing

[without batting an eye](#)

pave

[spade work](#)

paved

[road to hell is paved...](#)

pay

[a contract out on](#)[a little steep](#)[bail me out](#)[bite the hand that feeds you](#)[cash and carry](#)[cash on the barrelhead](#)[cash on the line](#)[cheap skate](#)[check-out](#)[chip in](#)[come across](#)[cough up](#)[drive a hard bargain](#)[dubs](#)[Dutch treat](#)[find a way around](#)[flip you for it](#)[foot the bill](#)[fork over](#)[fuss over](#)[get off](#)[get revenge](#)[get serious](#)[give an arm and a leg](#)[give you odds](#)

[grease my palm](#)  
[hard up](#)  
[have one on me](#)  
[honesty is the best policy](#)  
[know which side your bread is buttered on](#)  
[let off](#)  
[listen up](#)  
[live off](#)  
[live on](#)  
[make a go of it](#)  
[make an offer](#)  
[make ends meet](#)  
[mark my words](#)  
[no questions asked](#)  
[pay down](#)  
[pay off](#)  
[pay the penalty](#)  
[pay the shot](#)  
[pay through the nose](#)  
[pay up](#)  
[pay your way](#)  
[pick up the tab](#)  
[put up or shut up](#)  
[put up the money](#)  
[put your money where your mouth is](#)  
[put yourself through college](#)  
[scot-free](#)  
[see you through](#)  
[set you back](#)  
[shell out](#)  
[spring for](#)  
[square up](#)  
[stiff](#)  
[the price you have to pay](#)  
[the short end of the stick](#)  
[this one is on me](#)  
[tune me out](#)  
[up against it](#)  
[walk](#)

paycheck

[bring home the bacon](#)

payday

[tide me over](#)

paying

[a raw deal](#)

[asleep at the switch](#)

[in one ear and out the other](#)

[stiff](#)

payment

[up the ante](#)

peace

[dove](#)

[raise hell \[B\]](#)

[rest his soul \(God rest his soul\)](#)

[take solace](#)

peaceful

[at peace](#)

[go to hell in a handbasket](#)

[rest his soul \(God rest his soul\)](#)

[silence is golden](#)

peacefully

[sound asleep](#)

peachy

[just ducky](#)

peanuts

[a paltry sum](#)

[chicken feed](#)

pecking

[low on the totem pole](#)

pedal

[boot it](#)

[downplay](#)

[flat out](#)

[floor it](#)

[full throttle](#)

[goose it](#)

[heavy foot](#)

[in the Monford lane](#)

[put the hammer down](#)

[ride the clutch](#)

[step on it](#)

pedantic

[anal retentive](#)

pee

[back teeth are floating](#)

[have a leak \[B\]](#)[pass water](#)[take a leak \[B\]](#)[take a piss \[B\]](#)[take a whiz](#)[whiz](#)

peed

[mop the floor with us](#)

peek

[have a boo](#)[peek-a-boo](#)

peeled

[keep an eye out](#)

peep

[check this out](#)[eyeball this](#)

peg

[knock the wind out of his sails](#)

pell-mell

[harum-scarum](#)

pen

[on the loose](#)

penalty

[kill a penalty \(hockey\)](#)[no rest for the wicked](#)[the sin bin \(hockey\)](#)

penis

[a dildo \[B\]](#)[a hard-on \[B\]](#)[dick \[B\]](#)[dink \[B\]](#)[dork \[B\]](#)[hoo-haw \[B\]](#)[prick \[B\]](#)[well hung \[B\]](#)

penitentiary

[do time](#)

pennies

[penny wise, pound foolish](#)

penny

[diddy-squat](#)[penny wise, pound foolish](#)

## people

[a beehive of activity](#)  
[a firm hand](#)  
[a hot ticket](#)  
[a pocket of resistance](#)  
[across the board](#)  
[actions speak louder than words](#)  
[all hell broke loose](#)  
[bar none](#)  
[bash](#)  
[beggars can't be choosers](#)  
[bigger fish to fry](#)  
[birds of a feather flock together](#)  
[blow sky high](#)  
[brain drain](#)  
[break the silence](#)  
[bridge the gap](#)  
[cast a spell](#)  
[chain letter](#)  
[character density](#)  
[choose up sides](#)  
[cooler heads prevailed](#)  
[different strokes for different folks](#)  
[do unto others as you would have them do unto you](#)  
[Donnybrook](#)  
[draw attention to](#)  
[drawing card](#)  
[drop a name / drop names](#)  
[dude](#)  
[ears are burning](#)  
[elbow room](#)  
[fall on deaf ears](#)  
[Gang of Four](#)  
[geezer gap](#)  
[Generation X](#)  
[get a laugh](#)  
[get in on the ground floor](#)  
[grey power](#)  
[heads will roll](#)  
[heart is in the right place](#)  
[hell to pay \[B\]](#)  
[high and mighty](#)

[high handed](#)  
[ignorance is bliss](#)  
[in his good books](#)  
[in my good books](#)  
[in the loop](#)  
[in your bad books](#)  
[jump queue](#)  
[keep to yourself](#)  
[larger than life](#)  
[leak](#)  
[leave the door open](#)  
[leave yourself open](#)  
[lesser lights](#)  
[let the cat out of the bag](#)  
[line of authority](#)  
[line up](#)  
[live up to](#)  
[liveware](#)  
[love at first sight](#)  
[love is blind](#)  
[mind games](#)  
[misery loves company](#)  
[moppie](#)  
[mudsling](#)  
[muscle in](#)  
[name-dropper](#)  
[no rest for the wicked](#)  
[pair off/pair up](#)  
[partners in crime](#)  
[people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones](#)  
[piss parade \[B\]](#)  
[play a prank on](#)  
[play games](#)  
[play musical chairs](#)  
[play the field](#)  
[practice what you preach](#)  
[preach to the choir/preach to the converted](#)  
[pull a few strings](#)  
[reach out](#)  
[rumor has it](#)  
[run roughshod](#)  
[second guess](#)

[shareware](#)  
[shoot up](#)  
[single file](#)  
[snowball](#)  
[squat](#)  
[step on people](#)  
[take a poll](#)  
[take the pulse](#)  
[talk it up](#)  
[test the water](#)  
[the cat's out of the bag](#)  
[the fat hit the fire](#)  
[the in-crowd](#)  
[the life of the party](#)  
[the luck of the Irish](#)  
[the more the merrier](#)  
[the Peter Principle](#)  
[the powers that be](#)  
[the salt of the earth](#)  
[the shit hit the fan](#)  
[there are two sides to every story](#)  
[there's one born every minute](#)  
[think tank](#)  
[throw a party](#)  
[turnout](#)  
[two abreast](#)  
[two's company, three's a crowd](#)  
[when push comes to shove](#)  
[win the hearts](#)  
[word is out](#)  
[work the room](#)  
[you can't teach an old dog new tricks](#)  
[you have to be good to be lucky](#)

per

[a pop](#)

perfect

[a total stranger](#)

[letter-perfect](#)

[picky](#)

[Prince Charming](#)

[promise the moon](#)

perfection

[to a T](#)

perfectionistic

[pernickety/persnickety](#)

perfectly

[as a matter of fact](#)[down to a T](#)[in fact](#)[picture-perfect](#)[to a T](#)[to perfection](#)

perform

[buck fever](#)[choke](#)[cool under pressure](#)[front man](#)[give head \[B\]](#)[knock your socks off](#)[mop the floor with us](#)[outdo yourself](#)[put out](#)[screw up](#)[slip a notch](#)[stink the joint out](#)[walk through](#)

performance

[a tough act to follow](#)[ahead of the curve](#)[behind the curve](#)[break a leg](#)[dress rehearsal](#)[tune up](#)

performed

[done good](#)[good show](#)[picture-perfect](#)

performer

[all the world's a stage](#)[steal the show](#)[superstar](#)[take the stage](#)

performing

[in a slump](#)

period	<a href="#">pumped/pumped up</a>
perks	<a href="#">got the rags on [B]</a> <a href="#">soft market</a>
permanent	<a href="#">every cloud has a silver lining</a>
permanently	<a href="#">fast friends</a> <a href="#">on probation</a>
permission	<a href="#">for good</a>
permit	<a href="#">make off with</a>
permitted	<a href="#">crack down on</a> <a href="#">rule out</a> <a href="#">stand for</a>
persevere	<a href="#">heaven forbid</a>
person	<a href="#">hang in there</a> <a href="#">pick yourself up</a>
	<a href="#">a babe in the woods</a> <a href="#">a bar fly</a> <a href="#">a barrel of laughs</a> <a href="#">a basket case</a> <a href="#">a big shot</a> <a href="#">a big wheel</a> <a href="#">a big wig</a> <a href="#">a blank look</a> <a href="#">a brick</a> <a href="#">a bull in a china shop</a> <a href="#">a bundle of nerves</a> <a href="#">a caution</a> <a href="#">a cheap drunk</a> <a href="#">a cut-up</a> <a href="#">a daredevil</a> <a href="#">a firm hand</a> <a href="#">a flash in the pan</a> <a href="#">a game one</a> <a href="#">a going concern.</a>

[a good egg](#)  
[a good head](#)  
[a good sport](#)  
[a heavy hitter](#)  
[a heavyweight](#)  
[a hothead](#)  
[a hotshot](#)  
[a household name](#)  
[a marked man](#)  
[a nut case](#)  
[a pain in the butt](#)  
[a party to that](#)  
[a perfect stranger](#)  
[a pop](#)  
[a quick study](#)  
[a redneck](#)  
[a rolling stone gathers no moss](#)  
[a shogun](#)  
[a sitting duck](#)  
[a soft touch](#)  
[a three-bagger](#)  
[a tower of strength](#)  
[a wolf in sheep's clothing](#)  
[a word to the wise is sufficient](#)  
[a wordsmith](#)  
[age before beauty](#)  
[all talk and no action](#)  
[an airhead](#)  
[an old hand at](#)  
[baby boomer](#)  
[beauty is in the eye of the beholder](#)  
[beauty is only skin deep](#)  
[best interests at heart](#)  
[big shot](#)  
[big wigs](#)  
[binner](#)  
[birdbrain](#)  
[blabbermouth](#)  
[blood money](#)  
[bozo](#)  
[buzz-kill](#)  
[by word of mouth](#)

[canary](#)  
[candy-ass](#)  
[capture the imagination](#)  
[car buff](#)  
[card-carrying member](#)  
[chain smoker](#)  
[character assassination](#)  
[cheap skate](#)  
[chicken](#)  
[chromedome](#)  
[class act](#)  
[comeback kid](#)  
[couch potato](#)  
[crack shot/salesman etc.](#)  
[crackpot](#)  
[creep](#)  
[curiosity killed the cat](#)  
[cut my teeth on](#)  
[dance with the one who brought you](#)  
[dark side](#)  
[dead-eye Dick](#)  
[deadbeat](#)  
[deadhead](#)  
[dingbat/ding-dong](#)  
[dipstick](#)  
[dirty dog/dirty rat](#)  
[dog in the manger](#)  
[dork \[B\]](#)  
[dove](#)  
[draft dodger](#)  
[ducks in a row \(ducks in order\)](#)  
[dumbo](#)  
[eager beaver](#)  
[eagle eyes](#)  
[even up](#)  
[fat cat](#)  
[fence sitter](#)  
[figurehead](#)  
[first dibs](#)  
[first hand](#)  
[flatliner](#)  
[geek](#)

[geezer](#)

[give a black eye](#)

[go steady](#)

[good bet](#)

[granola](#)

[half-pint](#)

[ham](#)

[happy camper](#)

[hard line](#)

[have a fling](#)

[haven't seen hide nor hair](#)

[hawk](#)

[head \(headbanger\)](#)

[headhunter](#)

[health nut](#)

[hick](#)

[high roller](#)

[hit man](#)

[hold-out](#)

[honky](#)

[hot stuff](#)

[in good hands](#)

[in the flesh](#)

[it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all](#)

[jack of all trades](#)

[jam tart](#)

[joker](#)

[jolly good fellow](#)

[junkie](#)

[keep your distance](#)

[King Shit on Turd Island](#)

[klutz](#)

[knock out](#)

[lame duck](#)

[lamebrain](#)

[landlubber](#)

[lard butt/lard ass \[B\]](#)

[last hurrah](#)

[late bloomer](#)

[lazy bones](#)

[lefty](#)

[lifer](#)

[look down your nose at](#)  
[lose favor](#)  
[lowlife](#)  
[lucky dog](#)  
[moneybags](#)  
[motherfucker \[B\]](#)  
[nerd](#)  
[Net surfer](#)  
[new blood](#)  
[new kid on the block](#)  
[Newfie](#)  
[no fair](#)  
[nobody's fool](#)  
[numbskull](#)  
[nut](#)  
[on a string](#)  
[one man's garbage is another man's art](#)  
[one man's meat is another man's poison](#)  
[pass around](#)  
[pay tribute](#)  
[peer sneer](#)  
[penny pincher](#)  
[pipsqueak](#)  
[pocket Hercules](#)  
[pot calling the kettle black](#)  
[potlicker](#)  
[power user](#)  
[pusher](#)  
[rabble-rouser](#)  
[railroad](#)  
[rat fink](#)  
[rob the cradle](#)  
[say jump...how high](#)  
[scaredy cat](#)  
[scum/scumbag](#)  
[see hide nor hair](#)  
[seek revenge](#)  
[self-starter](#)  
[send a bouquet](#)  
[sentence to death](#)  
[shit disturber \[B\]](#)  
[shithead \[B\]](#)

[showboat](#)  
[sicko](#)  
[silkhead](#)  
[single out](#)  
[slackass \[B\]](#)  
[slimebucket \[B\]](#)  
[slowpoke](#)  
[smartass \[B\]](#)  
[so and so](#)  
[soften up](#)  
[soul mate](#)  
[sounding board](#)  
[sour puss](#)  
[southpaw](#)  
[sow wild oats](#)  
[speak highly of](#)  
[speak of the devil](#)  
[square shooter](#)  
[stiff](#)  
[straight from the horse's mouth](#)  
[string bean](#)  
[suck](#)  
[sucker](#)  
[take it out on](#)  
[take my hat off to](#)  
[take sides](#)  
[the butt of the joke](#)  
[the devil makes work for idle hands](#)  
[the goat](#)  
[The Grim Reaper](#)  
[the inside track](#)  
[the laughing stock](#)  
[the life of the party](#)  
[the man in the middle](#)  
[the middleman](#)  
[the squeaky wheel gets the grease](#)  
[tight-ass \[B\]](#)  
[to a man](#)  
[tough customer](#)  
[tub of guts](#)  
[tube head](#)  
[turn the tables on](#)

[twerp](#)  
[twiggy](#)  
[twinkle toes](#)  
[two's company, three's a crowd](#)  
[unsung hero](#)  
[VIP](#)  
[weigh in at](#)  
[weirdo](#)  
[what a brain](#)  
[wheeler-dealer](#)  
[wimp](#)  
[windbag](#)  
[wingnut](#)  
[world beater](#)  
[wuss](#)  
[yellow belly](#)  
[yuppie](#)  
[zipperhead](#)

personal

[a talking to](#)  
[dirty laundry](#)  
[find your voice](#)  
[hang-up](#)  
[out of pocket](#)  
[outdo yourself](#)  
[rock](#)  
[suck up to](#)  
[the inside story](#)  
[through the wringer](#)  
[wekabi](#)

personality

[in his blood](#)  
[it takes one to know one](#)  
[take after](#)

personally

[hit home](#)

persongroup

[lord it over](#)

personhorseteam

[a shoo-in](#)

perspective

[put a different slant on it](#)

perspire	<a href="#">break a sweat</a> <a href="#">work up a sweat</a>
persuade	<a href="#">make a pitch</a> <a href="#">sucker</a> <a href="#">talk into</a> <a href="#">twist my arm</a>
persuaded	<a href="#">an easy mark</a>
persuasively	<a href="#">talk the leg off the lamb of God</a>
pervert	<a href="#">creep</a> <a href="#">sicko</a> <a href="#">weirdo</a>
pet	<a href="#">potlicker</a>
petite	<a href="#">cute as a bug's ear</a>
petrified	<a href="#">make your hair stand on end</a> <a href="#">scared shitless [B]</a> <a href="#">scared stiff</a>
phase	<a href="#">over the hump</a>
phased	<a href="#">throw me for a loop</a>
phobia	<a href="#">hang-up</a>
phone	<a href="#">any word</a> <a href="#">call up</a> <a href="#">dingle you</a> <a href="#">get a hold of</a> <a href="#">give me a call</a> <a href="#">give me a dingle</a> <a href="#">give me a ring</a> <a href="#">hold your horses</a> <a href="#">in touch</a> <a href="#">keep in touch</a> <a href="#">keep you posted</a> <a href="#">make a false move</a>

[no word](#)  
[phone-in](#)  
[reach me](#)  
[ring me](#)  
[ring off the hook](#)  
[rubberneck](#)  
[so small you had to back out to change your mind](#)  
[take calls](#)

phony

[a snow job](#)  
[crocodile tears](#)  
[flake](#)  
[jam tart](#)

phooey

[fuddle duddle\\*](#)

photo

[in the flesh](#)  
[photo op](#)

photocopier

[run off](#)

photograph

[take a picture](#)

phrase

[a play on words](#)  
[buzzword](#)  
[catch phrase](#)  
[chime in](#)  
[crack a joke](#)  
[to coin a phrase](#)

physical

[beauty is only skin deep](#)  
[fit as a fiddle](#)  
[smelling yourself](#)

physically

[get in shape](#)

pick

[a score to settle](#)  
[clean up](#)  
[give me a lift](#)  
[roll with the punches](#)  
[take up cudgels](#)  
[take your sweet time](#)

pickles

[throw a monkey wrench into the works](#)

picture

[a picture is worth a thousand words](#)

[can't see the forest for the trees](#)

[get this straight](#)

[hard copy](#)

[in your mind's eye](#)

[take a picture](#)

picture-perfect

[letter-perfect](#)

pie

[airy-fairy](#)

[honey](#)

[like shit through a goose](#)

[pipe dream](#)

piece

[a dressing down](#)

[a drop in the bucket](#)

[a jim dandy](#)

[a piece of piss](#)

[bits and pieces](#)

[come undone](#)

[duck soup](#)

[easy as pie](#)

[easy pickings](#)

[even up](#)

[finish off](#)

[it was a lark](#)

[it's a snap](#)

[odds and ends](#)

[piss in the pickles \[B\]](#)

[the lion's share](#)

[tie up](#)

[top it off](#)

pig

[cop](#)

[eat like a horse](#)

[eat you out of house and home](#)

[fill your face](#)

[fuzz](#)

[piggy bank](#)

[put away](#)

pike

[what's going down](#)

[what's going on](#)

pile

[tons](#)

pill

[the pill](#)

pilot

[trial balloon](#)

pimple

[pimple pole](#)

[whore blossom](#)

[zit](#)

pin

[fall on your sword](#)

[get your hopes up](#)

[nail down](#)

[pack it in](#)

[spending money](#)

[sweat it out](#)

pinch

[a pinch to grow an inch](#)

[in a tight spot](#)

[pinch an inch](#)

[rabbit](#)

[scoff](#)

pink

[hale and hearty](#)

pipe

[carry a tune](#)

[keep it down](#)

piracy

[bootleg](#)

piss

[rain on their parade](#)

[throw a monkey wrench into the works](#)

pissb

[whiz](#)

pissed

[choked](#)

[hammered](#)

[hot](#)

[mad about](#)  
[pissed off \[B\]](#)  
[spitting mad](#)  
[three sheets to the wind](#)

pissedb

[spitting nails](#)

pissing

[look up a dead horse's ass \[B\]](#)  
[piss parade \[B\]](#)

pitch

[in tune \(music\)](#)  
[off key \(music\)](#)  
[out of tune \(music\)](#)

pitched

[fastball](#)

pitches

[fastball](#)

pits

[for the birds](#)  
[from hunger](#)

pity

[feel for](#)

place

[a bed of roses](#)  
[a beehive of activity](#)  
[a faraway look](#)  
[a level playing field](#)  
[Achilles heel](#)  
[all over hell's half acre](#)  
[as the crow flies](#)  
[bark up the wrong tree](#)  
[bed down](#)  
[being there](#)  
[bet on](#)  
[between the devil and the deep blue sea](#)  
[blow my cover](#)  
[blow this joint](#)  
[blow this Popsicle stand](#)  
[chockablock](#)  
[come full circle](#)  
[crack the line-up](#)  
[curl up with a good book](#)

[feather your nest](#)  
[get around](#)  
[going to the mountains](#)  
[hole up](#)  
[it goes with the territory](#)  
[it's a whole nother world out there](#)  
[it's a whole other world out there](#)  
[it's a zoo in there](#)  
[knock you down a peg](#)  
[lump together](#)  
[more than welcome](#)  
[on a pedestal](#)  
[on the move](#)  
[on the spot](#)  
[out of harm's way](#)  
[out of place](#)  
[out of the woodwork](#)  
[out on a limb](#)  
[pinpoint](#)  
[pull up stakes](#)  
[put down roots](#)  
[run for the hills](#)  
[saddle up](#)  
[set out](#)  
[set up shop](#)  
[settle down](#)  
[squat](#)  
[squirrel away](#)  
[stand in](#)  
[stick out like a sore thumb](#)  
[take cover](#)  
[take him down a peg](#)  
[the end of the line](#)  
[then and there](#)  
[tight spot](#)  
[vale of tears \(valley of tears\)](#)  
[window on the world](#)  
[wreak havoc](#)

placed

[buckstop \(military\)](#)  
[in your face](#)

plain

[call a spade a spade](#)

[crystal clear](#)

[right before my eyes](#)

[under my nose](#)

plainly

[straight from the shoulder](#)

plan

[a lick and a promise](#)

[a slippery slope](#)

[all your eggs in one basket](#)

[bag of tricks](#)

[broken dreams](#)

[buy time](#)

[change your mind](#)

[count your chickens before they hatch](#)

[don't count your chickens before they hatch](#)

[down with](#)

[feedback](#)

[fuck that noise \[B\]](#)

[get cold feet](#)

[get your shit together \[B\]](#)

[goose is cooked](#)

[hanky-panky](#)

[hidden agenda](#)

[honesty is the best policy](#)

[hopes dashed](#)

[in the works](#)

[keep your fingers crossed](#)

[no rhyme or reason](#)

[on schedule](#)

[on the wing](#)

[partners in crime](#)

[Plan B](#)

[play it by ear](#)

[railroad](#)

[risky business](#)

[serve notice](#)

[set out to](#)

[set-up](#)

[sounding board](#)

[take a dive](#)

[the best-laid plans of mice and men go oft astray](#)

[the big picture](#)[time out](#)[tip your hand](#)[what-if](#)[wing it](#)

plane

[catch a plane/bus/train](#)[make war](#)[take a flight](#)[take off](#)[take the bus/plane](#)

planned

[a bare-faced lie](#)[a pat answer](#)[come off](#)[come to fruition](#)[ducks in a row \(ducks in order\)](#)[fall short](#)[half-baked](#)[love is where you find it](#)[on target](#)[pan out](#)[play into his hand](#)[stand up](#)[trial balloon](#)[work out](#)

planning

[by the seat of your pants](#)[in the long run](#)[pin your hopes on](#)[up to](#)[up to something](#)

plansmethods

[change horses in mid stream](#)

plants

[green thumb](#)

plastered

[blasted](#)[corked](#)[pissed to the gills \[B\]](#)[polluted](#)[shit-faced \[B\]](#)

[sloshed to the gills](#)  
[three sheets to the wind](#)

plate

[clean up your plate](#)  
[got my hands full](#)  
[irons in the fire](#)  
[seconds](#)  
[set the table](#)

play

[a hotdog](#)  
[a quickie](#)  
[an ace up your sleeve](#)  
[backroom boys](#)  
[basta la musica](#)  
[blow snakes \(music\)](#)  
[chairman of the boards \(hockey\)](#)  
[choose up sides](#)  
[cook](#)  
[crazy like a fox](#)  
[cut a wide swath](#)  
[deal me in](#)  
[disk jockey \(DJ\)](#)  
[do a gig](#)  
[ease up](#)  
[eat humble pie](#)  
[fart around \[B\]](#)  
[fool around](#)  
[give her shit \[B\]](#)  
[go along with](#)  
[goof off](#)  
[ham it up](#)  
[hang out](#)  
[hit and run \(baseball\)](#)  
[hit the high notes](#)  
[horse around](#)  
[inside joke](#)  
[it's your turn](#)  
[jack me around](#)  
[jam](#)  
[jock](#)  
[joke around](#)  
[kitty bar the door](#)

[mind games](#)  
[musical chairs](#)  
[outplay](#)  
[play a bit-part](#)  
[play a joke on](#)  
[play a mean game](#)  
[play a trick on](#)  
[play dirty](#)  
[play dumb](#)  
[play fair](#)  
[play hardball](#)  
[play it by ear](#)  
[play to the crowd](#)  
[political football](#)  
[pumped/pumped up](#)  
[put you off your game](#)  
[shuffle the chairs on the deck](#)  
[skip classes](#)  
[spoilsport](#)  
[stink the joint out](#)  
[take a back seat](#)  
[take chances](#)  
[team up](#)  
[the gloves are off](#)  
[the joke is on you](#)  
[tool around](#)  
[up for it](#)  
[wing it](#)  
[work up a thirst](#)

player

[a game one](#)  
[a suicide pass \(hockey\)](#)  
[bump and grind \(hockey\)](#)  
[chairman of the boards \(hockey\)](#)  
[cherrypicker \(hockey\)](#)  
[fifth business](#)  
[fresh legs](#)  
[hat trick](#)  
[in over your head](#)  
[kill a penalty \(hockey\)](#)  
[musical chairs](#)  
[new legs](#)

[no contest](#)  
[one on one](#)  
[plug the team](#)  
[superstar](#)  
[the bigger they are the harder they fall](#)  
[underdog](#)

playing

[a level playing field](#)  
[at the top of her game](#)  
[level the playing field](#)  
[out of bounds](#)  
[out of the picture](#)  
[time flies when you're having fun](#)

pleasant

[a bed of roses](#)  
[don't want to go there](#)  
[ear candy](#)  
[like dog's breath](#)

please

[a man's home is his castle](#)  
[beg your pardon](#)  
[bend over backwards](#)  
[brown nose \[B\]](#)  
[by all means](#)  
[crank it up](#)  
[deal me in](#)  
[for goodness sake](#)  
[for Pete's sake](#)  
[forget your manners](#)  
[have a chair](#)  
[have a seat](#)  
[help yourself](#)  
[make your bum hum](#)  
[more than welcome](#)  
[pardon me](#)  
[spare me](#)

pleased

[happy as a peacock](#)  
[miffed](#)  
[nose is out of joint](#)  
[pleased as punch](#)  
[tickled pink](#)

plug	<a href="#">slug away</a>
plumb	<a href="#">mad as a hatter</a>
plumber	<a href="#">blue-collar worker</a>
plump	<a href="#">chock full</a> <a href="#">full as a tick</a>
plunder	<a href="#">lay waste</a>
plus	<a href="#">a full house (cards)</a> <a href="#">and then some</a> <a href="#">to boot</a>
pms	<a href="#">pre-menstrual syndrome</a>
pocket	<a href="#">loaded</a> <a href="#">penny wise, dollar dumb</a>
poems	<a href="#">wax poetic</a>
poetic	<a href="#">wax poetic</a>
point	<a href="#">an axe to grind</a> <a href="#">beat around the bush</a> <a href="#">bone of contention</a> <a href="#">bottom out</a> <a href="#">brownie points</a> <a href="#">case in point</a> <a href="#">chalk one up for you</a> <a href="#">come to the point</a> <a href="#">cut to the chase</a> <a href="#">get to it</a> <a href="#">get to the point</a> <a href="#">got him covered</a> <a href="#">mark a watershed</a> <a href="#">miss the point</a> <a href="#">mount a comeback</a> <a href="#">pinpoint</a> <a href="#">shellack</a> <a href="#">take you to the cleaners</a>

[the breaking point](#)  
[the crux of the matter](#)  
[the downside](#)  
[the straight dope](#)  
[the tide turned](#)  
[win by a nose](#)  
[wipe you](#)

pointed

[grill you](#)

pointgame

[chalk one up for you](#)

pointing

[yonder over there](#)

pointless

[look up a dead horse's ass \[B\]](#)

poke

[make fun of](#)

[take a shot](#)

poker

[backroom boys](#)

[cash in](#)

[keep a straight face](#)

pokey

[so small you could barely swing a cat](#)

pole

[string bean](#)

police

[blow the whistle](#)

[busted](#)

[canary](#)

[Mounties](#)

[on the lam](#)

[on the run](#)

[pig](#)

[press charges](#)

[rat on](#)

[squeal](#)

[squealer](#)

[take the heat](#)

[the long arm of the law](#)

[turn yourself in](#)

[under arrest](#)

policeman	<a href="#">cop</a> <a href="#">flatfoot</a>
policemen	<a href="#">fuzz</a>
policy	<a href="#">a blackout (war)</a> <a href="#">hard line</a> <a href="#">mete out</a> <a href="#">trial balloon</a>
polite	<a href="#">down and dirty</a> <a href="#">forget your manners</a> <a href="#">hold your tongue</a> <a href="#">mind your manners</a> <a href="#">mind your P's and Q's</a> <a href="#">on my best behavior</a> <a href="#">out of line</a> <a href="#">watch your P's and Q's</a>
political	<a href="#">a marked man</a> <a href="#">bafflegab</a> <a href="#">mend fences</a> <a href="#">Old Boys' Club</a> <a href="#">political football</a>
politician	<a href="#">Joe Who</a> <a href="#">political football</a> <a href="#">spin doctor</a>
poll	<a href="#">test the water</a>
polluted	<a href="#">a sick building</a> <a href="#">as drunk as a skunk</a> <a href="#">shit-faced [B]</a> <a href="#">tanked/tanked up</a>
pompous	<a href="#">high-hat</a>
poontang	<a href="#">nookie [B]</a>
poop	<a href="#">doggy doo</a> <a href="#">doo-doo</a>

poor	<a href="#">a dog's life</a> <a href="#">a ghost of a chance</a> <a href="#">a long shot</a> <a href="#">a major</a> <a href="#">an attitude</a> <a href="#">as poor as a church mouse</a> <a href="#">beater</a> <a href="#">below the poverty line</a> <a href="#">boom or bust</a> <a href="#">cheesy</a> <a href="#">clunker</a> <a href="#">crappy</a> <a href="#">crummy</a> <a href="#">damaged goods</a> <a href="#">darn my luck</a> <a href="#">do it the hard way</a> <a href="#">down and out</a> <a href="#">for the birds</a> <a href="#">from hand to mouth</a> <a href="#">from hunger</a> <a href="#">gone to pot</a> <a href="#">gone to the dogs</a> <a href="#">hard up</a> <a href="#">in the poorhouse</a> <a href="#">lousy</a> <a href="#">off to a bad start</a> <a href="#">piss poor [B]</a> <a href="#">read them and weep</a> <a href="#">run down</a> <a href="#">suck</a> <a href="#">sucks</a> <a href="#">the pits</a> <a href="#">throw good money after bad</a> <a href="#">two left feet</a> <a href="#">up against it</a>
poorer	<a href="#">feel the pinch</a>
poorhouse	<a href="#">hard up</a>
poorly	<a href="#">get your wires crossed</a>

[goof up](#)  
[out of whack](#)  
[put you off your game](#)  
[screw up](#)  
[stink the joint out](#)

pop

[bottle drive](#)  
[spike a drink](#)

popular

[a hit](#)  
[a hot ticket](#)  
[a hot topic](#)  
[catch phrase](#)  
[catch the wave](#)  
[hot stuff](#)  
[like dog's breath](#)

porcelain

[piggy bank](#)

portable

[boom box](#)  
[ghetto blaster](#)

portray

[paint a picture](#)

portraying

[steamy](#)

position

[back yourself into a corner](#)  
[behind the eight ball](#)  
[between a rock and a hard place](#)  
[between the devil and the deep blue sea](#)  
[bottom rung](#)  
[deked out of his jock](#)  
[dig in their heels](#)  
[in a jam](#)  
[in a tight spot](#)  
[in place](#)  
[in the black](#)  
[in the pipe five by five](#)  
[know where we stand](#)  
[middle ground](#)  
[on a pedestal](#)  
[on thin ice](#)

[open to criticism](#)  
[parachute](#)  
[play second fiddle](#)  
[sitting pretty](#)  
[soften your stance](#)  
[step down](#)  
[take a stand](#)  
[The Grim Reaper](#)  
[tight spot](#)

positive

[a lift](#)  
[buck up](#)  
[change of heart](#)  
[dead certain](#)  
[down on his luck](#)  
[mixed feelings](#)  
[on the bright side](#)  
[raise your spirits](#)  
[things are looking up](#)  
[upside](#)

possessions

[a rolling stone gathers no moss](#)  
[bag and baggage](#)

possible

[by guess or by gosh](#)  
[by hook or by crook](#)  
[chances are](#)  
[flat out](#)  
[full blast](#)  
[full tilt](#)  
[hand over fist](#)  
[in order](#)  
[make every effort](#)  
[no way](#)  
[out of the question](#)  
[pull out all the stops](#)  
[time is of the essence](#)

possibly

[fifth column](#)

postcard

[drop a line](#)

posterior

[rear end](#)

postpone

[call off](#)[put off](#)

pot

[fish or cut bait](#)[reefer](#)[toke up](#)

potato

[tube head](#)[vegetate \(veg out\)](#)

potential

[come into your own](#)[has the makings](#)[the makings of](#)[up and coming](#)

potlicker

[pipsqueak](#)

pounds

[penny wise, pound foolish](#)

pour

[tell all](#)

poverty

[from rags to riches](#)[hard times](#)[lean times](#)[the wolf is at the door](#)[times were hard](#)

pow

[bam](#)

power

[a big wheel](#)[a heavyweight](#)[carry weight](#)[cast a spell](#)[chain of command](#)[full steam ahead](#)[get up a head of steam](#)[give her](#)[hop up](#)[juice](#)[let her rip](#)

[line of authority](#)  
[lose ground](#)  
[mind over matter](#)  
[Old Boys' Club](#)  
[peter out](#)  
[power play \(business\)](#)  
[power trip](#)  
[put your mind to it](#)  
[sleeper](#)  
[supercharge](#)  
[the inside track](#)  
[the powers that be](#)  
[throw your weight around](#)  
[tweak](#)  
[weak-kneed](#)  
[XL](#)

powerful

[a shogun](#)  
[big boys](#)  
[Bob's your uncle](#)  
[pack Uzis](#)  
[power to burn](#)  
[pull a few strings](#)  
[super-duper](#)

powerless

[lame duck](#)

practical

[head in the clouds](#)  
[pie in the sky](#)

practice

[actions speak louder than words](#)  
[an old hand at](#)  
[hands on](#)  
[jam session](#)  
[walk the talk](#)  
[walk through](#)

practicing

[workout](#)

practise

[bone up on](#)  
[brush up on](#)  
[go over](#)

[jam](#)  
[run through](#)

prairie

[dirty thirties](#)

praise

[a little thick](#)  
[deserve credit](#)  
[hats off](#)  
[here's to](#)  
[in glowing terms](#)  
[lay it on](#)  
[pat on the back](#)  
[pour it on](#)  
[praise him to the skies](#)  
[sing his praises](#)  
[speak highly of](#)  
[take my hat off to](#)  
[tip of the hat](#)

praised

[unsung hero](#)

prank

[funny stuff](#)  
[play a joke on](#)

preach

[actions speak louder than words](#)  
[rant and rave](#)  
[walk the talk](#)

preaching

[get off your soap box](#)

precise

[put too fine a point on](#)

predicament

[behind the eight ball](#)  
[up the creek](#)

predict

[see it coming](#)

predictable

[a foregone conclusion](#)  
[a sure thing](#)  
[as sure as shit](#)  
[sure as shit](#)

prediction

[famous last words](#)

prefer	<a href="#">just as soon</a> <a href="#">take your pick</a>
preferences	<a href="#">different strokes for different folks</a>
pregnant	<a href="#">a bun in the oven</a> <a href="#">baby blues</a> <a href="#">in a family way</a> <a href="#">knock up [B]</a> <a href="#">the rabbit died</a> <a href="#">up the stump [B]</a>
prejudging	<a href="#">keep an open mind</a>
premises	<a href="#">watering hole</a>
preparation	<a href="#">spade work</a>
prepare	<a href="#">feather your nest</a> <a href="#">gear up</a> <a href="#">hunker down</a> <a href="#">one for the money, two for the show...</a> <a href="#">pave the way</a> <a href="#">prepare like crazy</a> <a href="#">take up cudgels</a> <a href="#">work out</a> <a href="#">write up</a> <a href="#">you have to be good to be lucky</a>
prepared	<a href="#">all set</a> <a href="#">armed to the teeth</a> <a href="#">canned</a> <a href="#">don't hold your breath</a> <a href="#">on top of</a> <a href="#">psyched/psyched up</a> <a href="#">sharpen your pencils</a> <a href="#">up for it</a> <a href="#">wired for sound</a>
preparing	<a href="#">fixing to</a> <a href="#">rattle sabres</a>

presence	<a href="#">a breath of fresh air</a>
present	<a href="#">put your best foot forward</a> <a href="#">roll around</a> <a href="#">the past is slipping by without a trace</a>
president	<a href="#">a big wig</a> <a href="#">big wigs</a>
press	<a href="#">drop charges</a> <a href="#">goose it</a>
pressure	<a href="#">ease up</a> <a href="#">hard sell</a> <a href="#">if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen</a> <a href="#">presence of mind</a> <a href="#">push me (to the limit)</a> <a href="#">put the heat on</a> <a href="#">running water</a> <a href="#">the heat is on</a>
pressuring	<a href="#">soft sell</a>
pretend	<a href="#">drop a name / drop names</a> <a href="#">go along with</a> <a href="#">lead you on</a> <a href="#">make believe</a> <a href="#">play along</a> <a href="#">play dead</a> <a href="#">play hard to get</a> <a href="#">play the fool</a> <a href="#">put on airs</a> <a href="#">string along</a>
pretender	<a href="#">jam tart</a>
pretending	<a href="#">all hat and no cattle</a>
pretentious	<a href="#">highfalutin</a>
prettier	<a href="#">larger than life</a>
pretty	

	<a href="#">cute as a bug's ear</a> <a href="#">phat</a> <a href="#">pretty as a picture</a>
prevent	<a href="#">a stitch in time saves nine</a> <a href="#">an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure</a> <a href="#">break your fall</a> <a href="#">can help it</a> <a href="#">can't help</a> <a href="#">cut off</a> <a href="#">drag your feet</a> <a href="#">drain the swamp</a> <a href="#">got him covered</a> <a href="#">keep an eye on</a> <a href="#">keep the wolf from the door</a> <a href="#">kill a penalty (hockey)</a> <a href="#">kitty bar the door</a> <a href="#">nip it in the bud</a> <a href="#">own worst enemy</a> <a href="#">put the kibosh on</a> <a href="#">save face</a> <a href="#">stonewall</a> <a href="#">stop you in your tracks</a>
preventing	<a href="#">blank</a> <a href="#">in the road</a> <a href="#">piano tied to your ass [B]</a>
previous	<a href="#">break the record</a> <a href="#">leftovers</a>
price	<a href="#">a little steep</a> <a href="#">a pretty penny</a> <a href="#">a rip-off</a> <a href="#">a steal</a> <a href="#">asking price</a> <a href="#">big bucks</a> <a href="#">buyer's market</a> <a href="#">cash on the line</a> <a href="#">clear out</a> <a href="#">cost a pretty penny</a> <a href="#">cut rate</a>

[drive a hard bargain](#)  
[for a song](#)  
[hard nosed](#)  
[hold out for](#)  
[low-ball him](#)  
[out of the ball park](#)  
[price out](#)  
[seller's market](#)  
[set your price](#)  
[shake on it](#)  
[soft market](#)  
[split the difference](#)  
[strike a bargain](#)  
[the going rate](#)  
[two for one](#)

priced

[a dime a dozen](#)  
[a rip-off](#)

priceless

[worth their weight in gold](#)

prick

[hoo-haw \[B\]](#)

pride

[give a black eye](#)  
[pop your buttons](#)  
[swallow your pride](#)

priest

[a man of the cloth](#)

prime

[hale and hearty](#)  
[heyday](#)

principles

[true colors](#)

print

[put to bed \(print media\)](#)  
[scoop them](#)

printed

[hard copy](#)  
[hot off the press](#)

prison

[behind bars](#)  
[do a dime](#)

[do time](#)  
[in the clink](#)  
[in the slammer](#)  
[in the tank](#)  
[lifer](#)  
[lock you up](#)  
[on parole](#)  
[pokey](#)  
[send him up](#)  
[The Rock](#)

prisoners

[death row](#)

privacy

[familiarity breeds contempt](#)

private

[bare your soul](#)  
[deep, dark secret](#)  
[it's not a state secret](#)  
[mouth off](#)  
[pour out your soul](#)  
[red-faced](#)  
[top secret](#)

privilege

[grandfather clause](#)  
[prima donna](#)

privileged

[above the law](#)

prize

[a piece of the action](#)  
[all the marbles](#)  
[eat your heart out](#)  
[lucky dog](#)  
[make a splash](#)  
[win big](#)

prob

[no sweat](#)  
[not at all](#)

probation

[proby](#)

problem

[a blessing in disguise](#)  
[a dickens of a time](#)

[a hard row to hoe](#)

[a hassle](#)

[a mental block](#)

[a pain in the butt](#)

[a piece of cake](#)

[a slippery slope](#)

[a tempest in a teapot](#)

[act up](#)

[add fuel to the fire](#)

[all goes well](#)

[an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure](#)

[at fault](#)

[away to the races](#)

[bad news](#)

[bail me out](#)

[Bob's your uncle](#)

[can of worms](#)

[clear the air](#)

[clouds on the horizon](#)

[cramp your style](#)

[cut off your nose to spite your face](#)

[dirty laundry](#)

[do the trick](#)

[don't make a mountain out of a molehill](#)

[don't make waves](#)

[don't mention it](#)

[drain the swamp](#)

[fair-weather friend](#)

[fly in the ointment](#)

[from pillar to post](#)

[get it off your chest](#)

[get this monkey off my back](#)

[glitch](#)

[grind to a halt](#)

[hang-up](#)

[have my work cut out](#)

[havoc strikes](#)

[hit the bottle](#)

[in the lurch](#)

[it goes with the territory](#)

[leave you in the lurch](#)

[lemon](#)

[let sleeping dogs lie](#)  
[love conquers all](#)  
[make a mountain out of a mole hill](#)  
[mend fences](#)  
[no problem \(no prob\)](#)  
[no sweat](#)  
[on the run](#)  
[one hell of a time](#)  
[open a window](#)  
[out of my hair](#)  
[out of the way](#)  
[own worst enemy](#)  
[pass the buck](#)  
[rabble-rouser](#)  
[shit disturber \[B\]](#)  
[slippery slope](#)  
[smooth out](#)  
[smooth sailing](#)  
[snag](#)  
[step on your dick](#)  
[stumbling block](#)  
[sweep under the carpet](#)  
[take it like a man](#)  
[take the bull by the horns](#)  
[tell him a thing or two](#)  
[the goat](#)  
[the knock against](#)  
[the last straw](#)  
[the root of the problem](#)  
[the sky isn't blue](#)  
[think nothing of it](#)  
[through the wringer](#)  
[too many cooks spoil the broth](#)  
[tough bananas](#)  
[turn a blind eye](#)  
[up to no good](#)  
[upset the apple cart](#)  
[what you don't know won't hurt you](#)  
[when the going gets tough](#)  
[without a hitch](#)  
[work things out](#)  
[you can run but you can't hide](#)

---

proby	<a href="#">on probation</a>
procedure	<a href="#">red tape</a> <a href="#">trial run</a>
process	<a href="#">in the throes</a> <a href="#">take its course</a> <a href="#">what a rigmarole</a>
procrastinate	<a href="#">sluff off</a>
produced	<a href="#">bootleg</a>
producer	<a href="#">the middleman</a>
produces	<a href="#">breadbasket</a> <a href="#">grain belt</a>
product	<a href="#">a hot ticket</a> <a href="#">a humdinger</a> <a href="#">bar none</a> <a href="#">bread and butter</a> <a href="#">build a better mousetrap</a> <a href="#">buy up</a> <a href="#">gravy train</a> <a href="#">hot goods</a> <a href="#">rain check</a> <a href="#">seconds</a> <a href="#">shoplifting</a> <a href="#">soft sell</a> <a href="#">stock in trade</a> <a href="#">swear by</a> <a href="#">the first pancake is always spoiled</a> <a href="#">the proof of the pudding is in the eating</a> <a href="#">throw good money after bad</a> <a href="#">two for one</a>
productive	<a href="#">a slow day</a>
profanity	<a href="#">four-letter words</a>
professional	<a href="#">headhunter</a>

[moppie](#)[yuppie](#)

profit

[a piece of the action](#)[boom or bust](#)[bread and butter](#)[cash in](#)[in the black](#)[make a bundle](#)[make a killing](#)[make money](#)[pay-off](#)[rake in the dough](#)[the rest is gravy](#)[turn a profit](#)[you need money to make money](#)

profitable

[cash cow](#)[gravy train](#)

progeny

[the family jewels](#)

program

[courseware](#)[flunk out](#)[political football](#)[shareware](#)[slash and burn](#)[software](#)[software piracy](#)[trial balloon](#)

progress

[drag your feet](#)[get ahead](#)[how are you making out](#)[light at the end of the tunnel](#)[little by little](#)[make headway](#)[spin your wheels](#)[tough sledding](#)[turn the corner](#)[upset the apple cart](#)[when the going gets tough](#)

project

[a lost cause](#)  
[bail out](#)  
[beat your head against a stone wall](#)  
[cut losses](#)  
[monkeywrenching](#)  
[piss in the pickles \[B\]](#)  
[pull the plug](#)  
[raise money](#)  
[run the show](#)  
[the bottom fell out](#)  
[throw a monkey wrench into the works](#)  
[tie up loose ends](#)  
[trial balloon](#)  
[wash your hands of it](#)

promise

[by the seat of your pants](#)  
[cheat on](#)  
[cross my heart and hope to die](#)  
[double-cross](#)  
[follow through](#)  
[give it the once-over](#)  
[give your word](#)  
[go back on](#)  
[go out on a limb](#)  
[keep a promise](#)  
[keep your word](#)  
[lead you on](#)  
[promise the moon](#)  
[talk big](#)  
[word of honor](#)

promised

[break a promise](#)  
[make good](#)

promising

[under oath](#)

promote

[put in a plug for](#)

promoted

[the Peter Principle](#)

prone

[on shaky ground](#)

pronounce	<a href="#">roll off the tongue</a>
pronto	<a href="#">right away</a>
proof	<a href="#">take your word for it</a>
proper	<a href="#">on shaky ground</a>
properly	<a href="#">cut the mustard</a> <a href="#">go haywire</a>
property	<a href="#">green with envy</a> <a href="#">pirate</a>
proposal	<a href="#">straw horse</a>
proposed	<a href="#">on the table</a> <a href="#">trial balloon</a>
prosperity	<a href="#">golden age</a>
prostitute	<a href="#">bad date</a> <a href="#">broad</a> <a href="#">fallen woman</a> <a href="#">hooker</a> <a href="#">pedal her ass [B]</a>
prostitution	<a href="#">square up</a>
protect	<a href="#">cover your ass [B]</a> <a href="#">grandfather clause</a> <a href="#">handle herself</a> <a href="#">in my care</a> <a href="#">leave yourself open</a> <a href="#">look out for</a> <a href="#">run interference</a> <a href="#">stand up for</a> <a href="#">take a bullet</a> <a href="#">watch over</a> <a href="#">watch over like a mother hawk</a>
protected	<a href="#">sacred cow</a>

protecting	<a href="#">guard is down</a>
protection	<a href="#">under my wing</a>
protestant	<a href="#">WASP</a>
protesting	<a href="#">going to town</a>
prototype	<a href="#">pilot project</a>
proud	<a href="#">cocky</a> <a href="#">do yourself proud</a> <a href="#">down to earth</a> <a href="#">full of herself</a> <a href="#">high-hat</a> <a href="#">highfalutin</a> <a href="#">knock you down a peg</a> <a href="#">let it go to your head</a> <a href="#">pop your buttons</a> <a href="#">stroke your ego</a> <a href="#">swelled head</a> <a href="#">too big for his britches</a>
proven	<a href="#">tried and true</a>
proves	<a href="#">kick ass</a>
provide	<a href="#">account for</a> <a href="#">bankroll</a> <a href="#">carry the day</a> <a href="#">keep you going</a> <a href="#">last me</a> <a href="#">lay on</a> <a href="#">open some doors</a> <a href="#">tide me over</a> <a href="#">you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink</a>
psychiatric	<a href="#">nut house</a>
psychiatrist	<a href="#">shrink/head shrink</a>
psycho	

sicko

pub

[bar hop](#)

[pub crawl](#)

[watering hole](#)

public

[bare your soul](#)

[go public](#)

[public property](#)

[red-faced](#)

[splashback](#)

[spread like wildfire](#)

[take the heat](#)

[top secret](#)

published

[the inside story](#)

puck

[bump and grind \(hockey\)](#)

[feather a pass \(hockey\)](#)

[get good wood on](#)

[offside \(hockey\)](#)

[road apple](#)

puffing

[out of breath](#)

[tuckered out](#)

puke

[barf](#)

[blow chunks](#)

[bring up](#)

[hork](#)

[hurl](#)

[ralph](#)

[sick to my stomach](#)

[throw chunks](#)

[throw up](#)

[upchuck](#)

[woof your cookies](#)

pull

[carry it off](#)

[charley horse](#)

[fall on your sword](#)

[full blast](#)

[give you the gears](#)[jerk off \[B\]](#)[pack it in](#)[root for](#)[try that](#)

pulse

[take your pulse](#)

pumped

[psyched/psyched up](#)[up for it](#)[wired](#)[wound up](#)

pun

[a play on words](#)

punch

[belt you](#)[coldcock](#)[drive you](#)[duke it out](#)[pow](#)[take a poke at](#)

punches

[pick yourself up](#)[the school of hard knocks](#)

punish

[come down hard](#)[come down on like a ton of bricks](#)[fix you](#)[open up a big can of whoop-ass](#)[throw the book at](#)

punished

[burned](#)[get it](#)[get your knuckles rapped](#)[in deep shit \[B\]](#)[in trouble](#)[on the shit list \[B\]](#)[what did I do to deserve this](#)

punishment

[an eye for an eye \(a tooth for a tooth\)](#)[better than a kick in the ass \[B\]](#)[pay the penalty](#)

pupkittencub

[the pick of the litter](#)

purchase

[cash on the barrelhead](#)

[charge it](#)

[check-out](#)

[on approval](#)

[put it on the bill](#)

[run a tab](#)

[white elephant](#)

purchased

[a steal](#)

purchaser

[shortchange](#)

[square deal](#)

purpose

[fill the bill](#)

[lose sight of](#)

[make a point of](#)

[take action](#)

push

[a love tap](#)

[ease up](#)

[floor it](#)

[quit while you're ahead](#)

[railroad](#)

[rough up](#)

[take him down a peg](#)

[take risks](#)

[tempt fate](#)

[throw yourself at him](#)

pushing

[deep six](#)

put

[a hard day](#)

[add insult to injury](#)

[all show](#)

[ante up](#)

[back yourself into a corner](#)

[badmouth](#)

[break the ice](#)

[bundle up](#)

[call his bluff](#)  
[charge it](#)  
[chuck it](#)  
[clean up](#)  
[death row](#)  
[dis/diss](#)  
[dress up](#)  
[drink you under the table](#)  
[fill your face](#)  
[front me](#)  
[go out of your way](#)  
[go to any trouble](#)  
[go to bat for](#)  
[had enough](#)  
[hands up](#)  
[junk it](#)  
[kick back](#)  
[kill time](#)  
[kiss it off](#)  
[knock](#)  
[knock you down a peg](#)  
[lock you up](#)  
[lump together](#)  
[miffed](#)  
[mothball](#)  
[pick up the pieces](#)  
[push me \(to the limit\)](#)  
[put a different slant on it](#)  
[put a hex on me](#)  
[put down](#)  
[put off](#)  
[put out of its misery](#)  
[put them up](#)  
[put to bed \(print media\)](#)  
[put to death](#)  
[put your money where your mouth is](#)  
[reach for the sky](#)  
[rule out](#)  
[run a tab](#)  
[run down](#)  
[saddle up](#)  
[set out](#)

[settle down](#)  
[shove it \[B\]](#)  
[slam](#)  
[spend time](#)  
[spike a drink](#)  
[spin doctor](#)  
[squirrel away](#)  
[stand for](#)  
[stand it](#)  
[stick it up your ass \[B\]](#)  
[stick my neck out](#)  
[stick them up](#)  
[stuff it](#)  
[take a shot](#)  
[through the mill](#)  
[throw away](#)  
[throw out](#)  
[twist your words](#)

put-down

[put down](#)

putting

[ritzy](#)

puzzle

[stump me](#)

puzzled

[mix up](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Definition Index Q

q	
	<a href="#">mind your manners</a>
qt	
	<a href="#">button your lip</a>
	<a href="#">deep, dark secret</a>
	<a href="#">mum's the word</a>
	<a href="#">under wraps</a>
qualifications	
	<a href="#">sell yourself short</a>
qualified	
	<a href="#">dead in the water</a>
qualify	
	<a href="#">have a shot at</a>
quality	
	<a href="#">cheesy</a>
	<a href="#">crappy</a>
	<a href="#">crummy</a>
	<a href="#">first class</a>
	<a href="#">for the birds</a>
	<a href="#">from hunger</a>
	<a href="#">keep it up</a>
	<a href="#">kick ass</a>
	<a href="#">lemon</a>
	<a href="#">lousy</a>
	<a href="#">measure up</a>
	<a href="#">nothing to sneeze at</a>
	<a href="#">piss poor [B]</a>
	<a href="#">suck</a>
	<a href="#">sucks</a>
	<a href="#">super mint</a>
	<a href="#">the pits</a>
	<a href="#">top notch</a>
	<a href="#">up to snuff</a>
	<a href="#">you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear</a>
quantity	

[a shitload](#)

quarter

[two bits](#)

quench

[wet your whistle](#)

question

[begs the question](#)

[fire away](#)

[give me the third degree](#)

[grill you](#)

[hell to pay \[B\]](#)

[mind your own business](#)

[needle](#)

[no doubt](#)

[pick your brains](#)

[pointed questions](#)

[pop the question](#)

[put out feelers](#)

[reduce to tears](#)

[stump me](#)

[take the heat](#)

[the burning question](#)

[under fire](#)

[without a doubt](#)

questioned

[haul up on the carpet](#)

questioning

[the third degree](#)

queue

[line up](#)

quick

[a fleeting glance](#)

[a lick and a promise](#)

[a quickie](#)

[at a glance](#)

[duck soup](#)

[get the jump on](#)

[hot tempered](#)

[lightning fast](#)

[make it snappy](#)

[quick like a bunny](#)

[quick on the draw](#)

[sharp](#)  
[sharp as a tack](#)  
[short cut](#)  
[short temper](#)  
[slick](#)

quicker

[faster than a minnow can swim a dipper](#)  
[get the drop on](#)  
[short cut](#)

quickest

[fast track](#)

quickly

[a fool and his money are soon parted](#)  
[at the drop of a hat](#)  
[beat a hasty retreat](#)  
[before you can say Jack Robinson](#)  
[blurt out](#)  
[dash off a note/letter](#)  
[get a move on](#)  
[get it over with](#)  
[get your buns over here](#)  
[give it the once-over](#)  
[go like stink](#)  
[how time flies](#)  
[hurry up](#)  
[in a flash](#)  
[in the wink of an eye](#)  
[inhale](#)  
[like a chicken on a June bug](#)  
[like the devil](#)  
[make good time](#)  
[make tracks](#)  
[move your ass](#)  
[off the cuff](#)  
[off to the races](#)  
[on the double](#)  
[quicker than you can say Jack Robinson](#)  
[reject out of hand](#)  
[run rampant](#)  
[sharp as a tack](#)  
[spread like wildfire](#)  
[stop on a dime](#)

[stop you cold](#)  
[sweep you off your feet](#)  
[tail between his legs](#)  
[take a powder](#)  
[talk a mile a minute](#)  
[time flies when you're having fun](#)  
[time is of the essence](#)  
[turn on a dime](#)  
[vamoose](#)  
[wolf down](#)  
[zip](#)

quiet

[clam up](#)  
[dry up](#)  
[hush up](#)  
[keep a lid on it](#)  
[keep it down](#)  
[pipe down](#)  
[put up or shut up](#)  
[run off at the mouth](#)  
[shut up](#)  
[so quiet you can hear a pin drop](#)  
[the calm before the storm](#)  
[the strong, silent type](#)

quietly

[slip away](#)  
[slip out](#)

quit

[bail out](#)  
[bite the dust](#)  
[blow this joint](#)  
[blow this Popsicle stand](#)  
[buckle under](#)  
[call it a day](#)  
[call it quits](#)  
[cave in](#)  
[conk out](#)  
[cut losses](#)  
[drop out](#)  
[fall on your sword](#)  
[fold](#)  
[got you by the balls \[B\]](#)

[hang on like grim death](#)  
[knock the wind out of his sails](#)  
[lay off](#)  
[never say die](#)  
[pack it in](#)  
[pick yourself up](#)  
[pull the pin](#)  
[quit while you're ahead](#)  
[shake a habit](#)  
[shut down](#)  
[step aside](#)  
[swear off](#)  
[take this job and shove it \[B\]](#)  
[the breaking point](#)  
[throw in the towel](#)  
[walk the plank](#)

quite

[a little off](#)  
[ain't half-bad](#)  
[chances are](#)  
[half-bad](#)  
[just in time](#)  
[no slouch](#)  
[not half bad](#)  
[not too shabby](#)  
[still wet behind the ears](#)  
[such a card](#)

quitter

[suck it up](#)

quitting

[give notice](#)

quoted

[word for word](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Definition Index R

r	
	<a href="#">The Group of Five/The Regina Five</a>
rabbit	
	<a href="#">pirate</a>
race	
	<a href="#">a dead heat</a>
	<a href="#">go the distance</a>
	<a href="#">home stretch</a>
	<a href="#">kick</a>
	<a href="#">lay rubber</a>
	<a href="#">nag</a>
	<a href="#">nip and tuck</a>
	<a href="#">off to a good start</a>
	<a href="#">play the ponies</a>
	<a href="#">tight race</a>
	<a href="#">win going away</a>
racing	
	<a href="#">drag race</a>
racist	
	<a href="#">politically correct</a>
rad	
	<a href="#">wild</a>
radical	
	<a href="#">on the fringe</a>
	<a href="#">rad</a>
radio	
	<a href="#">boom box</a>
	<a href="#">disk jockey (DJ)</a>
	<a href="#">ghetto blaster</a>
	<a href="#">sound bite</a>
	<a href="#">tune in</a>
radiotv	
	<a href="#">phone-in</a>
ragged	
	<a href="#">shabby</a>

rag	<a href="#">dress up</a> <a href="#">have your period [B]</a> <a href="#">Sunday best</a> <a href="#">threads</a>
ragtop	<a href="#">ragtop</a>
rails	<a href="#">on track</a>
rain	<a href="#">right as rain</a>
raining	<a href="#">it's cold / it's hot</a> <a href="#">raining cats and dogs</a>
rainy	<a href="#">it's raining/snowing</a>
raise	<a href="#">build up</a> <a href="#">put 'em up</a> <a href="#">put down roots</a> <a href="#">raise hell [B]</a> <a href="#">raise the bar</a> <a href="#">reach for the sky</a>
raised	<a href="#">high five</a>
ralph	<a href="#">throw up</a>
ramble	<a href="#">go on about</a> <a href="#">rattle on</a>
ranch	<a href="#">cowpoke</a>
rancher	<a href="#">dude</a>
range	<a href="#">point-blank range</a> <a href="#">run the gamut</a>
rap	<a href="#">a bum rap</a> <a href="#">ass on the line</a> <a href="#">shoulder the blame</a> <a href="#">take the blame</a>
rap-music	

	<a href="#">hip hop (generation)</a>
rare	
	<a href="#">as scarce as hen's teeth</a>
	<a href="#">blue moon</a>
	<a href="#">few and far between</a>
rarely	
	<a href="#">once in a blue moon</a>
rash	
	<a href="#">break out in a rash</a>
rat	
	<a href="#">darn it</a>
	<a href="#">drat</a>
	<a href="#">fiddlesticks</a>
	<a href="#">nuts</a>
	<a href="#">oh my gosh</a>
	<a href="#">phooey</a>
	<a href="#">rotter</a>
	<a href="#">scrut</a>
	<a href="#">scum/scumbag</a>
	<a href="#">squeal</a>
ratch	
	<a href="#">trash</a>
rate	
	<a href="#">pay through the nose</a>
	<a href="#">take your pulse</a>
rather	
	<a href="#">wouldn't be caught dead</a>
	<a href="#">wouldn't miss it for the world</a>
rating	
	<a href="#">a major</a>
rational	
	<a href="#">a bit off/a bit mental</a>
	<a href="#">funny in the head</a>
	<a href="#">not playing with a full deck</a>
	<a href="#">off your rocker</a>
	<a href="#">think straight</a>
rays	
	<a href="#">catch some rays</a>
rcmp	
	<a href="#">Mounties</a>
reach	
	<a href="#">hands up</a>
	<a href="#">in good faith</a>

[make a false move](#)

[put 'em up](#)

reaction

[feedback](#)

[splashback](#)

read

[book worm](#)

[call attention to](#)

[crack a book](#)

[curl up with a good book](#)

[follow the rules](#)

[go over](#)

[go through](#)

[read along](#)

[read between the lines](#)

[read it over](#)

[read up on](#)

[run through](#)

[walk through](#)

[written all over your face](#)

reader

[a fresh pair of eyes](#)

ready

[a game one](#)

[all set](#)

[all teed up](#)

[at your fingertips](#)

[be there](#)

[blood is up](#)

[caught flatfooted](#)

[fixing to](#)

[game for anything](#)

[gear up](#)

[good to go](#)

[guard is down](#)

[hold on](#)

[horny \[B\]](#)

[hot and bothered](#)

[hunker down](#)

[in the offing](#)

[in the pipe five by five](#)

[itchy feet](#)

[Johnny on the spot](#)  
[jump at the chance](#)  
[just-in-time](#)  
[land on your feet](#)  
[on the market](#)  
[on your toes](#)  
[prepare like crazy](#)  
[pumped/pumped up](#)  
[put to bed \(print media\)](#)  
[sharpen your pencils](#)  
[shipshape](#)  
[square off](#)  
[teed up](#)  
[touchy](#)  
[up for it](#)  
[up in arms](#)  
[up your sleeve](#)  
[wired for sound](#)  
[with bells on](#)

real

[airy-fairy](#)  
[come true](#)  
[flake](#)  
[get your head out of the clouds](#)  
[honest-to-goodness](#)  
[pass off](#)  
[see through](#)  
[the crux of the matter](#)  
[the gospel truth](#)  
[the lowdown](#)  
[the real McCoy](#)  
[true colors](#)

realistic

[come down to earth](#)  
[dream on](#)  
[get a grip](#)  
[get your head out of the clouds](#)

reality

[cold comfort](#)  
[come to fruition](#)  
[face facts](#)  
[out of touch](#)

realize

[click in](#)  
[come into your own](#)  
[twig to that](#)

really

[don't know which side your bread is buttered on](#)  
[fall on deaf ears](#)  
[get real](#)  
[in bad faith](#)  
[it's a dilly](#)  
[save for a rainy day](#)  
[what it boils down to](#)

rear

[bum](#)  
[keester](#)  
[rearend](#)

reason

[account for](#)  
[for love nor money](#)  
[on purpose](#)  
[see through](#)  
[the root of the problem](#)

rebuke

[bring you up short](#)

recall

[draw upon](#)  
[on the tip of my tongue](#)

receive

[beggars can't be choosers](#)  
[cash in](#)  
[come into](#)  
[fall into my lap](#)  
[freeload](#)  
[get a ticket](#)  
[get hell \[B\]](#)  
[get screwed](#)  
[had a bellyful](#)  
[in the loop](#)  
[pay the penalty](#)  
[rake in the dough](#)  
[ring off the hook](#)  
[steal the show](#)

[suck the hind tit \[B\]](#)

[take calls](#)

[take possession](#)

[take the blame](#)

[take the rap](#)

[the moment of truth](#)

[what's in it for me](#)

received

[count your chickens before they hatch](#)

[the take](#)

receiver

[tune in](#)

receiving

[in clover](#)

[seller's market](#)

recent

[up to date](#)

[you're only as good as your last shift](#)

recently

[new money](#)

recipe

[thrown in](#)

[trade secret](#)

recite

[wax poetic](#)

reckless

[a bull in a china shop](#)

[discretion is the better part of valor](#)

reckon

[call into account](#)

recognition

[a token gesture](#)

[tip of the hat](#)

recognize

[here's to](#)

[it takes one to know one](#)

record

[a paper trail](#)

[break the record](#)

[dirt file](#)

[family tree](#)

[hard skill](#)

[take a poll](#)

	<a href="#">write up</a>
recorded	
	<a href="#">disk jockey (DJ)</a> <a href="#">under the table</a>
recording	
	<a href="#">in the flesh</a>
recover	
	<a href="#">bounce back</a> <a href="#">lick your wounds</a> <a href="#">make a comeback</a> <a href="#">pull through</a> <a href="#">scrape me off the ceiling</a>
recovered	
	<a href="#">back on your feet</a>
recovery	
	<a href="#">dead-cat bounce</a>
recreation	
	<a href="#">all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy</a>
recruit	
	<a href="#">drum up</a>
red	
	<a href="#">fit to be tied</a> <a href="#">jump through hoops</a> <a href="#">pinko</a> <a href="#">royal treatment</a> <a href="#">run a red light</a>
red-handed	
	<a href="#">smoking gun</a>
reduce	
	<a href="#">dampen your spirits</a> <a href="#">drop off</a> <a href="#">ease up</a> <a href="#">peter out</a> <a href="#">slash and burn</a> <a href="#">work off</a>
reduced	
	<a href="#">straight up</a>
redundant	
	<a href="#">as useless as a fifth wheel</a>
reefer	
	<a href="#">pot</a>
refer	

	<a href="#">pass the buck</a>
reference	
	<a href="#">it's not what you know, it's who you know</a> <a href="#">that's his bible</a>
refined	
	<a href="#">straw horse</a>
reform	
	<a href="#">shape up</a>
refusal	
	<a href="#">a blackout (TV)</a> <a href="#">the brush-off</a>
refuse	
	<a href="#">a soft touch</a> <a href="#">don't give me any of your lip</a> <a href="#">draw the line</a> <a href="#">hard line</a> <a href="#">know which side your bread is buttered on</a> <a href="#">lie down on the job</a> <a href="#">take it or leave it</a> <a href="#">turn down</a> <a href="#">won't see you stuck</a>
refusing	
	<a href="#">hard nosed</a>
regain	
	<a href="#">come to</a> <a href="#">comeback kid</a>
regardless	
	<a href="#">even so</a>
region	
	<a href="#">grain belt</a>
regret	
	<a href="#">cry in your beer</a> <a href="#">eat your words</a> <a href="#">grind to a halt</a> <a href="#">if a mussel doesn't open don't eat it</a> <a href="#">kick myself</a> <a href="#">touch you</a>
regular	
	<a href="#">card-carrying member</a> <a href="#">one of the boys</a>
rehearsal	
	<a href="#">dress rehearsal</a> <a href="#">dry run</a>

reheated	<a href="#">warmed over</a>
reject	<a href="#">give him the brush-off</a> <a href="#">reject out of hand</a> <a href="#">turn up your nose at</a> <a href="#">turn your back on</a>
rejection	<a href="#">the brush-off</a>
relate	<a href="#">cotton to that</a> <a href="#">dig/dig it</a> <a href="#">hit it off</a> <a href="#">sit with you</a> <a href="#">tie in</a>
related	<a href="#">all that jazz</a> <a href="#">beside the point</a> <a href="#">hand in hand</a> <a href="#">off topic</a> <a href="#">the whole ball of wax</a>
relationship	<a href="#">a fine line</a> <a href="#">bad blood</a> <a href="#">blood is thicker than water</a> <a href="#">on good terms</a>
relative	<a href="#">blood money</a> <a href="#">Bob's your uncle</a> <a href="#">next of kin</a>
relax	<a href="#">a man's home is his castle</a> <a href="#">at ease</a> <a href="#">breathe easy</a> <a href="#">clear your head/mind</a> <a href="#">hang loose</a> <a href="#">kick back</a> <a href="#">let it all hang out</a> <a href="#">let yourself go</a> <a href="#">lighten up</a> <a href="#">make yourself at home</a> <a href="#">put you at ease</a>

[set your mind at ease](#)[settle down](#)[take time to smell the roses](#)[time on your hands](#)[time to kill](#)

relaxed

[laid back](#)[on edge](#)[uptight](#)

relaxes

[a downer \(drug\)](#)

relaxing

[shagging wagon](#)

relearn

[brush up on](#)

release

[let go of](#)[let her rip](#)

reliable

[no truth to it](#)[tried and true](#)

relief

[whew](#)

relieve

[break the ice](#)

relieved

[breathe a sigh of relief](#)[thank goodness](#)

rely

[count on](#)

remain

[all things being equal](#)

remainder

[bottoms up](#)[left over](#)

remaining

[finish off](#)[the odd one](#)[to go](#)

remedy

[hair off the dog that bit you](#)

remember

[can't put my finger on it](#)

[can't put my hands on it](#)  
[come to think of it](#)  
[do-dad](#)  
[draw upon](#)  
[if my memory serves me correctly](#)  
[jog your memory](#)  
[keep you in mind](#)  
[lose sight of](#)  
[losing it](#)  
[make a point of](#)  
[on the tip of my tongue](#)  
[rack my brain](#)  
[ring a bell](#)  
[slip your mind](#)  
[what's-his-face](#)

remembering

[in mind](#)

remind

[hold that over my head](#)  
[keep you on track](#)  
[ride me](#)  
[ring a bell](#)

remove

[black out](#)  
[drain the swamp](#)  
[drop your drawers](#)  
[drop your gloves \(hockey\)](#)  
[knock off](#)  
[off with](#)  
[pull the goalie \(hockey\)](#)  
[pull the rug out](#)  
[scratch](#)  
[strip](#)  
[weed out](#)

removed

[beat the rap](#)

renege

[get cold feet](#)

rent

[freeload](#)  
[live on](#)  
[pay through the nose](#)

repair	<a href="#">a stitch in time saves nine</a> <a href="#">car buff</a> <a href="#">downtime</a> <a href="#">stand behind</a> <a href="#">throw good money after bad</a>
repaired	<a href="#">beyond repair</a>
repay	<a href="#">make up for</a> <a href="#">pay back</a>
repeat	<a href="#">beg your pardon</a> <a href="#">ditto</a> <a href="#">pardon me</a>
repeated	<a href="#">everything old is new again</a>
repeatedly	<a href="#">time and again</a>
repeating	<a href="#">like a broken record</a>
replace	<a href="#">stand behind</a> <a href="#">stand in</a>
replaced	<a href="#">lame duck</a>
replies	<a href="#">your lip</a>
reply	<a href="#">a sharp tongue</a> <a href="#">any word</a> <a href="#">at a loss for words</a> <a href="#">blurt out</a> <a href="#">cheek</a> <a href="#">fall to pieces</a> <a href="#">feedback</a> <a href="#">find my tongue</a> <a href="#">leave the door open</a> <a href="#">no word</a> <a href="#">talk back</a> <a href="#">touch it with a ten-foot pole</a>
report	<a href="#">a clean bill of health</a>

[a picture is worth a thousand words](#)

[all it's cracked up to be](#)

[go into detail](#)

[scoop](#)

reported

[off the record](#)

reporter

[go public](#)

represent

[stand for](#)

representing

[on behalf of](#)

reprove

[come down on like a ton of bricks](#)

reputation

[character assassination](#)

request

[an offer I couldn't refuse](#)

[buy time](#)

[call on](#)

[keep you in mind](#)

[raise money](#)

require

[a blackout \(war\)](#)

[call for](#)

[cost you](#)

required

[a must](#)

[above the law](#)

[caught up](#)

[cut corners](#)

[for good measure](#)

[give 110%](#)

[jump through hoops](#)

[press into service](#)

[something borrowed, something blue](#)

resentment

[claws are showing](#)

[hard feelings](#)

[no hard feelings](#)

resident

[local yokel](#)

residential	<a href="#">the burbs</a>
resign	<a href="#">bail out</a> <a href="#">bow out</a> <a href="#">burn your bridges</a> <a href="#">fall on your sword</a> <a href="#">pull the pin</a> <a href="#">step aside</a> <a href="#">step down</a>
resisting	<a href="#">a pocket of resistance</a>
resolute	<a href="#">hang on like grim death</a>
resort	<a href="#">last-ditch</a>
resource	<a href="#">cash cow</a>
respect	<a href="#">bite me [B]</a> <a href="#">don't get smart with me</a> <a href="#">familiarity breeds contempt</a> <a href="#">give a black eye</a> <a href="#">keep your distance</a> <a href="#">lip off</a> <a href="#">no use for</a> <a href="#">out of line</a> <a href="#">pay my respects</a> <a href="#">pay tribute</a> <a href="#">props</a> <a href="#">take my hat off to</a> <a href="#">talk back</a>
respect"	<a href="#">props</a>
respected	<a href="#">make something of yourself</a> <a href="#">name is mud</a>
respond	<a href="#">caught flatfooted</a> <a href="#">dimwit</a>
response	<a href="#">feedback</a> <a href="#">get a rise</a>

[leave the door open](#)[tit for tat](#)

responsibility

[bear the brunt](#)[grow up](#)[take on](#)

responsible

[carry the can](#)[face the music](#)[hold me responsible](#)[holding the bag](#)[in charge](#)[saddled with](#)[see to it/see to that](#)[the buck stops here](#)

rest

[catch some z's](#)[gravy train](#)[icing on the cake](#)[land up](#)[on the go](#)[rest his soul \(God rest his soul\)](#)[spell you off](#)[take a break](#)[take five](#)[the rest is gravy](#)[the rest is history](#)[time to kill](#)[what did I do to deserve this](#)[you're only as good as your last shift](#)

restaurant

[a doggy bag](#)[eat out](#)[take-out restaurant](#)[wait on customers](#)

rested

[fresh legs](#)[new legs](#)

restful

[deep sleep](#)

restore

[car buff](#)

restored	<a href="#">under control</a>
restraint	<a href="#">at will</a>
result	<a href="#">a foregone conclusion</a> <a href="#">a sure thing</a> <a href="#">a wild goose chase</a> <a href="#">by dint of</a> <a href="#">come of</a> <a href="#">come to a head</a> <a href="#">don't count your chickens before they hatch</a> <a href="#">face the music</a> <a href="#">kiss of death</a> <a href="#">lead pipe cinch</a> <a href="#">out of our hands</a> <a href="#">play a part</a> <a href="#">the end justifies the means</a> <a href="#">wind up</a>
retarded	<a href="#">not all there</a>
retirement	<a href="#">nest egg</a>
retreating	<a href="#">tail between his legs</a> <a href="#">with his tail between his legs</a>
return	<a href="#">back to the grind</a> <a href="#">burn your bridges</a> <a href="#">fall off the wagon</a> <a href="#">get back at</a> <a href="#">go jump in the lake</a> <a href="#">hold the fort</a> <a href="#">pay back</a> <a href="#">shortchange</a> <a href="#">what goes around comes around</a>
returned	<a href="#">back at it</a> <a href="#">under control</a>
returning	<a href="#">going to the mountains</a> <a href="#">second wind</a>

reveal	<a href="#">an ace up your sleeve</a> <a href="#">blow my cover</a> <a href="#">blow the lid off</a> <a href="#">let on</a> <a href="#">speak volumes</a> <a href="#">steal your thunder</a> <a href="#">tip your hand</a> <a href="#">wear your heart on your sleeve</a> <a href="#">you can't tell a book by its cover</a>
revealed	<a href="#">camel toes [B]</a> <a href="#">catch up with</a> <a href="#">see the light of day</a>
revenge	<a href="#">an eye for an eye (a tooth for a tooth)</a> <a href="#">don't get mad; get even</a> <a href="#">fix your wagon</a> <a href="#">get back at</a> <a href="#">get him back</a> <a href="#">out for blood</a> <a href="#">out to get you</a> <a href="#">pay him back</a> <a href="#">pound of flesh</a> <a href="#">want a piece of me</a>
reverse	<a href="#">back up</a> <a href="#">go back on</a>
review	<a href="#">brush up on</a> <a href="#">saw sawdust</a>
revise	<a href="#">get the wrinkles out</a>
revived	<a href="#">everything old is new again</a>
reward	<a href="#">pay off</a> <a href="#">pay-off</a> <a href="#">the early bird gets the worm</a>
ribbons	<a href="#">have you for breakfast</a>
rich	

[all hat and no cattle](#)  
[big shot](#)  
[boom or bust](#)  
[born with a silver spoon in his mouth](#)  
[deep pockets](#)  
[fat cat](#)  
[filthy rich](#)  
[got it made](#)  
[hit paydirt](#)  
[in the money](#)  
[laughing](#)  
[loaded](#)  
[money to burn](#)  
[moneybags](#)  
[more money than brains](#)  
[rolling in it](#)  
[well heeled](#)  
[well to do](#)

richer

[put on airs](#)

rid

[get this monkey off my back](#)

[weed out](#)

ride

[catch a ride](#)

[get a lift](#)

[give me a lift](#)

[go for a spin](#)

[go-round](#)

[on my back](#)

[pick you up](#)

[take the bus/plane](#)

[taken in](#)

ridiculous

[don't make me laugh](#)

riding

[on board](#)

[on cloud nine](#)

[piggyback](#)

rifle

[pack Uzis](#)

[take a shot](#)

right

[a sharp wit](#)  
[act up](#)  
[bang on](#)  
[becomes you](#)  
[being there](#)  
[darn right](#)  
[darn tooting](#)  
[down pat](#)  
[fishy](#)  
[give my eye teeth](#)  
[got no business](#)  
[grandfather clause](#)  
[hit and miss](#)  
[hit the nail on the head](#)  
[hit the spot](#)  
[hold your mouth the right way](#)  
[in your face](#)  
[it works](#)  
[not with it](#)  
[off key \(music\)](#)  
[on moral grounds](#)  
[on track](#)  
[out of it](#)  
[out of the corner of my eye](#)  
[play my cards right](#)  
[pronto](#)  
[push the right buttons](#)  
[see fit](#)  
[spin doctor](#)  
[spot on](#)  
[the right stuff](#)  
[when the chips are down](#)  
[where do they get off](#)  
[work](#)  
[you betcha](#)  
[you got it](#)  
[you're not kidding/ you aren't kidding](#)  
[zig when you should zag](#)

rigmarole

[the runaround](#)

rigorous

[baptism by fire](#)

riker

[The Rock](#)

ring

[call up](#)

[dingle you](#)

[give me a call](#)

[give me a dingle](#)

[give me a ring](#)

[ring me](#)

ringer

[the spitting image](#)

riot

[a hoot](#)

[blow sky high](#)

rip-off

[a snow job](#)

[shady deal](#)

[shortchange](#)

ripped

[bilk](#)

[get screwed](#)

[taken](#)

rises

[at first light](#)

rising

[uptalk](#)

risk

[a pig in a poke](#)

[go out on a limb](#)

[nerves of steel](#)

[push the envelope](#)

[put my neck on the line](#)

[run the risk](#)

[save your skin/neck](#)

[she peed](#)

[stick my neck out](#)

[take chances](#)

risky

[a slippery slope](#)

[on thin ice](#)

[play with fire](#)

[risky business](#)

ritz

[ritzzy](#)

road

[all the way to Eger and back](#)

[down the line](#)

[find your way](#)

[give you the boot](#)

[history](#)

[off the beaten track](#)

[on your way](#)

[out of the way](#)

[road apple](#)

[road to hell is paved...](#)

[the going gets rough](#)

[the hard way](#)

[traffic jam](#)

[vamoose](#)

roadster

[it's a Duesey](#)

roasted

[the pope's nose](#)

rob

[bushwhack](#)

[pinch](#)

robbed

[mugged](#)

robbers

[mugged](#)

robbery

[hold up](#)

robbing

[on the take](#)

robin

[all the way to Eger and back](#)

[to hell and gone](#)

robinson

[faster than a minnow can swim a dipper](#)

[just like that](#)

[like a chicken on a June bug](#)

[quicker than you can say Jack Robinson](#)

rock

[between the devil and the deep blue sea](#)

[biter \(curling\)](#)  
[grunge \(music\)](#)  
[Newfie](#)  
[rock](#)  
[tight spot](#)

rocker

[around the bend](#)  
[nuts](#)  
[take leave of your senses](#)

rocky

[the going gets rough](#)  
[the hard way](#)  
[The Rock](#)

roll

[pick yourself up](#)  
[royal treatment](#)  
[the school of hard knocks](#)  
[tump](#)  
[wipe out](#)

rolling

[fat cat](#)  
[filthy rich](#)  
[get this show on the road](#)

roman

[dogan](#)

romance

[a crush on](#)  
[come-on](#)  
[on the make](#)

romantic

[fall in love](#)  
[got a crush on](#)  
[in love](#)  
[lovelife](#)  
[make a pass](#)

romantically

[chat her up](#)

roof

[goodies](#)

room

[a beehive of activity](#)  
[a bull in a china shop](#)

[a hollow leg](#)  
[backroom boys](#)  
[booked/booked up](#)  
[elbow room](#)  
[full up](#)  
[make way](#)  
[move over](#)  
[pass around](#)  
[so small you could barely swing a cat](#)  
[take the chill off](#)  
[the room is so small you have to go outside turn around](#)  
[trash the place](#)  
[work the room](#)

roots

[settle down](#)

rope

[at my wits' end](#)  
[catch on](#)  
[know the ropes](#)  
[learn the ropes](#)  
[show you the ropes](#)  
[teach you the tricks of the trade](#)  
[the in's and out's](#)  
[the tricks of the trade](#)  
[tie up](#)

roses

[sometimes life is a bucket of shit and the handle is inside \[B\]](#)

rotten

[bad apple](#)  
[something smells](#)

rough

[a bad time](#)  
[a game one](#)  
[a tough time of it](#)  
[boys will be boys](#)  
[give me a bad time](#)  
[play dirty](#)  
[rocky road](#)  
[tough sledding](#)  
[uphill battle](#)

roundabout

[all around Robin Hood's barn](#)

rouse	<a href="#">wake up</a>
route	<a href="#">all around Robin Hood's barn</a> <a href="#">fast track</a> <a href="#">milk run</a>
routine	<a href="#">joe-job</a> <a href="#">song and dance</a>
row	<a href="#">single file</a> <a href="#">strip mall</a> <a href="#">work cut out for</a>
royal	<a href="#">his nibs</a> <a href="#">Mounties</a>
rub	<a href="#">against the grain</a> <a href="#">shmooze</a>
rubber	<a href="#">showdown</a>
rube	<a href="#">hick</a> <a href="#">square</a>
ruddy	<a href="#">cotton-picking</a> <a href="#">darn</a>
rude	<a href="#">cheeky</a> <a href="#">down and dirty</a> <a href="#">hold your drinks</a> <a href="#">lippy</a> <a href="#">none of your lip</a> <a href="#">sassy</a> <a href="#">shirty</a> <a href="#">throw insults</a> <a href="#">trade insults</a>
rudeness	<a href="#">lip</a>
rug	<a href="#">bundle up</a>
rugged-looking	<a href="#">the strong, silent type</a>

## ruin

[blow it](#)  
[botch it](#)  
[character assassination](#)  
[cook your goose](#)  
[mess up](#)  
[monkeywrenching](#)  
[piss in the pickles \[B\]](#)  
[rain on their parade](#)  
[screw up](#)  
[shoot yourself in the foot](#)  
[the last straw](#)  
[trash](#)

## ruined

[beyond repair](#)  
[brain is fried](#)  
[down the tubes](#)  
[dust](#)  
[hopes dashed](#)  
[kaput](#)  
[rust out](#)  
[shot](#)  
[washed up](#)

## rule

[a free-for-all](#)  
[a rip-off](#)  
[according to Hoyle](#)  
[all's fair in love and war](#)  
[anything goes](#)  
[bend the rules](#)  
[bodacious](#)  
[break curfew](#)  
[by the same token](#)  
[find a way around](#)  
[follow the rules](#)  
[get around it](#)  
[get away with](#)  
[get her way](#)  
[grandfather](#)  
[in keeping with](#)  
[keep in line](#)  
[no holds barred](#)

[play dirty](#)  
[play fair](#)  
[rule of thumb](#)  
[stay in line](#)  
[that's his bible](#)  
[toe the line](#)  
[turn over a new leaf](#)  
[underhanded](#)  
[what's good for the goose is good for the gander](#)

ruler

[King Shit on Turd Island](#)

rum

[hard liquor](#)

rumor

[a scandal is brewing](#)  
[bunk](#)  
[scandal is brewing](#)  
[word is out](#)

run

[a three-bagger \(baseball\)](#)  
[beat a hasty retreat](#)  
[bump into](#)  
[draft dodger](#)  
[dress rehearsal](#)  
[drop back](#)  
[drop behind](#)  
[duck out](#)  
[fall behind](#)  
[fine-tune](#)  
[go on about](#)  
[go through](#)  
[go wild](#)  
[gone to pot](#)  
[grand slam](#)  
[hightail it](#)  
[hit and run \(baseball\)](#)  
[home run \(baseball\)](#)  
[in the running](#)  
[look like he was dragged through a knothole](#)  
[make a false move](#)  
[off the shelf](#)  
[one for the money, two for the show...](#)

[out of](#)  
[peter out](#)  
[pilot project](#)  
[put it on the bill](#)  
[put you through the mill](#)  
[rack up](#)  
[rearend](#)  
[run across](#)  
[run circles around you](#)  
[run down](#)  
[run for the hills](#)  
[run into](#)  
[run out](#)  
[run short](#)  
[run the gauntlet](#)  
[second wind](#)  
[shoot from the hip](#)  
[tear around](#)  
[test your metal](#)  
[the bum's rush](#)  
[wash down](#)  
[with his tail between his legs](#)  
[you can run but you can't hide](#)  
[zip](#)

**runner**

[a clutch hitter \(baseball\)](#)  
[a head start](#)  
[dead last](#)  
[grand slam](#)  
[hit and run \(baseball\)](#)  
[new legs](#)

**running**

[baptism by fire](#)  
[hit on all cylinders](#)  
[kick](#)  
[land on your feet](#)  
[neck and neck](#)  
[on the lam](#)  
[on the loose](#)  
[on the run](#)  
[tail between his legs](#)  
[tick over](#)

[with his tail between his legs](#)

runt

[the pick of the litter](#)

rural

[hick](#)[local yokel](#)[rube](#)

rush

[get your shirt in a knot/ get your shit in a knot \[B\]](#)[go off half-cocked](#)[joyride](#)[keep your hair on](#)[keep your shirt on](#)[run out of town](#)[run you out](#)[take by storm](#)[take your time](#)

rust

[rust out](#)

rusty

[rust out](#)[rustbucket](#)

rye

[rye](#)[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Definition Index S

sabotaging	
	<a href="#">monkeywrenching</a>
sack	
	<a href="#">down in the mouth</a>
sacrifice	
	<a href="#">put yourself out</a>
sad	
	<a href="#">a crying shame</a>
	<a href="#">baby blues</a>
	<a href="#">blue</a>
	<a href="#">break your heart</a>
	<a href="#">cry in your beer</a>
	<a href="#">cut me to the quick</a>
	<a href="#">down</a>
	<a href="#">down in the dumps</a>
	<a href="#">down in the mouth</a>
	<a href="#">downhearted</a>
	<a href="#">feel blue</a>
	<a href="#">get you down</a>
	<a href="#">got the blues</a>
	<a href="#">heavy heart</a>
	<a href="#">hurt my feelings</a>
	<a href="#">in a bad way</a>
	<a href="#">low</a>
	<a href="#">misery loves company</a>
	<a href="#">mixed feelings</a>
	<a href="#">sick at heart</a>
	<a href="#">sob story</a>
	<a href="#">sour puss</a>
	<a href="#">tearjerker</a>
	<a href="#">too bad</a>
saddle	
	<a href="#">saddle up</a>
sadness	
	<a href="#">a downer (sadness)</a>

[crocodile tears](#)  
[drown your sorrow](#)  
[move you to tears](#)  
[pluck at the heart strings](#)  
[pull yourself together](#)

safe

[check up on](#)  
[cocoon](#)  
[hole up](#)  
[out of harm's way](#)  
[parachute](#)  
[run for the hills](#)  
[squirrel away](#)  
[take cover](#)  
[you can thank your lucky stars](#)

safely

[hedge your bets](#)

safety

[put my neck on the line](#)  
[stick my neck out](#)

said

[beg your pardon](#)  
[bite your tongue](#)  
[eat crow](#)  
[eat your words](#)  
[get this straight](#)  
[hang on every word](#)  
[live up to](#)  
[shut my mouth](#)  
[straight from the horse's mouth](#)  
[take it back](#)  
[take it to heart](#)  
[the air was blue](#)  
[what's the big idea](#)

sailing

[away to the races](#)  
[blue sky](#)  
[without a hitch](#)

sailor

[salty](#)  
[the air was blue](#)

sake

[for crying out loud](#)  
[for gosh sake](#)  
[for heaven's sake](#)  
[in heaven's name](#)

salary

[know which side your bread is buttered on](#)  
[rake in the dough](#)

sale

[close a deal/sale](#)  
[on the market](#)  
[soft market](#)  
[up for sale](#)  
[wheeler-dealer](#)

salivate

[make your mouth water](#)

salt

[a pinch of salt](#)  
[down to earth](#)  
[squirrel away](#)

salty

[landlubber](#)

salute

[here's to](#)  
[skoal](#)

same

[a different kettle of fish](#)  
[a takeoff on](#)  
[all things being equal](#)  
[along those lines](#)  
[at once](#)  
[back at ya](#)  
[bitten by the same bug](#)  
[boys will be boys](#)  
[by the same token](#)  
[cut from the same cloth](#)  
[dead even](#)  
[ditto](#)  
[fight fire with fire](#)  
[freeze wages](#)  
[get even](#)  
[grandfather](#)  
[in a rut](#)

[in agreement](#)  
[in that vein](#)  
[in tune](#)  
[it takes one to know one](#)  
[like a broken record](#)  
[lump together](#)  
[neck and neck](#)  
[on even terms](#)  
[one and the same](#)  
[paint with the same brush](#)  
[part and parcel](#)  
[peer sneer](#)  
[repay in kind](#)  
[same here](#)  
[same to you](#)  
[see eye to eye](#)  
[six of one, half a dozen of the other](#)  
[stand out](#)  
[take after](#)  
[the runt of the litter](#)  
[there are two sides to every story](#)  
[tuned in](#)  
[when in Rome, do as the Romans do](#)

sample

[freebie](#)

san

[The Rock](#)

sane

[a little off](#)

sarcasm

[cheek](#)

sarcastic

[sharp](#)[zinger](#)

sarcastically

[a sharp tongue](#)[swell](#)

saskatchewan

[stubblejumper](#)

sasquatch

[Bigfoot](#)

sassy

[cheeky](#)

[lippy](#)

satire

[a send-up](#)

satisfaction

[cold comfort](#)

satisfactory

[strike a bargain](#)

satisfied

[eat your fill](#)

[take it and run](#)

satisfy

[all things to all people](#)

[cut it](#)

[sucks](#)

[the customer is always right](#)

satisfying

[hit the spot](#)

save

[for dear life](#)

[it's a matter of life and death](#)

[salt away](#)

[save a bundle](#)

[save for a rainy day](#)

[save your bacon](#)

[save your skin/neck](#)

[squirrel away](#)

saved

[beyond help](#)

[found money](#)

[it has your name on it](#)

saving

[backup](#)

[break the bank](#)

[nest egg](#)

[penny wise, dollar dumb](#)

[piggy bank](#)

saw

[compare notes](#)

[don't sweat it](#)

sawdust

[don't sweat it](#)

say

[a man of few words](#)  
[a sharp wit](#)  
[all it's cracked up to be](#)  
[at a loss for words](#)  
[badmouth](#)  
[beg your pardon](#)  
[bite your tongue](#)  
[blurt out](#)  
[call a spade a spade](#)  
[catch you off guard](#)  
[come again](#)  
[come out with](#)  
[come to the point](#)  
[crack a joke](#)  
[cuss](#)  
[dig yourself in](#)  
[ditto](#)  
[doesn't mince words](#)  
[don't teach your grandmother how to suck eggs](#)  
[downplay](#)  
[drive it home](#)  
[drop it](#)  
[faster than a minnow can swim a dipper](#)  
[find my tongue](#)  
[follow the rules](#)  
[forget your manners](#)  
[get off a few good ones](#)  
[get to the point](#)  
[give her credit](#)  
[give it a rest](#)  
[give me a hint](#)  
[give notice](#)  
[give your word](#)  
[go through](#)  
[God bless the Duke of Argyle](#)  
[hear me out](#)  
[hemming and hahing](#)  
[hit me](#)  
[hit the nail on the head](#)  
[hold me responsible](#)  
[how about that](#)  
[how's that again](#)

[huh](#)

[it ain't over till it's over](#)

[it goes without saying](#)

[jog your memory](#)

[just like that](#)

[kiss that one goodbye](#)

[kiss the blarney stone](#)

[knock you down a peg](#)

[lay the blame](#)

[let on](#)

[like a chicken on a June bug](#)

[lose your tongue](#)

[make myself clear](#)

[mind go blank](#)

[motormouth](#)

[pardon me](#)

[pay a compliment](#)

[practice what you preach](#)

[push the right buttons](#)

[pussyfoot around](#)

[put it](#)

[put my foot down](#)

[put the right spin on it](#)

[put your foot in it](#)

[put your foot in your mouth](#)

[quicker than you can say Jack Robinson](#)

[rented lips](#)

[roll off the tongue](#)

[rumor has it](#)

[say my piece](#)

[say the word](#)

[say what](#)

[say what's on your mind](#)

[scout's honor](#)

[sentence to death](#)

[serve notice](#)

[shoot](#)

[sign off](#)

[slip out](#)

[smooth talker](#)

[soft pedal](#)

[speak highly of](#)

[speak out](#)  
[speak your mind](#)  
[stand up and be counted](#)  
[swear by](#)  
[take a back seat](#)  
[take a poke at](#)  
[take a stand](#)  
[take it back](#)  
[take me seriously](#)  
[take my head off](#)  
[take oath](#)  
[take your pick](#)  
[take your word for it](#)  
[talk through your hat](#)  
[talk your head off](#)  
[the devil you say](#)  
[the dickens you say](#)  
[throw insults](#)  
[trade insults](#)  
[try me](#)  
[turn up your nose at](#)  
[twist your words](#)  
[wouldn't say shit if her mouth was full of it \[B\]](#)  
[write it off](#)

## saying

[by the way](#)  
[character assassination](#)  
[death wish](#)  
[flattery will get you nowhere](#)  
[follow me](#)  
[hemming and hahing](#)  
[like a broken record](#)  
[needless to say](#)  
[on speaking terms](#)  
[read my lips](#)  
[stretching it](#)  
[talk is cheap](#)  
[wishy-washy](#)  
[word is out](#)

## scads

[crawling with](#)  
[oodles](#)

scale	<a href="#">make a difference</a> <a href="#">the balance of power</a> <a href="#">the turning point</a> <a href="#">tip the scales at</a> <a href="#">weigh in at</a>
scandal	<a href="#">a scandal is brewing</a> <a href="#">blow sky high</a> <a href="#">dirty laundry</a> <a href="#">name is cleared</a> <a href="#">scandal is brewing</a> <a href="#">skeleton in the closet</a>
scandinavian	<a href="#">skoal</a>
scare	<a href="#">scare the life out of me</a> <a href="#">shoot up</a> <a href="#">throw your weight around</a>
scared	<a href="#">chicken</a> <a href="#">frightened to death</a> <a href="#">give me the creeps</a> <a href="#">hair stand on end</a> <a href="#">in a cold sweat</a> <a href="#">jump out of your skin</a> <a href="#">make your hair stand on end</a> <a href="#">petrified</a> <a href="#">piss your pants [B]</a> <a href="#">press the panic button</a> <a href="#">quake in his boots</a> <a href="#">scare the life out of me</a> <a href="#">scared out of my wits</a> <a href="#">scared shitless [B]</a> <a href="#">scared spitless</a> <a href="#">scared to death</a> <a href="#">shit myself [B]</a> <a href="#">shitting bricks [B]</a>
scary	<a href="#">a three-bagger</a>
scavenges	<a href="#">binner</a>

scene	<a href="#">capture the imagination</a> <a href="#">hit and run (traffic)</a> <a href="#">in the picture</a> <a href="#">kick up a fuss</a> <a href="#">raise a stink</a> <a href="#">steamy</a> <a href="#">throw a tantrum</a> <a href="#">unsung hero</a>
scenery	<a href="#">take time to smell the roses</a>
schedule	<a href="#">a full plate</a> <a href="#">on my plate</a> <a href="#">on target</a> <a href="#">rat race</a>
scheduled	<a href="#">on time</a> <a href="#">take a flight</a>
scheme	<a href="#">set-up</a>
scholar	<a href="#">geek</a>
school	<a href="#">flunk out</a> <a href="#">jock</a> <a href="#">on vacation</a> <a href="#">play hooky</a> <a href="#">school's out</a>
scoff	<a href="#">rabbit</a>
scold	<a href="#">bawl me out</a> <a href="#">blast you</a> <a href="#">chew him out</a> <a href="#">get after</a> <a href="#">give them what for</a> <a href="#">give you hell [B]</a> <a href="#">have at me</a> <a href="#">kick ass [B]</a> <a href="#">let you have it</a> <a href="#">rake you over the coals</a>

ream out  
[take a strip off](#)  
[tear a strip off](#)  
[tie into](#)

scolded

[get it](#)

scolding

[a bawling out](#)  
[a dressing down](#)  
[a talking to](#)  
[a tongue-lashing](#)  
[an earful](#)  
[catch hell \[B\]](#)  
[catch it](#)  
[get hell \[B\]](#)  
[get shit \[B\]](#)

score

[a blowout](#)  
[beat the pants off](#)  
[behind the curve](#)  
[dead even](#)  
[goose egg](#)  
[grand slam](#)  
[home run \(baseball\)](#)  
[mount a comeback](#)  
[play catch-up](#)  
[saw-off](#)  
[skunk](#)

scored

[play catch-up](#)  
[shutout \(sports\)](#)

scoring

[get bageled](#)  
[hat trick](#)

scratch

[back to square one](#)  
[moola](#)

scratching

[God bless the Duke of Argyle](#)

screech

[hooch](#)  
[moonshine](#)

screw	<a href="#">blow it</a> <a href="#">fuck up [B]</a> <a href="#">goof up</a> <a href="#">jump [B]</a> <a href="#">make a booboo</a> <a href="#">mess up</a> <a href="#">shaft</a> <a href="#">step on his dick</a> <a href="#">up yours [B]</a> <a href="#">you and the horse you rode in on</a>
screwed	<a href="#">screw</a>
screwedb	<a href="#">shaft</a>
scrut	<a href="#">drat</a>
scum	<a href="#">dirty dog/dirty rat</a> <a href="#">motherfucker [B]</a>
scumbag	<a href="#">sicko</a> <a href="#">slimebucket [B]</a>
sea	<a href="#">landlubber</a> <a href="#">salty</a>
search	<a href="#">a fine-toothed comb</a>
searching	<a href="#">Dumpster diving</a>
season	<a href="#">fair game</a>
seat	<a href="#">buckle up</a> <a href="#">grab a chair</a> <a href="#">have a chair</a> <a href="#">play second fiddle</a> <a href="#">rodchester</a> <a href="#">take a load off your feet</a>
seated	<a href="#">have a seat</a> <a href="#">take your seat</a>
sec	

[in a jiffy](#)  
[in no time](#)  
[in two shakes \(of a lamb's tail\)](#)

**second**

[before you can say Jack Robinson](#)  
[branch out](#)  
[catch a glimpse](#)  
[cut rate](#)  
[flash a smile](#)  
[in a sec](#)  
[in a split second](#)  
[in the wink of an eye](#)  
[in two shakes \(of a lamb's tail\)](#)  
[lemon](#)  
[moonlighting](#)  
[scrape the bottom of the barrel](#)  
[seconds](#)  
[sound bite](#)  
[split second](#)  
[take a back seat](#)  
[the dying seconds](#)  
[the turning point](#)  
[wait a sec](#)  
[win by a nose](#)

**second-rate**

[seconds](#)

**secret**

[blab](#)  
[break the silence](#)  
[hidden agenda](#)  
[hushed up](#)  
[it's not a state secret](#)  
[keep it to yourself](#)  
[mouth off](#)  
[on the QT](#)  
[out of the closet](#)  
[skeleton in the closet](#)  
[spill the beans](#)  
[tell on](#)  
[the cat's out of the bag](#)  
[the jig's up](#)  
[top secret](#)

[trade secret](#)  
[under wraps](#)

secretly

[laugh up your sleeve](#)  
[on the sly](#)  
[put a bug in my ear](#)  
[spirit away](#)

sedative

[a downer \(drug\)](#)

see

[a dead loss](#)  
[a fly on the wall](#)  
[a pig in a poke](#)  
[a sight for sore eyes](#)  
[as plain as day](#)  
[as plain as the nose on your face](#)  
[at face value](#)  
[at first glance](#)  
[at the end of my rope/ at the end of my tether](#)  
[behind your back](#)  
[bye for now](#)  
[can't believe my eyes](#)  
[can't see for looking](#)  
[can't see the forest for the trees](#)  
[carry the can](#)  
[catch a glimpse](#)  
[catch me doing that](#)  
[catch you later](#)  
[check out](#)  
[check over](#)  
[check up on](#)  
[chew him out](#)  
[ciao](#)  
[come to fruition](#)  
[date](#)  
[do you follow](#)  
[drive you nuts](#)  
[drop her/him](#)  
[drop in](#)  
[dump her/him](#)  
[eagle eyes](#)  
[eat crow](#)

[first hand](#)  
[fit to be tied](#)  
[floor you](#)  
[follow through](#)  
[get a shot at](#)  
[get real](#)  
[get the finger \[B\] \(get the bird\)](#)  
[get the picture](#)  
[give me a bad time](#)  
[give you a rough time](#)  
[give you the axe](#)  
[go out with](#)  
[have an affair](#)  
[have to hand it to you](#)  
[head in the sand](#)  
[home run \(baseball\)](#)  
[in broad daylight](#)  
[in glowing terms](#)  
[in plain view](#)  
[it appears to me](#)  
[it's as plain as the nose on your face](#)  
[kick the weed](#)  
[knock the wind out of his sails](#)  
[laid bare](#)  
[lay eyes on](#)  
[let you have it](#)  
[like the devil](#)  
[lollygag](#)  
[look over your shoulder](#)  
[love is blind](#)  
[make sense of it](#)  
[mugged](#)  
[nitpick](#)  
[out of sight](#)  
[out of sight, out of mind](#)  
[out on a limb](#)  
[pick you up](#)  
[plain as day](#)  
[plain as the nose on your face](#)  
[play into his hand](#)  
[put a different slant on it](#)  
[put things in perspective](#)

[put yourself out](#)  
[read between the lines](#)  
[read into](#)  
[read you](#)  
[road to hell is paved...](#)  
[run across](#)  
[screw](#)  
[see hide nor hair](#)  
[see me for dust](#)  
[see through](#)  
[seeing things](#)  
[sense of humor](#)  
[set out](#)  
[shaft](#)  
[so long](#)  
[tail lights](#)  
[take a look](#)  
[take on a new light](#)  
[take out](#)  
[the big picture](#)  
[trial run](#)  
[try it on](#)  
[try me](#)  
[try that on for size](#)  
[try your luck](#)  
[turn a blind eye](#)  
[under my nose](#)  
[wait around](#)  
[watch your every move](#)  
[wind up](#)  
[window on the world](#)  
[wouldn't miss it for the world](#)  
[wysiwyg](#)  
[you reap whatsoever you sow](#)

seeing

[a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush](#)  
[break off](#)  
[tunnel vision](#)

seeking

[out for blood](#)

seem

[come across](#)

[dipstick](#)  
[how time flies](#)  
[time stands still](#)

seen

[a fresh pair of eyes](#)  
[a perfect stranger](#)  
[a total stranger](#)  
[drop out of sight](#)  
[haven't seen hide nor hair](#)  
[if that doesn't beat all](#)  
[long time no see](#)  
[turn up](#)

seize

[let this chance go by](#)  
[make the most of it](#)  
[milk it](#)  
[miss your chance](#)  
[take advantage of](#)  
[you snooze, you lose](#)

seldom

[once in a blue moon](#)

self

[ego trip](#)

self-control

[come undone](#)

self-respect

[pride goeth before a fall](#)

self-starter

[hit the ground running](#)

sell

[clear out](#)  
[hard sell](#)  
[make a pitch](#)  
[on the market](#)  
[part with](#)  
[pedal her ass \[B\]](#)  
[play the stock market](#)  
[pusher](#)  
[sell like hotcakes](#)  
[sell out](#)  
[sell the farm](#)  
[seller's market](#)

[set your price](#)  
[soft sell](#)  
[the middleman](#)

seller

[cash on the line](#)  
[firm market](#)  
[seller's market](#)

semi-trailer

[a big rig](#)

send

[dash off a note/letter](#)  
[drop a line](#)  
[keep you posted](#)  
[pay my respects](#)  
[send him up](#)

send-up

[a takeoff on](#)  
[over the top](#)

senior

[grey power](#)  
[raisins](#)  
[sunset years](#)  
[twilight years](#)

sense

[come to](#)  
[common sense](#)  
[doesn't add up](#)  
[doesn't wash](#)  
[got rocks in your head](#)  
[horse sense](#)  
[it figures](#)  
[it's beyond me](#)  
[know which side your bread is buttered on](#)  
[make of it](#)  
[make your bum hum](#)  
[no rhyme or reason](#)  
[see it coming](#)  
[smell blood](#)

sensible

[a few bricks short of a full load](#)  
[all his marbles](#)  
[carry on](#)

[cooler heads prevailed](#)  
[discretion is the better part of valor](#)  
[hairbrain](#)  
[hold water](#)  
[horse sense](#)  
[keep an even keel](#)  
[make sense](#)  
[out in left field](#)

sensitive

[high strung](#)  
[touchy](#)

sent

[chain letter](#)

sentence

[a bum rap](#)  
[out of context](#)

sentenced

[hit the bricks](#)  
[lifer](#)

sentimental

[play on my heart strings](#)

separate

[a horse of a different color](#)  
[part company](#)  
[split up](#)

separated

[neither fish nor fowl](#)

separation

[breakup](#)

sequence

[chain reaction](#)

series

[a paper trail](#)  
[go all the way \(sports\)](#)  
[knocked out](#)  
[losing streak](#)  
[lucky streak](#)  
[make a clean sweep](#)  
[stay alive](#)  
[string of good luck](#)

serious

[a close shave](#)  
[break your fall](#)

[coin](#)  
[get a grip](#)  
[get down to brass tacks](#)  
[get real](#)  
[get serious](#)  
[heavy](#)  
[in deep doo-doo \[B\]](#)  
[in deep trouble](#)  
[joking aside](#)  
[lighten up](#)  
[mean business](#)  
[no kidding](#)  
[no nonsense](#)  
[strictly business](#)  
[take me seriously](#)  
[toy with](#)  
[you're kidding](#)

seriously

[get down to business](#)  
[talk turkey](#)  
[toy with](#)

serve

[bow out](#)  
[cool your heels](#)  
[fill the bill](#)  
[greasy spoon](#)  
[mind the store](#)  
[press into service](#)  
[take-out restaurant](#)  
[wait on customers](#)  
[wait on you hand and foot](#)

served

[first come, first served](#)  
[on a silver platter](#)

service

[darken a church door](#)  
[draft dodger](#)  
[jump queue](#)  
[pay through the nose](#)  
[rain check](#)  
[suck the hind tit \[B\]](#)  
[the squeaky wheel gets the grease](#)

serving	<a href="#">at your beck and call</a> <a href="#">soldier on</a>
session	<a href="#">jam session</a>
set	<a href="#">frame</a> <a href="#">make your mark</a> <a href="#">raise the bar</a> <a href="#">set the table</a> <a href="#">straighten you out</a> <a href="#">touch off</a> <a href="#">turn over a new leaf</a> <a href="#">visit a spell</a> <a href="#">wheels</a> <a href="#">world beater</a>
set-to	<a href="#">a dust-up</a>
settle	<a href="#">calm down</a> <a href="#">come out in the wash</a> <a href="#">come to terms</a> <a href="#">have it out</a>
settled	<a href="#">up in the air</a>
settlement	<a href="#">a fair shake</a>
seventy-five	<a href="#">six bits</a>
several	<a href="#">a losing streak</a> <a href="#">a lucky streak</a> <a href="#">gang up on</a> <a href="#">in a slump</a> <a href="#">in the long haul</a>
severe	<a href="#">killing me</a>
sewer	<a href="#">in the drink</a>
sex	<a href="#">a blow job [B]</a> <a href="#">a piece of ass [B]</a> <a href="#">a roll in the hay [B]</a>

[ball her \[B\]](#)  
[bang \[B\]](#)  
[come across \[B\]](#)  
[cut him off \[B\]](#)  
[fool around](#)  
[get into her pants \[B\]](#)  
[get laid \[B\]](#)  
[give head \[B\]](#)  
[go down on \[B\]](#)  
[have nookie](#)  
[horny \[B\]](#)  
[jump \[B\]](#)  
[lay \[B\]](#)  
[nookie \[B\]](#)  
[on the make](#)  
[pedal her ass \[B\]](#)  
[poontang \[B\]](#)  
[saw off a chunk \[B\]](#)  
[screw \[B\]](#)  
[shagging wagon](#)  
[steamy](#)

sexist

[politically correct](#)

sexual

[come onto](#)  
[get fresh](#)  
[get it on](#)  
[have nookie](#)  
[have sex](#)  
[hit on](#)  
[out of the closet](#)  
[tits and ass \(T & A\) \[B\]](#)

sexy

[bat her eyes](#)  
[bump and grind](#)  
[hot stuff](#)

shabby

[cheesy](#)  
[crappy](#)  
[crummy](#)  
[god awful](#)  
[had it](#)

[lousy](#)  
[mousy](#)  
[suck](#)  
[wear out](#)

shack

[squat](#)

shades

[smack of](#)

shaft

[screw](#)

shake

[get the jitters](#)  
[get the lead out](#)  
[kick a habit](#)  
[not so hot](#)  
[nothing to write home about](#)  
[put 'er there](#)  
[put her there](#)  
[rock](#)  
[shake on it](#)

shame

[bat an eye](#)  
[good grief](#)  
[save face](#)

shape

[a basket case](#)  
[hold your mouth the right way](#)  
[if you can't cut it, you can't stay](#)  
[the way you hold your mouth](#)

shaped

[a dildo \[B\]](#)

share

[a piece of the action](#)  
[buy up](#)  
[carry your weight](#)  
[cheap skate](#)  
[cop out](#)  
[cough up](#)  
[do your part](#)  
[dog in the manger](#)  
[it takes two to tango](#)  
[pay your way](#)

[play the stock market](#)

[pull your weight](#)

[shareware](#)

[square up](#)

sharp

[bright](#)

[cheek](#)

[cut a fine figure](#)

[in tune \(music\)](#)

[losing it](#)

[on the ball](#)

[your lip](#)

sharply

[a sharp tongue](#)

[snap at](#)

[spike the ball](#)

[turn on a dime](#)

shebang

[kit and caboodle](#)

shed

[throw some light on](#)

sheesh

[nuts](#)

sheets

[make the bed](#)

shelf

[gathering dust](#)

[mothball](#)

[off the shelf](#)

[run of the mill](#)

shelter

[shuck on down to the fraidy hole](#)

[squat](#)

[take you in](#)

shift

[drive standard](#)

[mark a watershed](#)

shiny

[tiddly](#)

ship

[if you can't cut it, you can't stay](#)

ship"

[SOS](#)

shipshape	
	<a href="#">apple-pie order</a>
shirt	
	<a href="#">drop a bundle</a> <a href="#">keep your hair on</a> <a href="#">keep your shirt on</a> <a href="#">like a dirty shirt</a> <a href="#">XL</a>
shit	
	<a href="#">catch hell [B]</a> <a href="#">cow-pie</a> <a href="#">don't give a damn [B]</a> <a href="#">doo-doo</a> <a href="#">drop a log [B]</a> <a href="#">fish or cut bait</a> <a href="#">four-letter words</a> <a href="#">full of it [B]</a> <a href="#">get your knuckles rapped</a> <a href="#">in deep doo-doo [B]</a> <a href="#">in hot water</a> <a href="#">no guff</a> <a href="#">out of luck</a> <a href="#">shit myself [B]</a> <a href="#">take a dump [B]</a> <a href="#">you're full of it [B]</a>
shitload	
	<a href="#">motherlode</a>
shmooze	
	<a href="#">work the room</a>
shock	
	<a href="#">blow your mind</a> <a href="#">curl your hair</a> <a href="#">floor you</a> <a href="#">raised eyebrows</a> <a href="#">rock</a> <a href="#">scrape me off the ceiling</a>
shocked	
	<a href="#">eat my hat/shirt</a> <a href="#">shit or wind my watch</a>
shocking	
	<a href="#">a caution</a>
shoes	

[shoes like boats](#)

shogun

[a heavyweight](#)

shoot

[dead-eye Dick](#)

[fair game](#)

[fire away](#)

[get a shot at](#)

[get good wood on](#)

[good hands](#)

[gun down](#)

[have a fix](#)

[hit me with your best shot](#)

[pop a cap \[B\]](#)

[put down](#)

[quick on the draw](#)

[shoot from the hip](#)

[shoot it out](#)

[shoot up](#)

[shoot-up](#)

[sock it to me](#)

[step on your dick](#)

[take a shot](#)

[your own worst enemy](#)

shooting

[crack shot/salesman etc.](#)

shop

[shoplifting](#)

[trash the place](#)

short

[a bit off/a bit mental](#)

[a crash course](#)

[a little off](#)

[a quick study](#)

[a quickie](#)

[a screw loose](#)

[a stone's throw](#)

[at a moment's notice](#)

[brush cut](#)

[drop your drawers](#)

[fast track](#)

[gotches](#)

[how time flies](#)[in a bit](#)[it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all](#)[knee high to a grasshopper](#)[not all there](#)[out of breath](#)[out of wind](#)[quick and dirty](#)[run out](#)[skinhead](#)[suck the hind tit \[B\]](#)[three slices short \(of a full loaf\)](#)[tuckered out](#)[wait a minute](#)[without a full deck](#)

shorter

[short cut](#)

shortest

[as the crow flies](#)

shot

[a big wheel](#)[a lift](#)[big boys](#)[foot the bill](#)[have the final say](#)[hazard a guess](#)[pick up the tab](#)[put to death](#)[put your heart into it](#)[run the show](#)[shoot-out \(sports\)](#)[spring for](#)

should

[age before beauty](#)[beggars can't be choosers](#)[bite your tongue](#)[blow it out of proportion](#)[caught looking](#)[fish and company stink after three days](#)[got it coming](#)[had better](#)[heaven forbid](#)

[know better](#)  
[loud mouth](#)  
[people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones](#)  
[practice what you preach](#)  
[run off at the mouth](#)  
[time's a wasting](#)  
[you had to be there](#)

## shoulder

[doesn't mince words](#)  
[shmooze](#)  
[side by side](#)  
[spoil for a fight](#)  
[stand away](#)

## shout

[blow your lid/stack/top](#)  
[let you have it](#)  
[raise Cain](#)  
[take my head off](#)

## shouting

[at the top of his voice](#)  
[brouhaha](#)  
[catcall](#)

## shove

[stick it up your ass \[B\]](#)  
[stuff it](#)

## show

[a blank look](#)  
[a faraway look](#)  
[all hat and no cattle](#)  
[bat an eye](#)  
[body language](#)  
[claws are showing](#)  
[don't get smart with me](#)  
[draw attention to](#)  
[freak/freak out](#)  
[gas](#)  
[give a hoot](#)  
[glued to the set](#)  
[hidden talent](#)  
[keep under wraps](#)  
[kick ass](#)  
[kick some ass](#)

[let on](#)  
[make a pass](#)  
[moon them](#)  
[pay tribute](#)  
[perk up](#)  
[phone-in](#)  
[point out](#)  
[power play \(business\)](#)  
[put on the dog](#)  
[razzle-dazzle](#)  
[roll out the red carpet](#)  
[say jump...how high](#)  
[shake on it](#)  
[show promise](#)  
[show you around](#)  
[show your stuff](#)  
[sign in](#)  
[take a bow](#)  
[take a shine to](#)  
[take my hat off to](#)  
[throw a tantrum](#)  
[tip your hand](#)  
[turn out](#)  
[turn up](#)  
[walk a straight line](#)  
[wear your heart on your sleeve](#)

show-off

[a hotdog](#)  
[a hotshot](#)  
[jive ass \[B\]](#)  
[showboat](#)

showboat

[a hotshot](#)  
[razzle-dazzle](#)  
[show off](#)  
[show-off](#)

showdown

[rubber match](#)

showing

[a poker face](#)  
[close to the vest](#)  
[dead as a doornail](#)

[in the black](#)  
[in the red](#)  
[on the clock](#)  
[out of line](#)  
[power trip](#)  
[soft sell](#)  
[up and coming](#)  
[written all over your face](#)

shown

[at face value](#)

shrinking

[a caution](#)  
[wall flower](#)

shucks

[fiddlesticks](#)  
[gee whiz](#)  
[heck](#)  
[phooey](#)

shuffle

[play musical chairs](#)

shun

[stand away](#)

shut

[call his bluff](#)  
[cut and dried](#)  
[cut off](#)  
[keep quiet](#)  
[put your money where your mouth is](#)  
[shut your face](#)  
[slap my afro / slap my fro](#)  
[zip](#)

shutout

[get bageled](#)

siblings

[the runt of the litter](#)

sick

[as sick as a dog](#)  
[as sick as a parrot](#)  
[catch a cold \(catch cold\)](#)  
[come down with](#)  
[fall ill](#)  
[get out of my face](#)

[good and dead/mad/sick](#)  
[have a case of](#)  
[in sick bay](#)  
[laid up](#)  
[look like death warmed over](#)  
[make me sick/mad etc.](#)  
[sick to death](#)  
[sicker than a dog](#)  
[till you're blue in the face](#)  
[turn your stomach](#)  
[under the weather](#)  
[uptight](#)  
[woozy](#)

sicker	
--------	--

[as sick as a parrot](#)

sickness	
----------	--

[bounce back](#)

side	
------	--

[a pocket of resistance](#)  
[by the same token](#)  
[cheek by jowl](#)  
[choose sides](#)  
[come onside](#)  
[dark side](#)  
[fence sitter](#)  
[flip-flop](#)  
[heads or tails](#)  
[in my good books](#)  
[in your corner](#)  
[make way](#)  
[middle ground](#)  
[neck and neck](#)  
[on side](#)  
[on the bandwagon](#)  
[out of the corner of my eye](#)  
[over easy](#)  
[shoulder to shoulder](#)  
[sit the fence](#)  
[take a stand](#)  
[the downside](#)  
[turncoat](#)  
[two abreast](#)

[under the table](#)[upside](#)

sight

[behind the scenes](#)[holy smoke](#)[lay low](#)

sign

[a dead giveaway](#)[a token gesture](#)[at the crack of dawn](#)[back you](#)[bat an eye](#)[come to terms](#)[dead as a doornail](#)[drop a hint](#)[full blown](#)[get the finger \[B\] \(get the bird\)](#)[haven't seen hide nor hair](#)[join up](#)[light at the end of the tunnel](#)[like a bolt from the blue](#)[sign in](#)[sign out](#)[sign up](#)[smelling yourself](#)[stone dead](#)[the rabbit died](#)[without turning a hair](#)

signal

[a dead giveaway](#)[mayday \(m'aidez\)](#)

signature

[John Hancock](#)[John Henry](#)

signed

[cover your ass \[B\]](#)[in black and white](#)[in writing](#)[John Hancock](#)[John Henry](#)[on loan](#)

significant

[the past is slipping by without a trace](#)  
[well taken](#)

signing

[over and out](#)

silence

[silence is golden](#)

silkhead

[chromedome](#)

silly

[carry on](#)

[wacky](#)

similar

[a common thread](#)

[a far cry](#)

[a takeoff on](#)

[all that jazz](#)

[along those lines](#)

[birds of a feather flock together](#)

[cut from the same cloth](#)

[in step](#)

[in that vein](#)

[part and parcel](#)

[pass for](#)

[see eye to eye](#)

[shades of](#)

[smack of](#)

[take after](#)

simple

[cut and dried](#)

[down home](#)

[play the fool](#)

simultaneously

[at once](#)

since

[born tired](#)

sincere

[in bad faith](#)

[play games](#)

sincerely

[cross my heart and hope to die](#)

[from the bottom of my heart](#)

[in good faith](#)

sing

[break into song](#)  
[carry a tune](#)  
[hit the high notes](#)  
[praise him to the skies](#)  
[sing up a storm](#)

single

[one by one](#)  
[rodchester](#)  
[single file](#)

sink

[Fibber McGee's closet](#)

sinker

[fastball](#)

sip

[have a smash](#)

sit

[bag some rays](#)  
[belly up to the bar](#)  
[curl up with a good book](#)  
[get over](#)  
[grab a chair](#)  
[have a chair](#)  
[have a seat](#)  
[kick back](#)  
[set a spell](#)  
[take a load off your feet](#)  
[take my place](#)  
[take the stand](#)  
[take your seat](#)

sitting

[gathering dust](#)  
[navel-gazing](#)  
[on the throne](#)

situation

[get the lay of the land](#)  
[in a fix](#)  
[in a pickle](#)  
[in a pinch](#)  
[on the whole](#)  
[up shit creek \[B\]](#)

six

[pushing up daisies](#)

six-foot-deep	<a href="#">deep six</a>
size	<a href="#">beef it up</a> <a href="#">get the lay of the land</a> <a href="#">half-pint</a> <a href="#">knee high to a grasshopper</a> <a href="#">put things in perspective</a> <a href="#">turnout</a> <a href="#">XL</a>
skate	<a href="#">skaters</a>
skater	<a href="#">power play (hockey)</a> <a href="#">pull the goalie (hockey)</a>
skidaddle	<a href="#">off with you</a>
skids	<a href="#">junkie</a> <a href="#">skids</a>
skies	<a href="#">in glowing terms</a>
skill	<a href="#">a crash course</a> <a href="#">bag of tricks</a> <a href="#">cook</a> <a href="#">hard skill</a> <a href="#">hidden talent</a> <a href="#">how's tricks</a> <a href="#">jack of all trades</a> <a href="#">lose your touch</a> <a href="#">make a comeback</a> <a href="#">make something of yourself</a> <a href="#">on even terms</a> <a href="#">pure luck</a> <a href="#">sell yourself short</a> <a href="#">sleeper</a> <a href="#">take up</a> <a href="#">test your metal</a> <a href="#">the right stuff</a> <a href="#">the tricks of the trade</a> <a href="#">the world is your oyster</a>

[twinkle toes](#)

skilled

[crack shot/salesman etc.](#)

[has-been](#)

[no slouch](#)

[shit hot \[B\]](#)

skillful

[good hands](#)

[slip a notch](#)

skin

[black eye](#)

[break out in a rash](#)

[cheesecake](#)

[peaches-and-cream](#)

[rattle my chain](#)

[save your bacon](#)

[skin virgin](#)

[the way to a man's heart is through his stomach](#)

[you can't tell a book by its cover](#)

skip

[duck out](#)

skirmish

[a dust-up](#)

skunk

[blank](#)

skunked

[get bageled](#)

[goose egg](#)

sky

[airy-fairy](#)

[clouds on the horizon](#)

[hands up](#)

[pipe dream](#)

[put 'em up](#)

slam

[home run \(baseball\)](#)

slammer

[behind bars](#)

[in the tank](#)

[The Rock](#)

slang

[hip hop \(generation\)](#)

[wack](#)

slant	
	<a href="#">twist your words</a>
slap	
	<a href="#">rough up</a>
	<a href="#">shut my mouth</a>
	<a href="#">slap my afro / slap my fro</a>
slapping	
	<a href="#">high five</a>
slash	
	<a href="#">lay the lumber</a>
sledding	
	<a href="#">rough going</a>
	<a href="#">uphill battle</a>
sleep	
	<a href="#">bed down</a>
	<a href="#">catch some z's</a>
	<a href="#">conk out</a>
	<a href="#">crash</a>
	<a href="#">dead to the world</a>
	<a href="#">deep sleep</a>
	<a href="#">drop off</a>
	<a href="#">fall asleep</a>
	<a href="#">flake out</a>
	<a href="#">go down</a>
	<a href="#">play around</a>
	<a href="#">sack out</a>
	<a href="#">saw logs</a>
	<a href="#">sleep around [B]</a>
	<a href="#">sleep in</a>
	<a href="#">sleep it off</a>
	<a href="#">sleep like a log</a>
	<a href="#">stay awake</a>
	<a href="#">stay up</a>
	<a href="#">wake up</a>
	<a href="#">wet the bed</a>
sleeping	
	<a href="#">dead to the world</a>
	<a href="#">sound asleep</a>
sleepy	
	<a href="#">sleepy head</a>
sleeves	
	<a href="#">long johns</a>

slide	<a href="#">lose ground</a>
slider	<a href="#">fastball</a>
slightly	<a href="#">a glow on</a> <a href="#">buzzed</a> <a href="#">tipsy</a> <a href="#">uptalk</a>
slim	<a href="#">a long shot</a> <a href="#">against all odds</a> <a href="#">not likely</a> <a href="#">twiggy</a>
slimebucket	<a href="#">dirty dog/dirty rat</a> <a href="#">scum/scumbag</a>
slip	<a href="#">a slip of the tongue</a> <a href="#">ditch him</a> <a href="#">drop off</a> <a href="#">slip out</a>
slo	<a href="#">time stands still</a>
sloppy	<a href="#">let yourself go</a>
slashed	<a href="#">as drunk as a skunk</a> <a href="#">bombed</a> <a href="#">corked</a> <a href="#">hammered</a> <a href="#">higher than a kite</a> <a href="#">in the bag</a> <a href="#">liquored up</a> <a href="#">loaded</a> <a href="#">pissed [B]</a> <a href="#">plastered</a> <a href="#">tanked/tanked up</a>
slow	<a href="#">dense</a> <a href="#">dimwit</a> <a href="#">drag your feet</a>

[drop off](#)  
[knock the wind out of his sails](#)  
[lamebrain](#)  
[late bloomer](#)  
[not all there](#)  
[one brick short of a full load](#)  
[slo mo](#)  
[take your sweet time](#)  
[thick as a brick](#)  
[time stands still](#)  
[tough sledding](#)

slower

[as slow as molasses in January](#)  
[breathe easy](#)  
[drop back](#)  
[ease up](#)  
[slo mo](#)  
[slow down](#)  
[slowpoke](#)

slowly

[break in](#)  
[die hard](#)  
[dilly-dally](#)  
[plug away](#)  
[slug away](#)  
[walk through](#)  
[warm up](#)

slowness

[as slow as a dead snail](#)

slug

[plug away](#)

small

[a drop in the bucket](#)  
[a hill of beans](#)  
[a paltry sum](#)  
[a pocket of resistance](#)  
[a short one](#)  
[a spot of tea](#)  
[a stitch in time saves nine](#)  
[a tempest in a teapot](#)  
[a token gesture](#)  
[bit by bit](#)

[bits and pieces](#)  
[cauliflower ear](#)  
[chicken feed](#)  
[cry over spilt milk](#)  
[don't make a mountain out of a molehill](#)  
[dust devil](#)  
[fib](#)  
[fly in the ointment](#)  
[greasy spoon](#)  
[have a sip](#)  
[jam](#)  
[just a smidgeon](#)  
[knee high to a grasshopper](#)  
[milk run](#)  
[nitpick](#)  
[odds and ends](#)  
[peanuts](#)  
[piddly](#)  
[pocket Hercules](#)  
[potlicker](#)  
[puddlejumper](#)  
[slip up](#)  
[so small you could barely swing a cat](#)  
[so small you had to back out to change your mind](#)  
[split hairs](#)  
[split second](#)  
[strip mall](#)  
[teeny-weeny](#)  
[the room is so small you have to go outside turn around](#)  
[the tip of the iceberg](#)  
[the world is your oyster](#)  
[tip of the iceberg](#)  
[touch up](#)  
[twerp](#)  
[two pee holes in the snow](#)  
[white lie](#)

smaller

[cut you down to size](#)

[take in](#)

smallest

[the runt of the litter](#)

smart

[a lot on the ball](#)[dense](#)[grey matter](#)[on the ball](#)[swift](#)[worldly wise](#)

smartass

[cocky](#)

smarter

[put on airs](#)[smarten up](#)

smashed

[looped](#)

smell

[a snootful](#)[a wake-up call](#)[all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy](#)[bad breath](#)[fishy](#)[give off an odor](#)

smelly

[jungle mouth](#)

smidgeon

[just a titch](#)

smile

[flash a smile](#)[keep a straight face](#)[wipe that smile off your face](#)

smiling

[rise and shine](#)[wipe that smile off your face](#)

smithwright

[eighty-six it](#)

smoke

[backroom boys](#)[chain smoker](#)[have a drag](#)[light up](#)[smoke like a furnace](#)[toke up](#)

smoking

[break a habit](#)[kick the weed](#)

smooth	<a href="#">as clean as a whistle</a> <a href="#">away to the races</a> <a href="#">blue sky</a> <a href="#">butter wouldn't melt in his mouth</a> <a href="#">like the wind</a> <a href="#">silver-tongued</a> <a href="#">slick</a> <a href="#">without a hitch</a>
smoothly	<a href="#">fine-tune</a> <a href="#">hit on all cylinders</a> <a href="#">like shit through a goose</a> <a href="#">on the rails</a> <a href="#">run amuck</a>
snack	<a href="#">a bite to eat</a> <a href="#">junk food</a>
snag	<a href="#">glitch</a>
snail	<a href="#">as slow as molasses in January</a>
snap	<a href="#">a piece of cake</a> <a href="#">there's nothing to it</a>
snapped	<a href="#">pissed to the gills [B]</a>
snappy	<a href="#">hurry up</a>
snatch	<a href="#">mount a comeback</a> <a href="#">pull it off</a>
snazzy	<a href="#">ritzy</a>
sneak	<a href="#">slip away</a>
snit	<a href="#">in a funk</a>
snitch	<a href="#">fink</a>
snobbish	<a href="#">high and mighty</a>

[high-hat](#)

[hoity-toity](#)

snowstorm

[a howling blizzard](#)

snowy

[it's raining/snowing](#)

so

[a three-bagger](#)

[an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure](#)

[bow out](#)

[calm down](#)

[can't see the forest for the trees](#)

[cheerio](#)

[choke](#)

[clear up](#)

[clear your head/mind](#)

[don't have a cow](#)

[don't think so](#)

[drive it home](#)

[Fibber McGee's closet](#)

[fly low](#)

[get a grip on yourself](#)

[give a little](#)

[got you by the balls \[B\]](#)

[it figures](#)

[lighten up](#)

[make a good impression](#)

[make myself clear](#)

[mayday \(m'aidez\)](#)

[mop the floor with us](#)

[no great shakes](#)

[pipe down](#)

[play a prank on](#)

[pull in your horns](#)

[rocks socks](#)

[rolling in the aisles](#)

[scared out of my wits](#)

[see me for dust](#)

[shit myself \[B\]](#)

[step aside](#)

[take it easy](#)

[the room is so small you have to go outside turn around](#)

[tone down](#)  
[toodles/toodle-oo](#)  
[who cares](#)  
[wipe out](#)  
[work my fingers to the bone](#)  
[yeppers](#)

so-so

[fair to middling](#)

sob

[cry her heart out](#)

sober

[draw a sober breath](#)

[sleep it off](#)

[sober up](#)

[walk a straight line](#)

sociable

[standoffish](#)

socialist

[pinko](#)

socialize

[get around](#)

sock

[hit me with your best shot](#)

[rocks socks](#)

soft

[an easy mark](#)

[bleeding heart](#)

[buyer's market](#)

[chaser](#)

[cushy](#)

[downplay](#)

[hard sell](#)

softer

[tone down](#)

softly

[feather a pass \(hockey\)](#)

software

[bootleg](#)

sold

[change hands](#)

[Cowntown](#)

[cut rate](#)

soldier

[an old warhorse](#)

[Johnny Canuck](#)

solemn

[word of honor](#)

solid

[as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar](#)

solitary

[in the hole](#)

solution

[stroke of genius](#)

[that's the ticket](#)

[work things out](#)

solve

[an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure](#)

[bail me out](#)

[crack this case](#)

[do the trick](#)

[have my work cut out](#)

[iron out](#)

[mend fences](#)

[smooth out](#)

[work it out](#)

some

[ante up](#)

[blow the lid off](#)

[break a story](#)

[catch some rays](#)

[catch some z's](#)

[drum up](#)

[eat it up](#)

[Fibber McGee's closet](#)

[get a fix](#)

[get a kick out of](#)

[have a bite](#)

[have a fix](#)

[have a heart](#)

[help yourself](#)

[hit and miss](#)

[hit the bar](#)

[in the throes](#)

[it goes with the territory](#)

[it takes two to tango](#)

[kick ass](#)  
[lose your touch](#)  
[onto something](#)  
[pony up](#)  
[ring leader](#)  
[sack out](#)  
[sell yourself short](#)  
[show promise](#)  
[take it with a grain of salt](#)  
[take time to smell the roses](#)  
[the benefit of the doubt](#)  
[tie up loose ends](#)  
[you don't miss the water till the well runs dry](#)

somebody

[take up the slack](#)  
[the cat's meow](#)  
[the shit hit the fan](#)

someone

[a contract out on](#)  
[a little bird told me](#)  
[a sight for sore eyes](#)  
[bad news](#)  
[bigmouth](#)  
[blue-collar worker](#)  
[bow out](#)  
[catch a ride](#)  
[cross someone](#)  
[do a favor](#)  
[double-cross](#)  
[doughhead](#)  
[feel a draft](#)  
[feel for](#)  
[flash a smile](#)  
[fool around](#)  
[get even](#)  
[get revenge](#)  
[give him the brush-off](#)  
[go to bat for](#)  
[good riddance](#)  
[green with envy](#)  
[has-been](#)  
[help out](#)

[it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all](#)

[kowtow](#)

[laugh up your sleeve](#)

[lend a hand](#)

[let down](#)

[let George do it](#)

[lift a finger](#)

[lucky dog](#)

[make a pass](#)

[make amends](#)

[match wits](#)

[new blood](#)

[no-show](#)

[open some doors](#)

[part with](#)

[pay a visit](#)

[pay my respects](#)

[pay tribute](#)

[piggyback](#)

[pirate](#)

[play a joke on](#)

[point a finger at](#)

[pop the question](#)

[press charges](#)

[puppy](#)

[put the heat on](#)

[raise your hand against](#)

[reduce to tears](#)

[shut-in](#)

[sit in judgement on](#)

[step aside](#)

[take a bullet](#)

[take advantage of](#)

[take care of](#)

[take my hat off to](#)

[take over](#)

[the acid test](#)

[the air was blue](#)

[the spitting image](#)

[throw insults](#)

something

[a bad taste in my mouth](#)

[a bone to pick](#)  
[a goner](#)  
[a keeper](#)  
[a party to that](#)  
[a pick-me-up](#)  
[a sight for sore eyes](#)  
[at a loss for words](#)  
[call it quits](#)  
[catch up on](#)  
[chow](#)  
[clouds on the horizon](#)  
[cover-up](#)  
[dig yourself in](#)  
[do yourself proud](#)  
[dog in the manger](#)  
[eye candy](#)  
[find my tongue](#)  
[fishy](#)  
[get caught](#)  
[get this show on the road](#)  
[give and take](#)  
[give it a whirl](#)  
[give my eye teeth](#)  
[give my right arm](#)  
[go off the deep end](#)  
[God bless the Duke of Argyle](#)  
[good riddance](#)  
[have a looksee](#)  
[have your cake and eat it, too](#)  
[in the mood](#)  
[je ne sais quoi](#)  
[jog your memory](#)  
[joker](#)  
[keep under wraps](#)  
[make an offer](#)  
[make my day](#)  
[makes no difference](#)  
[nosebag](#)  
[piano tied to your ass \[B\]](#)  
[pull that](#)  
[puppy](#)  
[put your foot in it](#)

[put your foot in your mouth](#)  
[red-faced](#)  
[run an errand](#)  
[sign out](#)  
[something is haywire](#)  
[something smells](#)  
[step out of line](#)  
[take a poke at](#)  
[take care of](#)  
[take chances](#)  
[take oath](#)  
[the sky isn't blue](#)  
[there's something fishy](#)  
[there's something rotten in the state of Denmark](#)  
[throw the baby out with the bath water](#)  
[turn-on](#)  
[watch your every move](#)  
[writer's block](#)  
[yellow belly](#)

sometimes

[as luck would have it](#)  
[sometimes life is a bucket of shit and the handle is inside \[B\]](#)  
[the best-laid plans of mice and men go oft astray](#)

somewhere

[hell bent for election](#)  
[kicking around](#)

son

[like father, like son](#)  
[the apple doesn't fall far from the tree](#)

song

[a hit](#)  
[chestnut](#)  
[tearjerker](#)

soon

[bye for now](#)  
[don't hold your breath](#)  
[in a jiffy](#)  
[in a sec](#)  
[in no time](#)  
[in the offing](#)  
[in two shakes \(of a lamb's tail\)](#)  
[jump the gun](#)

[lame duck](#)  
[light at the end of the tunnel](#)  
[not long for this world](#)  
[on a full stomach](#)  
[stag](#)

sophie

[between a rock and a hard place](#)  
[between the devil and the deep blue sea](#)

sophisticated

[cool](#)  
[hip](#)  
[square](#)  
[with it](#)

sore

[whore blossom](#)

soreness

[charley horse](#)

sorrow

[touch you](#)

sorrowful

[heavy heart](#)  
[sick at heart](#)

sorry

[afraid so](#)  
[shut my mouth](#)

soul

[made for each other](#)  
[rest his soul \(God rest his soul\)](#)  
[tell all](#)

souls"

[SOS](#)

sound

[bark is worse than his bite](#)  
[dead to the world](#)  
[deep sleep](#)  
[grunge \(music\)](#)  
[in the black](#)  
[let off steam](#)  
[like a broken record](#)  
[saw logs](#)  
[zoom](#)

sounding

[going to town](#)

soundly	<a href="#">sleep like a log</a>
soup	<a href="#">cheap like borsch</a>
sour	<a href="#">go bad</a> <a href="#">off</a>
source	<a href="#">bread and butter</a> <a href="#">cash cow</a> <a href="#">kill the goose that lays the golden eggs</a> <a href="#">the family jewels</a>
south	<a href="#">head down there</a> <a href="#">snowbirds</a>
southpaw	<a href="#">lefty</a>
space	<a href="#">a hollow leg</a> <a href="#">booked/booked up</a> <a href="#">elbow room</a> <a href="#">fill in</a> <a href="#">fill the gap</a> <a href="#">keep your distance</a> <a href="#">make room</a> <a href="#">yin yang</a>
spaced	<a href="#">stoned</a>
spade	<a href="#">doesn't mince words</a> <a href="#">in no uncertain terms</a> <a href="#">straight from the shoulder</a>
spare	<a href="#">and then some</a>
speak	<a href="#">a way with words</a> <a href="#">at liberty</a> <a href="#">cat got your tongue</a> <a href="#">don't get mad; get even</a> <a href="#">drag it out</a> <a href="#">flap your gums</a> <a href="#">go off half-cocked</a>

[have the floor](#)  
[hot and bothered](#)  
[it's your move](#)  
[learn your place](#)  
[make no bones about it](#)  
[nerves of steel](#)  
[quick on the draw](#)  
[say what's on your mind](#)  
[slip out](#)  
[snap at](#)  
[sound off](#)  
[speak out](#)  
[speak up](#)  
[speak your mind](#)  
[stand up for](#)  
[take your turn](#)  
[the ball's in your court](#)  
[the road to hell is paved with good intentions](#)  
[touch on](#)  
[wax eloquent](#)

speaker

[yours truly](#)

speaking

[by word of mouth](#)  
[get on with it](#)  
[not speaking](#)  
[on the outs](#)  
[so to speak](#)  
[speak of the devil](#)

special

[a red-letter day](#)  
[get high](#)  
[go out of your way](#)  
[it's a dilly](#)  
[it's a Duesey](#)  
[it's not a state secret](#)  
[je ne sais quoi](#)  
[no great shakes](#)  
[not so hot](#)  
[nothing to write home about](#)  
[prima donna](#)  
[roll out the red carpet](#)

[royal treatment](#)  
[take the trouble](#)  
[the cat's meow](#)  
[the in-crowd](#)  
[trade secret](#)

specific

[sharp](#)

spectacular

[nothing to write home about](#)  
[razzle-dazzle](#)

speech

[spin doctor](#)  
[wax eloquent](#)

speech-writing

[spin crew](#)

speed

[at a good clip](#)  
[do \(a speed\)](#)  
[fastball](#)  
[get up a head of steam](#)  
[hit speeds of](#)  
[in full flight](#)  
[neck and neck](#)  
[up to speed](#)

speeding

[faster than a minnow can swim a dipper](#)  
[greased lightning](#)  
[lightning fast](#)

spell

[break a spell](#)  
[put a hex on me](#)  
[set a spell](#)  
[under a spell](#)  
[visit a spell](#)

spend

[a fool and his money are soon parted](#)  
[blow a bundle](#)  
[blow your wad](#)  
[break the bank](#)  
[burn a hole in your pocket](#)  
[cheap](#)  
[chintzy](#)

[count your chickens before they hatch](#)[easy street](#)[hang out](#)[high roller](#)[hold the purse strings](#)[penny pincher](#)[pin money](#)[piss away \[B\]](#)[put in time](#)[shoot your wad](#)[stretch the dollar](#)[throw good money after bad](#)[tight/tight fisted](#)[tighten our belts](#)[you need money to make money](#)

spending

[a freeze on](#)[from hand to mouth](#)[penny wise, dollar dumb](#)[trickle-down economics](#)

spent

[cash flow](#)[have your cake and eat it, too](#)[hold the purse strings](#)[pad an expense account](#)[square deal](#)

spices

[spice up](#)

spiffy

[tiddly](#)

spill

[spill the beans](#)[spill your guts](#)[there's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip](#)

spin

[boggle your mind](#)[doctor it/doctor it up](#)[lay rubber](#)[put the right spin on it](#)[spin doctor](#)[wipe out](#)

spinny

[funny in the head](#)  
[over the rainbow](#)  
[wacko](#)

spirit

[under a spell](#)  
[wekabi](#)

spiritual

[cast a spell](#)

spitless

[frightened to death](#)  
[in a cold sweat](#)  
[quake in his boots](#)  
[scared out of my wits](#)  
[scared shitless \[B\]](#)

splashback

[feedback](#)

split

[before you can say Jack Robinson](#)  
[crack me up](#)  
[hoot](#)  
[in the wink of an eye](#)  
[kill ourselves laughing](#)  
[laugh yourself sick](#)  
[meet you half way](#)  
[part company](#)  
[put too fine a point on](#)

spoil

[go bad](#)  
[rain on their parade](#)

spoiled

[off](#)

spoke

[cooler heads prevailed](#)

spoken

[a slip of the tongue](#)  
[out loud](#)  
[under my breath](#)  
[upon the words offhandedly spoken](#)

sport

[cut a wide swath](#)  
[play to the crowd](#)  
[take a joke](#)

[workout](#)

spot

[bang on](#)

[bleeding heart](#)

[dead on](#)

[Hobson's choice](#)

[on the button](#)

[on the mark](#)

[on the money](#)

[the sweet spot](#)

[then and there](#)

spouse

[better half](#)

[fool around](#)

[have an affair](#)

[in the doghouse](#)

spray

[hose it down/ hose it off](#)

[wash it off](#)

spread

[get the word out](#)

[run rampant](#)

[serve notice](#)

[snowball](#)

[spread like wildfire](#)

spreading

[nip it in the bud](#)

squandered

[down the drain](#)

square

[a wash](#)

[back to the drawing board](#)

[be there or be square](#)

[even](#)

[square one](#)

[start from scratch](#)

[start over](#)

squarely

[get good wood on](#)

squeal

[blow the whistle](#)

[go wild](#)

[rat fink](#)  
[rat on](#)  
[shoot your mouth off](#)  
[snitch](#)  
[tell on](#)

squealer

[canary](#)

stability

[an even keel](#)

stable

[anchor you](#)  
[as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar](#)

stack

[flip your lid](#)  
[go through the roof](#)

stadium

[The Big O](#)

stage

[all the world's a stage](#)  
[front man](#)  
[get to first base](#)  
[play a bit-part](#)  
[spade work](#)  
[take the stage](#)

staggering

[walk a straight line](#)

stall

[hold up](#)

stand

[at ease](#)  
[back down](#)  
[be there for me](#)  
[fair-weather friend](#)  
[get in my face](#)  
[get out of the road](#)  
[give you the cold shoulder](#)  
[on the stand](#)  
[slo mo](#)  
[stand for](#)  
[stand up and be counted](#)  
[take it](#)

standard

[hard nosed](#)  
[raise the bar](#)  
[the going rate](#)  
[up to par](#)

standing

[two abreast](#)

standingwalking

[side by side](#)

star

[front man](#)  
[the best things in life are free](#)

stare

[give him the evil eye](#)

staring

[all eyes](#)

stark

[the full Monty](#)  
[without a stitch of clothes on](#)

start

[a head start](#)  
[a leg up](#)  
[a new lease on life](#)  
[all set](#)  
[back to square one](#)  
[boot up](#)  
[for crying out loud](#)  
[from the word go](#)  
[get busy](#)  
[get going](#)  
[get in on the ground floor](#)  
[get off to a good start](#)  
[get the drop on](#)  
[get the jump on](#)  
[get up on the wrong side of bed](#)  
[jump start](#)  
[kick start](#)  
[let her rip](#)  
[mark a watershed](#)  
[off to a bad start](#)  
[off to the races](#)  
[pick a fight](#)  
[right off the bat](#)

[set about](#)  
[set fire](#)  
[set in](#)  
[set off](#)  
[start from scratch](#)  
[start out](#)  
[start up](#)  
[start with a bang](#)  
[take the chill off](#)  
[the shit hit the fan](#)  
[touch off](#)

started

[get on your horse](#)  
[start a fire under him](#)  
[under way](#)

starting

[a fresh start](#)  
[asking price](#)  
[up and coming](#)

state

[as a matter of fact](#)  
[at sixes and sevens](#)  
[cutting edge](#)  
[frame of mind](#)  
[have a say](#)  
[in fact](#)  
[say your piece](#)  
[serve notice](#)  
[something smells](#)  
[take a stand](#)  
[the cutting edge](#)  
[top secret](#)

statement

[a downer \(sadness\)](#)  
[a little thick](#)  
[bafflegab](#)  
[baloney](#)  
[bunk](#)  
[grandfather clause](#)  
[grey area](#)  
[hard line](#)  
[hogwash](#)

[motherhood and apple pie](#)[point is well taken](#)[the last word](#)[top it off](#)[uptalk](#)[zinger](#)

stating

[get a ticket](#)

station

[turn yourself in](#)

stay

[a bed of roses](#)[break curfew](#)[cabin fever](#)[cocoon](#)[fish and company stink after three days](#)[get along](#)[grounded](#)[hang around](#)[hold a grudge](#)[hold down](#)[hole up](#)[if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen](#)[keep in line](#)[keep out](#)[keep up with the times](#)[keep your cool](#)[keep your nose clean](#)[lay low](#)[lay over](#)[love them and leave them](#)[make yourself scarce](#)[play hooky](#)[squat](#)[stay abreast](#)[stay put](#)[stick it out](#)[stick to it](#)[watch your step](#)[wear out your welcome](#)

steadily

[as busy as a beaver](#)

[go on about](#)  
[plug away](#)  
[slug away](#)  
[work your buns off](#)

steady

[keep an even keel](#)

steal

[clean me out](#)  
[pinch](#)  
[pirate](#)  
[rabbit](#)  
[scoff](#)  
[spirit away](#)

stealing

[on the take](#)  
[shoplifting](#)

steam

[into thin air](#)

steel

[got guts](#)

steering

[at the wheel](#)

step

[back to square one](#)  
[bottom rung](#)  
[bow out](#)  
[get the hang of](#)  
[get to first base](#)  
[gun it](#)  
[hit the brakes](#)  
[jump through hoops](#)  
[learn the ropes](#)  
[pick up the pace](#)  
[run roughshod](#)  
[set foot](#)  
[show you the ropes](#)  
[speed up](#)  
[spell out](#)  
[step on it](#)  
[think through](#)  
[trial run](#)  
[wait for the other shoe to drop](#)

[walk on eggshells](#)[watch your step](#)

stew

[in a snit](#)

stick

[lay the lumber](#)[put my neck on the line](#)[put them up](#)[shove it \[B\]](#)[suck the hind tit \[B\]](#)

stick-in-the-mud

[party-pooper](#)

stickhandle

[deked out of his jock](#)

stiff

[frightened to death](#)[hair stand on end](#)[jump out of your skin](#)[make your hair stand on end](#)[petrified](#)[scared spitless](#)[scared to death](#)

still

[a babe in arms](#)[have it both ways](#)[no news is good news](#)[none the worse for wear](#)[on parole](#)[slo mo](#)[so quiet you can hear a pin drop](#)[still wet behind the ears](#)[the tender age of](#)[tied to your mother's apron strings](#)

stimuli

[tits and ass \(T & A\) \[B\]](#)

stingy

[tight-ass \[B\]](#)

stink

[like a bat out of hell](#)[like hell \[B\]](#)[power to burn](#)

stitch

[an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure](#)  
[stark naked](#)

stock

[Black Friday](#)  
[play the stock market](#)

stolen

[dirty money](#)  
[hot goods](#)  
[kiss that one goodbye](#)  
[laundered money](#)

stomach

[breadbasket](#)  
[down the hatch](#)  
[on a full stomach](#)  
[on an empty stomach](#)  
[the pit of my stomach](#)  
[woozy](#)

stone

[a little thick](#)  
[dead as a doornail](#)  
[flattery will get you nowhere](#)  
[look high and low](#)

stoned

[high](#)  
[spaced out](#)  
[wasted](#)

stop

[a freeze on](#)  
[basta la musica](#)  
[break a habit](#)  
[break a spell](#)  
[break away](#)  
[break off](#)  
[breathe easy](#)  
[bring you up short](#)  
[bury the hatchet](#)  
[bushwhack](#)  
[buttonhole you](#)  
[buzz-kill](#)  
[call it quits](#)  
[call off the dogs](#)  
[can help it](#)

[can it](#)  
[can't help](#)  
[clam up](#)  
[cool it](#)  
[crack down on](#)  
[cut it out](#)  
[cut the crap \[B\]](#)  
[Denver boot](#)  
[die down](#)  
[down with](#)  
[drag race](#)  
[draw the line](#)  
[drop](#)  
[drop it](#)  
[drop out](#)  
[dry out](#)  
[dry up](#)  
[end up](#)  
[enough is enough](#)  
[fever breaks](#)  
[fits and starts](#)  
[fold](#)  
[forget it](#)  
[full blast](#)  
[get off my back](#)  
[get off my case](#)  
[get off your soap box](#)  
[get over](#)  
[get this monkey off my back](#)  
[give it a rest](#)  
[give out](#)  
[give up](#)  
[give up the ghost](#)  
[grind to a halt](#)  
[grinding halt](#)  
[hail a cab](#)  
[hit the brakes](#)  
[hold it](#)  
[joking aside](#)  
[kick a habit](#)  
[kick the weed](#)  
[knock it off](#)

[land up](#)  
[lay down your arms](#)  
[lay off](#)  
[lie down on the job](#)  
[milk run](#)  
[musical chairs](#)  
[nail him](#)  
[nip it in the bud](#)  
[over my dead body](#)  
[patch things up](#)  
[pit stop](#)  
[pull in your horns](#)  
[pull the plug](#)  
[put an end to](#)  
[put the kibosh on](#)  
[run its course](#)  
[set your mind at ease](#)  
[shut down](#)  
[shut your face](#)  
[sign off](#)  
[so help me](#)  
[stop at nothing](#)  
[stop on a dime](#)  
[stop you cold](#)  
[stop you in your tracks](#)  
[swallow your pride](#)  
[the point of no return](#)  
[throw down your arms](#)  
[time out](#)  
[time stands still](#)  
[too far gone](#)  
[tune me out](#)  
[upset the apple cart](#)  
[wake up](#)  
[wipe that smile off your face](#)

stoppage

[a freeze on](#)

stopped

[at rest](#)

[cut off](#)

[mugged](#)

[the bottom fell out](#)

[under arrest](#)

stopping

[on the go](#)

[straight up](#)

store

[backroom boys](#)

[cash and carry](#)

[loss leader](#)

[mind the store](#)

[off the shelf](#)

[set up shop](#)

[shoplifting](#)

[strip mall](#)

[wait on customers](#)

stories

[horse feathers](#)

[muckrake](#)

[there are two sides to every story](#)

storm

[a howling blizzard](#)

[the eye of the storm](#)

[think tank](#)

story

[a bunch of malarkey](#)

[a scandal is brewing](#)

[a snow job](#)

[an old warhorse](#)

[blow the lid off](#)

[break a story](#)

[bull/bullshit/BS \[B\]](#)

[call his bluff](#)

[chestnut](#)

[don't give me that line/story etc.](#)

[eat it up](#)

[give you a line](#)

[go into detail](#)

[hand you a line](#)

[lead you down the garden path](#)

[not by any stretch of the imagination](#)

[old wives' tale](#)

[on the edge of your seat](#)

[pull your leg](#)

[scandal is brewing](#)  
[scoop](#)  
[scoop them](#)  
[snow them](#)  
[sob story](#)  
[spin a yarn](#)  
[stretch the truth](#)  
[string a line](#)  
[tall tale](#)  
[tearjerker](#)  
[that's all she wrote](#)  
[that's stretching it](#)  
[the inside story](#)  
[the long and the short of it](#)  
[the lowdown](#)  
[the rest is history](#)  
[there's more than meets the eye](#)

stove

[warmed over](#)

straight

[call a spade a spade](#)  
[call his bluff](#)  
[doesn't mince words](#)  
[due north](#)  
[full strength](#)  
[hit me](#)  
[lay it on the line](#)  
[level with you](#)  
[make a beeline](#)  
[off kilter](#)  
[straight talk](#)  
[straighten you out](#)  
[the straight goods](#)  
[tunnel vision](#)  
[what's what](#)  
[winning isn't everything; it's the only thing](#)

strain

[crack under the strain](#)  
[pull a muscle](#)

strange

[a duke's mixture](#)  
[crackpot](#)

[creep](#)  
[dingbat/ding-dong](#)  
[geek](#)  
[get-up](#)  
[go off the deep end](#)  
[it's a whole nother world out there](#)  
[it's a whole other world out there](#)  
[mad as a hatter](#)  
[mad hatter](#)  
[rented lips](#)  
[spaced out](#)  
[there's something fishy](#)  
[there's something rotten in the state of Denmark](#)  
[thing-a-ma-bob / thing-a-ma-jig](#)  
[weirdo](#)

stranger

[a perfect stranger](#)  
[a total stranger](#)  
[joker](#)  
[make a good impression](#)  
[make strange](#)  
[strike up a conversation](#)

strangest

[that takes the cake](#)

strategy

[tip your hand](#)

straw

[have a sip](#)

streak

[on a roll](#)  
[string of good luck](#)

street

[bag lady](#)  
[bush telegraph](#)  
[cruise](#)  
[drive around](#)  
[flatfoot](#)  
[found money](#)  
[square up](#)  
[squat](#)  
[street wise](#)  
[worldly wise](#)

strength	<a href="#">ace in the hole</a> <a href="#">pocket Hercules</a> <a href="#">straight up</a> <a href="#">test your metal</a>
stress	<a href="#">a rough time of it</a> <a href="#">a tough time of it</a> <a href="#">cost you</a> <a href="#">cramp your style</a> <a href="#">put the heat on</a> <a href="#">under pressure</a> <a href="#">without turning a hair</a> <a href="#">work off</a>
stressed	<a href="#">climb the walls</a>
stretch	<a href="#">by no means</a> <a href="#">kick</a>
stretching	<a href="#">not by any stretch of the imagination</a> <a href="#">that's stretching it</a>
strictly	<a href="#">no nonsense</a>
stride	<a href="#">faze me</a>
strike	<a href="#">finish off</a> <a href="#">go for the jugular</a>
string	<a href="#">bean pole</a> <a href="#">lucky streak</a> <a href="#">tie up</a> <a href="#">wrap around his finger</a>
strip	<a href="#">full Monty</a> <a href="#">the full Monty</a>
stroke	<a href="#">a lucky break</a> <a href="#">hole in one (golf)</a>
strong	<a href="#">a run for your money</a> <a href="#">a tall one</a>

[buck up](#)  
[built like a brick shithouse \[B\]](#)  
[die hard](#)  
[feeling his oats](#)  
[firm market](#)  
[going great guns](#)  
[hang tough](#)  
[hard liquor](#)  
[love conquers all](#)  
[no let-up](#)  
[no match for](#)  
[pack a punch](#)  
[play the heavy](#)  
[rough and ready](#)  
[suck it up](#)  
[take heart](#)  
[two-fisted attack](#)  
[weak-kneed](#)  
[zinger](#)

stronger

[bigger than life](#)  
[blood is thicker than water](#)  
[toughen up](#)

strongest

[in your prime](#)  
[pecking order](#)

strongly

[dead set against](#)

struggle

[the bitter end](#)

stuck

[go nowhere fast](#)  
[sweet on](#)

student

[Christmas graduate](#)  
[handout](#)  
[jock](#)  
[liveware](#)  
[suckbucket](#)  
[the old college try](#)

study

[bone up on](#)

[burn the midnight oil](#)[crack a book](#)[hit the books](#)[read up on](#)

stuff

[Fibber McGee's closet](#)[kit and caboodle](#)[know the score](#)[monkey business](#)[shove it \[B\]](#)

stumble

[throw you](#)

stump

[hard put](#)

stunned

[on queer street](#)

stunning

[knockout](#)

stupid

[cut the crap \[B\]](#)[dense](#)[dipstick](#)[duh](#)[dumbo](#)[half-there](#)[shithead \[B\]](#)[smarten up](#)

sturdy

[built like a brick shithouse \[B\]](#)

style

[a bull in a china shop](#)[find your voice](#)[in a big way](#)[in a rut](#)[it works](#)[lead a life](#)[make a splash](#)[make an entrance](#)[on a silver platter](#)[the best of both worlds](#)

styled

[dolloed up](#)

stylish	<a href="#">groovy</a> <a href="#">snazzy</a>
subcompact	<a href="#">puddlejumper</a>
subculture	<a href="#">hip hop (generation)</a>
subject	<a href="#">a mental block</a> <a href="#">drop</a> <a href="#">hold forth</a> <a href="#">it was Greek to me</a> <a href="#">one-track mind</a> <a href="#">zoom in</a>
substance	<a href="#">all show</a> <a href="#">another nail in your coffin</a>
substitute	<a href="#">jury-rig</a> <a href="#">make do</a> <a href="#">pinch-hitter (baseball)</a> <a href="#">Plan B</a> <a href="#">stand in</a>
subtle	<a href="#">put out feelers</a>
suburbs	<a href="#">the burbs</a>
succeed	<a href="#">a golden opportunity</a> <a href="#">a snowball's chance in hell</a> <a href="#">bomb out</a> <a href="#">come off</a> <a href="#">even a blind pig can find an acorn</a> <a href="#">fall through</a> <a href="#">get ahead</a> <a href="#">get off the ground</a> <a href="#">go places</a> <a href="#">haven't got a hope in hell</a> <a href="#">last resort</a> <a href="#">late bloomer</a> <a href="#">make it big</a> <a href="#">more power to you</a>

[open some doors](#)  
[pan out](#)  
[piggyback](#)  
[pull it off](#)  
[self-made man](#)  
[step on people](#)  
[stop at nothing](#)  
[the heat is on](#)  
[the key to success](#)  
[where there's a will, there's a way](#)  
[work out](#)  
[you need money to make money](#)

succeeded

[she peed](#)

succeeding

[coming up roses](#)  
[going strong](#)  
[haven't got a hope](#)

success

[comeback kid](#)  
[future looks bright](#)  
[get off to a good start](#)  
[have it made](#)  
[high hopes](#)  
[make a comeback](#)  
[nothing succeeds like success](#)  
[own worst enemy](#)  
[rest on your laurels](#)  
[ride his coattails](#)  
[ride the wave](#)  
[toot your own horn](#)

successful

[don't count your chickens before they hatch](#)  
[get it together](#)  
[got it made](#)  
[keep your fingers crossed](#)  
[make something of yourself](#)  
[off to a good start](#)  
[something borrowed, something blue](#)  
[together](#)  
[you can't sell anybody if you don't love everybody](#)

successfully

[bring it off](#)  
[get off the ground](#)

succession

[a losing streak](#)  
[a lucky streak](#)

such

[get off your soap box](#)  
[such a card](#)

suck

[brown nose \[B\]](#)  
[butter up](#)  
[kowtow](#)  
[wait on you hand and foot](#)

sucker

[deke you](#)  
[one born every minute](#)  
[there's one born every minute](#)

sudden

[a crush on](#)  
[breakdown](#)  
[have an attack](#)  
[love at first sight](#)  
[play havoc with](#)

suddenly

[a blowout](#)  
[break into song](#)  
[break out](#)  
[fly off the handle](#)  
[havoc strikes](#)  
[let her rip](#)  
[lo and behold](#)  
[wake with a start](#)

sue

[take you to court](#)

suffer

[pay the price](#)  
[take your lumps](#)

suffering

[put out of its misery](#)

sufficient

[as useless as a fifth wheel](#)  
[last me](#)

sugar

	<a href="#">a sweet tooth</a>
suggest	
	<a href="#">begs the question</a> <a href="#">drop a hint</a> <a href="#">get at</a> <a href="#">hit the nail on the head</a> <a href="#">lay a trip</a> <a href="#">point a finger at</a> <a href="#">throw that in</a>
suggestions	
	<a href="#">food for thought</a>
suing	
	<a href="#">take you for all you've got</a>
suit	
	<a href="#">becomes you</a> <a href="#">didn't have a stitch of clothes on</a> <a href="#">full Monty</a>
suited	
	<a href="#">cut out for</a>
sum	
	<a href="#">chicken feed</a> <a href="#">peanuts</a>
summary	
	<a href="#">track record</a>
summer	
	<a href="#">dog days of summer</a>
sun	
	<a href="#">at first light</a> <a href="#">bag some rays</a> <a href="#">catch some rays</a> <a href="#">goodies</a> <a href="#">the best things in life are free</a>
sunglasses	
	<a href="#">shades</a>
sunset	
	<a href="#">golden years</a>
sunshine	
	<a href="#">bag some rays</a>
super	
	<a href="#">awesome</a> <a href="#">bonzer</a> <a href="#">lightning fast</a>

[mint condition](#)

supercharge

[hop up](#)[tweak](#)

superior

[a cut above](#)[a flash in the pan](#)[ego trip](#)[head and shoulders](#)[high handed](#)[kick ass](#)[look down on](#)[no great shakes](#)[not so hot](#)[the bee's knees](#)

superstar

[lesser lights](#)[who do you think you are](#)

supervise

[check up on](#)[ride herd](#)[take charge](#)

supervised

[on parole](#)

supervisor

[chief cook and bottle washer](#)[self-starter](#)

supper

[last call](#)

supplier

[corner the market](#)

supplies

[gear up](#)[gofer](#)[rabbit](#)

supply

[do me for/do me until](#)[lay on](#)[motherlode](#)[tide me over](#)

support

[back you](#)[backpack \(business\)](#)

[bring home the bacon](#)  
[buy into](#)  
[carry the day](#)  
[case in point](#)  
[down with](#)  
[fence sitter](#)  
[if you're not with us you're against us](#)  
[more power to you](#)  
[pull for](#)  
[pull the plug](#)  
[pull the rug out](#)  
[sell out](#)  
[stand up and be counted](#)  
[stand up for](#)  
[stick up for](#)  
[strike out on your own](#)  
[take sides](#)  
[up with](#)

supporters

[fifth column](#)

supporting

[on side](#)  
[on the bandwagon](#)  
[on your own](#)  
[on your side](#)

supportive

[be there for me](#)

sure

[a shoo-in](#)  
[a sure thing](#)  
[dead certain](#)  
[in deep trouble](#)  
[in the bag](#)  
[make a point of](#)  
[positive](#)  
[rest assured](#)  
[sure as hell](#)  
[without a doubt](#)  
[you can bet your bottom dollar](#)

surf

[hang ten \(surfing\)](#)

surface

[at face value](#)  
[you can't tell a book by its cover](#)

surprise

[all things being equal](#)  
[bowl me over](#)  
[catch me by surprise](#)  
[catch you off guard](#)  
[dark horse](#)  
[faze me out](#)  
[floor you](#)  
[freak/freak out](#)  
[jump](#)  
[knock your socks off](#)  
[play a prank on](#)  
[raised eyebrows](#)  
[throw a curve](#)

surprised

[blow me down](#)  
[by golly](#)  
[eat my hat/shirt](#)  
[find yourself](#)  
[flip](#)  
[knock me over with a feather](#)  
[shit myself \[B\]](#)  
[shit or wind my watch](#)

surprising

[good gravy](#)  
[sleeper](#)  
[you don't say](#)

surprisingly

[wonder of wonders](#)

survey

[surf the Net](#)

survive

[below the poverty line](#)  
[eke out a living](#)  
[haven't got a hope in hell](#)  
[keep your head above water](#)  
[know your way around](#)  
[make your way](#)  
[nine lives](#)  
[see you through](#)

[street smarts](#)  
[weather the storm](#)  
[worldly wise](#)

suspense

[a nail-biter](#)  
[on the edge of your seat](#)  
[wait with bated breath](#)  
[with bated breath](#)

swallow

[eat that](#)  
[hard to take](#)  
[wash it down](#)

swear

[the air was blue](#)  
[watch your language](#)  
[wouldn't say shit if her mouth was full of it \[B\]](#)

swearing

[the air was blue](#)

sweat

[break a sweat](#)  
[not to worry](#)  
[work up a sweat](#)

sweater

[stacked](#)  
[sweater girl](#)

sweep

[cover up](#)  
[winning streak](#)

sweet

[got a crush on](#)  
[sweet tooth](#)

sweetheart

[old flame](#)

sweetie

[honey](#)

swell

[slick](#)

swelled

[let it go to your head](#)  
[too big for his britches](#)

swerve

[cut off](#)

swift

[dense](#)

swimming

[skinny dip](#)

swindle

[shaft](#)

swindled

[been had](#)

swing

[the room is so small you have to go outside turn around](#)

switch

[boot up](#)

symbol

[pay my respects](#)[stand for](#)

sympathetic

[hard as nails](#)

sympathy

[bleeding heart](#)[cry me a river](#)[feel for](#)[have a soft spot for](#)[move you to tears](#)

symptoms

[a touch of](#)[full blown](#)

synchronicity

[double whammy](#)

system

[Internet](#)[log off](#)[log on](#)[Netwar](#)[running water](#)[trickle-down economics](#)[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Definition Index T

t

[The Group of Five/The Regina Five](#)  
[to a T](#)  
[to perfection](#)

tab

[put it on the bill](#)

table

[above board](#)  
[ante up](#)  
[buckstop \(military\)](#)  
[buy a round](#)  
[on the side](#)  
[set the table](#)

tail

[from stem to stern](#)  
[pony tail](#)  
[see me for dust](#)  
[tailgate](#)  
[the pope's nose](#)

take

[a bum rap](#)  
[a daredevil](#)  
[a grain of truth](#)  
[a pig in a poke](#)  
[all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy](#)  
[ass on the line](#)  
[beat your time](#)  
[choose sides](#)  
[clear out](#)  
[do drugs](#)  
[don't get me wrong](#)  
[drag it out](#)  
[drop a log \[B\]](#)  
[drop your drawers](#)  
[ease up](#)

[eat crow](#)  
[eighty-six it](#)  
[faze me](#)  
[fuck off \[B\]](#)  
[get along](#)  
[get in on it](#)  
[give him an inch and he'll take a mile](#)  
[glom onto](#)  
[go easy on](#)  
[go for a spin](#)  
[go jump in the lake](#)  
[go out on a limb](#)  
[go to hell \[B\]](#)  
[got the balls \[B\]](#)  
[grab a chair](#)  
[hard to swallow](#)  
[have a fix](#)  
[have a leak \[B\]](#)  
[have designs on](#)  
[hazard a guess](#)  
[help yourself](#)  
[kiss off](#)  
[look after](#)  
[lose out](#)  
[make off with](#)  
[milk it](#)  
[no rush](#)  
[out on a limb](#)  
[pass up](#)  
[pass water](#)  
[pinch](#)  
[pirate](#)  
[piss off \[B\]](#)  
[play it safe](#)  
[play second fiddle](#)  
[play with fire](#)  
[pound salt](#)  
[pull punches](#)  
[pull the rug out](#)  
[push the envelope](#)  
[rabbit](#)  
[run its course](#)

[seize the opportunity](#)  
[shoulder the blame](#)  
[skip out](#)  
[spirit away](#)  
[stand in](#)  
[step up to the plate](#)  
[take a boo](#)  
[take a dump \[B\]](#)  
[take a flight](#)  
[take a gander](#)  
[take a leak \[B\]](#)  
[take a look](#)  
[take a pee \[B\]](#)  
[take a picture](#)  
[take a piss \[B\]](#)  
[take a powder](#)  
[take a shit \[B\]](#)  
[take a shot](#)  
[take a stand](#)  
[take a whiz](#)  
[take five](#)  
[take it or leave it](#)  
[take pains](#)  
[take the blame](#)  
[take the bull by the horns](#)  
[take the flack](#)  
[take the rap](#)  
[take the trouble](#)  
[take umbrage](#)  
[take you for all you've got](#)  
[take you in](#)  
[tempt fate](#)  
[test the water](#)  
[the benefit of the doubt](#)  
[throw a game](#)  
[to go](#)  
[toy with](#)  
[try your luck](#)  
[whiz](#)  
[with wings](#)  
[word of honor](#)

[a raw deal](#)  
[been had](#)  
[bilk](#)  
[do a number on](#)  
[get screwed](#)  
[out of context](#)  
[photo op](#)  
[ripped off](#)  
[sucked in](#)  
[take-out restaurant](#)  
[taken for a ride](#)  
[taken in](#)  
[under arrest](#)

taken>q>

[sucker you](#)

takeoff

[a send-up](#)

taking

[a pig in a poke](#)  
[drop](#)  
[eh](#)  
[on approval](#)  
[out on a limb](#)  
[shoot-out \(sports\)](#)

talent

[ace in the hole](#)  
[hidden talent](#)  
[pure luck](#)  
[second nature](#)  
[the world is your oyster](#)

talented

[lesser lights](#)  
[no slouch](#)  
[pale by comparison](#)  
[shit hot \[B\]](#)  
[superstar](#)

talk

[a hot topic](#)  
[a lot of folderol](#)  
[all talk and no action](#)  
[an airhead](#)  
[beat around the bush](#)

[bigmouth](#)  
[bottle up](#)  
[break the silence](#)  
[bring up](#)  
[buttonhole you](#)  
[carry on](#)  
[catch you later](#)  
[chat her up](#)  
[chew the fat/ chew the rag](#)  
[clear the air](#)  
[come onto](#)  
[don't get smart with me](#)  
[don't give me any of your lip](#)  
[don't want to go there](#)  
[double-talk](#)  
[drop over](#)  
[fall on deaf ears](#)  
[fall to pieces](#)  
[fish or cut bait](#)  
[flap your gums](#)  
[gab](#)  
[get a hold of](#)  
[get it off your chest](#)  
[go on about](#)  
[hash it over](#)  
[have a word with you](#)  
[hit on](#)  
[hold forth](#)  
[hold your tongue](#)  
[hot air](#)  
[hush up](#)  
[keep quiet](#)  
[keep under wraps](#)  
[lip off](#)  
[lips are sealed](#)  
[loud mouth](#)  
[make a good impression](#)  
[make mention](#)  
[motormouth](#)  
[mouth off](#)  
[none of your lip](#)  
[on good terms](#)

[open up](#)  
[preach to the choir/preach to the converted](#)  
[pull punches](#)  
[put up or shut up](#)  
[rattle on](#)  
[rope into](#)  
[run off at the mouth](#)  
[shoot from the hip](#)  
[shoot the breeze](#)  
[shoot your mouth off](#)  
[shut up](#)  
[sing his praises](#)  
[small talk](#)  
[talk a mile a minute](#)  
[talk away](#)  
[talk is cheap](#)  
[talk it up](#)  
[talk shop](#)  
[talk the leg off the lamb of God](#)  
[talk through your hat](#)  
[talk your ear off](#)  
[talk your head off](#)  
[the gift of the gab \(the gift of gab\)](#)  
[the straight goods](#)  
[toot your own horn](#)  
[walk the talk](#)  
[when it comes to](#)  
[windbag](#)  
[yada](#)  
[yak](#)

talked

[hushed up](#)

talker

[butter wouldn't melt in his mouth](#)

[silver-tongued](#)

talking

[a hot number](#)

[a tongue-lashing](#)

[all wet](#)

[carry the conversation](#)

[chimo](#)

[clam up](#)

[cut off](#)  
[drop it](#)  
[dry up](#)  
[ears are burning](#)  
[feel a draft](#)  
[fish or cut bait](#)  
[go to bat for](#)  
[going to town](#)  
[pull a few strings](#)  
[shut your face](#)  
[sign off](#)  
[talk about](#)  
[talk away](#)  
[the talk of the town](#)

tall	
	<a href="#">bean pole</a>
taller	
	<a href="#">a pinch to grow an inch</a>
tan	
	<a href="#">catch some rays</a>
tank	
	<a href="#">a fill-up</a> <a href="#">brain storm</a> <a href="#">fill her up</a> <a href="#">hit the bricks</a> <a href="#">lush</a> <a href="#">think outside the box</a> <a href="#">wino</a>
tantrum	
	<a href="#">make a fuss</a>
tap	
	<a href="#">on tap</a> <a href="#">run a tub</a> <a href="#">running water</a>
tape	
	<a href="#">jump through hoops</a>
target	
	<a href="#">a sitting duck</a> <a href="#">get a shot at</a> <a href="#">on schedule</a>
task	
	<a href="#">a dickens of a time</a>

[a hard row to hoe](#)  
[a hell of a time](#)  
[a helping hand](#)  
[a piece of piss](#)  
[beat your head against a stone wall](#)  
[beg off](#)  
[bite off more than you can chew](#)  
[come through](#)  
[dirty work](#)  
[do a favor](#)  
[do the honors](#)  
[down to the short strokes](#)  
[drop the ball](#)  
[duty calls](#)  
[easy pickings](#)  
[finishing touch](#)  
[get blood from a stone](#)  
[half the battle](#)  
[hands on](#)  
[hard pressed](#)  
[have my work cut out](#)  
[joe-job](#)  
[look up a dead horse's ass \[B\]](#)  
[loose ends](#)  
[on my plate](#)  
[on the beat](#)  
[one hell of a time](#)  
[pissing into the wind \[B\]](#)  
[serve the purpose](#)  
[shooting fish in a barrel](#)  
[take the trouble](#)  
[the going gets rough](#)  
[work cut out for](#)

taste

[from hunger](#)  
[have a sip](#)  
[hit the spot](#)  
[yum](#)

tasty

[done to a turn](#)  
[yummy](#)

tat

[own medicine](#)

[what's good for the goose is good for the gander](#)

tattle

[fink](#)

[rat fink](#)

[snitch](#)

tattoo

[skin virgin](#)

tattooed

[skin virgin](#)

tea

[a spot of tea](#)

[not for all the tea in China](#)

teach

[die hard](#)

[show you the ropes](#)

[teach you the tricks of the trade](#)

teacher

[blow the whistle](#)

[hand in](#)

teaches

[courseware](#)

teakettle

[send him flying](#)

team

[choose sides](#)

[choose up sides](#)

[come onside](#)

[crack the line-up](#)

[good bet](#)

[jock](#)

[jump ship](#)

[kick some ass](#)

[make the team](#)

[no contest](#)

[no fair](#)

[plug the team](#)

[team up](#)

[throw a game](#)

[try out](#)

[underdog](#)

tears

[crocodile tears](#)  
[cry me a river](#)  
[pluck at the heart strings](#)  
[tearjerker](#)  
[this mortal coil](#)

tease

[give me a bad time](#)  
[give you a hard time](#)  
[give you a ribbing](#)  
[give you a rough time](#)  
[give you the gears](#)  
[josh](#)  
[kid](#)  
[make fun of](#)  
[pick on](#)

teasing

[a bad time](#)  
[a hard time](#)  
[a rough time](#)

technology

[cutting edge](#)  
[the cutting edge](#)

tee

[all teed up](#)  
[hole in one \(golf\)](#)

teed

[pissed \[B\]](#)  
[ticked off](#)

teenage

[hood](#)

teenager

[pimple pole](#)  
[puppy love](#)

teeny-weeny

[itsy-bitsy / itty-bitty](#)

teeth

[chops](#)  
[give an arm and a leg](#)  
[give my right arm](#)  
[piss like a race horse \[B\]](#)

telegraph

[through the grapevine](#)

telescope

---

[with the naked eye](#)

tell

[a cut-up](#)

[a penny for your thoughts](#)

[bare your soul](#)

[bawl me out](#)

[beauty is only skin deep](#)

[blab](#)

[blabbermouth](#)

[blow the lid off](#)

[blow the whistle](#)

[break a story](#)

[break off](#)

[break the silence](#)

[button your lip](#)

[call off the dogs](#)

[canary](#)

[come clean](#)

[come out with](#)

[crack a joke](#)

[cut to the chase](#)

[dates you](#)

[don't give me that line/story etc.](#)

[don't teach your grandmother how to suck eggs](#)

[draw it to my attention](#)

[eff 'im \[B\]](#)

[egg me on](#)

[fill me in](#)

[fink](#)

[get off a few good ones](#)

[get the word out](#)

[gimme a break](#)

[give it to him](#)

[give me a hint](#)

[give you a line](#)

[give you flack](#)

[go pound salt](#)

[go public](#)

[ham it up](#)

[hand you a line](#)

[hit me](#)

[jack me around](#)

[joke around](#)

[joker](#)

[keep a lid on it](#)

[keep a secret](#)

[keep it quiet](#)

[keep it to yourself](#)

[keep you on track](#)

[kid you not](#)

[King Shit on Turd Island](#)

[lead you down the garden path](#)

[leak](#)

[let me have it](#)

[let the cat out of the bag](#)

[let you have it](#)

[make a clean breast of it](#)

[mouth off](#)

[muckrake](#)

[mum's the word](#)

[point out](#)

[pour out your soul](#)

[preach to the choir/preach to the converted](#)

[pull your leg](#)

[put him in his place](#)

[put in a good word for](#)

[rat on](#)

[run it by me again](#)

[say the word](#)

[say your piece](#)

[set you straight](#)

[shoot](#)

[snitch](#)

[snow them](#)

[sock it to me](#)

[spare me](#)

[speak volumes](#)

[spill the beans](#)

[spill your guts](#)

[spin a yarn](#)

[spread the word](#)

[squeal](#)

[squealer](#)

[steal your thunder](#)

[straighten you out](#)  
[talk it up](#)  
[tell all](#)  
[tell him a thing or two](#)  
[tell him off](#)  
[tell him where to get off](#)  
[tell him where to go](#)  
[tell me another one](#)  
[tell on](#)  
[the fifth column](#)  
[there are two sides to every story](#)  
[to be perfectly honest](#)  
[turn yourself in](#)  
[under oath](#)  
[won't tell a soul](#)

telling

[beat around the bush](#)  
[cut the crap \[B\]](#)  
[honesty is the best policy](#)  
[you've got to be kidding](#)

temper

[blow up](#)  
[fly off the handle](#)  
[hold your temper](#)  
[hot tempered](#)  
[lose your cool](#)  
[throw a tantrum](#)

tempered

[a hothead](#)  
[short temper](#)

tempting

[phat](#)

ten

[do a dime](#)  
[first down/first and ten](#)  
[kill an elephant](#)

tendency

[a sharp tongue](#)  
[one-track mind](#)

tender

[still wet behind the ears](#)

tense

[uptight](#)  
[white knuckles](#)

tension

[break the ice](#)  
[with bated breath](#)

tenterhooks

[walk on eggshells](#)

term

[hit the bricks](#)  
[in the long haul](#)  
[sing his praises](#)

terminate

[fire](#)

terminated

[dead meat](#)

terrific

[wicked](#)

terrorist

[Netwar](#)

test

[behind the curve](#)  
[prepare like crazy](#)  
[put you through the mill](#)  
[suffer a setback](#)  
[take it for a spin](#)  
[test your metal](#)  
[the proof of the pudding is in the eating](#)  
[time's up](#)  
[try it out](#)

tested

[put to the test](#)  
[tried and true](#)  
[where the rubber hits the road](#)

testicle

[prairie oyster](#)  
[well hung \[B\]](#)

testifying

[on the stand](#)

textbook

[crack a book](#)

texture

[melt in your mouth](#)

than

[a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush](#)

[A-OK](#)

[a picture is worth a thousand words](#)

[a shadow of his former self](#)

[above and beyond the call of duty](#)

[actions speak louder than words](#)

[as sick as a parrot](#)

[ask for the moon](#)

[behind the curve](#)

[better late than never](#)

[better than a kick in the ass \[B\]](#)

[better the devil you know...](#)

[bigger than life](#)

[bite off more than you can chew](#)

[blood is thicker than water](#)

[blow it out of proportion](#)

[break curfew](#)

[break the record](#)

[circles around you](#)

[cut corners](#)

[cut rate](#)

[drink you under the table](#)

[drop back](#)

[faster than a minnow can swim a dipper](#)

[for good measure](#)

[get off your high horse](#)

[get the jump on](#)

[give 110%](#)

[give you odds](#)

[go the extra mile](#)

[greased lightning](#)

[high and mighty](#)

[in a split second](#)

[kill an elephant](#)

[knock your socks off](#)

[larger than life](#)

[lightning fast](#)

[mind boggling](#)

[musical chairs](#)

[not half bad](#)

[not too shabby](#)

[oodles](#)

[outdo yourself](#)  
[outplay](#)  
[pad an expense account](#)  
[piss pot full \[B\]](#)  
[run circles around you](#)  
[run short](#)  
[show you up](#)  
[slowpoke](#)  
[stretching it](#)  
[suck the hind tit \[B\]](#)  
[talk is cheap](#)  
[top that](#)  
[two heads are better than one](#)  
[two's company, three's a crowd](#)  
[up the wahoozey](#)  
[wouldn't be caught dead](#)  
[wouldn't miss it for the world](#)

thank

[a token gesture](#)  
[deserve credit](#)  
[hats off](#)  
[much obliged](#)  
[TGIF](#)  
[thank goodness](#)  
[thank heavens](#)  
[thanks a bunch](#)  
[thanks a million](#)  
[vote of thanks](#)  
[whew](#)

thankful

[much obliged](#)  
[thank goodness](#)  
[you can thank your lucky stars](#)

that

[a bad taste in my mouth](#)  
[a ball-park figure](#)  
[a blackout \(TV\)](#)  
[a blackout \(war\)](#)  
[a blank look](#)  
[a blessing in disguise](#)  
[a blowout](#)  
[a cliff-hanger](#)

[a common thread](#)  
[a contract out on](#)  
[a crash course](#)  
[a dead heat](#)  
[a double-edged sword](#)  
[a downer \(drug\)](#)  
[a downer \(sadness\)](#)  
[a fart in a windstorm](#)  
[a goner](#)  
[a hot number](#)  
[a hot ticket](#)  
[a lost cause](#)  
[a new lease on life](#)  
[a paper trail](#)  
[a pick-me-up](#)  
[a play on words](#)  
[a shoo-in](#)  
[a slip of the tongue](#)  
[a slippery slope](#)  
[a three-bagger \(baseball\)](#)  
[a tough act to follow](#)  
[a yawner](#)  
[all's fair in love and war](#)  
[along those lines](#)  
[an offer I couldn't refuse](#)  
[and that's that](#)  
[be my guest](#)  
[beater](#)  
[bet on a lame rooster](#)  
[big-sky thinking](#)  
[bite your tongue](#)  
[biter \(curling\)](#)  
[black eye](#)  
[body language](#)  
[breadbasket](#)  
[break off](#)  
[broken dreams](#)  
[bull/bullshit/BS \[B\]](#)  
[burn a hole in your pocket](#)  
[buy that](#)  
[by guess or by gosh](#)  
[by hook or by crook](#)

[by its very nature](#)  
[c'est la vie](#)  
[can't see the forest for the trees](#)  
[carry the can](#)  
[catch me doing that](#)  
[catch up on](#)  
[cauliflower ear](#)  
[chain letter](#)  
[chalk it up to](#)  
[chalk one up for you](#)  
[character assassination](#)  
[check that](#)  
[clunker](#)  
[come to terms with](#)  
[come to think of it](#)  
[corner you](#)  
[cotton to that](#)  
[count your chickens before they hatch](#)  
[courseware](#)  
[crank issue](#)  
[cross that bridge when I come to it](#)  
[cut it out](#)  
[damn the luck \[B\]](#)  
[dark horse](#)  
[darn right](#)  
[darn tooting](#)  
[Denver boot](#)  
[dig yourself in](#)  
[do the trick](#)  
[do yourself proud](#)  
[don't eat that](#)  
[don't give me that line/story etc.](#)  
[don't make me laugh](#)  
[don't make waves](#)  
[double whammy](#)  
[down with](#)  
[dust bunny](#)  
[ear candy](#)  
[eat that](#)  
[eat your heart out](#)  
[eye candy](#)  
[face up](#)

[fall for that](#)  
[famous last words](#)  
[feel free](#)  
[Fibber McGee's closet](#)  
[finishing touch](#)  
[fish for a compliment](#)  
[fuck that noise \[B\]](#)  
[fucked by the fickle finger of fate \[B\]](#)  
[Gang of Four](#)  
[Generation X](#)  
[get a load of that](#)  
[gimme a break](#)  
[give her credit](#)  
[give it a rest](#)  
[give notice](#)  
[give your word](#)  
[good on you](#)  
[good riddance](#)  
[good show](#)  
[grain belt](#)  
[grandfather clause](#)  
[greasy spoon](#)  
[hair off the dog that bit you](#)  
[hand me down](#)  
[hang on every word](#)  
[hard line](#)  
[hard skill](#)  
[have to hand it to you](#)  
[hear me out](#)  
[hold me responsible](#)  
[holy cow](#)  
[holy Moses](#)  
[hook, line and sinker](#)  
[hot off the press](#)  
[how about that](#)  
[how do you like them apples](#)  
[how does that grab you](#)  
[if that doesn't beat all](#)  
[in the mood](#)  
[inside joke](#)  
[is that so](#)  
[it's a whole nother world out there](#)

[it's a whole other world out there](#)  
[joe-job](#)  
[keep your fingers crossed](#)  
[kiss of death](#)  
[knock it off](#)  
[know better](#)  
[know which side your bread is buttered on](#)  
[laid off](#)  
[laundered money](#)  
[like a dirty shirt](#)  
[like it or lump it](#)  
[make a pass](#)  
[middle ground](#)  
[milk run](#)  
[Murphy's Law](#)  
[music to my ears](#)  
[my ass](#)  
[my eye](#)  
[new money](#)  
[odds and ends](#)  
[old money](#)  
[old wives' tale](#)  
[on the bubble](#)  
[on the spot](#)  
[onto us](#)  
[open to criticism](#)  
[pay back](#)  
[pay off](#)  
[pay tribute](#)  
[pen those words/lines](#)  
[phone-in](#)  
[point a finger at](#)  
[pointed questions](#)  
[promise the moon](#)  
[pull that](#)  
[put him in his place](#)  
[put in a good word for](#)  
[put my foot down](#)  
[put your foot in it](#)  
[put your foot in your mouth](#)  
[reach out](#)  
[relate to that](#)

[rented lips](#)  
[right on](#)  
[rumor has it](#)  
[rustbucket](#)  
[sacred cow](#)  
[second wind](#)  
[see to it/see to that](#)  
[seeing things](#)  
[sentence to death](#)  
[shareware](#)  
[shit myself \[B\]](#)  
[shooting fish in a barrel](#)  
[should be so lucky](#)  
[shove down my throat](#)  
[show promise](#)  
[slippery slope](#)  
[smooth sailing](#)  
[snatch victory from the jaws of defeat](#)  
[speak highly of](#)  
[string along](#)  
[swallow that](#)  
[swear by](#)  
[take a look](#)  
[take oath](#)  
[take-out restaurant](#)  
[take that](#)  
[tall tale](#)  
[tearjerker](#)  
[that takes the cake](#)  
[that'll be the day](#)  
[that'll be the frosty Friday](#)  
[that's a corker](#)  
[that's a crock \(of shit\) \[B\]](#)  
[that's all she wrote](#)  
[that's cool](#)  
[that's his bible](#)  
[that's life](#)  
[that's stretching it](#)  
[that's the ticket](#)  
[that's the way the ball bounces](#)  
[that's the way the cookie crumbles](#)  
[the balance of power](#)

[the call of duty](#)  
[the devil you say](#)  
[the dickens you say](#)  
[the fickle finger of fate](#)  
[the fifth column](#)  
[the inside story](#)  
[the lap of luxury](#)  
[the last straw](#)  
[the luck of the draw](#)  
[the Man in the Moon](#)  
[the one that got away](#)  
[the rabbit died](#)  
[the rest is history](#)  
[the spice of life](#)  
[the sweet spot](#)  
[the whole ball of wax](#)  
[then and there](#)  
[there you go](#)  
[throw that in](#)  
[to hell with that \[B\]](#)  
[toney neighborhood](#)  
[top that](#)  
[touch wood](#)  
[tough luck](#)  
[traffic jam](#)  
[trickle-down economics](#)  
[try that](#)  
[try that on for size](#)  
[turn-on](#)  
[twig to that](#)  
[underdog](#)  
[walk a straight line](#)  
[warped sense of humor](#)  
[what in the name of heaven](#)  
[what was I thinking of](#)  
[what's good for the goose is good for the gander](#)  
[what's the big idea](#)  
[white elephant](#)  
[wind up](#)  
[winning isn't everything; it's the only thing](#)  
[wipe out](#)  
[work ethic](#)

[work my fingers to the bone](#)  
[yonder over there](#)  
[you betcha](#)  
[you don't say](#)  
[young at heart](#)

that'll

[blue moon](#)

their

[dig in their heels](#)  
[don't borrow trouble](#)  
[freeze wages](#)  
[hip hop \(generation\)](#)  
[like father, like son](#)  
[live and let live](#)  
[love is blind](#)  
[rolling in the aisles](#)  
[the apple doesn't fall far from the tree](#)  
[there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so](#)  
[you have to be good to be lucky](#)

theme

[a common thread](#)

then

[charity begins at home](#)  
[on the spot](#)  
[one at a time](#)  
[one by one](#)  
[you had to be there](#)

theory

[cold comfort](#)  
[what-if](#)  
[where the rubber hits the road](#)

therapist

[shrink/head shrink](#)

there

[a few bricks short of a full load](#)  
[a scandal is brewing](#)  
[all's fair in love and war](#)  
[anything goes](#)  
[beat a dead horse](#)  
[check over](#)  
[feel the pinch](#)  
[fill the gap](#)

[first hand](#)  
[get in on the ground floor](#)  
[get out of the road](#)  
[head down there](#)  
[head up there](#)  
[hyah](#)  
[if the shoe fits, wear it](#)  
[in person](#)  
[it's a whole nother world out there](#)  
[it's a whole other world out there](#)  
[it's a zoo in there](#)  
[Johnny-come-lately](#)  
[Johnny on the spot](#)  
[kicking around](#)  
[like a dirty shirt](#)  
[miss out on](#)  
[musical chairs](#)  
[no chancy](#)  
[no news is good news](#)  
[not playing with a full deck](#)  
[on the brink](#)  
[on the spot](#)  
[one brick short of a full load](#)  
[put in time](#)  
[scandal is brewing](#)  
[something smells](#)  
[stand by me](#)  
[steer clear](#)  
[stick it out](#)  
[stick to it](#)  
[tear around](#)  
[that's all she wrote](#)  
[the air was blue](#)  
[the heat is on](#)  
[the lights are on but nobody's home](#)  
[the sky isn't blue](#)  
[the tide turned](#)  
[there you go](#)  
[there's a catch to it](#)  
[there's more than one way to skin a cat](#)  
[there's no two ways about it](#)  
[there's one born every minute](#)

[there's something fishy](#)  
[there's something rotten in the state of Denmark](#)  
[time ran out](#)  
[time's up](#)  
[when the crunch comes](#)  
[when the going gets tough](#)  
[you had to be there](#)

these

[neck of the woods](#)  
[these parts](#)

thesis

[case in point](#)

thethe

[straight talk](#)

thick

[for better or worse](#)  
[greasy kid's stuff](#)  
[lay it on](#)

thieving

[cotton-picking](#)

thin

[a shadow of his former self](#)  
[bean pole](#)  
[for better or worse](#)  
[spirit away](#)  
[string bean](#)  
[wear out](#)  
[work my fingers to the bone](#)

thing

[a bull in a china shop](#)  
[a dog's breakfast](#)  
[a duke's mixture](#)  
[a piece of piss](#)  
[a sharp wit](#)  
[a shoo-in](#)  
[act up](#)  
[all hell broke loose](#)  
[all that jazz](#)  
[all things being equal](#)  
[all's well that ends well](#)  
[and stuff](#)  
[badmouth](#)

[bare bones](#)  
[beggars can't be choosers](#)  
[being there](#)  
[black sheep](#)  
[bozo](#)  
[character assassination](#)  
[cut a wide swath](#)  
[cut the crap \[B\]](#)  
[ditto](#)  
[do-funny](#)  
[easy come, easy go](#)  
[every cloud has a silver lining](#)  
[everything from soup to nuts](#)  
[first off](#)  
[first up](#)  
[flattery will get you nowhere](#)  
[get even](#)  
[get into trouble](#)  
[go out of your way](#)  
[high on the hog](#)  
[hold the fort](#)  
[if a mussel doesn't open don't eat it](#)  
[in agreement](#)  
[in step](#)  
[in the bag](#)  
[it takes two to tango](#)  
[lead you on](#)  
[let sleeping dogs lie](#)  
[loud mouth](#)  
[money is the root of all evil](#)  
[onto us](#)  
[pay a compliment](#)  
[play my cards right](#)  
[play with fire](#)  
[push the right buttons](#)  
[put a different slant on it](#)  
[put things in perspective](#)  
[putting on the ritz](#)  
[right off the bat](#)  
[rock the boat](#)  
[seeing things](#)  
[set the world on fire](#)

[show you around](#)  
[shuffle the chairs on the deck](#)  
[small potatoes](#)  
[something borrowed, something blue](#)  
[sweeten the pot](#)  
[talk through your hat](#)  
[that's the way the cookie crumbles](#)  
[the devil makes work for idle hands](#)  
[the grass is greener on the other side of the fence](#)  
[the life of Riley](#)  
[the real McCoy](#)  
[the spice of life](#)  
[the turning point](#)  
[the whole ball of wax](#)  
[throw insults](#)  
[to each his own](#)  
[trade insults](#)  
[twist of fate](#)  
[up to no good](#)  
[warped sense of humor](#)  
[when in Rome, do as the Romans do](#)  
[where it's at](#)  
[winning isn't everything; it's the only thing](#)  
[you don't miss the water till the well runs dry](#)

thing-a-ma-bob

[do-funny](#)

thing-a-ma-jig

[what-cha-ma-call-it](#)

think

[at a loss for words](#)  
[be there or be square](#)  
[big-sky thinking](#)  
[brain storm](#)  
[bring you up short](#)  
[clear your head/mind](#)  
[collect my thoughts](#)  
[come up with](#)  
[dawn on me](#)  
[don't think so](#)  
[doughhead](#)  
[draw a blank](#)  
[dumbbell](#)

[find my tongue](#)  
[get your head together](#)  
[hit on](#)  
[hold the phone](#)  
[in heaven's name](#)  
[keep you in mind](#)  
[keep your head](#)  
[knucklehead](#)  
[lose it](#)  
[lose your head](#)  
[lose your tongue](#)  
[losing it](#)  
[mind go blank](#)  
[mull over](#)  
[one-track mind](#)  
[point of view](#)  
[popcorn brain](#)  
[presence of mind](#)  
[pull your chain](#)  
[push the envelope](#)  
[pussyfoot around](#)  
[put to rest](#)  
[rack my brain](#)  
[say my piece](#)  
[say your piece](#)  
[scared out of my wits](#)  
[second guess](#)  
[sharp as a tack](#)  
[sharpen up](#)  
[slap my afro / slap my fro](#)  
[speak out](#)  
[speak your mind](#)  
[take leave of your senses](#)  
[tell him where to get off](#)  
[think outside the box](#)  
[think over](#)  
[think straight](#)  
[think through](#)  
[twig to that](#)  
[wait a minute](#)  
[who do you think you are](#)  
[writer's block](#)

---

thinker	<a href="#">lamebrain</a> <a href="#">mind of his own</a>
thinking	<a href="#">a penny for your thoughts</a> <a href="#">an airhead</a> <a href="#">best interests at heart</a> <a href="#">big-sky thinking</a> <a href="#">blurt out</a> <a href="#">dense</a> <a href="#">go off half-cocked</a> <a href="#">hemming and hahing</a> <a href="#">in mind</a> <a href="#">mind in neutral</a> <a href="#">off the cuff</a> <a href="#">off the top of my head</a> <a href="#">out of your mind</a> <a href="#">read you</a> <a href="#">reject out of hand</a> <a href="#">say what's on your mind</a> <a href="#">shoot from the hip</a> <a href="#">shoot your mouth off</a> <a href="#">slip out</a> <a href="#">think outside the box</a> <a href="#">think tank</a> <a href="#">warped sense of humor</a> <a href="#">young at heart</a>
third	<a href="#">a three-bagger (baseball)</a> <a href="#">grill you</a> <a href="#">haul up on the carpet</a> <a href="#">on the carpet</a> <a href="#">pointed questions</a> <a href="#">two's company, three's a crowd</a>
thirst	<a href="#">wet your whistle</a>
thirsty	<a href="#">work up a thirst</a>
thirties	<a href="#">dirty thirties</a>
this	<a href="#">at this point in time</a>

[be my guest](#)  
[begs the question](#)  
[blow this joint](#)  
[blow this Popsicle stand](#)  
[buy a round](#)  
[by gosh](#)  
[check this out](#)  
[eyeball this](#)  
[eyes glaze over](#)  
[have a mind to](#)  
[have one on me](#)  
[hold it](#)  
[how do you like them apples](#)  
[in these parts](#)  
[it appears to me](#)  
[it has your name on it](#)  
[it occurs to me](#)  
[it strikes me](#)  
[keep it up](#)  
[make my day](#)  
[mum's the word](#)  
[open season](#)  
[peep this](#)  
[quit this place](#)  
[sheesh](#)  
[so far, so good](#)  
[so much as](#)  
[take it](#)  
[take it or leave it](#)  
[take this job and shove it \[B\]](#)  
[TGIF](#)  
[this one is on me](#)  
[to the best of my knowledge](#)  
[up with](#)  
[upon my word](#)  
[vale of tears \(valley of tears\)](#)  
[wait a minute](#)  
[what in tarnation](#)  
[when it comes to](#)  
[wind up](#)

thoroughly

[but good](#)

[prepare like crazy](#)

those

[chain of command](#)

[in his good books](#)

[in that vein](#)

[inside information](#)

[inside joke](#)

[pen those words/lines](#)

[the underground](#)

though

[look down your nose at](#)

[make yourself at home](#)

[tempt fate](#)

thought

[a faraway look](#)

[brain traffic](#)

[collect my thoughts](#)

[come to think of it](#)

[drive you to distraction](#)

[I smell where you're stepping](#)

[in the gutter](#)

[it occurs to me](#)

[lose my train of thought](#)

[offhand](#)

[under my skin](#)

thousands

[megabucks](#)

thread

[rags](#)

[the eye of a needle](#)

threat

[an offer I couldn't refuse](#)

threaten

[rattle sabres](#)

threatening

[a false move](#)

three

[a full house \(cards\)](#)

[a three-bagger](#)

[hat trick](#)

[power play \(hockey\)](#)

[two's company, three's a crowd](#)

thrifty	<a href="#">penny pincher</a>
thrill	<a href="#">what a rush</a>
throat	<a href="#">dig your own grave</a> <a href="#">down the hatch</a>
throttle	<a href="#">full steam ahead</a>
through	<a href="#">brain traffic</a> <a href="#">bush telegraph</a> <a href="#">by word of mouth</a> <a href="#">come to fruition</a> <a href="#">drop the ball</a> <a href="#">dry run</a> <a href="#">follow through</a> <a href="#">for better or worse</a> <a href="#">go through</a> <a href="#">have a drag</a> <a href="#">have a sip</a> <a href="#">make good</a> <a href="#">pass through</a> <a href="#">peek-a-boo</a> <a href="#">put out feelers</a> <a href="#">rumor has it</a> <a href="#">run a red light</a> <a href="#">run down</a> <a href="#">run the gauntlet</a> <a href="#">run through</a> <a href="#">see it through</a> <a href="#">take its course</a> <a href="#">take your lumps</a> <a href="#">through the grapevine</a> <a href="#">through the mill</a> <a href="#">weather the storm</a>
throw	<a href="#">a good arm</a> <a href="#">barf</a> <a href="#">blow a kiss</a> <a href="#">blow chunks</a> <a href="#">blow it out your ear</a>

[burn it in](#)  
[bury the hatchet](#)  
[come down hard](#)  
[do away with](#)  
[faze me out](#)  
[get rid of](#)  
[hang you out to dry](#)  
[hork](#)  
[it phased me out](#)  
[junk it](#)  
[make a fuss](#)  
[monkeywrenching](#)  
[ralph](#)  
[reject out of hand](#)  
[sick to my stomach](#)  
[smithwright it](#)  
[take a dive](#)  
[throw away](#)  
[throw out](#)  
[throw the baby out with the bath water](#)  
[turf it](#)

thumb

[a pinch of salt](#)  
[all thumbs](#)

thwarts

[a thorn in my side](#)

ticked

[browned off](#)  
[cheesed off](#)  
[miffed](#)  
[pissed off \[B\]](#)  
[put out about](#)  
[teed off](#)

ticket

[a pop](#)  
[check your bags](#)  
[do the trick](#)  
[freebie](#)  
[pay the shot](#)

tickety-boo

[apple-pie order](#)  
[shipshape](#)

tiddly	<a href="#">spiffy</a>
tide	<a href="#">do me for/do me until</a> <a href="#">last me</a>
tidy	<a href="#">spiffy</a> <a href="#">tiddly</a>
tie	<a href="#">a dead heat</a> <a href="#">give you hell [B]</a> <a href="#">odds and ends</a> <a href="#">ream out</a> <a href="#">saw-off</a> <a href="#">tie up</a>
tied	<a href="#">dead even</a>
tight	<a href="#">camel toes [B]</a> <a href="#">cheap</a> <a href="#">chintzy</a> <a href="#">Hobson's choice</a> <a href="#">sweater girl</a> <a href="#">tight-ass [B]</a> <a href="#">zip</a>
tight-ass	<a href="#">cheap skate</a>
tighten	<a href="#">do up</a> <a href="#">take in</a>
tightly	<a href="#">chockablock</a>
tilt	<a href="#">full out</a>
time	<a href="#">a bad time</a> <a href="#">a blast</a> <a href="#">a dickens of a time</a> <a href="#">a dog's age</a> <a href="#">a dog's life</a> <a href="#">a drag</a> <a href="#">a hard time</a> <a href="#">a hell of a time</a>

[a hoot](#)

[a keeper](#)

[a losing streak](#)

[a lucky streak](#)

[a month of Sundays](#)

[a quick study](#)

[a quickie](#)

[a riot](#)

[a rough time of it](#)

[a sharp wit](#)

[a tough time of it](#)

[a wild goose chase](#)

[about time](#)

[all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy](#)

[an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure](#)

[at once](#)

[at one time](#)

[at this point in time](#)

[bat a thousand](#)

[bat five hundred](#)

[before you can say Jack Robinson](#)

[being there](#)

[bit by bit](#)

[blue in the face](#)

[breathe a sigh of relief](#)

[buy time](#)

[buyer's market](#)

[by and large](#)

[cash on the barrelhead](#)

[catch a glimpse](#)

[collecting dust](#)

[cost you](#)

[cut it a little fine](#)

[cut me some slack](#)

[do a dime](#)

[downtime](#)

[drag it out](#)

[drag on](#)

[enough is enough](#)

[Fletcherize your food](#)

[for a dog's age](#)

[for better or worse](#)

[for long](#)  
[for the fun of it](#)  
[forever and a day](#)  
[fun and games](#)  
[get down to business](#)  
[give me a bad time](#)  
[give up the ghost](#)  
[give you a ribbing](#)  
[golden age](#)  
[had it up to here](#)  
[hang out](#)  
[happy camper](#)  
[hard times](#)  
[hassle me](#)  
[have fun](#)  
[high time](#)  
[hold a grudge](#)  
[how time flies](#)  
[if you're born to hang, you won't drown](#)  
[in a bit](#)  
[in a coon's age](#)  
[in a flash](#)  
[in dribs and drabs](#)  
[in the nick of time](#)  
[in time](#)  
[it ain't over till it's over](#)  
[it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all](#)  
[it never fails](#)  
[just in time](#)  
[kill an elephant](#)  
[kill time](#)  
[lean times](#)  
[let the good times roll](#)  
[little by little](#)  
[lollygag](#)  
[long time no see](#)  
[lose time](#)  
[make good time](#)  
[make hay while the sun shines](#)  
[mean streak](#)  
[nine times out of ten](#)  
[no rush](#)

[on the clock](#)  
[on the dot](#)  
[on the spot](#)  
[on time](#)  
[once in a blue moon](#)  
[once upon a time](#)  
[one by one](#)  
[one hell of a time](#)  
[open season](#)  
[pinpoint](#)  
[put in time](#)  
[put you through the mill](#)  
[rise to the occasion](#)  
[roll around](#)  
[save a bundle](#)  
[save for a rainy day](#)  
[saw sawdust](#)  
[seller's market](#)  
[sharp](#)  
[slo mo](#)  
[sound bite](#)  
[spend time](#)  
[split second](#)  
[strike while the iron is hot](#)  
[take advantage of](#)  
[take pains](#)  
[take time to smell the roses](#)  
[take your time](#)  
[talk your ear off](#)  
[the bitter end](#)  
[the breaking point](#)  
[the calm before the storm](#)  
[the crunch](#)  
[the day of the family farm](#)  
[the end of the line](#)  
[the moment of truth](#)  
[the point of no return](#)  
[the runt of the litter](#)  
[then and there](#)  
[through thick and thin](#)  
[till hell freezes over](#)  
[till the cows come home](#)

[time and again](#)  
[time flies when you're having fun](#)  
[time is money](#)  
[time on your hands](#)  
[time ran out](#)  
[time to kill](#)  
[time's a wasting](#)  
[time's up](#)  
[times were hard](#)  
[tough times](#)  
[under the wire](#)  
[wait a minute](#)  
[weather the storm](#)  
[your number is up](#)

timid

[faint of heart](#)  
[no shrinking violet](#)

tinted

[shades](#)

tiny

[a drop in the bucket](#)  
[birdbrain](#)  
[itsy-bitsy / itty-bitty](#)  
[just a titch](#)  
[piddly](#)  
[pipsqueak](#)  
[salt away](#)  
[so small you had to back out to change your mind](#)  
[teeny-weeny](#)  
[two pee holes in the snow](#)

tip

[a drop in the bucket](#)  
[bend your elbow](#)  
[make a difference](#)  
[pat on the back](#)  
[the balance of power](#)  
[the turning point](#)  
[tump](#)  
[vote of thanks](#)  
[weigh in at](#)

tipsy

[a glow on](#)

[buzzed](#)  
[had a couple](#)

tire

[a blowout](#)  
[have a flat](#)

tired

[all in](#)  
[at my wits' end](#)  
[blue in the face](#)  
[born tired](#)  
[brain is fried](#)  
[bushed](#)  
[dead tired](#)  
[dog tired](#)  
[done in](#)  
[fed up](#)  
[frazzled](#)  
[fresh legs](#)  
[look like he was dragged through a knothole](#)  
[on his last legs](#)  
[overdo it](#)  
[play out](#)  
[run down](#)  
[run you ragged](#)  
[sick of](#)  
[sleepy head](#)  
[till you're blue in the face](#)  
[tired out](#)  
[worn out](#)  
[zonked](#)

tit

[belly up](#)  
[boobs \[B\]](#)  
[own medicine](#)  
[what's good for the goose is good for the gander](#)

title

[The Great White Hope](#)

tizzy

[in a stew](#)

to

[a bar fly](#)  
[a bar star](#)

[a bed of roses](#)  
[a blackout \(TV\)](#)  
[a blackout \(war\)](#)  
[a blow job \[B\]](#)  
[a blowout](#)  
[a bone to pick](#)  
[a budding genius](#)  
[a close call](#)  
[a close shave](#)  
[a common thread](#)  
[a contract out on](#)  
[a feather in your cap](#)  
[a fly on the wall](#)  
[a free hand](#)  
[a freeze on](#)  
[a full plate](#)  
[a ghost of a chance](#)  
[a golden opportunity](#)  
[a good arm](#)  
[a handful](#)  
[a head start](#)  
[a keeper](#)  
[a kept woman](#)  
[a little steep](#)  
[a pack of lies](#)  
[a party to that](#)  
[a picture is worth a thousand words](#)  
[a piece of cake](#)  
[a piece of piss](#)  
[a pinch to grow an inch](#)  
[a quick study](#)  
[a sad sack](#)  
[a score to settle](#)  
[a sharp tongue](#)  
[a sharp wit](#)  
[a shoo-in](#)  
[a sight for sore eyes](#)  
[a sitting duck](#)  
[a slim chance](#)  
[a slippery slope](#)  
[a snootful](#)  
[a snowball's chance in hell](#)

[a sucker for punishment](#)  
[a suicide pass \(hockey\)](#)  
[a sure bet](#)  
[a sure thing](#)  
[a sweet tooth](#)  
[a takeoff on](#)  
[a three-bagger \(baseball\)](#)  
[a tongue-lashing](#)  
[a tough act to follow](#)  
[a way with words](#)  
[above the law](#)  
[according to Hoyle](#)  
[across the board](#)  
[after all](#)  
[against all odds](#)  
[age before beauty](#)  
[all ears](#)  
[all hat and no cattle](#)  
[all it's cracked up to be](#)  
[all set](#)  
[all things to all people](#)  
[all thumbs](#)  
[all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy](#)  
[all's fair in love and war](#)  
[an ace up your sleeve](#)  
[an axe to grind](#)  
[an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure](#)  
[and then some](#)  
[anything goes](#)  
[armed to the teeth](#)  
[as a matter of fact](#)  
[as all get-out](#)  
[as far as I know](#)  
[as plain as day](#)  
[as plain as the nose on your face](#)  
[as sure as shit](#)  
[asking price](#)  
[at a loss for words](#)  
[at fault](#)  
[at least](#)  
[at liberty](#)  
[at loggerheads](#)

[at loose ends](#)  
[at your fingertips](#)  
[back at it](#)  
[back at ya](#)  
[back down](#)  
[back out](#)  
[back teeth are floating](#)  
[back to square one](#)  
[back to the drawing board](#)  
[back to the grind](#)  
[bag of tricks](#)  
[bail me out](#)  
[bam](#)  
[bankroll](#)  
[be-all, end-all](#)  
[beat a dead horse](#)  
[become of](#)  
[bed down](#)  
[beg off](#)  
[belly up to the bar](#)  
[below the poverty line](#)  
[bend over backwards](#)  
[bend the rules](#)  
[bend your ear](#)  
[better late than never](#)  
[between the devil and the deep blue sea](#)  
[betwixt and between](#)  
[big-sky thinking](#)  
[bigger fish to fry](#)  
[bite the hand that feeds you](#)  
[black eye](#)  
[black-listed](#)  
[blood is up](#)  
[blood money](#)  
[bombed](#)  
[boot it](#)  
[born with a silver spoon in his mouth](#)  
[bottle drive](#)  
[bottom out](#)  
[break a spell](#)  
[break a story](#)  
[break a sweat](#)

[break and enter](#)  
[break into](#)  
[break into song](#)  
[break off](#)  
[break your heart](#)  
[bring up](#)  
[bring you up short](#)  
[browbeat](#)  
[brown nose \[B\]](#)  
[buck fever](#)  
[bug \(someone\)](#)  
[bump and grind \(hockey\)](#)  
[burn a hole in your pocket](#)  
[burn it in](#)  
[burn your bridges](#)  
[bust my butt](#)  
[butter fingers](#)  
[butter up](#)  
[buttonhole you](#)  
[buy into](#)  
[buy time](#)  
[by the same token](#)  
[by the way](#)  
[by word of mouth](#)  
[cabin fever](#)  
[call attention to](#)  
[call his bluff](#)  
[call off the dogs](#)  
[can't have it both ways](#)  
[capture the imagination](#)  
[car buff](#)  
[carry the conversation](#)  
[cascade \(business\)](#)  
[case in point](#)  
[cash on the barrelhead](#)  
[cash on the line](#)  
[cast a spell](#)  
[catch a buzz](#)  
[catch a plane/bus/train](#)  
[catch on](#)  
[catch up with](#)  
[catch you later](#)

[catch your eye](#)  
[caught flatfooted](#)  
[cave in](#)  
[chain letter](#)  
[chalk it up to](#)  
[change of heart](#)  
[chaser](#)  
[chasing rainbows](#)  
[chat her up](#)  
[cheap](#)  
[check up on](#)  
[check your bags](#)  
[cheers](#)  
[chill out](#)  
[chime in](#)  
[chimo](#)  
[chintzy](#)  
[chip in](#)  
[chock full](#)  
[chomping at the bit](#)  
[choose up sides](#)  
[chow](#)  
[claim to fame](#)  
[clear as a bell](#)  
[close a deal/sale](#)  
[cocoon](#)  
[cold call](#)  
[come across](#)  
[come across \[B\]](#)  
[come around](#)  
[come back to haunt you](#)  
[come naturally](#)  
[come of age](#)  
[come-on](#)  
[come onto](#)  
[come to a head](#)  
[come to the point](#)  
[come true](#)  
[come undone](#)  
[comeback kid](#)  
[common sense](#)  
[cool under pressure](#)

[cotton to that](#)

[crack under the strain](#)

[crash](#)

[crash a party](#)

[crawl on my hands and knees over broken glass just to see her photo](#)

[cut him off \[B\]](#)

[cut me to the quick](#)

[cut off](#)

[cut out for](#)

[cut to the chase](#)

[damn you \[B\]](#)

[dampen your spirits](#)

[dance with the one who brought you](#)

[darken a church door](#)

[date](#)

[dawn on me](#)

[dead in the water](#)

[dead set against](#)

[deadbeat](#)

[deal me in](#)

[death row](#)

[death wish](#)

[die hard](#)

[different strokes for different folks](#)

[dig in](#)

[dig it up](#)

[dig/dig it](#)

[dimwit](#)

[dipstick](#)

[ditto](#)

[do me](#)

[do or die](#)

[do unto others as you would have them do unto you](#)

[don't count your chickens before they hatch](#)

[don't give me any of your lip](#)

[don't hold your breath](#)

[don't push your luck](#)

[don't want to go there](#)

[door to door](#)

[down to the wire](#)

[downtime](#)

[drag it out](#)

[draw a blank](#)  
[draw attention to](#)  
[draw first blood](#)  
[draw it to my attention](#)  
[draw the line](#)  
[drawing card](#)  
[drive me batty](#)  
[drive me crazy](#)  
[drive me to the edge](#)  
[drive me up the wall](#)  
[drive you nuts](#)  
[drive you to distraction](#)  
[drive you to drink](#)  
[drop dead](#)  
[drop in](#)  
[drop off](#)  
[drop the ball](#)  
[drop your gloves \(hockey\)](#)  
[dude](#)  
[Dumpster diving](#)  
[dying to know](#)  
[eager beaver](#)  
[ears pinned back](#)  
[easy as pie](#)  
[easy street](#)  
[easy time of it](#)  
[eat up](#)  
[eff 'im \[B\]](#)  
[egg me on](#)  
[eke out a living](#)  
[elbow room](#)  
[enough is enough](#)  
[eye candy](#)  
[face facts](#)  
[fair game](#)  
[fall apart \(at the seams\)](#)  
[fall asleep](#)  
[fall behind](#)  
[fall for](#)  
[fall ill](#)  
[fall in love](#)  
[fall off the wagon](#)

[fall on deaf ears](#)

[fall short](#)

[fall to pieces](#)

[falling in love](#)

[feedback](#)

[fever breaks](#)

[fill the gap](#)

[fill up](#)

[find a way around](#)

[find my tongue](#)

[find yourself](#)

[fine-tune](#)

[first crack at](#)

[first dibs](#)

[first down/first and ten](#)

[first hand](#)

[first off](#)

[first up](#)

[fixing to](#)

[flag a cab](#)

[flat out](#)

[Fletcherize your food](#)

[flip-flop](#)

[flip you for it](#)

[float your boat](#)

[floor it](#)

[fly-by-night](#)

[fly in the face of](#)

[for dear life](#)

[for openers](#)

[for the life of me](#)

[forget your manners](#)

[fraidy cat](#)

[frame](#)

[from pillar to post](#)

[from rags to riches](#)

[from stem to stern](#)

[from the frying pan into the fire](#)

[full throttle](#)

[fuss over](#)

[future looks bright](#)

[game for anything](#)

[Generation X](#)

[get a hold of](#)

[get a laugh](#)

[get a shot at](#)

[get at it](#)

[get busy](#)

[get even](#)

[get in on the ground floor](#)

[get me down](#)

[get off](#)

[get off on](#)

[get off your soap box](#)

[get on it](#)

[get out of](#)

[get out of town](#)

[get over](#)

[get real](#)

[get the drop on](#)

[get the hang of](#)

[get the jitters](#)

[get this show on the road](#)

[get to it](#)

[get to the point](#)

[get to the root of the problem](#)

[get together](#)

[get under my skin](#)

[get up a head of steam](#)

[get up on the wrong side of bed](#)

[get you down](#)

[get your attention](#)

[get your feet wet](#)

[get your goat](#)

[get your head out of the clouds](#)

[get your head together](#)

[get your hopes up](#)

[get your shirt in a knot/ get your shit in a knot \[B\]](#)

[get your way](#)

[gimme a break](#)

[give and take](#)

[give head \[B\]](#)

[give him a taste of his own medicine](#)

[give it a whirl](#)

[give me a break](#)  
[give me a hint](#)  
[give me a lift](#)  
[give me the creeps](#)  
[give you a boost](#)  
[give you a run for your money](#)  
[give you an out](#)  
[give you the shirt off his back](#)  
[go along with](#)  
[go down](#)  
[go down on \[B\]](#)  
[go easy on](#)  
[go hungry](#)  
[go nowhere fast](#)  
[go out of your way](#)  
[go straight](#)  
[go to any trouble](#)  
[go to bat for](#)  
[go to hell in a handbasket](#)  
[go under](#)  
[God bless the Duke of Argyle](#)  
[going to the mountains](#)  
[good bet](#)  
[good for a loan](#)  
[good going](#)  
[good hands](#)  
[good to go](#)  
[goose it](#)  
[got it coming](#)  
[got it in for](#)  
[got my eye on](#)  
[got you cornered](#)  
[got your number](#)  
[grandfather](#)  
[green with envy](#)  
[ground me](#)  
[grounded](#)  
[grow a tail](#)  
[had a bellyful](#)  
[had better](#)  
[hail a cab](#)  
[hand down](#)

[hand in](#)  
[hand me down](#)  
[hand out](#)  
[hand over](#)  
[hands are tied](#)  
[hang on every word](#)  
[hang tough](#)  
[hard done by](#)  
[hard line](#)  
[hard nosed](#)  
[hard of hearing](#)  
[hard put](#)  
[hard sell](#)  
[hard to believe](#)  
[hard to swallow](#)  
[hard to take](#)  
[hard up](#)  
[have a boo](#)  
[have a go](#)  
[have a say](#)  
[have a shot at](#)  
[have a whiz](#)  
[have a word with you](#)  
[have designs on](#)  
[have it in hand](#)  
[have it your way](#)  
[have my work cut out](#)  
[have the floor](#)  
[have to go](#)  
[have to go some](#)  
[have you for breakfast](#)  
[have you over](#)  
[haven't got a hope in hell](#)  
[hawk](#)  
[head in the sand](#)  
[health nut](#)  
[hear me out](#)  
[heavy foot](#)  
[hell bent for election](#)  
[hell to pay \[B\]](#)  
[hemming and hahing](#)  
[here's mud in your eye](#)

[hidden agenda](#)  
[hit and run \(baseball\)](#)  
[hit man](#)  
[hit me](#)  
[hit me for a loan](#)  
[hit me with your best shot](#)  
[hit my funny bone](#)  
[hit on](#)  
[hit the bar](#)  
[hit the books](#)  
[hit the bottle](#)  
[hit the brakes](#)  
[hit the bricks](#)  
[hit the ground running](#)  
[hit the hay](#)  
[hit the skids](#)  
[hold out for](#)  
[hold the purse strings](#)  
[hold up](#)  
[hold you up](#)  
[hold your own](#)  
[holding the bag](#)  
[hole up](#)  
[home free](#)  
[horny \[B\]](#)  
[hot and bothered](#)  
[hot tempered](#)  
[how are you doing](#)  
[how are you getting along](#)  
[how are you making out](#)  
[how do you do](#)  
[hunker down](#)  
[if a mussel doesn't open don't eat it](#)  
[if you can't cut it, you can't stay](#)  
[ignorance is bliss](#)  
[in bad faith](#)  
[in broad daylight](#)  
[in control](#)  
[in deep shit \[B\]](#)  
[in deep trouble](#)  
[in fact](#)  
[in glowing terms](#)

[in good faith](#)  
[in hand](#)  
[in my care](#)  
[in order](#)  
[in over your head](#)  
[in plain view](#)  
[in store for](#)  
[in the Monford lane](#)  
[in the mood](#)  
[in the offing](#)  
[in the pipe five by five](#)  
[in the works](#)  
[inside information](#)  
[is you is, or is you ain't my baby](#)  
[it goes without saying](#)  
[it occurs to me](#)  
[it phased me out](#)  
[it strikes me](#)  
[it takes two to tango](#)  
[it's a matter of life and death](#)  
[it's a snap](#)  
[it's a toss-up](#)  
[it's as plain as the nose on your face](#)  
[itchy feet](#)  
[jam/jam out](#)  
[jive ass \[B\]](#)  
[joe-job](#)  
[jog your memory](#)  
[Johnny on the spot](#)  
[joker](#)  
[joking aside](#)  
[jump at the chance](#)  
[jump queue](#)  
[jump ship](#)  
[jump start](#)  
[just as soon](#)  
[keep a promise](#)  
[keep a secret](#)  
[keep an eye on](#)  
[keep an open mind](#)  
[keep fit](#)  
[keep on trucking](#)

[keep the ball rolling](#)  
[keep them straight](#)  
[keep up the good work](#)  
[keep you honest](#)  
[keep you on track](#)  
[keep you posted](#)  
[keep your head above water](#)  
[keep your nose to the grindstone](#)  
[kick start](#)  
[kick up your heels](#)  
[kill for](#)  
[kill me](#)  
[kill time](#)  
[killer instinct](#)  
[King Shit on Turd Island](#)  
[kiss ass \[B\]](#)  
[kitty bar the door](#)  
[knock the wind out of his sails](#)  
[know which end is up](#)  
[know your way around](#)  
[kowitz](#)  
[laid bare](#)  
[laid off](#)  
[laid up](#)  
[land on your feet](#)  
[land up](#)  
[landlubber](#)  
[last call](#)  
[last resort](#)  
[late bloomer](#)  
[lay off](#)  
[lazy bones](#)  
[lead you on](#)  
[leak](#)  
[learn your place](#)  
[leave the door open](#)  
[leave you holding the bag](#)  
[leave yourself open](#)  
[leg work](#)  
[let a fart \[B\]](#)  
[let George do it](#)  
[let go of](#)

[let me have it](#)

[let off](#)

[let this chance go by](#)

[lie down on the job](#)

[life is not all guns and roses](#)

[lifer](#)

[lift a finger](#)

[lift my spirits](#)

[light up](#)

[like a dirty shirt](#)

[like crazy/like mad](#)

[like the devil](#)

[live it up](#)

[live off](#)

[live on](#)

[loaded to the hilt](#)

[look into](#)

[look like death warmed over](#)

[look like he was dragged through a knothole](#)

[look over your shoulder](#)

[look the other way](#)

[lose it](#)

[lose out](#)

[lose your appetite](#)

[lose your head](#)

[lose your tongue](#)

[losing it](#)

[loss leader](#)

[love conquers all](#)

[love is where you find it](#)

[make a comeback](#)

[make a false move](#)

[make a go of it](#)

[make a good impression](#)

[make a living](#)

[make a pitch](#)

[make a point of](#)

[make advances](#)

[make amends](#)

[make an offer](#)

[make ends meet](#)

[make it worse](#)

[make me do it](#)  
[make me sick/mad etc.](#)  
[make my day](#)  
[make sense](#)  
[make way](#)  
[make your hair stand on end](#)  
[make your mouth water](#)  
[mean well](#)  
[mend fences](#)  
[mete out](#)  
[middle ground](#)  
[mind boggling](#)  
[mind go blank](#)  
[misery loves company](#)  
[miss out on](#)  
[money doesn't grow on trees](#)  
[monkeywrenching](#)  
[more money than brains](#)  
[more than welcome](#)  
[mount a comeback](#)  
[move over](#)  
[move you to tears](#)  
[nature calls](#)  
[necessity is the mother of invention](#)  
[nerves of steel](#)  
[never mind](#)  
[nine lives](#)  
[nip and tuck](#)  
[no pain, no gain](#)  
[no questions asked](#)  
[no rest for the wicked](#)  
[no skin off my nose](#)  
[no use for](#)  
[nosebag](#)  
[not all there](#)  
[not by any stretch of the imagination](#)  
[not long for this world](#)  
[not speaking](#)  
[nothing succeeds like success](#)  
[off the kitchen etc.](#)  
[off the record](#)  
[off to a good start](#)

[off to the races](#)  
[off topic](#)  
[on approval](#)  
[on deck](#)  
[on good terms](#)  
[on my best behavior](#)  
[on my good side](#)  
[on shaky ground](#)  
[on tenterhooks](#)  
[on the back burner](#)  
[on the carpet](#)  
[on the go](#)  
[on the market](#)  
[on the move](#)  
[on the QT](#)  
[on the run](#)  
[on the shit list \[B\]](#)  
[on the tip of my tongue](#)  
[one false move](#)  
[one for the money, two for the show...](#)  
[one man's garbage is another man's art](#)  
[one man's meat is another man's poison](#)  
[one-track mind](#)  
[onto us](#)  
[open and shut](#)  
[open season](#)  
[out for blood](#)  
[out loud](#)  
[out of our hands](#)  
[out of sight](#)  
[out of the ball park](#)  
[out of the corner of my eye](#)  
[out of the goodness of my heart](#)  
[out to get you](#)  
[out to win](#)  
[over my dead body](#)  
[over the edge](#)  
[parachute](#)  
[part with](#)  
[pass around](#)  
[pass for](#)  
[pass the buck](#)

[patch things up](#)

[pave the way](#)

[pay a visit](#)

[pay him back](#)

[pecking order](#)

[photo op](#)

[pin money](#)

[pinch](#)

[piss like a race horse \[B\]](#)

[pit stop](#)

[plain as day](#)

[plain as the nose on your face](#)

[plate is full](#)

[play a big part](#)

[play a mean game](#)

[play along](#)

[play catch-up](#)

[play dead](#)

[play hardball](#)

[play on my heart strings](#)

[pluck at the heart strings](#)

[plug into](#)

[plump full](#)

[political football](#)

[pop the question](#)

[popcorn brain](#)

[pound the pavement](#)

[pow](#)

[powder my nose](#)

[preach to the choir/preach to the converted](#)

[presence of mind](#)

[press charges](#)

[press into service](#)

[psych out](#)

[pull a few strings](#)

[pull it off](#)

[pull up stakes](#)

[pumped/pumped up](#)

[push the boat out](#)

[pussyfoot around](#)

[put 'er there](#)

[put an end to](#)

[put her there](#)  
[put the hammer down](#)  
[put the heat on](#)  
[put to bed \(print media\)](#)  
[put you at ease](#)  
[put you in a bad mood](#)  
[put you off your game](#)  
[put your best foot forward](#)  
[put your shoulder to the wheel](#)  
[put yourself out](#)  
[put yourself through college](#)  
[quick on the draw](#)  
[quit while you're ahead](#)  
[rack my brain](#)  
[rake you over the coals](#)  
[rattle on](#)  
[rattle sabres](#)  
[reach me](#)  
[reach out](#)  
[read into](#)  
[really deaf](#)  
[rest on your laurels](#)  
[ride herd](#)  
[ride me](#)  
[ride the wave](#)  
[ring a bell](#)  
[rise to the occasion](#)  
[road to hell is paved...](#)  
[rob Peter to pay Paul](#)  
[roll off the tongue](#)  
[rope into](#)  
[rub salt in the wound](#)  
[rubberneck](#)  
[run across](#)  
[run down](#)  
[run for the hills](#)  
[run the risk](#)  
[run up](#)  
[run you out](#)  
[rush hour](#)  
[salty](#)  
[same to you](#)

[say jump...how high](#)  
[say the word](#)  
[scared stiff](#)  
[scot-free](#)  
[scrape by](#)  
[screw you \[B\]](#)  
[see a man about a dog](#)  
[see you through](#)  
[see your way](#)  
[seek revenge](#)  
[seize the opportunity](#)  
[self-starter](#)  
[sell the farm](#)  
[seller's market](#)  
[send him flying](#)  
[send him up](#)  
[sense of humor](#)  
[set for life](#)  
[set in her ways](#)  
[set out to](#)  
[set up shop](#)  
[set you up](#)  
[set your mind at ease](#)  
[set your price](#)  
[set your sights](#)  
[shades of](#)  
[shake him](#)  
[shake on it](#)  
[sharp](#)  
[sharp as a tack](#)  
[shit disturber \[B\]](#)  
[shitting bricks \[B\]](#)  
[shoot-out \(sports\)](#)  
[shoot up](#)  
[short temper](#)  
[shortchange](#)  
[shove down my throat](#)  
[show up](#)  
[show you up](#)  
[shuck on down to the fraidy hole](#)  
[shuffle the chairs on the deck](#)  
[side by side](#)

[sign in](#)  
[sign out](#)  
[sit the fence](#)  
[sit with you](#)  
[slap my afro / slap my fro](#)  
[sleep around \[B\]](#)  
[sleep like a log](#)  
[slippery slope](#)  
[smack of](#)  
[smartass \[B\]](#)  
[snowball](#)  
[so help me](#)  
[so-so](#)  
[so to speak](#)  
[sock it to me](#)  
[soften up](#)  
[soften your stance](#)  
[sound asleep](#)  
[sounding board](#)  
[spell disaster](#)  
[spell you off](#)  
[spin doctor](#)  
[spin the bottle](#)  
[spoil for a fight](#)  
[square deal](#)  
[square off](#)  
[square one](#)  
[squat](#)  
[stand by me](#)  
[stand on ceremony](#)  
[start from scratch](#)  
[start over](#)  
[start with a bang](#)  
[stay alive](#)  
[stay up](#)  
[steal your heart](#)  
[step on it](#)  
[step on people](#)  
[stick in my craw](#)  
[stick my neck out](#)  
[stop at nothing](#)  
[stop you cold](#)

[stop you in your tracks](#)  
[straw horse](#)  
[street smarts](#)  
[stretch the truth](#)  
[strike me](#)  
[strike out \(baseball\)](#)  
[strike while the iron is hot](#)  
[strike your fancy](#)  
[stroke your ego](#)  
[sucked in](#)  
[sucker](#)  
[sure as shit](#)  
[sweep you off your feet](#)  
[sweet tooth](#)  
[swelled head](#)  
[tailgate](#)  
[take a bow](#)  
[take a bullet](#)  
[take a dive](#)  
[take a guess](#)  
[take after](#)  
[take care of business](#)  
[take exception to](#)  
[take him down a peg](#)  
[take it back](#)  
[take it to heart](#)  
[take my head off](#)  
[take on](#)  
[take-out restaurant](#)  
[take the flack](#)  
[take the heat](#)  
[take time to smell the roses](#)  
[take up cudgels](#)  
[take you to task](#)  
[talk about](#)  
[talk to the hand](#)  
[teach you the tricks of the trade](#)  
[tearjerker](#)  
[teed up](#)  
[tell him where to go](#)  
[test drive](#)  
[that's stretching it](#)

[that's the spirit](#)  
[the best things in life are free](#)  
[the burning question](#)  
[the call of duty](#)  
[the cart before the horse](#)  
[the end of the line](#)  
[the gift of the gab \(the gift of gab\)](#)  
[the grass is greener on the other side of the fence](#)  
[the heat is on](#)  
[the inside track](#)  
[the key to success](#)  
[the life of the party](#)  
[the Lord helps those who help themselves](#)  
[the makings of](#)  
[the middleman](#)  
[the odds-on favorite](#)  
[the past is slipping by without a trace](#)  
[the Peter Principle](#)  
[the point of no return](#)  
[the proof of the pudding is in the eating](#)  
[the rabbit died](#)  
[the straight dope](#)  
[the sweet spot](#)  
[the way to a man's heart is through his stomach](#)  
[there's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip](#)  
[there's more than one way to skin a cat](#)  
[there's no tomorrow](#)  
[there's nothing to it](#)  
[thick as a brick](#)  
[think better of it](#)  
[three sheets to the wind](#)  
[throw a game](#)  
[throw a party](#)  
[throw cold water on](#)  
[throw the book at](#)  
[throw you](#)  
[throw your weight around](#)  
[throw yourself at him](#)  
[thrown in](#)  
[tied up](#)  
[tight race](#)  
[tight/tight fisted](#)

[time is money](#)  
[time is of the essence](#)  
[time on your hands](#)  
[time out](#)  
[time stands still](#)  
[time to kill](#)  
[tin ear](#)  
[tip of the hat](#)  
[tip the scales at](#)  
[to a T](#)  
[to be perfectly honest](#)  
[to boot](#)  
[to coin a phrase](#)  
[to go](#)  
[to perfection](#)  
[to the max](#)  
[to the nth degree](#)  
[to top it off](#)  
[toe the line](#)  
[too far gone](#)  
[top it up](#)  
[touch you](#)  
[touchy](#)  
[trade insults](#)  
[trial run](#)  
[trickle-down economics](#)  
[try it](#)  
[try it on](#)  
[try out](#)  
[try that](#)  
[try your hand at](#)  
[tune me out](#)  
[tuned in](#)  
[turn in](#)  
[turn on you](#)  
[turn the tables on](#)  
[turn you on](#)  
[turn your stomach](#)  
[turn yourself in](#)  
[turncoat](#)  
[twerp](#)  
[two heads are better than one](#)

[under my breath](#)

[under my nose](#)

[under oath](#)

[under pressure](#)

[underdog](#)

[underhanded](#)

[up against](#)

[up against it](#)

[up and coming](#)

[up for it](#)

[up in arms](#)

[up to it](#)

[up to par](#)

[up to scratch](#)

[up to something](#)

[up your alley](#)

[up your sleeve](#)

[used to](#)

[user friendly](#)

[variety is the spice of life](#)

[wait around](#)

[wait on you hand and foot](#)

[wait up for](#)

[wait with bated breath](#)

[walk](#)

[walk the plank](#)

[wall flower](#)

[want a piece of me](#)

[want to make something of it](#)

[warm up](#)

[wash it down](#)

[wash it off](#)

[washed up](#)

[waste no time](#)

[watch your every move](#)

[water down](#)

[wax poetic](#)

[way out \(away out\)](#)

[well off](#)

[what came over me](#)

[what goes around comes around](#)

[what's going down](#)

[what's good for the goose is good for the gander](#)[what's your poison](#)[where angels fear to tread](#)[where there's a will, there's a way](#)[whet your appetite](#)[whiz](#)[win the hearts](#)[wired for sound](#)[wishy-washy](#)[with bells on](#)[with wings](#)[within earshot](#)[won't tell a soul](#)[work cut out for](#)[work it out](#)[work off](#)[work out](#)[work the room](#)[work to rule](#)[workaholic](#)[world beater](#)[worldly wise](#)[worlds apart](#)[wouldn't be caught dead](#)[wrap it up](#)[writer's block](#)[yellow](#)[yellow belly](#)[you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink](#)[you can't teach an old dog new tricks](#)[you had to be there](#)[you need money to make money](#)[your number is up](#)

toast

[cheers](#)[dust](#)[here's mud in your eye](#)[skoal](#)

tobacco

[pot](#)

today

[call it a day](#)

[darn my luck](#)  
[out of step](#)  
[there's no tomorrow](#)

toe

[follow the rules](#)  
[hang ten \(surfing\)](#)  
[keep your nose clean](#)

together

[boozing buddies](#)  
[bosom buddy](#)  
[brain storm](#)  
[clean up your act](#)  
[cool](#)  
[do lunch](#)  
[double whammy](#)  
[get a life](#)  
[get your act together](#)  
[get your head together](#)  
[hand in hand](#)  
[hook up with](#)  
[in step](#)  
[inside joke](#)  
[let the good times roll](#)  
[Lovers' Leap](#)  
[lump together](#)  
[make up](#)  
[partners in crime](#)  
[pick up the pieces](#)  
[piss parade \[B\]](#)  
[pull together](#)  
[read along](#)  
[round up](#)  
[shack up \[B\]](#)  
[shape up](#)  
[team up](#)  
[the big picture](#)  
[think tank](#)  
[together](#)

toilet

[have a whiz](#)  
[on the throne](#)  
[the can](#)

[the john](#)[the loo](#)

told

[a little bird told me](#)[a scandal is brewing](#)[ears pinned back](#)[hand down](#)[laid off](#)[led to believe](#)[on the QT](#)[put a bug in my ear](#)[scandal is brewing](#)[the cat's out of the bag](#)[there's more than meets the eye](#)[toe the line](#)

toledo

[holy Moses](#)

tolerate

[hard to take](#)[put up with](#)[stand for](#)

tone

[snap at](#)[uptalk](#)

tongue

[cat got your tongue](#)[lose your tongue](#)[mind go blank](#)

tongue-lashing

[a piece of my mind](#)

tons

[a holy pile](#)[a shitload](#)[coming out of your yin yang](#)[whack](#)

too

[a bummer](#)[a crying shame](#)[a little steep](#)[a little thick](#)[a raw deal](#)[a rip-off](#)

[all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy](#)

[anal retentive](#)

[be-all, end-all](#)

[bigmouth](#)

[burn out](#)

[can't see for looking](#)

[coming out of our ears](#)

[coming out of your yin yang](#)

[cup runneth over](#)

[dense](#)

[dilly-dally](#)

[don't push your luck](#)

[drag your feet](#)

[eighty-six it](#)

[feast or famine](#)

[feel a draft](#)

[fish and company stink after three days](#)

[full of herself](#)

[fuss over](#)

[get carried away](#)

[go easy on](#)

[go out on a limb](#)

[go overboard](#)

[go too far](#)

[good grief](#)

[had a bellyful](#)

[had it](#)

[had it up to here](#)

[hard done by](#)

[in the nick of time](#)

[it never rains but it pours](#)

[jump the gun](#)

[keep your distance](#)

[kill an elephant](#)

[knock you down a peg](#)

[let it go to your head](#)

[like it or lump it](#)

[like the devil](#)

[liquored up](#)

[make a big to-do](#)

[make a federal case of it](#)

[make a scene](#)

[mind boggling](#)  
[mind your P's and Q's](#)  
[more than you can shake a stick at](#)  
[nag](#)  
[out of his element](#)  
[out of range](#)  
[out of sight \(outa sight\)](#)  
[out of sight](#)  
[over my head](#)  
[over the hill](#)  
[over the top](#)  
[overdo it](#)  
[plate is full](#)  
[play catch-up](#)  
[pour it on](#)  
[pull it out](#)  
[push me \(to the limit\)](#)  
[put too fine a point on](#)  
[put yourself out](#)  
[rob the cradle](#)  
[saw sawdust](#)  
[shooting fish in a barrel](#)  
[strike while the iron is hot](#)  
[swelled head](#)  
[tailgate](#)  
[take your sweet time](#)  
[talk your ear off](#)  
[talk your head off](#)  
[the last straw](#)  
[the point of no return](#)  
[throw yourself at him](#)  
[to a fault](#)  
[too big for his britches](#)  
[too deep for me](#)  
[too many chiefs and not enough Indians](#)  
[too many cooks spoil the broth](#)  
[tough bananas](#)  
[under pressure](#)  
[up to my ears](#)  
[wear out your welcome](#)  
[when it rains it pours](#)

[cheerio](#)

took

[she peed](#)

tooling

[drive around](#)

tooth

[hammer and tongs](#)[two-fisted attack](#)

toothpick

[a pine float](#)

top

[a little thick](#)[all the marbles](#)[brush cut](#)[chock full](#)[fastball](#)[fill up](#)[from stem to stern](#)[it's not a state secret](#)[loaded to the hilt](#)[number one](#)[plump full](#)[top it up](#)[up on](#)

topic

[a hot number](#)[a hot topic](#)[all that jazz](#)[along those lines](#)[beside the point](#)[crank issue](#)[don't want to go there](#)[grey area](#)[have a clue](#)[in that vein](#)[keep you on track](#)[off the wall](#)[off topic](#)[open a window](#)[out of the blue](#)[small talk](#)[the talk of the town](#)

[when it comes to](#)

torn

[shabby](#)

tornado

[shuck on down to the fraidy hole](#)

toronto

[Cabbagetown](#)

toss

[it's a toss-up](#)

toss-up

[there's not much to choose between them](#)

total

[a ball-park figure](#)[a perfect stranger](#)[in the ball park](#)[run up](#)

totally

[awesome](#)[groaty to the max](#)[jump in with both feet](#)[she peed](#)[super-duper](#)

touch

[an easy mark](#)[back off](#)[doctor it/doctor it up](#)[hit home](#)[in touch](#)[let it be](#)[make advances](#)[move you to tears](#)[out of touch](#)[pet](#)[pluck at the heart strings](#)[the sweet spot](#)[tie up loose ends](#)[touch base](#)

touching

[biter \(curling\)](#)[bumper to bumper](#)

touchy

[edgy](#)

tough

[a rough time of it](#)  
[hard as nails](#)  
[hard nosed](#)  
[hard on me](#)  
[how do you like them apples](#)  
[in tough](#)  
[like it or lump it](#)  
[play hardball](#)  
[play the heavy](#)  
[rough going](#)  
[stick to it](#)  
[tough bananas](#)  
[tough luck](#)  
[uphill battle](#)  
[weather the storm](#)  
[when push comes to shove](#)  
[where there's a will, there's a way](#)

tougher

[bite the bullet](#)  
[toughen up](#)

toward

[down the pike](#)  
[five o'clock shadow](#)  
[give you the cold shoulder](#)  
[make a beeline](#)  
[make a pass](#)  
[make your way](#)  
[on the road](#)  
[take it out on](#)  
[turn the corner](#)

town

[a hot topic](#)  
[Cowtown](#)  
[do the town](#)  
[hit town](#)  
[in the boonies](#)  
[local yokel](#)  
[paint the town red](#)  
[pass through](#)  
[run out of town](#)  
[settle down](#)  
[the bum's rush](#)

[you've got to be kidding](#)

toy

[clean up](#)

[trifle with me](#)

track

[hard skill](#)

[keep tabs on](#)

[lose count](#)

[on the rails](#)

[out of the way](#)

[play the ponies](#)

trade

[blue-collar worker](#)

traded

[change hands](#)

traffic

[Florida green](#)

[rush hour](#)

[traffic jam](#)

tragedy

[spell disaster](#)

trail

[hot on the trail](#)

trained

[out of his element](#)

training

[workout](#)

traitor

[fifth column](#)

[turncoat](#)

traits

[mean streak](#)

[take after](#)

transmission

[tranny](#)

transvestite

[drag queen](#)

trap

[play into his hand](#)

trash

[ratch](#)

[wreak havoc](#)

travel

[do \(a speed\)](#)  
[get over](#)  
[head down there](#)  
[head up there](#)  
[hit speeds of](#)  
[hit the road/trail](#)  
[hook up with](#)  
[make good time](#)  
[pass through](#)  
[run up](#)  
[take a drive/trip](#)  
[take a flight](#)

traveling

[lay over](#)  
[on your way](#)  
[press on](#)

treat

[do unto others as you would have them do unto you](#)  
[dubs](#)

treated

[do unto others as you would have them do unto you](#)

treatment

[get screwed](#)  
[prima donna](#)

trend

[catch the wave](#)  
[everything old is new again](#)  
[keep up with the times](#)  
[new wave](#)  
[trendy](#)

trendy

[preppy](#)

trial

[hit and miss](#)  
[pilot project](#)  
[the acid test](#)  
[vale of tears \(valley of tears\)](#)

tribute

[hats off](#)

trick

[fool you](#)  
[funny stuff](#)

[play a joke on](#)  
[pull the wool over your eyes](#)

tricked

[deked out of his jock](#)  
[fall into a trap](#)  
[gotcha \(got you\)](#)  
[taken for a ride](#)

trickery

[smoke and mirrors](#)

tries

[a quick study](#)  
[comeback kid](#)  
[hit and run \(baseball\)](#)  
[jive ass \[B\]](#)  
[shit disturber \[B\]](#)  
[smartass \[B\]](#)  
[world beater](#)

trigger

[set off](#)

trim

[black out](#)

trimmings

[put the finishing touches on](#)

trip

[happy motoring](#)  
[kill two birds \(with one stone\)](#)  
[send him flying](#)  
[take a drive/trip](#)  
[throw your weight around](#)

trivia

[claptrap](#)

troops

[make war](#)

trophy

[go all the way \(sports\)](#)

trouble

[a pain in the ass \[B\]](#)  
[curiosity killed the cat](#)  
[don't borrow trouble](#)  
[don't mention it](#)  
[Gang of Four](#)  
[get burned](#)  
[get in deeper](#)

[get your tits in a wringer](#)  
[in a jam](#)  
[in deep doo-doo \[B\]](#)  
[in deep shit \[B\]](#)  
[in deep trouble](#)  
[keep your nose clean](#)  
[leave well enough alone](#)  
[no sweat](#)  
[not at all](#)  
[put yourself out](#)  
[the fat hit the fire](#)  
[toast](#)  
[vale of tears \(valley of tears\)](#)  
[watch your step](#)

troublemaker

[bad news](#)

troublesome

[fly in the ointment](#)

truck

[a big rig](#)  
[at the wheel](#)  
[drive standard](#)  
[set of wheels](#)  
[tranny](#)  
[wheels](#)

true

[afraid so](#)  
[bah](#)  
[bang on](#)  
[blow my cover](#)  
[bull/bullshit/BS \[B\]](#)  
[come to terms with](#)  
[darn tooting](#)  
[eat my hat/shirt](#)  
[go on](#)  
[in a pig's ass \[B\]](#)  
[is that so](#)  
[keep your fingers crossed](#)  
[my ass](#)  
[no shit \[B\]](#)  
[point is well taken](#)  
[stretch the truth](#)

[take it](#)  
[take it with a grain of salt](#)  
[take oath](#)  
[tall tale](#)  
[that's a crock \(of shit\) \[B\]](#)  
[the gospel truth](#)  
[The Great White North](#)  
[there's nothing to it](#)  
[to the best of my knowledge](#)  
[tried and true](#)  
[true colors](#)  
[wear your heart on your sleeve](#)  
[well taken](#)  
[wishful thinking](#)

truly	
	<a href="#">bloody well</a>
trusted	
	<a href="#">fly-by-night</a> <a href="#">in good hands</a>
trusts	
	<a href="#">take advantage of</a>
truth	
	<a href="#">a grain of truth</a> <a href="#">a pack of lies</a> <a href="#">break the silence</a> <a href="#">come clean</a> <a href="#">come to grips with</a> <a href="#">face facts</a> <a href="#">honesty is the best policy</a> <a href="#">kid you not</a> <a href="#">no guff</a> <a href="#">old wives' tale</a> <a href="#">scout's honor</a> <a href="#">straight talk</a> <a href="#">straighten you out</a> <a href="#">stretch the truth</a> <a href="#">the gospel truth</a> <a href="#">the straight dope</a> <a href="#">the straight goods</a> <a href="#">to be perfectly honest</a> <a href="#">under oath</a> <a href="#">upon my word</a>

[what's what](#)  
[without a word of a lie](#)

truthful

[keep you honest](#)  
[lay it on the line](#)

truthfully

[honestly](#)  
[straight up](#)

try

[a shot in the dark](#)  
[bear down](#)  
[beat a dead horse](#)  
[beat your head against a stone wall](#)  
[bend over backwards](#)  
[bite the bullet](#)  
[bounce back](#)  
[brown nose \[B\]](#)  
[buckle down](#)  
[buckle under](#)  
[dig a little deeper](#)  
[don't push your luck](#)  
[first down/first and ten](#)  
[game for anything](#)  
[get real](#)  
[get your feet wet](#)  
[give her shit \[B\]](#)  
[give in](#)  
[give it a whirl](#)  
[give it all you've got](#)  
[give it your best shot](#)  
[give up](#)  
[give you a run for your money](#)  
[go for broke](#)  
[go for it](#)  
[go-round](#)  
[hang tough](#)  
[have a go](#)  
[have a shot at](#)  
[have to go some](#)  
[hit the brakes](#)  
[jump at the chance](#)  
[kick at the cat](#)

[kill two birds \(with one stone\)](#)  
[last-ditch](#)  
[little by little](#)  
[look the other way](#)  
[make a comeback](#)  
[make a false move](#)  
[make a pitch](#)  
[make advances](#)  
[no holds barred](#)  
[no way](#)  
[nothing ventured, nothing gained](#)  
[over my dead body](#)  
[play catch-up](#)  
[play hardball](#)  
[pull that](#)  
[put your best foot forward](#)  
[put your heart into it](#)  
[rack my brain](#)  
[ride herd](#)  
[roll over and play dead](#)  
[seek revenge](#)  
[sit the fence](#)  
[spoil for a fight](#)  
[take a chance](#)  
[take a guess](#)  
[take after](#)  
[take it easy](#)  
[take pains](#)  
[test drive](#)  
[throw yourself at him](#)  
[trial run](#)  
[try it](#)  
[try out](#)  
[try that](#)  
[try your darndest](#)  
[try your hand at](#)  
[work it out](#)  
[your turn](#)

trying

[all ears](#)  
[be-all, end-all](#)  
[blue in the face](#)

[chasing rainbows](#)  
[cop out](#)  
[even a blind pig can find an acorn](#)  
[give up](#)  
[hard sell](#)  
[in bad faith](#)  
[in broad daylight](#)  
[monkeywrenching](#)  
[out for blood](#)  
[the old college try](#)  
[up against](#)  
[up to something](#)  
[work the room](#)

tube

[drop her/him](#)  
[dump her/him](#)

tuck

[touch and go](#)

tune

[an old warhorse](#)  
[carry a tune](#)  
[off key \(music\)](#)  
[out of tune \(music\)](#)  
[pipes](#)

tuning

[tune in](#)

turf

[weed out](#)

turn

[black eye](#)  
[crank it up](#)  
[dance with the one who brought you](#)  
[do a 180](#)  
[first crack at](#)  
[float your boat](#)  
[give him the brush-off](#)  
[give you the cold shoulder](#)  
[go-round](#)  
[hand in](#)  
[have the floor](#)  
[it's your move](#)  
[kick at the cat](#)

[look the other way](#)  
[make your bum hum](#)  
[run a tub](#)  
[stand away](#)  
[step up to the plate](#)  
[strike your fancy](#)  
[take your turn](#)  
[the ball's in your court](#)  
[the point of no return](#)  
[turn on a dime](#)  
[turn on you](#)  
[turn you around](#)  
[turn your back on](#)  
[U-turn](#)  
[your number is up](#)

turncoat

[turn your back on](#)

turned

[a blackout \(war\)](#)

turning

[mark a watershed](#)

[the tide turned](#)

tv

[couch potato](#)

[glued to the set](#)

[tube head](#)

tweak

[doctor it/doctor it up](#)

[hop up](#)

[supercharge](#)

twelve-foot

[biter \(curling\)](#)

twenty-five

[two bits](#)

twenty-four

['round the clock](#)

[around the clock](#)

twice

[turn the other cheek](#)

twig

[twiggy](#)

twin

[a dead ringer](#)

[six of one, half a dozen of the other](#)

twist

[famous last words](#)

twister

[dust devil](#)

two

[a cheap drunk](#)

[a new broom sweeps clean](#)

[a play on words](#)

[as the crow flies](#)

[chime in](#)

[choose up sides](#)

[double whammy](#)

[drag race](#)

[had a couple](#)

[hedge your bets](#)

[it takes two to tango](#)

[kill two birds \(with one stone\)](#)

[muscle in](#)

[of two minds](#)

[pair off/pair up](#)

[rodchester](#)

[say my piece](#)

[six bits](#)

[something borrowed, something blue](#)

[the best of both worlds](#)

[the man in the middle](#)

[there are two sides to every story](#)

[there's no two ways about it](#)

[two abreast](#)

[two for one](#)

[two's company, three's a crowd](#)

tycoon

[a shogun](#)

tying

[pony tail](#)

type

[fall between two stools](#)

[it takes one to know one](#)

typical

[one of the boys](#)

[song and dance](#)

typing

[typo](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Definition Index U

u-turn	
	<a href="#">do a 180</a>
uglier	
	<a href="#">bigger than life</a>
ugly	
	<a href="#">god awful</a>
	<a href="#">make a face</a>
	<a href="#">shitface [B]</a>
	<a href="#">yuk</a>
uh-huh	
	<a href="#">yep</a>
	<a href="#">yeppers</a>
uh-uh	
	<a href="#">ya</a>
ultimate	
	<a href="#">the acid test</a>
unable	
	<a href="#">a sad sack</a>
	<a href="#">all thumbs</a>
	<a href="#">at a loss for words</a>
	<a href="#">at loose ends</a>
	<a href="#">buck fever</a>
	<a href="#">butter fingers</a>
	<a href="#">cave in</a>
	<a href="#">draw a blank</a>
	<a href="#">fall apart (at the seams)</a>
	<a href="#">fall behind</a>
	<a href="#">fall to pieces</a>
	<a href="#">go nowhere fast</a>
	<a href="#">go under</a>
	<a href="#">hands are tied</a>
	<a href="#">hard put</a>
	<a href="#">hard up</a>
	<a href="#">head in the sand</a>
	<a href="#">hold up</a>

[in over your head](#)[lay off](#)[lose your tongue](#)[miss out on](#)[over the edge](#)[psych out](#)[run the risk](#)[tied up](#)[tin ear](#)[washed up](#)[writer's block](#)

unanswered

[begs the question](#)

unaware

[in the dark](#)

unbalanced

[a bit off/a bit mental](#)[without a full deck](#)

unbeatable

[as slow as a dead snail](#)

unbelievable

[as if](#)[blow me over](#)[can't believe my ears](#)[can't believe my eyes](#)[far out](#)[in a pig's ass \[B\]](#)[talk through your hat](#)[the dickens you say](#)

uncertain

[a bit at sea](#)

uncertainty

[take risks](#)

uncivilized

[turn ugly](#)[wild and woolly](#)

uncle

[it's not what you know, it's who you know](#)[parachute](#)[the inside track](#)

unclear

[grey area](#)

unco-operative

	<a href="#">owly</a>
uncomfortable	
	<a href="#">give me the creeps</a> <a href="#">tight spot</a>
uncommon	
	<a href="#">as scarce as hen's teeth</a>
unconcerned	
	<a href="#">go to hell in a handbasket</a>
unconscious	
	<a href="#">black out</a> <a href="#">knock out</a> <a href="#">out cold</a> <a href="#">pass out</a>
uncover	
	<a href="#">dig it up</a> <a href="#">scratch the surface</a>
under	
	<a href="#">above board</a> <a href="#">break a spell</a> <a href="#">cover up</a> <a href="#">cross my heart and hope to die</a> <a href="#">go bust</a> <a href="#">have it in hand</a> <a href="#">in hand</a> <a href="#">in my care</a> <a href="#">in the nick of time</a> <a href="#">not feeling myself</a> <a href="#">on the side</a> <a href="#">out of control</a> <a href="#">presence of mind</a> <a href="#">put a hex on me</a> <a href="#">rattle my chain</a> <a href="#">under your thumb</a> <a href="#">within earshot</a>
underhanded	
	<a href="#">above board</a> <a href="#">hanky-panky</a> <a href="#">on the up and up</a>
understand	
	<a href="#">a blank look</a> <a href="#">a picture is worth a thousand words</a> <a href="#">a word to the wise is sufficient</a>

[as plain as the nose on your face](#)  
[clear as a bell](#)  
[clear up](#)  
[dig me](#)  
[do you follow](#)  
[don't know whether you're coming or going](#)  
[drive it home](#)  
[eh](#)  
[figure out](#)  
[follow me](#)  
[get a handle on](#)  
[get it](#)  
[get it straight](#)  
[get my drift](#)  
[get the picture](#)  
[get the point](#)  
[get this straight](#)  
[get your mind around](#)  
[hit me](#)  
[I smell where you're stepping](#)  
[it was Greek to me](#)  
[it's as plain as the nose on your face](#)  
[it's beyond me](#)  
[make myself clear](#)  
[make sense of it](#)  
[miss the point](#)  
[over my head](#)  
[pick up](#)  
[plain as the nose on your face](#)  
[see the light](#)  
[sharp as a tack](#)  
[shed a little light on](#)  
[take it](#)  
[thick as a brick](#)  
[tuned in](#)  
[wrap your mind around](#)  
[you had to be there](#)

understandable

[clear as mud](#)

understanding

[on the same wavelength](#)

understood

[crystal clear](#)[inside joke](#)

underwear

[gotches](#)[long Johns](#)

uneasy

[it phased me out](#)

unemployed

[out of work](#)

unevenly

[fits and starts](#)

unexplored

[virgin territory](#)

unfair

[a bad taste in my mouth](#)[a bum rap](#)[a raw deal](#)[a rip-off](#)[get screwed](#)[hanky-panky](#)[hellish \[B\]](#)[screw](#)[shady deal](#)

unfaithful

[cheat on](#)

unfinished

[get caught up](#)[loose ends](#)[nitpick](#)

unfortunate

[a bummer](#)[hit rock bottom](#)[too bad](#)

unfriendly

[give you the cold shoulder](#)[hard feelings](#)[peer sneer](#)

unglued

[fall apart \(at the seams\)](#)

unhappy

[browned off](#)[downhearted](#)[put off](#)

[put out](#)  
[put you in a bad mood](#)  
[sour puss](#)

unimportant

[a fart in a windstorm](#)  
[fifth business](#)  
[small potatoes](#)  
[small talk](#)

uninvited

[crash a party](#)

unique

[dasein](#)  
[stroke of genius](#)

unjust

[a bum rap](#)

unkind

[bite the hand that feeds you](#)  
[got it in for](#)  
[mean streak](#)

unknown

[out of the woodwork](#)

unlikely

[as if](#)

unload

[dump on](#)

unlucky

[damn the luck \[B\]](#)  
[darn my luck](#)  
[down and out](#)

unmusical

[tin ear](#)

unnecessary

[a fifth wheel](#)  
[no-frills](#)

unnoticed

[behind the scenes](#)

unplanned

[grinding halt](#)

unpleasant

[bad breath](#)  
[dirty work](#)  
[jungle mouth](#)

[scum/scumbag](#)

[skeleton in the closet](#)

[sometimes life is a bucket of shit and the handle is inside \[B\]](#)

unpredictable

[a loose cannon](#)

unpredictably

[the fickle finger of fate](#)

unreal

[spaced out](#)

unrealistic

[pie in the sky](#)

unreasonable

[gimme a break](#)

unrelated

[off the wall](#)

unsophisticated

[corny](#)

unsung

[behind the scenes](#)

unsure

[a bit at sea](#)

until

[a cliff-hanger](#)

[do me for/do me until](#)

[don't count your chickens before they hatch](#)

[done to a turn](#)

[drown your sorrow](#)

[eat your fill](#)

[Fletcherize your food](#)

[get in shape](#)

[hold the fort](#)

[hole up](#)

[it ain't over till it's over](#)

[it ain't over till the fat lady sings](#)

[knock out](#)

[laugh yourself sick](#)

[make a face](#)

[no pain, no gain](#)

[reduce to tears](#)

[run its course](#)

[see it through](#)

[shoot it out](#)

[sleep in](#)  
[sleep it off](#)  
[sober up](#)  
[stick it out](#)  
[stop at nothing](#)  
[the proof of the pudding is in the eating](#)  
[tide me over](#)  
[till hell freezes over](#)  
[till you're blue in the face](#)  
[wait up](#)  
[wait up for](#)  
[wear down](#)  
[wear out](#)  
[what goes around comes around](#)  
[work up a thirst](#)  
[you don't miss the water till the well runs dry](#)

unto	
	<a href="#">The Golden Rule</a>
untouched	
	<a href="#">virgin territory</a>
untrue	
	<a href="#">a bunch of malarkey</a>
unturned	
	<a href="#">look high and low</a>
unusual	
	<a href="#">blue moon</a>
	<a href="#">bozo</a>
	<a href="#">joker</a>
	<a href="#">mad hatter</a>
	<a href="#">off-beat</a>
	<a href="#">off the wall</a>
	<a href="#">that's a corker</a>
unusually	
	<a href="#">at the ripe old age</a>
unwilling	
	<a href="#">cheap</a>
	<a href="#">chintzy</a>
	<a href="#">head in the sand</a>
	<a href="#">tight/tight fisted</a>
up	
	<a href="#">a feather in your cap</a>
	<a href="#">a fill-up</a>

[a wake-up call](#)

[ahead of the game](#)

[all it's cracked up to be](#)

[all spruced up](#)

[all things to all people](#)

[back down](#)

[barf](#)

[be there](#)

[become of](#)

[belly up](#)

[blow it](#)

[blow to kingdom come](#)

[bosom buddy](#)

[break a sweat](#)

[breakup](#)

[bring to a close](#)

[brown nose \[B\]](#)

[brush up on](#)

[buckle under](#)

[bundle up](#)

[butter up](#)

[call his bluff](#)

[clean up](#)

[clean up your plate](#)

[come across](#)

[come clean](#)

[come up](#)

[cough up](#)

[crank it up](#)

[crop up](#)

[cut my teeth on](#)

[dead-cat bounce](#)

[deep six](#)

[dig in](#)

[doctor it/doctor it up](#)

[dolled up](#)

[don't know which end is up](#)

[don't know your ass from a hole in the ground \[B\]](#)

[down the tubes](#)

[dressed fit to kill](#)

[dressed to the nines](#)

[drink up](#)

[drive around](#)

[drive you to distraction](#)

[ease up](#)

[face up](#)

[fake it](#)

[flat](#)

[fork over](#)

[frame](#)

[fresh out](#)

[front me](#)

[fuck up \[B\]](#)

[fudge it](#)

[full strength](#)

[get off my case](#)

[get the lay of the land](#)

[get up a head of steam](#)

[get your shirt in a knot/ get your shit in a knot \[B\]](#)

[give an inch](#)

[give me a lift](#)

[give me the third degree](#)

[gloss over](#)

[go easy on](#)

[go to great lengths/ go to any lengths](#)

[goof up](#)

[had enough](#)

[had it](#)

[have a fix](#)

[head down there](#)

[help yourself](#)

[here's mud in your eye](#)

[hit my funny bone](#)

[hit on](#)

[hold a candle](#)

[hork](#)

[if you can't cut it, you can't stay](#)

[in stitches](#)

[in the drink](#)

[in the throes](#)

[it ain't over till the fat lady sings](#)

[join up](#)

[join you](#)

[jump for joy](#)

[keep pace](#)  
[keep quiet](#)  
[kick back](#)  
[kill me](#)  
[kowitz](#)  
[land up](#)  
[laugh your head off](#)  
[let up](#)  
[make a booboo](#)  
[make a scene](#)  
[make amends](#)  
[make believe](#)  
[make it snappy](#)  
[make mention](#)  
[make out](#)  
[make the grade](#)  
[mess up](#)  
[mess with](#)  
[mop up](#)  
[mugged](#)  
[never say die](#)  
[odds and ends](#)  
[on fire](#)  
[on the market](#)  
[on top of](#)  
[over the top](#)  
[part company](#)  
[pay attention](#)  
[play catch-up](#)  
[play it for all it's worth](#)  
[play the ham](#)  
[psyched/psyched up](#)  
[pull punches](#)  
[put them up](#)  
[put your money where your mouth is](#)  
[rack up](#)  
[ralph](#)  
[reach for the sky](#)  
[read up on](#)  
[rile up](#)  
[rise and shine](#)  
[roll over and play dead](#)

[roll with the punches](#)

[ruffle your feathers](#)

[rug up](#)

[screw you \[B\]](#)

[see red](#)

[shove it \[B\]](#)

[shut your face](#)

[sick to death](#)

[sick to my stomach](#)

[skoal](#)

[slap my afro / slap my fro](#)

[slow down](#)

[speak up](#)

[spice up](#)

[spin a yarn](#)

[split a gut](#)

[stand corrected](#)

[stand for](#)

[stand it](#)

[stand up and be counted](#)

[stay up](#)

[step on his dick](#)

[stick them up](#)

[string a line](#)

[suck eggs](#)

[suck it up](#)

[supercharge](#)

[take up cudgels](#)

[take you to task](#)

[take your sweet time](#)

[the first leg](#)

[throw in the towel](#)

[tip the scales at](#)

[to coin a phrase](#)

[turn out](#)

[turn up](#)

[turn yourself in](#)

[tweak](#)

[up against it](#)

[up to it](#)

[up to par](#)

[up to scratch](#)

[up to snuff](#)  
[wait a sec](#)  
[wait on you hand and foot](#)  
[wait up](#)  
[wash out](#)  
[wasted](#)  
[wind up](#)

upchuck

[throw up](#)

upon

[at one time](#)  
[honestly](#)  
[put a hex on me](#)  
[upon the words offhandedly spoken](#)

upper

[high and mighty](#)  
[tip the scales](#)  
[upper crust](#)

upset

[a bee in her bonnet](#)  
[beside myself](#)  
[blow sky high](#)  
[boiling mad](#)  
[calm down](#)  
[cheesed off](#)  
[climb the walls](#)  
[discombobulated](#)  
[don't rock the boat](#)  
[get worked up](#)  
[get your back up](#)  
[go ballistic](#)  
[had it up to here](#)  
[have a conniption](#)  
[high strung](#)  
[hot and bothered](#)  
[hot under the collar](#)  
[in a flap](#)  
[in a snit](#)  
[in a stew](#)  
[in a tizzy](#)  
[nose is out of joint](#)  
[pissed \[B\]](#)

[put off](#)  
[put out](#)  
[put you in a bad mood](#)  
[rile up](#)  
[rock the boat](#)  
[shit fire and apple butter](#)  
[steam up](#)  
[step on their toes](#)  
[take exception to](#)  
[teed off](#)  
[ticked off](#)  
[what's eating you](#)  
[what's your beef](#)  
[worked up](#)

uptight

[a bundle of nerves](#)  
[hang loose](#)

upwardly-mobile

[yuppie](#)

upwards

[uptalk](#)

urinate

[back teeth are floating](#)  
[have a leak \[B\]](#)  
[pass water](#)  
[piss like a race horse \[B\]](#)  
[take a leak \[B\]](#)  
[take a pee \[B\]](#)  
[take a piss \[B\]](#)  
[take a whiz](#)  
[wet the bed](#)  
[whiz](#)

usa

[The Big Apple](#)

use

[a man of few words](#)  
[at your fingertips](#)  
[burn out](#)  
[cast a spell](#)  
[cut corners](#)  
[do drugs](#)  
[do it the hard way](#)

[dog in the manger](#)  
[draw upon](#)  
[fight fire with fire](#)  
[first dibs](#)  
[freshen up](#)  
[garage kept](#)  
[get a fix](#)  
[give her](#)  
[go easy on](#)  
[had it](#)  
[hair off the dog that bit you](#)  
[head \(headbanger\)](#)  
[hold up](#)  
[jump start](#)  
[kick start](#)  
[live by](#)  
[liveware](#)  
[make do](#)  
[Net surfer](#)  
[pass off](#)  
[pinhead](#)  
[plug into](#)  
[power user](#)  
[pull the goalie \(hockey\)](#)  
[put on the dog](#)  
[put your mind to it](#)  
[ride his coattails](#)  
[ride the wave](#)  
[run out](#)  
[scrape the bottom of the barrel](#)  
[sharpen up](#)  
[shoot your wad](#)  
[so to speak](#)  
[step on people](#)  
[swear like a sailor](#)  
[take drugs](#)  
[take time to smell the roses](#)  
[teed up](#)  
[throw your weight around](#)  
[try it out](#)  
[up your sleeve](#)  
[use up](#)

[user friendly](#)  
[watch your language](#)  
[wear down](#)  
[wear out](#)  
[wired for sound](#)  
[you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink](#)

## used

[brand new/ brand spanking new](#)  
[collecting dust](#)  
[fresh out](#)  
[gathering dust](#)  
[left over](#)  
[odds and ends](#)  
[piggy bank](#)  
[political football](#)  
[road apple](#)  
[set out](#)  
[smoking gun](#)  
[swell](#)  
[thrash](#)  
[through the mill](#)  
[weasel word](#)  
[white elephant](#)

## useful

[as useless as a fifth wheel](#)  
[as useless as tits on a boar](#)  
[good-for-nothing](#)

## useless

[a fifth wheel](#)  
[good-for-nothing](#)  
[white elephant](#)

## users

[skids](#)

## using

[blow up](#)  
[break away](#)  
[done with it](#)  
[dry out](#)  
[half-hearted](#)  
[hard sell](#)  
[high](#)  
[mind over matter](#)

[on drugs](#)  
[play fair](#)  
[rain check](#)  
[so to speak](#)  
[straight cash](#)  
[swear off](#)  
[wax eloquent](#)

usual

[the going rate](#)

usually

[take my place](#)

[the first pancake is always spoiled](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Definition Index V

vacancy	
	<a href="#">booked/booked up</a>
vagina	
	<a href="#">camel toes [B]</a>
vague	
	<a href="#">grey area</a>
	<a href="#">weasel word</a>
vale	
	<a href="#">this mortal coil</a>
valise	
	<a href="#">suckbucket</a>
valuable	
	<a href="#">give my eye teeth</a>
	<a href="#">give my right arm</a>
	<a href="#">take chances</a>
	<a href="#">time is money</a>
value	
	<a href="#">a pinch of coon shit [B]</a>
	<a href="#">at face value</a>
	<a href="#">bang for your buck</a>
	<a href="#">don't give a crap [B]</a>
	<a href="#">junk food</a>
	<a href="#">lowlife</a>
	<a href="#">money doesn't grow on trees</a>
	<a href="#">peanuts</a>
	<a href="#">square deal</a>
	<a href="#">the pits</a>
	<a href="#">true colors</a>
	<a href="#">turn over a new leaf</a>
vamoose	
	<a href="#">get a move on</a>
	<a href="#">make tracks</a>
	<a href="#">skidaddle</a>
van	
	<a href="#">shagging wagon</a>

vanishing	<a href="#">into thin air</a>
variety	<a href="#">everything from soup to nuts</a> <a href="#">girl Friday</a> <a href="#">variety is the spice of life</a>
various	<a href="#">play the field</a>
vegetable	<a href="#">cheap like borsch</a> <a href="#">square meal</a>
vegetate	<a href="#">mind in neutral</a>
vehicle	<a href="#">black out</a> <a href="#">bumper to bumper</a> <a href="#">catch a ride</a> <a href="#">fly low</a> <a href="#">hit the brakes</a> <a href="#">on board</a> <a href="#">set of wheels</a> <a href="#">traffic jam</a> <a href="#">wheels</a>
vein	<a href="#">along those lines</a>
venture	<a href="#">sell the farm</a>
verbal	<a href="#">two-fisted attack</a>
verbatim	<a href="#">word for word</a>
verbose	<a href="#">balderdash</a>
verge	<a href="#">on the brink</a>
vernacular	<a href="#">so to speak</a>
versa	<a href="#">the past is slipping by without a trace</a>
very	<a href="#">a basket case</a> <a href="#">a budding genius</a> <a href="#">a bundle of nerves</a>

[a close shave](#)  
[a dead ringer](#)  
[a dime a dozen](#)  
[a far cry](#)  
[a fleeting glance](#)  
[a hill of beans](#)  
[a holy pile](#)  
[a howling blizzard](#)  
[a month of Sundays](#)  
[a pinch of coon shit \[B\]](#)  
[a shadow of his former self](#)  
[a slim chance](#)  
[a steal](#)  
[all in](#)  
[all talk and no action](#)  
[and how](#)  
[apple-pie order](#)  
[as all get-out](#)  
[as American as apple pie](#)  
[as busy as a beaver](#)  
[as drunk as a skunk](#)  
[as dumb as a sack of hammers](#)  
[as plain as the nose on your face](#)  
[as poor as a church mouse](#)  
[as sick as a dog](#)  
[as sick as a parrot](#)  
[as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar](#)  
[at least](#)  
[at my wits' end](#)  
[at the ripe old age](#)  
[bananas](#)  
[bang on](#)  
[before you can say Jack Robinson](#)  
[below the poverty line](#)  
[beside myself](#)  
[better than sex](#)  
[big time](#)  
[bloody well](#)  
[blow me down](#)  
[blow your lid/stack/top](#)  
[boiling mad](#)  
[bone dry](#)

[brain is fried](#)  
[break your heart](#)  
[burn the midnight oil](#)  
[bushed](#)  
[bust my butt](#)  
[butter wouldn't melt in his mouth](#)  
[catch your death](#)  
[chock full](#)  
[cold comfort](#)  
[coming up roses](#)  
[cost an arm and a leg](#)  
[crystal clear](#)  
[curiosity killed the cat](#)  
[cut a fine figure](#)  
[cut from the same cloth](#)  
[cut it a little fine](#)  
[damn it \[B\]](#)  
[dead-cat bounce](#)  
[dead certain](#)  
[dead tired](#)  
[deep, dark secret](#)  
[die for](#)  
[dilly-dally](#)  
[dirt cheap](#)  
[dog tired](#)  
[done in](#)  
[done to a turn](#)  
[dying to know](#)  
[easy as pie](#)  
[eat my hat/shirt](#)  
[faster than a minnow can swim a dipper](#)  
[faster than a speeding bullet](#)  
[fat chance](#)  
[few and far between](#)  
[filthy rich](#)  
[fine-tune](#)  
[fingers the size of bananas](#)  
[fit as a fiddle](#)  
[fit to be tied](#)  
[fly low](#)  
[frightened to death](#)  
[full as a tick](#)

[give it all you've got](#)  
[go ballistic](#)  
[go bananas](#)  
[go like crazy](#)  
[go through the roof](#)  
[going great guns](#)  
[gone to the dogs](#)  
[good and dead/mad/sick](#)  
[got it bad](#)  
[got my hands full](#)  
[greased lightning](#)  
[groaty to the max](#)  
[gung ho](#)  
[hair stand on end](#)  
[hammered](#)  
[happy as a box of birds](#)  
[happy as a clam/lark](#)  
[happy as a peacock](#)  
[happy as a pig in shit \[B\]](#)  
[hard of hearing](#)  
[have a conniption](#)  
[have a fit](#)  
[heavy](#)  
[heavy duty](#)  
[hidden talent](#)  
[hill of beans](#)  
[hit home](#)  
[hit rock bottom](#)  
[hit the ceiling](#)  
[hopping mad](#)  
[horse shoes up his ass \[B\]](#)  
[hot stuff](#)  
[humongous](#)  
[hunk](#)  
[in a big way](#)  
[in a cold sweat](#)  
[in a flash](#)  
[in a jiffy](#)  
[in a sec](#)  
[in no time](#)  
[in seventh heaven](#)  
[in sick bay](#)

[in the wink of an eye](#)  
[in the worst way](#)  
[in two shakes \(of a lamb's tail\)](#)  
[irons in the fire](#)  
[itsy-bitsy / itty-bitty](#)  
[it's a whole nother world out there](#)  
[it's a whole other world out there](#)  
[it's as plain as the nose on your face](#)  
[Johnny-come-lately](#)  
[jump out of your skin](#)  
[knock me over with a feather](#)  
[lightning fast](#)  
[like a bat out of hell](#)  
[like a chicken on a June bug](#)  
[like crazy/like mad](#)  
[long for](#)  
[look like he was dragged through a knothole](#)  
[look sharp](#)  
[low-ball him](#)  
[mad about](#)  
[made for each other](#)  
[motormouth](#)  
[much obliged](#)  
[nine times out of ten](#)  
[not by a long shot](#)  
[not likely](#)  
[on cloud nine](#)  
[on his last legs](#)  
[on my deathbed](#)  
[on the edge of your seat](#)  
[on the run](#)  
[on your deathbed](#)  
[once in a blue moon](#)  
[one hell of a time](#)  
[out of this world](#)  
[petrified](#)  
[piss pot full \[B\]](#)  
[piss your pants \[B\]](#)  
[plain as the nose on your face](#)  
[plastered](#)  
[play a mean game](#)  
[pleased as punch](#)

[plump full](#)  
[polluted](#)  
[pop your buttons](#)  
[positive](#)  
[power to burn](#)  
[press the panic button](#)  
[pretty as a picture](#)  
[put to shame](#)  
[quick like a bunny](#)  
[quicker than you can say Jack Robinson](#)  
[right off the bat](#)  
[rip-snorting mad](#)  
[ritzy](#)  
[rustbucket](#)  
[scared shitless \[B\]](#)  
[scared spitless](#)  
[scared stiff](#)  
[scared to death](#)  
[shit-faced \[B\]](#)  
[shit hot \[B\]](#)  
[shitting bricks \[B\]](#)  
[shoes like boats](#)  
[should be so lucky](#)  
[sicker than a dog](#)  
[sloshed to the gills](#)  
[smashing](#)  
[so much as](#)  
[so quiet you can hear a pin drop](#)  
[so small you could barely swing a cat](#)  
[so small you had to back out to change your mind](#)  
[sometimes life is a bucket of shit and the handle is inside \[B\]](#)  
[spitting mad](#)  
[spitting nails](#)  
[split a gut](#)  
[split hairs](#)  
[squeaky clean](#)  
[stink the joint out](#)  
[stone dead](#)  
[stop on a dime](#)  
[strapped](#)  
[strictly business](#)  
[stroke of genius](#)

[super-duper](#)  
[superstar](#)  
[sure as hell](#)  
[sweat bullets](#)  
[teeny-weeny](#)  
[thanks a bunch](#)  
[thanks a million](#)  
[the living end](#)  
[the moment of truth](#)  
[the nitty-gritty](#)  
[the picture of health](#)  
[the room is so small you have to go outside turn around](#)  
[three sheets to the wind](#)  
[tickled pink](#)  
[tie one on](#)  
[till you're blue in the face](#)  
[to the nth degree](#)  
[tons](#)  
[top notch](#)  
[top secret](#)  
[try your darndest](#)  
[VIP](#)  
[walk on eggshells](#)  
[want it so bad I can taste it](#)  
[way cool](#)  
[way out of line \(away out of line\)](#)  
[wired](#)  
[work your ass off \[B\]](#)  
[worlds apart](#)  
[worn out](#)  
[worried sick](#)  
[worship the ground she walks on](#)  
[XL](#)

veteran

[an old warhorse](#)

via

[Netwar](#)

viable

[dead duck](#)

vibrator

[a dildo \[B\]](#)

vice

[the past is slipping by without a trace](#)

vicious

[dog eat dog](#)

victim

[bleeding heart](#)

[run interference](#)

victory

[mount a comeback](#)

[pull it off](#)

[smell blood](#)

vie

[that's life](#)

view

[drain the swamp](#)

[have a say](#)

[it seems to me](#)

[put a different slant on it](#)

[right before my eyes](#)

[see eye to eye](#)

[the way I see it](#)

[under my nose](#)

vigorously

[sing up a storm](#)

violence

[cooler heads prevailed](#)

violent

[air rage](#)

[rip-snorting mad](#)

violet

[a caution](#)

[wall flower](#)

vip

[a big wig](#)

[a heavyweight](#)

[big shot](#)

[big wigs](#)

visible

[as plain as day](#)

[catch a glimpse](#)

[cut](#)

[five o'clock shadow](#)

[out of sight](#)

[plain as day](#)

[pop up](#)  
[under my nose](#)

visit

[a chin wag](#)  
[a quickie](#)  
[catch you at a bad time](#)  
[chew the fat/ chew the rag](#)  
[cold call](#)  
[drop in](#)  
[drop over](#)  
[gab](#)  
[get around](#)  
[get over](#)  
[get together](#)  
[good time](#)  
[have a whiz](#)  
[have to go](#)  
[have you over](#)  
[leg work](#)  
[pay a visit](#)  
[pop in](#)  
[pop over](#)  
[set a spell](#)  
[set foot](#)  
[shmooze](#)  
[shoot the breeze](#)  
[shoot the shit \[B\]](#)  
[take in](#)  
[visit a spell](#)  
[wear out your welcome](#)  
[yak](#)

visiting

[out of circulation](#)

visitor

[drop-in](#)  
[when in Rome, do as the Romans do](#)

vital

[go for the jugular](#)

vitality

[get-up-and-go](#)

vocation

[walk of life](#)

voice	<a href="#">come into your own</a> <a href="#">pipes</a> <a href="#">read me (CB radio)</a> <a href="#">uptalk</a>
volkswagen	<a href="#">Love Bug</a>
volume	<a href="#">crank it up</a>
vomit	<a href="#">barf</a> <a href="#">blow chunks</a> <a href="#">bring up</a> <a href="#">hork</a> <a href="#">hurl</a> <a href="#">ralph</a> <a href="#">sick to my stomach</a> <a href="#">throw chunks</a> <a href="#">throw up</a> <a href="#">upchuck</a> <a href="#">woof your cookies</a>
vote	<a href="#">age of majority</a> <a href="#">cast your vote</a> <a href="#">come of age</a> <a href="#">political football</a> <a href="#">stand up and be counted</a> <a href="#">take a poll</a> <a href="#">the age of majority</a> <a href="#">the balance of power</a>
voters	<a href="#">leg work</a> <a href="#">mend fences</a>
vulgar	<a href="#">down and dirty</a> <a href="#">swear like a sailor</a>
vulnerable	<a href="#">Achilles heel</a> <a href="#">open to criticism</a>

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

## [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Definition Index W

wacko

[bonkers](#)  
[cracked](#)  
[crackpot](#)  
[mad hatter](#)  
[out of my head](#)  
[wingy](#)

wag

[chew the fat/ chew the rag](#)  
[shoot the shit \[B\]](#)  
[tonsil hockey](#)  
[yak](#)

wages

[freeze wages](#)  
[make money](#)

wagon

[dry out](#)  
[into the sauce](#)

wait

[cherrypicker \(hockey\)](#)  
[cool your heels](#)  
[don't count your chickens before they hatch](#)  
[don't hold your breath](#)  
[hang on](#)  
[hold it](#)  
[hold on](#)  
[hold out for](#)  
[hold the phone](#)  
[hold your horses](#)  
[hole up](#)  
[kill time](#)  
[let George do it](#)  
[let me have it](#)  
[sit tight](#)  
[sober up](#)

[spend time](#)  
[stay up](#)  
[sweat it out](#)  
[wait a sec](#)  
[wait around](#)  
[wait for the other shoe to drop](#)  
[wait up](#)  
[wait with bated breath](#)

waiting

[jump queue](#)  
[on pins and needles](#)  
[out to get you](#)

wake

[a wake-up call](#)  
[rise and shine](#)  
[slap my afro / slap my fro](#)  
[wake with a start](#)

walk

[boogie](#)  
[bump and grind](#)  
[crawl on my hands and knees over broken glass just to see her photo](#)  
[dry run](#)  
[flatfoot](#)  
[go in circles](#)  
[have a hitch in your getalong](#)  
[pound the pavement](#)  
[run down](#)  
[set foot](#)  
[turn yourself in](#)  
[walk a straight line](#)  
[walk down](#)  
[walk up](#)

walking

[leg work](#)  
[on parade](#)  
[on the limp](#)  
[two abreast](#)

wall

[drive you to distraction](#)

want

[a hot ticket](#)  
[a keeper](#)

[ask for the moon](#)

[deal me in](#)

[death wish](#)

[die for](#)

[do with](#)

[don't want to go there](#)

[dove](#)

[drive you to drink](#)

[dying to know](#)

[eager beaver](#)

[fish for a compliment](#)

[forget it](#)

[get a shot at](#)

[get your shirt in a knot/ get your shit in a knot \[B\]](#)

[get your way](#)

[go pound salt](#)

[got my eye on](#)

[had a bellyful](#)

[have designs on](#)

[have it made](#)

[have it your way](#)

[hawk](#)

[in the mood](#)

[is you is, or is you ain't my baby](#)

[joe-job](#)

[lazy bones](#)

[long for](#)

[mean well](#)

[misery loves company](#)

[mop the floor with us](#)

[on approval](#)

[out of the goodness of my heart](#)

[pay off](#)

[play hard to get](#)

[put 'er there](#)

[put her there](#)

[say the word](#)

[set your price](#)

[set your sights](#)

[spoiled brat](#)

[talk about](#)

[the burning question](#)

[wait on you hand and foot](#)  
[wait with bated breath](#)  
[want a piece of me](#)  
[want it so bad I can taste it](#)  
[want to make something of it](#)  
[willy-nilly](#)

wanted

[Generation X](#)

wanting

[horny \[B\]](#)  
[killer instinct](#)  
[out to get you](#)  
[out to win](#)  
[really deaf](#)

war

[all's fair in love and war](#)  
[baby boomer](#)  
[come of age](#)  
[hawk](#)  
[life is not all guns and roses](#)  
[rattle sabres](#)  
[Roaring Twenties](#)

ward

[nut house](#)

wardroom

[buckstop \(military\)](#)

warm

[snug as a bug in a rug](#)

warmed

[warmed over](#)

warmer

[take the chill off](#)

warmly

[bundle up](#)

[rug up](#)

warn

[catch me by surprise](#)

warning

[a wake-up call](#)  
[at a moment's notice](#)  
[break into song](#)  
[coldcock](#)  
[Florida green](#)

[idiot lights](#)  
[jump](#)  
[on short notice](#)  
[out of nowhere](#)  
[pop in](#)

warship

[buckstop \(military\)](#)

was

[a shadow of his former self](#)  
[all hell broke loose](#)  
[by the way](#)  
[chimo](#)  
[cooler heads prevailed](#)  
[cuss](#)  
[damn the luck \[B\]](#)  
[don't mention it](#)  
[fate is sealed](#)  
[if looks could kill](#)  
[it was a lark](#)  
[it was Greek to me](#)  
[knock me over with a feather](#)  
[no problem \(no prob\)](#)  
[not at all](#)  
[pay back](#)  
[stretching it](#)  
[swear like a sailor](#)  
[the air was blue](#)  
[the tide turned](#)  
[think nothing of it](#)  
[time ran out](#)  
[times were hard](#)  
[too little too late](#)  
[turn the tables on](#)  
[white elephant](#)  
[wishful thinking](#)  
[you had to be there](#)

wash

[call it square](#)  
[clean up](#)  
[even](#)  
[freshen up](#)  
[hose it down/ hose it off](#)

[wash down](#)

washed

[like a dirty shirt](#)

washer

[big cheese](#)[the big cheese](#)

washroom

[biff/biffy](#)[freshen up](#)[have to go](#)[nature calls](#)[pit stop](#)[powder my nose](#)[see a man about a dog](#)[the can](#)

wasn't

[been around](#)

waste

[a wild goose chase](#)[don't get mad; get even](#)[get down to business](#)[lollygag](#)[lose time](#)[piss away \[B\]](#)[spin your wheels](#)[throw the baby out with the bath water](#)[waste not, want not](#)[wreak havoc](#)

wastebasket

[circular file](#)[file 13](#)

wasted

[down the drain](#)[polluted](#)[smashed](#)[stoned](#)[tanked/tanked up](#)

wasting

[time's a wasting](#)

watch

[breathe down my neck](#)[check up on](#)

[keep an eye on](#)  
[keep an eye out](#)  
[keep tabs on](#)  
[keep your eyes peeled](#)  
[look out for](#)  
[mind your manners](#)  
[pay attention](#)  
[walk on eggshells](#)  
[watch me like a hawk](#)  
[watch out for](#)  
[watch over like a mother hawk](#)  
[watch your every move](#)  
[watch your step](#)

watcher

[birder](#)

watches

[couch potato](#)

[tube head](#)

watching

[all eyes](#)

[asleep at the switch](#)

[birder](#)

[glued to the set](#)

water

[a pine float](#)

[dead duck](#)

[hose it down/ hose it off](#)

[run a tub](#)

[running water](#)

[wash down](#)

[wash it off](#)

[water down](#)

water-cooler

[coffee talk](#)

wave

[flag a cab](#)

[hail a cab](#)

[make trouble](#)

[rock the boat](#)

[throw a kiss](#)

wavelength

[in tune](#)

[see eye to eye](#)

[tuned in](#)

wax

[the whole nine yards](#)

way

[against the grain](#)

[all around Robin Hood's barn](#)

[all the way to Eger and back](#)

[and that's that](#)

[at all](#)

[bat her eyes](#)

[bend the rules](#)

[bump and grind](#)

[burn your bridges](#)

[by any means](#)

[by guess or by gosh](#)

[by hook or by crook](#)

[by its very nature](#)

[by no means](#)

[come across \[B\]](#)

[come onto](#)

[cool](#)

[damned if you do and damned if you don't](#)

[die for](#)

[do unto others as you would have them do unto you](#)

[do your own thing](#)

[don't get me wrong](#)

[every trick in the book](#)

[find a way around](#)

[for love nor money](#)

[get around it](#)

[get fresh](#)

[get her way](#)

[get it on](#)

[get the picture](#)

[get your way](#)

[give him the evil eye](#)

[go against the grain](#)

[go downtown \[B\]](#)

[good going](#)

[got your number](#)

[granola](#)

[groaty to the max](#)

[have it your way](#)

[have your cake and eat it, too](#)

[hold your mouth the right way](#)

[hold your nose](#)

[if you're not with us you're against us](#)

[in a rut](#)

[in any way, shape or form](#)

[in step](#)

[in the least](#)

[in the road](#)

[it makes no difference](#)

[kill for](#)

[knock up \[B\]](#)

[lead a life](#)

[life you lead](#)

[like hell \[B\]](#)

[look the other way](#)

[make a living](#)

[make friends](#)

[make love](#)

[make room](#)

[no can do](#)

[no dice](#)

[not on your life](#)

[off the beaten track](#)

[on a lark](#)

[open a window](#)

[out of the question](#)

[over and done with](#)

[pedal to the metal](#)

[play my cards right](#)

[put a different slant on it](#)

[put my foot down](#)

[put the right spin on it](#)

[roll out the red carpet](#)

[run roughshod](#)

[same here](#)

[snazzy](#)

[spade work](#)

[straight up](#)

[take a poke at](#)

[take action](#)[take it](#)[teach you the tricks of the trade](#)[that's life](#)[that's the spirit](#)[that's the way the cookie crumbles](#)[the fickle finger of fate](#)[the gift of the gab \(the gift of gab\)](#)[the key to success](#)[the most](#)[there's more than one way to skin a cat](#)[think outside the box](#)[to hell with that \[B\]](#)[turn a blind eye](#)[turn the other way](#)[twist of fate](#)[where there's a will, there's a way](#)[yonder over there](#)[zig when you should zag](#)

wayne

[The Great One](#)

we

[according to Hoyle](#)[all the world's a stage](#)[be there or be square](#)[call it square](#)[chickens come home to roost](#)[come on](#)[compare notes](#)[don't borrow trouble](#)[easy come, easy go](#)[even](#)[feast or famine](#)[full steam ahead](#)[heaven forbid](#)[heaven help us](#)[here's to](#)[hold on](#)[hold the fort](#)[if only](#)[if you're born to hang, you won't drown](#)[in heaven's name](#)

[it has your name on it](#)  
[it never rains but it pours](#)  
[it's a go](#)  
[it's a matter of life and death](#)  
[keep the faith](#)  
[know where we stand](#)  
[larger than life](#)  
[like it or lump it](#)  
[make hay while the sun shines](#)  
[money doesn't grow on trees](#)  
[more power to you](#)  
[more than welcome](#)  
[no can do](#)  
[onto us](#)  
[oodles](#)  
[speak of the devil](#)  
[talk about](#)  
[talk shop](#)  
[the bigger they are the harder they fall](#)  
[the buck stops here](#)  
[the burning question](#)  
[the crunch](#)  
[the heat is on](#)  
[the jig's up](#)  
[the joke is on you](#)  
[the more the merrier](#)  
[the past is slipping by without a trace](#)  
[there's no tomorrow](#)  
[things are looking up](#)  
[time's a wasting](#)  
[to each his own](#)  
[when it comes to](#)  
[when it rains it pours](#)  
[where there's a will, there's a way](#)  
[wise to us](#)

weak

[a shadow of his former self](#)  
[look like death warmed over](#)  
[pipsqueak](#)  
[strung out](#)  
[wear down](#)  
[wimp](#)

[wimpy](#)  
[work my fingers to the bone](#)  
[wuss](#)

weakened

[blue in the face](#)  
[full strength](#)

weaker

[chaser](#)  
[water down](#)

weakest

[pecking order](#)  
[the runt of the litter](#)

weakness

[Achilles heel](#)  
[smell blood](#)

wealth

[born with a silver spoon in his mouth](#)  
[from rags to riches](#)  
[kill the goose that lays the golden eggs](#)  
[set the world on fire](#)

wealthier

[better off](#)

wealthy

[deep pockets](#)  
[fat cat](#)  
[filthy rich](#)  
[have deep pockets](#)  
[in clover](#)  
[in the money](#)  
[loaded](#)  
[Old Boys' Club](#)  
[rolling in it](#)  
[well heeled](#)  
[well off](#)  
[well to do](#)

weapon

[fight fire with fire](#)  
[nukes](#)  
[pack Uzis](#)  
[smoking gun](#)  
[take up cudgels](#)

wear

[had it](#)  
[had the bird](#)  
[preppy](#)  
[run you ragged](#)  
[sweater girl](#)  
[try it on](#)

wearing

[stark naked](#)

weary

[tired out](#)

weather

[it's cold / it's hot](#)  
[it's raining/snowing](#)  
[make hay while the sun shines](#)  
[not feeling myself](#)  
[small talk](#)

web

[Internet](#)

wedding

[something borrowed, something blue](#)

wednesday

[hump day](#)

week

[hump day](#)  
[pre-menstrual syndrome](#)  
[take a break](#)  
[TGIF](#)  
[till the cows come home](#)

weep

[shed a tear](#)

weigh

[tip the scales at](#)

weight

[a sack of hammers](#)  
[like a ton of bricks](#)  
[weigh in at](#)  
[workout](#)

weird

[crackpot](#)  
[get-up](#)  
[nerd](#)  
[over the rainbow](#)  
[rad](#)

[sicko](#)  
[warped sense of humor](#)

weirdest

[take the cake](#)

weirdo

[creep](#)  
[dingbat/ding-dong](#)

welcome

[don't go away mad; just go away](#)  
[go tell your mother she wants you](#)  
[go to any trouble](#)  
[lap up](#)  
[right as rain](#)  
[roll out the red carpet](#)  
[take risks](#)  
[two's company, three's a crowd](#)  
[wear out your welcome](#)

well

['at a boy \(that a boy\)](#)  
['at a girl \(that a girl\)](#)  
[apple-pie order](#)  
[at the top of her game](#)  
[attaboy \(that a boy\)](#)  
[attagirl \(that a girl\)](#)  
[bloody well](#)  
[buck fever](#)  
[carry a tune](#)  
[choke](#)  
[clean cut](#)  
[coming up roses](#)  
[cool under pressure](#)  
[crystal clear](#)  
[did good](#)  
[did yourself proud](#)  
[done good](#)  
[eat humble pie](#)  
[fall short](#)  
[fill his shoes](#)  
[fine-tune](#)  
[gee](#)  
[go places](#)  
[going great guns](#)

[going strong](#)  
[gone to the dogs](#)  
[good show](#)  
[half-baked](#)  
[hard of hearing](#)  
[have deep pockets](#)  
[hit it off](#)  
[hit on all cylinders](#)  
[hold a candle](#)  
[if a mussel doesn't open don't eat it](#)  
[if my memory serves me correctly](#)  
[in a slump](#)  
[in bad shape](#)  
[know inside out](#)  
[know like the back of your hand](#)  
[look sharp](#)  
[make a go of it](#)  
[make a name for yourself](#)  
[mop the floor with us](#)  
[neat](#)  
[not feeling myself](#)  
[piss poor \[B\]](#)  
[play a mean game](#)  
[pull through](#)  
[put your best foot forward](#)  
[shucks](#)  
[sleep like a log](#)  
[slip a notch](#)  
[soldier on](#)  
[start with a bang](#)  
[stay in line](#)  
[team player](#)  
[that a boy/that a girl](#)  
[the Peter Principle](#)  
[the rest is history](#)  
[tick over](#)  
[tickety-boo](#)  
[under the weather](#)  
[well heeled](#)  
[well off](#)

well-balanced

[get it together](#)

well-designed

[a humdinger](#)

well-groomed

[dapper Dan](#)

well-known

[chestnut](#)

well-meaning

[a sad sack](#)

were

[bully for you](#)

[dates you](#)

[eat crow](#)

[eat your words](#)

[the day of the family farm](#)

[you can thank your lucky stars](#)

west

[Lotus Land](#)

western

[Bigfoot](#)

[Sasquatch](#)

wet

[a babe in arms](#)

[on your ass \[B\]](#)

[out in left field](#)

[the tender age of](#)

whack

[off kilter](#)

what

[a fly on the wall](#)

[a penny for your thoughts](#)

[a piece of my mind](#)

[actions speak louder than words](#)

[all wet](#)

[at face value](#)

[at stake](#)

[beauty is in the eye of the beholder](#)

[beg your pardon](#)

[by gosh](#)

[by the way](#)

[call it quits](#)

[call the shots](#)

[can't believe my ears](#)

[can't believe my eyes](#)  
[catch as catch can](#)  
[catch the wave](#)  
[catch you off guard](#)  
[claim to fame](#)  
[come again](#)  
[come hell or high water](#)  
[come on](#)  
[come through](#)  
[come to the point](#)  
[comeuppance](#)  
[compare notes](#)  
[do your own thing](#)  
[don't give me any of your lip](#)  
[don't know which side your bread is buttered on](#)  
[don't teach your grandmother how to suck eggs](#)  
[down the pike](#)  
[drain the swamp](#)  
[dump on](#)  
[eat crow](#)  
[eat your words](#)  
[eh](#)  
[find yourself](#)  
[follow me](#)  
[follow the rules](#)  
[follow through](#)  
[get caught up](#)  
[get it](#)  
[get real](#)  
[get this straight](#)  
[get to the point](#)  
[get your way](#)  
[give him a taste of his own medicine](#)  
[give you flack](#)  
[give you static](#)  
[give your word](#)  
[go on](#)  
[go with the flow](#)  
[good grief](#)  
[got the balls \[B\]](#)  
[got what it takes](#)  
[have it your way](#)

[haven't the foggiest](#)  
[hemming and hahing](#)  
[Hobson's choice](#)  
[holy smoke](#)  
[how's that again](#)  
[huh](#)  
[in her good graces](#)  
[it appears to me](#)  
[je ne sais quoi](#)  
[joyride](#)  
[keep a promise](#)  
[keep the faith](#)  
[keep up with the Joneses](#)  
[keep you on track](#)  
[King Shit on Turd Island](#)  
[know the score](#)  
[know which end is up](#)  
[leave me hanging](#)  
[left over](#)  
[lose your tongue](#)  
[make a clean breast of it](#)  
[make an offer](#)  
[make of it](#)  
[mind go blank](#)  
[no rest for the wicked](#)  
[on moral grounds](#)  
[one man's meat is another man's poison](#)  
[own medicine](#)  
[pardon me](#)  
[pay him back](#)  
[pay off](#)  
[pay up](#)  
[pick your brains](#)  
[pinch](#)  
[point of view](#)  
[practice what you preach](#)  
[public property](#)  
[pull a few strings](#)  
[pull your chain](#)  
[pussyfoot around](#)  
[put your money where your mouth is](#)  
[read between the lines](#)

[read into](#)  
[read my lips](#)  
[read you](#)  
[rise to the occasion](#)  
[run the gamut](#)  
[say my piece](#)  
[say what](#)  
[say what's on your mind](#)  
[say your piece](#)  
[scout's honor](#)  
[second guess](#)  
[sense of humor](#)  
[serve notice](#)  
[serve them right](#)  
[set your sights](#)  
[settle it](#)  
[show your stuff](#)  
[shut my mouth](#)  
[so what](#)  
[speak out](#)  
[speak your mind](#)  
[spoiled brat](#)  
[suit yourself](#)  
[take a stand](#)  
[take care of business](#)  
[take it back](#)  
[take me seriously](#)  
[take your word for it](#)  
[talk shop](#)  
[tell him where to get off](#)  
[the buck stops here](#)  
[the burning question](#)  
[the dickens you say](#)  
[the jig's up](#)  
[the price you have to pay](#)  
[the runaround](#)  
[the talk of the town](#)  
[there's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip](#)  
[time on your hands](#)  
[toe the line](#)  
[try me](#)  
[turn about is fair play](#)

[turn yourself in](#)  
[twist your words](#)  
[up your alley](#)  
[wait around](#)  
[wait with bated breath](#)  
[walk the talk](#)  
[what a brain](#)  
[what a dish](#)  
[what a rigmarole](#)  
[what a rush](#)  
[what came over me](#)  
[what-cha-ma-call-it](#)  
[what gives](#)  
[what goes around comes around](#)  
[what in tarnation](#)  
[what in the name of heaven](#)  
[what in the world](#)  
[what it boils down to](#)  
[what the hell \[B\]](#)  
[what the Sam Hill](#)  
[what's cooking](#)  
[what's eating you](#)  
[what's going down](#)  
[what's going on](#)  
[what's-his-face](#)  
[what's in it for me](#)  
[what's new](#)  
[what's the poop](#)  
[what's up](#)  
[what's what](#)  
[what's your beef](#)  
[what's your poison](#)  
[who cares](#)  
[wise to us](#)  
[wysiwyg](#)  
[you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink](#)

what-cha-ma-call-it

[thing-a-ma-bob / thing-a-ma-jig](#)

whatever

[do your utmost](#)  
[eat out of the palm of your hand](#)  
[go to great lengths/ go to any lengths](#)

[make do](#)

wheat-producing

[wheatbelt](#)

wheatbelt

[breadbasket](#)

wheel

[a big shot](#)[as useless as a fifth wheel](#)[Denver boot](#)[lay rubber](#)[set of wheels](#)[the bottom fell out](#)[wheels](#)

wheeler-dealer

[movers and shakers](#)[wheeler-dealer](#)

when

[a clutch hitter \(baseball\)](#)[a word to the wise is sufficient](#)[absence makes the heart grow fonder](#)[age of majority](#)[at first glance](#)[at the hands of](#)[baby blues](#)[be there for me](#)[beat a dead horse](#)[behind your back](#)[break in](#)[break your fall](#)[buyer's market](#)[catch you at a bad time](#)[caught looking](#)[come out in the wash](#)[cool under pressure](#)[cross that bridge when I come to it](#)[dates you](#)[dirty thirties](#)[discretion is the better part of valor](#)[doesn't mince words](#)[easy come, easy go](#)[fair-weather friend](#)[Fibber McGee's closet](#)

[freeze-up](#)  
[garage kept](#)  
[God bless the Duke of Argyle](#)  
[happy hour](#)  
[hit the ground running](#)  
[hold the purse strings](#)  
[hold your hand](#)  
[in the hole](#)  
[in your prime](#)  
[it never rains but it pours](#)  
[Johnny on the spot](#)  
[just-in-time](#)  
[laugh it off](#)  
[learn your place](#)  
[love at first sight](#)  
[make strange](#)  
[miss your chance](#)  
[musical chairs](#)  
[nerves of steel](#)  
[parachute](#)  
[pass up](#)  
[put to bed \(print media\)](#)  
[red-faced](#)  
[run a red light](#)  
[run off at the mouth](#)  
[save for a rainy day](#)  
[say the word](#)  
[shuck on down to the fraidy hole](#)  
[snatch victory from the jaws of defeat](#)  
[so to speak](#)  
[soft market](#)  
[take it like a man](#)  
[take your time](#)  
[take your turn](#)  
[the age of majority](#)  
[the benefit of the doubt](#)  
[the day of the family farm](#)  
[the moment of truth](#)  
[the point of no return](#)  
[the turning point](#)  
[time flies when you're having fun](#)  
[too little too late](#)

[when in Rome, do as the Romans do](#)  
[when it comes to](#)  
[when it rains it pours](#)  
[when push comes to shove](#)  
[when the chips are down](#)  
[when the crunch comes](#)  
[when the dust settles](#)  
[when the going gets tough](#)  
[where the rubber hits the road](#)  
[where there's a will, there's a way](#)

whenever

[spotcheck](#)

where

[a level playing field](#)  
[bash](#)  
[behind your back](#)  
[being there](#)  
[Cabbagetown](#)  
[can't put my hands on it](#)  
[check-out](#)  
[come full circle](#)  
[Cowtown](#)  
[end up](#)  
[fill the gap](#)  
[go nowhere fast](#)  
[in plain view](#)  
[know which end is up](#)  
[learn your place](#)  
[Lovers' Leap](#)  
[set out](#)  
[show you around](#)  
[stay put](#)  
[stop on a dime](#)  
[take my place](#)  
[the breaking point](#)  
[watch your step](#)  
[what the dickens](#)  
[where angels fear to tread](#)  
[where do they get off](#)  
[where it's at](#)  
[where the rubber hits the road](#)  
[where's the loo](#)

[window on the world](#)

whether

[willy-nilly](#)

which

[heads or tails](#)[hit and run \(baseball\)](#)[hit and run \(traffic\)](#)[musical chairs](#)[take your pick](#)[what's your poison](#)

while

[at the hands of](#)[burned](#)[coffee talk](#)[crazy like a fox](#)[draw their fire](#)[fish and company stink after three days](#)[hemming and hahing](#)[kill a penalty \(hockey\)](#)[lay over](#)[make hay while the sun shines](#)[mount a comeback](#)[shoplifting](#)[strike out \(baseball\)](#)[time is of the essence](#)[too little too late](#)[wet the bed](#)

whine

[bellyache](#)

whip

[clean up on](#)

whirlwind

[dust devil](#)

whisker

[five o'clock shadow](#)

whisky

[rye](#)

whispered

[under my breath](#)

white

[fib](#)[honky](#)

[in writing](#)  
[pinko](#)  
[Saskatchewan pheasant](#)  
[WASP](#)

whiz

[geez](#)  
[golly gee](#)  
[have to go](#)  
[jeepers](#)  
[take a leak \[B\]](#)  
[take a pee \[B\]](#)  
[wow](#)

who

[a babe in arms](#)  
[a bar fly](#)  
[a bar star](#)  
[a barrel of laughs](#)  
[a basket case](#)  
[a bitch \[B\]](#)  
[a brick](#)  
[a budding genius](#)  
[a cheap drunk](#)  
[a chip off the old block](#)  
[a clutch hitter \(baseball\)](#)  
[a cut-up](#)  
[a firm hand](#)  
[a flash in the pan](#)  
[a fresh pair of eyes](#)  
[a good sport](#)  
[a handful](#)  
[a heavy hitter](#)  
[a hotdog](#)  
[a hothead](#)  
[a hotshot](#)  
[a kept woman](#)  
[a lady-killer](#)  
[a loose cannon](#)  
[a man of few words](#)  
[a nut case](#)  
[a pain in the butt](#)  
[a party to that](#)  
[a quick study](#)

[a redneck](#)  
[a rolling stone gathers no moss](#)  
[a sitting duck](#)  
[a soft touch](#)  
[a sucker for punishment](#)  
[a thorn in my side](#)  
[a three-bagger](#)  
[a tower of strength](#)  
[a wolf in sheep's clothing](#)  
[a wordsmith](#)  
[all talk and no action](#)  
[an airhead](#)  
[an easy mark](#)  
[backroom boys](#)  
[bad date](#)  
[bad news](#)  
[bag lady](#)  
[beggars can't be choosers](#)  
[bigmouth](#)  
[binner](#)  
[bite the hand that feeds you](#)  
[blabbermouth](#)  
[black sheep](#)  
[bleeding heart](#)  
[blue-collar worker](#)  
[book worm](#)  
[boozing buddies](#)  
[bosom buddy](#)  
[bottle man](#)  
[bozo](#)  
[buzz-kill](#)  
[canary](#)  
[car buff](#)  
[catch a ride](#)  
[chain smoker](#)  
[chairman of the boards \(hockey\)](#)  
[cheap skate](#)  
[cherrypicker \(hockey\)](#)  
[chicken](#)  
[Christmas graduate](#)  
[comeback kid](#)  
[couch potato](#)

[cowpoke](#)  
[crack shot/salesman etc.](#)  
[crack this case](#)  
[crackpot](#)  
[dance with the one who brought you](#)  
[dead-eye Dick](#)  
[deadhead](#)  
[death row](#)  
[dimwit](#)  
[DINKS](#)  
[dipstick](#)  
[disk jockey \(DJ\)](#)  
[do a favor](#)  
[dog in the manger](#)  
[don't know him from Adam](#)  
[doughhead](#)  
[dove](#)  
[draft dodger](#)  
[drop-in](#)  
[dude](#)  
[dumbbell](#)  
[dumbo](#)  
[eager beaver](#)  
[eagle eyes](#)  
[fair-weather friend](#)  
[fall on deaf ears](#)  
[feel a draft](#)  
[fence sitter](#)  
[figurehead](#)  
[flatfoot](#)  
[flip you for it](#)  
[fool around](#)  
[fraidy cat](#)  
[fresh legs](#)  
[front man](#)  
[get revenge](#)  
[girl Friday](#)  
[gofer](#)  
[granola](#)  
[half-pint](#)  
[happy camper](#)  
[has-been](#)

[hatchet man](#)

[have an affair](#)

[hawk](#)

[head \(headbanger\)](#)

[headhunter](#)

[health nut](#)

[heart is in the right place](#)

[high roller](#)

[his nibs](#)

[his own man](#)

[hit man](#)

[hold-out](#)

[in the loop](#)

[inside joke](#)

[it's now or never](#)

[jack of all trades](#)

[jive ass \[B\]](#)

[jock](#)

[Johnny-come-lately](#)

[joker](#)

[junkie](#)

[kick some ass](#)

[King Shit on Turd Island](#)

[klutz](#)

[know which side your bread is buttered on](#)

[knucklehead](#)

[lame duck](#)

[landlubber](#)

[late bloomer](#)

[lay the blame](#)

[lazy bones](#)

[lesser lights](#)

[lifer](#)

[liveware](#)

[look over your shoulder](#)

[loud mouth](#)

[lucky dog](#)

[motormouth](#)

[name-dropper](#)

[Net surfer](#)

[no-show](#)

[nut](#)

[partners in crime](#)  
[party-pooper](#)  
[peer sneer](#)  
[penny pincher](#)  
[people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones](#)  
[pinhead](#)  
[pinko](#)  
[piss on them \[B\]](#)  
[popcorn brain](#)  
[power user](#)  
[preach to the choir/preach to the converted](#)  
[preppy](#)  
[prima donna](#)  
[proby](#)  
[pusher](#)  
[rabble-rouser](#)  
[rat fink](#)  
[repay in kind](#)  
[rob the cradle](#)  
[rotter](#)  
[scaredy cat](#)  
[scratch your head](#)  
[seek revenge](#)  
[self-made man](#)  
[self-starter](#)  
[shit disturber \[B\]](#)  
[show-off](#)  
[showboat](#)  
[shut-in](#)  
[skins game](#)  
[sleepy head](#)  
[slowpoke](#)  
[smartass \[B\]](#)  
[smooth talker](#)  
[snowbirds](#)  
[so what](#)  
[soul mate](#)  
[sounding board](#)  
[sour puss](#)  
[spin the bottle](#)  
[spoiled brat](#)  
[spoilsport](#)

[squealer](#)  
[stag](#)  
[stick-in-the-mud](#)  
[straight from the horse's mouth](#)  
[straight man](#)  
[sucker](#)  
[sweater girl](#)  
[take advantage of](#)  
[take revenge](#)  
[team player](#)  
[the butt of the joke](#)  
[the early bird gets the worm](#)  
[the goat](#)  
[The Great White Hope](#)  
[The Grim Reaper](#)  
[The Group of Seven](#)  
[the inside track](#)  
[the life of the party](#)  
[the middleman](#)  
[the odds-on favorite](#)  
[the spitting image](#)  
[the squeaky wheel gets the grease](#)  
[the underground](#)  
[there's one born every minute](#)  
[tough customer](#)  
[tube head](#)  
[turn the tables on](#)  
[turncoat](#)  
[twinkle toes](#)  
[unsung hero](#)  
[wall flower](#)  
[what the hay](#)  
[what's the big idea](#)  
[wheeler-dealer](#)  
[windbag](#)  
[wingnut](#)  
[work the room](#)  
[workaholic](#)  
[world beater](#)  
[yellow belly](#)

whoever

[first come, first served](#)

whole	<a href="#">all the livelong day</a> <a href="#">can't see the forest for the trees</a> <a href="#">everything but the kitchen sink</a> <a href="#">jump in with both feet</a> <a href="#">kit and caboodle</a> <a href="#">on the whole</a> <a href="#">pay the shot</a> <a href="#">the big picture</a> <a href="#">the long and the short of it</a> <a href="#">the whole ball of wax</a> <a href="#">the whole nine yards</a> <a href="#">the whole works</a>
whom	<a href="#">spin the bottle</a>
whoopee	<a href="#">make out</a> <a href="#">neck</a>
whose	<a href="#">birder</a> <a href="#">flatliner</a>
whup	<a href="#">open up a big can of whoop-ass</a>
why	<a href="#">account for</a> <a href="#">cat got your tongue</a> <a href="#">figure out</a> <a href="#">for the life of me</a> <a href="#">how come</a> <a href="#">it's beyond me</a> <a href="#">scratch your head</a> <a href="#">what did I do to deserve this</a> <a href="#">what the hay</a> <a href="#">what the heck</a> <a href="#">what the hell [B]</a> <a href="#">what was I thinking of</a> <a href="#">what's the big idea</a> <a href="#">what's your beef</a> <a href="#">why in the name of...</a> <a href="#">why in the world</a>
wicked	<a href="#">no rest for the wicked</a>

[what did I do to deserve this](#)

wide

[by a country mile](#)

[Internet](#)

widely

[grinning like a bushel basketful of possum heads](#)

wiener

[hotdog](#)

[throw on a dog for you](#)

wife

[better half](#)

[ex](#)

[pussy whipped](#)

[what's good for the goose is good for the gander](#)

wig

[VIP](#)

wild

[a shot in the dark](#)

[all around Robin Hood's barn](#)

[bash](#)

[devil-may-care](#)

[go crazy](#)

[go hog wild](#)

[go wild](#)

[have a fling](#)

[it's a zoo in there](#)

[live it up](#)

[out of control](#)

[pell-mell](#)

[sow wild oats](#)

[wingding](#)

[wingy](#)

wildest

[that takes the cake](#)

will

[a bad taste in my mouth](#)

[a firm hand](#)

[a fool and his money are soon parted](#)

[a new lease on life](#)

[a soft touch](#)

[ad lib \(ad libitum\)](#)

[and that's that](#)

[be there or be square](#)  
[beg your pardon](#)  
[bet you dollars to donuts](#)  
[Bob's your uncle](#)  
[bye for now](#)  
[catch you later](#)  
[cry me a river](#)  
[dog in the manger](#)  
[don't make waves](#)  
[fall on deaf ears](#)  
[flattery will get you nowhere](#)  
[future looks bright](#)  
[give him an inch and he'll take a mile](#)  
[give him enough rope and he'll hang himself](#)  
[have one on me](#)  
[heads will roll](#)  
[if you can't cut it, you can't stay](#)  
[in your corner](#)  
[it's a matter of life and death](#)  
[it's all over but the crying](#)  
[keep your fingers crossed](#)  
[kiss the blarney stone](#)  
[lame duck](#)  
[light at the end of the tunnel](#)  
[lips are sealed](#)  
[make an offer](#)  
[makes no difference](#)  
[milk it](#)  
[Murphy's Law](#)  
[no questions asked](#)  
[no skin off my nose](#)  
[not long for this world](#)  
[nothing ventured, nothing gained](#)  
[out of sight, out of mind](#)  
[play a prank on](#)  
[promise the moon](#)  
[pussy whipped](#)  
[put you through the mill](#)  
[rocks socks](#)  
[second guess](#)  
[see it coming](#)  
[self-starter](#)

[sentence to death](#)  
[serve notice](#)  
[show promise](#)  
[skins game](#)  
[snatch victory from the jaws of defeat](#)  
[so help me](#)  
[so much as](#)  
[spin the bottle](#)  
[spoilsport](#)  
[stag](#)  
[stand up and be counted](#)  
[take a poll](#)  
[test your metal](#)  
[that'll be the day](#)  
[that'll be the frosty Friday](#)  
[the devil makes work for idle hands](#)  
[the Lord helps those who help themselves](#)  
[the luck of the draw](#)  
[the more the merrier](#)  
[the way to a man's heart is through his stomach](#)  
[there's one born every minute](#)  
[this one is on me](#)  
[wait around](#)  
[waste not, want not](#)  
[weak-kneed](#)  
[what's in it for me](#)  
[won't see you stuck](#)  
[won't tell a soul](#)  
[you can't sell anybody if you don't love everybody](#)  
[you reap whatsoever you sow](#)  
[you snooze, you lose](#)

willing

[a game one](#)  
[good for a loan](#)  
[really deaf](#)  
[rough and ready](#)

willy-nilly

[take its course](#)

wimp

[chicken](#)  
[pipsqueak](#)  
[pussyfoot around](#)

[suck](#)[wimpy](#)[wuss](#)

wimpy

[lily-livered](#)

win

[a blowout](#)[a shoo-in](#)[a sure bet](#)[bat a thousand](#)[bat five hundred](#)[dark horse](#)[do or die](#)[double or nothing](#)[draw first blood](#)[eat out of the palm of your hand](#)[give and take](#)[give me a break](#)[go all the way \(sports\)](#)[haven't got a hope in hell](#)[hit paydirt](#)[in over your head](#)[in the running](#)[in your corner](#)[kick some ass](#)[lucky streak](#)[make a clean sweep](#)[nip and tuck](#)[no contest](#)[out to win](#)[play a mean game](#)[pull it off](#)[pull it out](#)[run circles around you](#)[shellack](#)[skins game](#)[snatch victory from the jaws of defeat](#)[sour grapes](#)[stay alive](#)[steal your heart](#)[stop at nothing](#)[strike it rich](#)

[take a round out of](#)[take by storm](#)[take you to the cleaners](#)[The Great White Hope](#)[the heat is on](#)[the odds-on favorite](#)[there's no tomorrow](#)[try your luck](#)[underdog](#)[when the chips are down](#)[whup your ass](#)[win big](#)[win by a nose](#)[win going away](#)[win the hearts](#)

wind

[a breath of wind](#)[a snootful](#)[cut the cheese \[B\]](#)[let a fart \[B\]](#)[look up a dead horse's ass \[B\]](#)

winded

[out of wind](#)[play out](#)

window

[break and enter](#)[break into](#)

wine

[drink up](#)

wing

[in my care](#)[on the wing](#)

winner

[number one](#)[shoot-out \(sports\)](#)[the balance of power](#)[winner take all](#)

winning

[a long shot](#)[a lucky streak](#)[horse shoes up his ass \[B\]](#)[how goes the battle](#)

[winning isn't everything; it's the only thing](#)  
[winning streak](#)

wino

[lush](#)  
[tank](#)

winter

[a howling blizzard](#)  
[bundle up](#)  
[long johns](#)  
[snowbirds](#)

wipe

[clean up on](#)  
[whip you](#)  
[whup your ass](#)

wire

[in the nick of time](#)  
[jerk off \[B\]](#)  
[tight race](#)

wise

[a word to the wise is sufficient](#)  
[know your way around](#)  
[nobody's fool](#)  
[onto us](#)  
[penny wise, dollar dumb](#)  
[penny wise, pound foolish](#)  
[street smarts](#)  
[street wise](#)  
[wasn't born yesterday](#)

wiser

[bigger than life](#)

wish

[back at ya](#)  
[break off](#)  
[eat your heart out](#)  
[if only](#)  
[just as soon](#)  
[long for](#)  
[same to you](#)  
[spotcheck](#)  
[stop on a dime](#)  
[time on your hands](#)  
[what was I thinking of](#)

[wishful thinking](#)

wished

[back at ya](#)

wishes

[cheers](#)

[kowtow](#)

[under your thumb](#)

wishing

[green with envy](#)

[sick to death](#)

wit

[match wits](#)

[scare the life out of me](#)

with

[a big wheel](#)

[a dickens of a time](#)

[a grain of truth](#)

[a heavyweight](#)

[a helping hand](#)

[a kept woman](#)

[a love tap](#)

[a mental block](#)

[a pine float](#)

[a poker face](#)

[a sick building](#)

[a wordsmith](#)

[an old hand at](#)

[anal retentive](#)

[and then some](#)

[at a glance](#)

[at a moment's notice](#)

[at death's door](#)

[at heart](#)

[ball her \[B\]](#)

[bang \[B\]](#)

[be off](#)

[beg to differ](#)

[bigger fish to fry](#)

[birdbrain](#)

[birds of a feather flock together](#)

[blind date](#)

[bumper to bumper](#)

[by the seat of your pants](#)  
[call into account](#)  
[catch a cold \(catch cold\)](#)  
[catch a ride](#)  
[caught in the act](#)  
[caught red-handed](#)  
[caught up](#)  
[checkered career](#)  
[clued in](#)  
[clueless](#)  
[come on strong](#)  
[cook](#)  
[cool](#)  
[copacetic](#)  
[cut him off \[B\]](#)  
[date](#)  
[dead set against](#)  
[deadbeat](#)  
[deadhead](#)  
[do-dad](#)  
[do-funny](#)  
[dolled up](#)  
[drop him like a hot potato](#)  
[drop your gloves \(hockey\)](#)  
[duke it out](#)  
[easy street](#)  
[face facts](#)  
[fall for](#)  
[fall ill](#)  
[fed up](#)  
[fight fire with fire](#)  
[fill her up](#)  
[fool around](#)  
[from the bottom of my heart](#)  
[fuck that noise \[B\]](#)  
[full of herself](#)  
[get a life](#)  
[get into her pants \[B\]](#)  
[get off to a good start](#)  
[get rid of](#)  
[give her the eye](#)  
[give you a run for your money](#)

[give you shit \[B\]](#)  
[go along with](#)  
[go around with](#)  
[go steady](#)  
[grand slam](#)  
[greaser](#)  
[green thumb](#)  
[grind to a halt](#)  
[groovy](#)  
[gun down](#)  
[had enough](#)  
[had it](#)  
[hair off the dog that bit you](#)  
[hands on](#)  
[hang around](#)  
[hang out](#)  
[hang your hat](#)  
[hard copy](#)  
[hard liquor](#)  
[hard pressed](#)  
[have a bird](#)  
[have a hitch in your getalong](#)  
[have a word with you](#)  
[head over heels](#)  
[hip](#)  
[hip hop \(generation\)](#)  
[hit on](#)  
[hobnob](#)  
[hold a candle](#)  
[hose it down/ hose it off](#)  
[in a big way](#)  
[in glowing terms](#)  
[in good hands](#)  
[jerk me around](#)  
[join you](#)  
[jump \[B\]](#)  
[jump out of your skin](#)  
[junk food](#)  
[keep to yourself](#)  
[kill two birds \(with one stone\)](#)  
[kiss it off](#)  
[knock around with](#)

[lard butt/lard ass \[B\]](#)  
[lay \[B\]](#)  
[lay the lumber](#)  
[leave you in the lurch](#)  
[lemon](#)  
[let go of](#)  
[let her rip](#)  
[level with you](#)  
[like a ton of bricks](#)  
[long johns](#)  
[look daggers](#)  
[love them and leave them](#)  
[make a point of](#)  
[make a splash](#)  
[make an entrance](#)  
[make war](#)  
[match wits](#)  
[melt in your mouth](#)  
[mess with](#)  
[messed up](#)  
[misery loves company](#)  
[mix it up](#)  
[new blood](#)  
[off the hook](#)  
[Old Boys' Club](#)  
[on a full stomach](#)  
[on good terms](#)  
[on the limp](#)  
[out of it](#)  
[out of step](#)  
[out of the way](#)  
[out to lunch](#)  
[over with](#)  
[paint a picture](#)  
[peek-a-boo](#)  
[penny wise, pound foolish](#)  
[pick yourself up](#)  
[pimple pole](#)  
[play along](#)  
[play havoc with](#)  
[play the field](#)  
[plug into](#)

[pocket Hercules](#)  
[press charges](#)  
[put 'er there](#)  
[put her there](#)  
[read along](#)  
[ride the clutch](#)  
[rub elbows](#)  
[rub shoulders with](#)  
[run a tub](#)  
[saddled with](#)  
[screw \[B\]](#)  
[seconds](#)  
[see](#)  
[shmooze](#)  
[skidaddle](#)  
[skinhead](#)  
[sleep around \[B\]](#)  
[sleeper](#)  
[slow day](#)  
[snotty-nosed kid](#)  
[spare me](#)  
[spread out](#)  
[stack up](#)  
[stand for](#)  
[stand it](#)  
[stretch the truth](#)  
[strike up a conversation](#)  
[string along](#)  
[strip mall](#)  
[stuck on](#)  
[sweater girl](#)  
[take a poke at](#)  
[take action](#)  
[take chances](#)  
[take it in stride](#)  
[take out](#)  
[talk it up](#)  
[tangle with](#)  
[team player](#)  
[the customer is always right](#)  
[the gift of the gab \(the gift of gab\)](#)  
[the life of Riley](#)

[the school of hard knocks](#)  
[throw the baby out with the bath water](#)  
[tighten our belts](#)  
[to beat the band](#)  
[to go](#)  
[together](#)  
[trifle with me](#)  
[twinkle toes](#)  
[up front](#)  
[uptalk](#)  
[wait with bated breath](#)  
[wake up and smell the coffee](#)  
[with all my heart](#)  
[with bated breath](#)  
[with wings](#)  
[you had to be there](#)  
[you have to be good to be lucky](#)

withdraw

[drop](#)  
[drop charges](#)  
[take it back](#)  
[wash your hands of it](#)

within

[in a bit](#)  
[in time](#)  
[on schedule](#)  
[on the up and up](#)

without

[a free-for-all](#)  
[a wild goose chase](#)  
[an airhead](#)  
[as clean as a whistle](#)  
[at peace](#)  
[at the drop of a hat](#)  
[at will](#)  
[away to the races](#)  
[beat around the bush](#)  
[blurt out](#)  
[break into song](#)  
[burn your bridges](#)  
[by the seat of your pants](#)  
[candy-ass](#)

[cold call](#)  
[coldcock](#)  
[do without](#)  
[fall into my lap](#)  
[get bageled](#)  
[go off half-cocked](#)  
[go without](#)  
[head on](#)  
[hook, line and sinker](#)  
[in brief](#)  
[in cold blood](#)  
[joking aside](#)  
[jump](#)  
[just like that](#)  
[lip off](#)  
[lowlife](#)  
[make off with](#)  
[needless to say](#)  
[no doubt](#)  
[no-frills](#)  
[off the cuff](#)  
[off the top of my head](#)  
[offhand](#)  
[on an empty stomach](#)  
[on short notice](#)  
[on the wing](#)  
[out of nowhere](#)  
[over easy](#)  
[pin your hopes on](#)  
[play it by ear](#)  
[pop in](#)  
[quick like a bunny](#)  
[reject out of hand](#)  
[self-starter](#)  
[shoot from the hip](#)  
[shoot-up](#)  
[shoot your mouth off](#)  
[shooting fish in a barrel](#)  
[slash and burn](#)  
[slip out](#)  
[stark naked](#)  
[stiff](#)

[straight up](#)  
[take it in stride](#)  
[talk back](#)  
[talk through your hat](#)  
[tempt fate](#)  
[the naked eye](#)  
[the road to hell is paved with good intentions](#)  
[to perfection](#)  
[under his own steam](#)  
[walk a straight line](#)  
[willy-nilly](#)  
[with the naked eye](#)  
[without a doubt](#)  
[without a hitch](#)  
[without a word of a lie](#)  
[without batting an eye](#)  
[without turning a hair](#)

witness

[on the stand](#)  
[take the stand](#)

witty

[smartass \[B\]](#)

wobbly

[as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar](#)

wolf

[as poor as a church mouse](#)  
[inhale](#)  
[the wolf is at the door](#)

woman

[a bitch \[B\]](#)  
[a kept woman](#)  
[battleaxe](#)  
[chick](#)  
[chick flick](#)  
[go down on \[B\]](#)  
[hooker](#)  
[no shrinking violet](#)  
[some chick](#)  
[the rabbit died](#)

women

[bevy of beauties](#)  
[chick flick](#)

[drag queen](#)[lovelies](#)

won

[chalk one up for you](#)[in the bag](#)[lucky dog](#)

wonder

[lo and behold](#)[scratch your head](#)

wonderful

[a hell of a time](#)[bravo](#)[cool beans](#)[it's the duck's guts](#)[just ducky](#)[life is just a bowl of cherries](#)[peachy](#)[silence is golden](#)[swell](#)

wondering

[head in the clouds](#)[leave me hanging](#)

wonky

[woozy](#)

woods

[in these parts](#)[these parts](#)

woof

[hurl](#)[throw chunks](#)

woozy

[wonky](#)

word

[a man of few words](#)[a play on words](#)[a slip of the tongue](#)[a word to the wise is sufficient](#)[a wordsmith](#)[actions speak louder than words](#)[any old thing](#)[bam](#)[break a promise](#)

[buzzword](#)  
[by heart](#)  
[can't put my finger on it](#)  
[chime in](#)  
[crack a joke](#)  
[cuss](#)  
[doesn't mince words](#)  
[four-letter words](#)  
[get the word out](#)  
[give me a hint](#)  
[go to bat for](#)  
[hang on every word](#)  
[hard copy](#)  
[hit the nail on the head](#)  
[honestly](#)  
[lips are sealed](#)  
[lose my train of thought](#)  
[nary a word](#)  
[out of context](#)  
[paint a picture](#)  
[pen those words/lines](#)  
[pow](#)  
[rented lips](#)  
[serve notice](#)  
[smooth talker](#)  
[spell out](#)  
[spread the word](#)  
[straight from the shoulder](#)  
[swear like a sailor](#)  
[take my head off](#)  
[take oath](#)  
[the air was blue](#)  
[the benefit of the doubt](#)  
[the gift of the gab \(the gift of gab\)](#)  
[the right stuff](#)  
[upon the words offhandedly spoken](#)  
[wack](#)  
[wax eloquent](#)  
[weasel word](#)  
[wouldn't say shit if her mouth was full of it \[B\]](#)  
[your lip](#)  
[zinger](#)

---

## work

['at a boy \(that a boy\)](#)  
['at a girl \(that a girl\)](#)  
[a bed of roses](#)  
[a flash in the pan](#)  
[a hard day](#)  
[a jim dandy](#)  
[a new broom sweeps clean](#)  
[a wordsmith](#)  
[act up](#)  
[ahead of the game](#)  
[all in a day's work](#)  
[all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy](#)  
[attaboy \(that a boy\)](#)  
[attagirl \(that a girl\)](#)  
[back to the grind](#)  
[beat your head against a stone wall](#)  
[blue-collar worker](#)  
[break a sweat](#)  
[breathe down my neck](#)  
[broken dreams](#)  
[browbeat](#)  
[brownie points](#)  
[buckle down](#)  
[bump and grind \(hockey\)](#)  
[burn the midnight oil](#)  
[bust my butt](#)  
[call it a day](#)  
[carry your weight](#)  
[catch on](#)  
[caught up](#)  
[conk out](#)  
[cover for me](#)  
[cowpoke](#)  
[crash](#)  
[cut it](#)  
[deadbeat](#)  
[dirty work](#)  
[dog it](#)  
[drag your feet](#)  
[eager beaver](#)  
[ease up](#)

[easy time of it](#)  
[even-steven](#)  
[everything but the kitchen sink](#)  
[fart around \[B\]](#)  
[fill his shoes](#)  
[fill in for me](#)  
[fill the gap](#)  
[fine-tune](#)  
[full of herself](#)  
[Generation X](#)  
[get around to](#)  
[get busy](#)  
[get caught up](#)  
[get down to business](#)  
[get in shape](#)  
[gild the lily](#)  
[give 110%](#)  
[go easy on](#)  
[go haywire](#)  
[go in circles](#)  
[go like crazy](#)  
[go the extra mile](#)  
[go to any trouble](#)  
[good for you](#)  
[good going](#)  
[good on you](#)  
[hard on me](#)  
[heavy going](#)  
[hire on](#)  
[hit the ground running](#)  
[holding the bag](#)  
[hump day](#)  
[hunker down](#)  
[if you can't cut it, you can't stay](#)  
[in the throes](#)  
[inside joke](#)  
[iron out](#)  
[jump ship](#)  
[keep on trucking](#)  
[keep the ball rolling](#)  
[keep up the good work](#)  
[keep your nose to the grindstone](#)

[know which side your bread is buttered on](#)

[knuckle down](#)

[laid up](#)

[land on your feet](#)

[lazy bones](#)

[leave you holding the bag](#)

[lie down on the job](#)

[make hay while the sun shines](#)

[make money](#)

[make the grade](#)

[measure up](#)

[no rest for the wicked](#)

[on good terms](#)

[on vacation](#)

[overdo it](#)

[pan out](#)

[pay the price](#)

[pay your dues](#)

[piss in the pickles \[B\]](#)

[play out](#)

[plug away](#)

[pull out all the stops](#)

[pull together](#)

[pull your weight](#)

[push the boat out](#)

[put in a hard day](#)

[put your best foot forward](#)

[put your shoulder to the wheel](#)

[rest my case](#)

[rough going](#)

[rub elbows](#)

[rub shoulders with](#)

[scot-free](#)

[see it through](#)

[self-starter](#)

[settle it](#)

[shape up or ship out](#)

[show up](#)

[slug away](#)

[spade work](#)

[take it easy](#)

[take my hat off to](#)

[take the trouble](#)  
[take up the slack](#)  
[take your sweet time](#)  
[talk shop](#)  
[team player](#)  
[tear me apart](#)  
[TGIF](#)  
[that a boy/that a girl](#)  
[that's the spirit](#)  
[the best-laid plans of mice and men go oft astray](#)  
[the call of duty](#)  
[the devil makes work for idle hands](#)  
[the Lord helps those who help themselves](#)  
[the whole nine yards](#)  
[tie up loose ends](#)  
[time is of the essence](#)  
[time off](#)  
[too little too late](#)  
[tough on me](#)  
[tough sledding](#)  
[track record](#)  
[twist of fate](#)  
[uphill battle](#)  
[way to go](#)  
[work cut out for](#)  
[work ethic](#)  
[work my buns off](#)  
[work my fingers to the bone](#)  
[work things out](#)  
[work to rule](#)  
[work up a sweat](#)  
[work up a thirst](#)  
[work your ass off \[B\]](#)  
[work your buns off](#)  
[workaholic](#)  
[workout](#)  
[you're only as good as your last shift](#)

worked

[Johnny-come-lately](#)  
[rile up](#)

worker

[a go-getter](#)

[low on the totem pole](#)  
[shop-floor struggle](#)  
[take part in](#)  
[too many chiefs and not enough Indians](#)

workfightplay

[turncoat](#)

working

[a beehive of activity](#)  
[a lost cause](#)  
[as busy as a beaver](#)  
[ass into gear](#)  
[get on with it](#)  
[going great guns](#)  
[going to town](#)  
[hands on](#)  
[hard at it](#)  
[lie down on the job](#)  
[life in the fast lane](#)  
[moonlighting](#)  
[on the beat](#)  
[out to lunch](#)  
[pissing into the wind \[B\]](#)  
[pull the plug](#)  
[shoulder to shoulder](#)  
[slowpoke](#)  
[soldier on](#)  
[tick over](#)  
[time's a wasting](#)  
[up and running](#)

workout

[work out](#)

workplace

[shop-floor struggle](#)

world

[all the world's a stage](#)  
[baby boomer](#)  
[be-all, end-all](#)  
[for the life of me](#)  
[Internet](#)  
[it's a jungle out there](#)  
[make your mark](#)  
[Roaring Twenties](#)

[sleep like a log](#)  
[sound asleep](#)  
[the be-all, end-all](#)  
[the world is your oyster](#)  
[till hell freezes over](#)  
[why in the name of...](#)  
[window on the world](#)  
[world beater](#)  
[World Wide Web \(www\)](#)  
[wouldn't miss it for the world](#)

worldly

[know your way around](#)  
[street smarts](#)

worm

[crank issue](#)  
[geek](#)

worn

[bushed](#)  
[had it](#)  
[had the bird](#)  
[mousy](#)  
[run down](#)  
[seen better days](#)  
[shabby](#)  
[shot](#)  
[through the mill](#)  
[wear down](#)

worried

[beside myself](#)  
[in a flap](#)  
[in a snit](#)  
[on pins and needles](#)  
[steam up](#)  
[uptight](#)  
[worried sick](#)

worry

[at peace](#)  
[breathe a sigh of relief](#)  
[don't sweat it](#)  
[easy come, easy go](#)  
[ignorance is bliss](#)  
[never mind](#)

[not to worry](#)  
[peace of mind](#)  
[put to rest](#)  
[sweat bullets](#)  
[sweat it out](#)  
[what the hay](#)  
[what you don't know won't hurt you](#)  
[white knuckles](#)  
[with bated breath](#)

worrying

[breathe easy](#)  
[get over](#)  
[set your mind at ease](#)

worse

[add insult to injury](#)  
[better the devil you know...](#)  
[cut off your nose to spite your face](#)  
[dig yourself in](#)  
[don't knock it](#)  
[from the frying pan into the fire](#)  
[get it over with](#)  
[make it worse](#)  
[rub salt in the wound](#)  
[the fat hit the fire](#)  
[the turning point](#)  
[through thick and thin](#)

worship

[crawl on my hands and knees over broken glass just to see her photo](#)  
[think the world of](#)

worst

[cut your own throat](#)  
[damn you \[B\]](#)  
[die for](#)  
[kill for](#)  
[scrape the bottom of the barrel](#)  
[screw you \[B\]](#)  
[shoot yourself in the foot](#)  
[take the cake](#)  
[the knock against](#)  
[the short end of the stick](#)

worth

[a lost cause](#)

[blow me \[B\]](#)  
[chime in](#)  
[food for thought](#)  
[say my piece](#)  
[sweeten the pot](#)  
[worth their weight in gold](#)

worthless

[a pinch of coon shit \[B\]](#)  
[blow it out your ear](#)  
[look up a dead horse's ass \[B\]](#)  
[not worth a plugged nickel](#)  
[piss on them \[B\]](#)

would

[a fly on the wall](#)  
[do unto others as you would have them do unto you](#)  
[do with](#)  
[just as soon](#)  
[live up to](#)  
[should be so lucky](#)  
[The Golden Rule](#)  
[wouldn't be caught dead](#)  
[wouldn't miss it for the world](#)  
[wouldn't say shit if her mouth was full of it \[B\]](#)

wouldn't

[smooth talker](#)

wow

[boy, oh boy](#)  
[far out](#)  
[gadzooks](#)  
[gee](#)  
[golly gee](#)  
[good golly](#)  
[gosh](#)  
[hokey Dinah](#)  
[holy cow](#)  
[holy Moses](#)  
[holy smoke](#)  
[holy Toledo](#)  
[jumping Jehoshaphat](#)  
[yeow](#)

wrap

[bring to a close](#)

[get your mind around](#)

wrapped

[on a string](#)

wreck

[lay waste](#)

[piss in the pickles \[B\]](#)

[ratch](#)

[throw a monkey wrench into the works](#)

[trash](#)

[trash the place](#)

wrench

[monkeywrenching](#)

wrinkle

[make a face](#)

[pull a face](#)

write

[a dead loss](#)

[crank out](#)

[dash off a note/letter](#)

[ditto](#)

[drop a line](#)

[fill in](#)

[in touch](#)

[keep in touch](#)

[keep tabs on](#)

[make an offer](#)

[pen those words/lines](#)

[writer's block](#)

write-off

[a dead loss](#)

writer

[a wordsmith](#)

[hack/hacker](#)

[spin crew](#)

[spin doctor](#)

[yours truly](#)

writing

[a fresh pair of eyes](#)

[fill in](#)

[fill out](#)

[in black and white](#)

[sign off](#)

[write up](#)

written

[grandfather clause](#)

[in black and white](#)

[in writing](#)

[read between the lines](#)

[write up](#)

[written in stone](#)

wrong

[a false move](#)

[against the grain](#)

[bark up the wrong tree](#)

[botch it](#)

[clouds on the horizon](#)

[dead wrong](#)

[don't get me wrong](#)

[eat crow](#)

[eat your words](#)

[get your wires crossed](#)

[give you flack](#)

[go wrong](#)

[hit and miss](#)

[make a mistake](#)

[Murphy's Law](#)

[no offense, but...](#)

[off the mark](#)

[on moral grounds](#)

[on your ass \[B\]](#)

[out of place](#)

[preach to the choir/preach to the converted](#)

[pull that](#)

[put him in his place](#)

[something is haywire](#)

[something smells](#)

[tell him off](#)

[the sky isn't blue](#)

[there's something fishy](#)

[there's something rotten in the state of Denmark](#)

[watch your every move](#)

[way out \(away out\)](#)

[zig when you should zag](#)

wrong"

[Murphy's Law](#)

wrote

[the rest is history](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Definition Index X

x

[six bits](#)[x marks the spot](#)

xl

[XL](#)[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Definition Index Y

ya	<a href="#">ditto</a> <a href="#">yep</a> <a href="#">yeppers</a>
yak	<a href="#">yada</a>
yards	<a href="#">first down/first and ten</a> <a href="#">the whole ball of wax</a>
yawner	<a href="#">a drag</a>
year	<a href="#">a coon's age</a> <a href="#">a dog's age</a> <a href="#">do a dime</a> <a href="#">down the road</a> <a href="#">for a dog's age</a> <a href="#">golden age</a> <a href="#">golden years</a> <a href="#">heyday</a> <a href="#">in a coon's age</a> <a href="#">in a long time</a> <a href="#">in the long haul</a> <a href="#">in the long run</a> <a href="#">in your prime</a> <a href="#">pay your dues</a> <a href="#">pushing fifty</a> <a href="#">put down roots</a> <a href="#">school's out</a> <a href="#">sunset years</a> <a href="#">the age of majority</a> <a href="#">the turn of the century</a> <a href="#">twilight years</a>
yell	<a href="#">blast you</a>

[rant and rave](#)

yellow

[chicken](#)

[Florida green](#)

yeow

[yikes](#)

yep

[uh-huh](#)

[ya](#)

yeppers

[afraid so](#)

yes

[by all means](#)

[darn right](#)

[for sure](#)

[hit me \(card games\)](#)

[of course you can](#)

[okay, OK](#)

[say the word](#)

[ten-four \(CB radio\)](#)

[uh-huh](#)

[wishy-washy](#)

[ya](#)

[yep](#)

[yeppers](#)

[yo](#)

yesterday

[been around](#)

yield

[back down](#)

[dig in their heels](#)

[give in](#)

yikes

[yeow](#)

yo

[ya](#)

[yep](#)

[yeppers](#)

yokel

[hick](#)

[rube](#)

yolks

[over easy](#)

york	<a href="#">The Big Apple</a> <a href="#">The Rock</a>
you"	<a href="#">chimo</a>
you're	<a href="#">come off it</a> <a href="#">get out</a> <a href="#">go on</a> <a href="#">go tell your mother she wants you</a> <a href="#">read you</a> <a href="#">rest on your laurels</a> <a href="#">you've got to be kidding</a>
you've	<a href="#">give her</a> <a href="#">go all-out</a>
young	<a href="#">a babe in the woods</a> <a href="#">cut my teeth on</a> <a href="#">greaser</a> <a href="#">grow up</a> <a href="#">have a fling</a> <a href="#">hip hop (generation)</a> <a href="#">new legs</a> <a href="#">prairie oyster</a> <a href="#">puppy love</a> <a href="#">rob the cradle</a> <a href="#">sow wild oats</a> <a href="#">still wet behind the ears</a> <a href="#">the tender age of</a> <a href="#">young at heart</a> <a href="#">yuppie</a>
your	<a href="#">a black mark</a> <a href="#">a bull in a china shop</a> <a href="#">a little bird told me</a> <a href="#">a pinch to grow an inch</a> <a href="#">add insult to injury</a> <a href="#">ahead of the game</a> <a href="#">all-out</a> <a href="#">all spruced up</a> <a href="#">all your eggs in one basket</a>

[around the bend](#)  
[as sick as a parrot](#)  
[back out](#)  
[back you](#)  
[bang for your buck](#)  
[bare your soul](#)  
[beat your time](#)  
[blow a kiss](#)  
[blow up](#)  
[blow your lid/stack/top](#)  
[blow your wad](#)  
[boggle your mind](#)  
[bomb around](#)  
[bottle up](#)  
[bottoms up](#)  
[break a promise](#)  
[break out in a rash](#)  
[buckle up](#)  
[burn a hole in your pocket](#)  
[burn up](#)  
[bury the hatchet](#)  
[call off the dogs](#)  
[can't have it both ways](#)  
[carry your weight](#)  
[cast your vote](#)  
[cat got your tongue](#)  
[catch your eye](#)  
[change your mind](#)  
[change your tune](#)  
[charity begins at home](#)  
[check-out](#)  
[check your bags](#)  
[chill out](#)  
[clean up your act](#)  
[clean up your plate](#)  
[close to the vest](#)  
[cocoon](#)  
[come again](#)  
[come down to earth](#)  
[come into your own](#)  
[come to](#)  
[comeuppance](#)

[cool off](#)

[cop out](#)

[cough up](#)

[cry her heart out](#)

[cry the blues](#)

[cut a fine figure](#)

[cut off](#)

[cut off your nose to spite your face](#)

[cut your own throat](#)

[dampen your spirits](#)

[dance with the one who brought you](#)

[dates you](#)

[dig your own grave](#)

[do your own thing](#)

[do your part](#)

[don't get mad; get even](#)

[dream on](#)

[dress up](#)

[drink up](#)

[drop a bundle](#)

[drop your drawers](#)

[drop your gloves \(hockey\)](#)

[duke it out](#)

[ears are burning](#)

[eat you out of house and home](#)

[feather your nest](#)

[fill your face](#)

[find your voice](#)

[Fletcherize your food](#)

[flip your lid](#)

[fly off the handle](#)

[fool around](#)

[for dear life](#)

[freshen up](#)

[gab](#)

[get a life](#)

[get a load of that](#)

[get blood from a stone](#)

[get her way](#)

[get mad](#)

[get your attention](#)

[get your feet wet](#)

[get your head together](#)  
[get your hopes up](#)  
[get your mind around](#)  
[get your way](#)  
[give it a whirl](#)  
[give it your best shot](#)  
[give them a hand](#)  
[give you the gears](#)  
[go all-out](#)  
[go for broke](#)  
[go pound salt](#)  
[go through the roof](#)  
[God bless the Duke of Argyle](#)  
[got the rags on \[B\]](#)  
[grab a chair](#)  
[hail a cab](#)  
[hale and hearty](#)  
[half-hearted](#)  
[hands on](#)  
[hands up](#)  
[hang ten \(surfing\)](#)  
[happy motoring](#)  
[have an affair](#)  
[have it both ways](#)  
[have it your way](#)  
[have the floor](#)  
[head is spinning](#)  
[heyday](#)  
[hit the ceiling](#)  
[hold her liquor](#)  
[hold up](#)  
[hold your mouth the right way](#)  
[hold your temper](#)  
[hoot](#)  
[hot tempered](#)  
[how goes it](#)  
[hurl](#)  
[I smell where you're stepping](#)  
[if looks could kill](#)  
[in the back of my mind](#)  
[in the doghouse](#)  
[in your corner](#)

[in your mind's eye](#)  
[in your prime](#)  
[it has your name on it](#)  
[it's not what you know, it's who you know](#)  
[it's up to you](#)  
[it's your move](#)  
[it's your turn](#)  
[jerk off \[B\]](#)  
[keep an eye out](#)  
[keep fit](#)  
[keep in good shape](#)  
[keep you in mind](#)  
[keep your hair on](#)  
[keep your head](#)  
[keep your shirt on](#)  
[kick back](#)  
[kill a penalty \(hockey\)](#)  
[knock you out](#)  
[know the score](#)  
[know which side your bread is buttered on](#)  
[laid off](#)  
[laugh up your sleeve](#)  
[laugh yourself silly](#)  
[let this chance go by](#)  
[live and let live](#)  
[lose favor](#)  
[lose it](#)  
[lose your cool](#)  
[lose your head](#)  
[lose your marbles](#)  
[lose your mind](#)  
[lose your tongue](#)  
[lose your touch](#)  
[lovelife](#)  
[make a comeback](#)  
[make a face](#)  
[make a living](#)  
[make something of yourself](#)  
[make your bum hum](#)  
[make your head spin](#)  
[make your way](#)  
[make yourself at home](#)

[mind go blank](#)  
[mind your manners](#)  
[mind your P's and Q's](#)  
[mix you up](#)  
[moon them](#)  
[navel-gazing](#)  
[no pain, no gain](#)  
[no rush](#)  
[nosebag](#)  
[not on your tintype](#)  
[nuts](#)  
[on all fours](#)  
[on an empty stomach](#)  
[on the shit list \[B\]](#)  
[on trial](#)  
[on your side](#)  
[open up a big can of whoop-ass](#)  
[out of my head](#)  
[out of the closet](#)  
[out of your tree](#)  
[outdo yourself](#)  
[parachute](#)  
[pay my respects](#)  
[pay your way](#)  
[penny wise, dollar dumb](#)  
[photo op](#)  
[pig out](#)  
[pin your hopes on](#)  
[pinch an inch](#)  
[pony up](#)  
[pour out your soul](#)  
[pull a face](#)  
[pull the rug out](#)  
[pull your chain](#)  
[pull your weight](#)  
[pull yourself together](#)  
[put 'em up](#)  
[put a different slant on it](#)  
[put on the dog](#)  
[put them up](#)  
[put you through the mill](#)  
[put your best foot forward](#)

[put your heart into it](#)  
[put your mind to it](#)  
[put yourself through college](#)  
[quit while you're ahead](#)  
[reach for the sky](#)  
[reach me](#)  
[read into](#)  
[read them and weep](#)  
[realize your potential](#)  
[ride the clutch](#)  
[rocks socks](#)  
[ruffle your feathers](#)  
[run a tab](#)  
[save your bacon](#)  
[say what's on your mind](#)  
[say your piece](#)  
[screw you \[B\]](#)  
[second wind](#)  
[seconds](#)  
[see through](#)  
[see you/see your](#)  
[sell yourself short](#)  
[serve notice](#)  
[shape up or ship out](#)  
[sharpen up](#)  
[shoot from the hip](#)  
[shoot your wad](#)  
[shoot yourself in the foot](#)  
[shove it \[B\]](#)  
[show promise](#)  
[show your stuff](#)  
[sign in](#)  
[sign out](#)  
[simmer down](#)  
[soften your stance](#)  
[Sophie's choice](#)  
[soul mate](#)  
[sound off](#)  
[speak out](#)  
[spell you off](#)  
[spend holidays](#)  
[spill the beans](#)

[spread out](#)  
[square up](#)  
[stark raving mad](#)  
[steal your thunder](#)  
[step up to the plate](#)  
[stick them up](#)  
[stick to your guns](#)  
[stretch the envelope](#)  
[strike your fancy](#)  
[strip](#)  
[suck eggs](#)  
[swallow your pride](#)  
[swelled head](#)  
[take a chance](#)  
[take a gander](#)  
[take a poke at](#)  
[take a stand](#)  
[take him down a peg](#)  
[take leave of your senses](#)  
[take you for all you've got](#)  
[take your pulse](#)  
[take your seat](#)  
[take your turn](#)  
[talk to the hand](#)  
[tell all](#)  
[tempt fate](#)  
[test your metal](#)  
[that'll be the day](#)  
[that'll be the frosty Friday](#)  
[the ball's in your court](#)  
[the benefit of the doubt](#)  
[The Grim Reaper](#)  
[the inside track](#)  
[the jig's up](#)  
[the luck of the draw](#)  
[the sin bin \(hockey\)](#)  
[the way you hold your mouth](#)  
[the world is your oyster](#)  
[there you go](#)  
[throw a game](#)  
[throw a kiss](#)  
[throw a tantrum](#)

[throw chunks](#)  
[throw yourself at him](#)  
[tied to your mother's apron strings](#)  
[tip a few](#)  
[tip your hand](#)  
[toot your own horn](#)  
[trial run](#)  
[try it](#)  
[under your thumb](#)  
[up to you](#)  
[uptalk](#)  
[walk on eggshells](#)  
[watch me like a hawk](#)  
[watch your P's and Q's](#)  
[watch your step](#)  
[wear your heart on your sleeve](#)  
[wet your whistle](#)  
[what's new](#)  
[what's your beef](#)  
[when in Rome, do as the Romans do](#)  
[whet your appetite](#)  
[whip you into shape](#)  
[whole hog](#)  
[wing it](#)  
[woozy](#)  
[work my buns off](#)  
[work the room](#)  
[wrap your mind around](#)  
[written all over your face](#)  
[you and the horse you rode in on](#)  
[you can bet your bottom dollar](#)  
[you can run but you can't hide](#)  
[you can't sell anybody if you don't love everybody](#)  
[you reap whatsoever you sow](#)  
[you're only as good as your last shift](#)  
[your lip](#)  
[your number is up](#)  
[your turn](#)

yourself

[back yourself into a corner](#)  
[be my guest](#)  
[cover your ass \[B\]](#)

[cut off your nose to spite your face](#)  
[cut your own throat](#)  
[dig in](#)  
[fend for yourself](#)  
[get a grip on yourself](#)  
[get in deeper](#)  
[get your kicks](#)  
[get your tits in a wringer](#)  
[go one better](#)  
[go out of your way](#)  
[go to any trouble](#)  
[guard is down](#)  
[have a good time](#)  
[in person](#)  
[keep a secret](#)  
[leave you in the lurch](#)  
[leave yourself open](#)  
[let yourself go](#)  
[look out for number one](#)  
[muscle in](#)  
[on your own](#)  
[pull yourself together](#)  
[push the envelope](#)  
[put your best foot forward](#)  
[roll with the punches](#)  
[step on your dick](#)  
[strike out on your own](#)  
[the Lord helps those who help themselves](#)  
[won't tell a soul](#)  
[your own worst enemy](#)

youth

[grunge \(fashion\)](#)  
[pimple pole](#)  
[preppy](#)  
[skinhead](#)

youthful

[young at heart](#)

yuppie

[moppie](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

## [Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idiom Definition Index Z

z	
	<a href="#">sack out</a>
zap	
	<a href="#">nuke</a>
zealand	
	<a href="#">down under</a>
zero	
	<a href="#">dick</a>
	<a href="#">fuck all</a>
	<a href="#">goose egg</a>
	<a href="#">nada</a>
	<a href="#">the big 0</a>
	<a href="#">zilch</a>
	<a href="#">zip/zippo</a>
zilch	
	<a href="#">dick</a>
zip	
	<a href="#">fuck all</a>
	<a href="#">nada</a>
	<a href="#">the big 0</a>
	<a href="#">zilch</a>
zit	
	<a href="#">pimple pole</a>
	<a href="#">whore blossom</a>
zone	
	<a href="#">offside (hockey)</a>
zonked	
	<a href="#">dead tired</a>

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Please note: Due to shortcomings of our index generator, all index keywords are lowercase.

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:  
[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms A

Each of the following is a link to a page containing ten idioms:

[a babe in arms](#)

[a basket case](#)

[a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush](#)

[a blank look](#)

[a brick short](#)

[a caution](#)

[a close shave](#)

[a daredevil](#)

[a dog's breakfast](#)

[a dust-up](#)

[a fifth wheel](#)

[a foregone conclusion](#)

[a ghost of a chance](#)

[a good sport](#)

[a head start](#)

[a hollow leg](#)

[a hothead](#)

[a lady-killer](#)

[a little thick](#)

[a lucky streak](#)

[a nail-biter](#)

[a paltry sum](#)

[a piece of my mind](#)

[a pocket of resistance](#)

[a regular guy](#)

[a sad sack](#)

[a shoo-in](#)

[a slippery slope](#)

[a steal](#)

[a takeoff on](#)

[a total stranger](#)

[a way with words](#)

[above board](#)

[act up](#)

[age before beauty](#)

[a.k.a. \(aka\)](#)

[all his marbles](#)

[all she wrote](#)

[all the tea in China](#)

[all your eggs in one basket](#)

[an axe to grind](#)

[anchor you](#)

[any word](#)

[as all get-out](#)

[as new](#)

[as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar](#)

[ass \[B\]](#)

[at death's door](#)

[at loggerheads](#)

[at sixes and sevens](#)

[at this point in time](#)

[axe to grind](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms B

Each of the following is a link to a page containing ten idioms:

[babe](#)

[back out](#)

[backside](#)

[bag and baggage](#)

[ball her \[B\]](#)

[bang on](#)

[bare your soul](#)

[bat five hundred](#)

[be there](#)

[beat it](#)

[beck and call](#)

[beg off](#)

[behind your back](#)

[bend over backwards](#)

[best of both worlds](#)

[better to have loved...](#)

[beyond the pale](#)

[big rig](#)

[bigmouth](#)

[bitch](#)

[bitten by the same bug](#)

[black out](#)

[blind date](#)

[blow chunks](#)

[blow sky high](#)

[blow you away](#)

[blue moon](#)

[bolt from the blue](#)

[booboo](#)

[booze](#)

[bottom line](#)

[brain](#)

[bread and butter](#)

[break away](#)

[break the bank](#)

[breath of fresh air](#)

[bring home the bacon](#)

[broken dreams](#)

[brush up on](#)

[buckstop \(military\)](#)

[bully for you](#)

[bundle](#)

[burn up](#)

[bust my butt](#)

[butter up](#)

[buy up](#)

[by any means](#)

[by jove](#)

[bye](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms C

Each of the following is a link to a page containing ten idioms:

[c'est la vie](#)

[call it quits](#)

[camel toes \[B\]](#)

[can't hold a candle](#)

[Canuck](#)

[carry out](#)

[cash and carry](#)

[cat's ass](#)

[catch as catch can](#)

[catch the wave](#)

[caught dead](#)

[cave in](#)

[change for the better](#)

[charley horse](#)

[check out](#)

[cheek](#)

[chestnut](#)

[chickens come home to roost](#)

[chip on his shoulder](#)

[chow](#)

[clam](#)

[clean up on](#)

[clear your head/mind](#)

[clouds on the horizon](#)

[coin](#)

[collecting dust](#)

[come by](#)

[come into](#)

[come-on](#)

[come to fruition](#)

[come up with](#)

[consarned](#)

[cool your heels](#)

[corny](#)

[couldn't care less](#)

[cow-pie](#)

[crack this case](#)

[crap](#)

[cream of the crop](#)

[cross someone](#)

[cry her heart out](#)

[curiosity killed the cat](#)

[cut and dried](#)

[cut my teeth on](#)

[cut to the chase](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms D

Each of the following is a link to a page containing ten idioms:

[dad-blamed](#)

[dark horse](#)

[date](#)

[dead even](#)

[dead set against](#)

[death wish](#)

[dense](#)

[did good](#)

[dig deep](#)

[dilly](#)

[dipstick](#)

[discombobulated](#)

[do a 180](#)

[do lunch](#)

[do up](#)

[dodge a bullet](#)

[dog tired](#)

[don't borrow trouble](#)

[don't go away mad; just go away](#)

[don't know which end is up](#)

[don't put all your eggs in one basket](#)

[done to a turn](#)

[double take](#)

[down for the count](#)

[down the line](#)

[down under](#)

[drag it out](#)

[draw attention to](#)

[dress down](#)

[drive around](#)

[drive you to drink](#)

[drop dead](#)

[drop off](#)

[drum up](#)

[dude](#)

[Dumpster diving](#)

[dying to know](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms E

Each of the following is a link to a page containing ten idioms:

[each to his own](#)

[ease up](#)

[eat it up](#)

[eat your fill](#)

[eighty-six it](#)

[even keel](#)

[ex](#)

[eyes peeled](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms F

Each of the following is a link to a page containing ten idioms:

[F-word](#)

[fair-weather friend](#)

[fall for that](#)

[fall-out](#)

[family jewels](#)

[fast track](#)

[feast or famine](#)

[feel free](#)

[fever breaks](#)

[fight fire with fire](#)

[fill me in](#)

[find fault](#)

[fingers the size of bananas](#)

[firm market](#)

[first pancake is always spoiled](#)

[fix you](#)

[flat broke](#)

[flip](#)

[flunk out](#)

[follow me](#)

[for a dog's age](#)

[for heaven's sake](#)

[for the life of me](#)

[fraidy cat](#)

[fresh](#)

[from hand to mouth](#)

[from the get-go](#)

[fuck that noise \[B\]](#)

[full of it \[B\]](#)

[funny in the head](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms G

Each of the following is a link to a page containing ten idioms:

[gab](#)

[gathering dust](#)

[get a bang out of](#)

[get a life](#)

[get along](#)

[get back at](#)

[get down to brass tacks](#)

[get high](#)

[get into trouble](#)

[get lost](#)

[get off the ground](#)

[get out](#)

[get reamed out](#)

[get the green light](#)

[get this monkey off my back](#)

[get under my skin](#)

[get your act together](#)

[get your hopes up](#)

[get yours](#)

[give a black eye](#)

[give her credit](#)

[give it a rest](#)

[give me a dingle](#)

[give no quarter](#)

[give you a hard time](#)

[give you static](#)

[give your word](#)

[gnashing of teeth](#)

[go around with](#)

[go by the name of](#)

[go for](#)

[go hungry](#)

[go off the deep end](#)

[go over](#)

[go tell your mother she wants you](#)

[go to hell in a handbasket](#)

[go with the flow](#)

[going great guns](#)

[golly](#)

[good day](#)

[good head](#)

[goodies](#)

[gospel truth](#)

[got my eye on](#)

[got you by the short hairs](#)

[grandfather](#)

[greasy spoon](#)

[green with envy](#)

[groaty to the max](#)

[grow up](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms H

Each of the following is a link to a page containing ten idioms:

[hack/hacker](#)

[had it up to here](#)

[half-bad](#)

[half the battle](#)

[hand me down](#)

[hands are tied](#)

[hang out](#)

[happy as a peacock](#)

[hard feelings](#)

[hard sell](#)

[harum-scarum](#)

[hatchet man](#)

[have a case of](#)

[have a fling](#)

[have a say](#)

[have an inkling](#)

[have it made](#)

[have the final say](#)

[have you over](#)

[haywire](#)

[head is spinning](#)

[hear me out](#)

[heavy foot](#)

[hell to pay \[B\]](#)

[hey](#)

[high and mighty](#)

[higher than a kite](#)

[history](#)

[hit me](#)

[hit the bar](#)

[hit the road/trail](#)

[hold a candle](#)

[hold out for](#)

[hold your drinks](#)

---

[hole up](#)

[honest-to-goodness](#)

[hooker](#)

[horse feathers](#)

[hot and bothered](#)

[hot topic](#)

[how are you fixed for](#)

[how so](#)

[hungover](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms I

Each of the following is a link to a page containing ten idioms:

[I smell where you're stepping](#)

[if the shoe fits, wear it](#)

[in a blue moon](#)

[in a jiffy](#)

[in a stew](#)

[in cahoots](#)

[in dribs and drabs](#)

[in his good books](#)

[in no time](#)

[in seventh heaven](#)

[in the bag](#)

[in the driver's seat](#)

[in the least](#)

[in the nick of time](#)

[in the slammer](#)

[in trouble](#)

[in your prime](#)

[into fitness/dancing etc.](#)

[it ain't over till it's over](#)

[it never fails](#)

[it works](#)

[it's a toss-up](#)

[it's in the bag](#)

[it's your turn](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms J

Each of the following is a link to a page containing ten idioms:

[jack me around](#)

[jerk me around](#)

[jog your memory](#)

[joke is on you](#)

[jump at the chance](#)

[jump to conclusions](#)

[just a titch](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms K

Each of the following is a link to a page containing ten idioms:

[kaput](#)

[keep an eye out](#)

[keep it up](#)

[keep them straight](#)

[keep you in mind](#)

[keep your head above water](#)

[kick a habit](#)

[kick the weed](#)

[kill off](#)

[kiss it off](#)

[knock](#)

[knock up \[B\]](#)

[know the ropes](#)

[kowitz](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms L

Each of the following is a link to a page containing ten idioms:

[lady-killer](#)

[lap of luxury](#)

[last me](#)

[laughing](#)

[lay low](#)

[lay you](#)

[lean times](#)

[leave you holding the bag](#)

[lefty](#)

[let go of](#)

[let sleeping dogs lie](#)

[letter-perfect](#)

[life is not all guns and roses](#)

[light up](#)

[like a hawk](#)

[like nobody's business](#)

[lip off](#)

[live it up](#)

[loaded](#)

[long arm of the law](#)

[look down your nose at](#)

[look sharp](#)

[loose ends](#)

[lose it](#)

[lose your marbles](#)

[Lotus Land](#)

[lovelies](#)

[luck of the Irish](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms M

Each of the following is a link to a page containing ten idioms:

[mad about](#)

[make a big to-do](#)

[make a fuss](#)

[make a pitch](#)

[make do](#)

[make it](#)

[make mincemeat of](#)

[make sense](#)

[make tracks](#)

[make your bum hum](#)

[makes no difference](#)

[mayday \(m'aidez\)](#)

[mend fences](#)

[milk it](#)

[mind your manners](#)

[miss your chance](#)

[moneybags](#)

[mop the floor with us](#)

[Mother Nature](#)

[move over](#)

[Murphy's Law](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms N

Each of the following is a link to a page containing ten idioms:

[nada](#)

[name-dropper](#)

[neck](#)

[nervous breakdown](#)

[new money](#)

[nitwit](#)

[no-frills](#)

[no matter how you slice it](#)

[no rhyme or reason](#)

[no way](#)

[not a question of](#)

[not long for this world](#)

[notch below](#)

[number one](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at

# Idioms O

Each of the following is a link to a page containing ten idioms:

[odd one](#)

[off kilter](#)

[off the shelf](#)

[off your high horse](#)

[old coot](#)

[on a roll](#)

[on deck](#)

[on moral grounds](#)

[on parade](#)

[on speaking terms](#)

[on the brink](#)

[on the fringe](#)

[on the market](#)

[on the run](#)

[on the throne](#)

[on time](#)

[on your toes](#)

[one false move](#)

[onto something](#)

[open to question](#)

[out loud](#)

[out of here \(outa here\)](#)

[out of my head](#)

[out of sight, out of mind](#)

[out of the picture](#)

[out of tune \(music\)](#)

[out to lunch](#)

[over the hill](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

## Idioms P

Each of the following is a link to a page containing ten idioms:

[P's and Q's](#)

[paint a picture](#)

[part company](#)

[pass out](#)

[patch things up](#)

[pay my respects](#)

[pay your dues](#)

[peek-a-boo](#)

[perfect stranger](#)

[phooey](#)

[pick up the pace](#)

[piddly](#)

[pig](#)

[pin money](#)

[pinhead](#)

[piss in the pickles \[B\]](#)

[pissed off \[B\]](#)

[plastered](#)

[play along](#)

[play havoc with](#)

[play on my heart strings](#)

[play the stock market](#)

[plump full](#)

[pointed questions](#)

[poontang \[B\]](#)

[popcorn brain](#)

[pound the pavement](#)

[powers that be](#)

[press into service](#)

[prima donna](#)

[public property](#)

[pull punches](#)

[pull up your socks](#)

[pure luck](#)

[put 'em up](#)

[put down](#)

[put it](#)

[put on the dog](#)

[put the kibosh on](#)

[put up or shut up](#)

[put your foot in your mouth](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms Q

Each of the following is a link to a page containing ten idioms:

[quake in his boots](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms R

Each of the following is a link to a page containing ten idioms:

[rabbit](#)

[railroad](#)

[raise your hand against](#)

[rap your knuckles](#)

[razzle-dazzle](#)

[read my lips](#)

[rearend](#)

[reject out of hand](#)

[ride his coattails](#)

[right on the money](#)

[ripped off](#)

[Rock](#)

[roll in the hay](#)

[root of the problem](#)

[row of beans](#)

[ruddy](#)

[run amuck](#)

[run-in](#)

[run out of patience](#)

[run up](#)

[rustbucket](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms S

Each of the following is a link to a page containing ten idioms:

[sabre rattling](#)

[salty](#)

[save your skin/neck](#)

[say your piece](#)

[scaredy cat](#)

[scrape by](#)

[screw loose](#)

[second wind](#)

[see me for dust](#)

[seeing things](#)

[sell the farm](#)

[serious coin](#)

[set in her ways](#)

[set up shop](#)

[settle in](#)

[shake a habit](#)

[sharp](#)

[shekel](#)

[shit list \[B\]](#)

[shitty \[B\]](#)

[shoot-out](#)

[shooting match](#)

[shortchange](#)

[shove it \[B\]](#)

[showdown](#)

[shut my mouth](#)

[sicker than a dog](#)

[silver spoon](#)

[sit the fence](#)

[skaters](#)

[skoal](#)

[sleep it off](#)

[slip away](#)

[slow as molasses...](#)

[small talk](#)

[smidge/smidgeon](#)

[snap a picture](#)

[snowball](#)

[so small you had to back out to change your mind](#)

[soft pedal](#)

[solid as the Rock of Gibraltar](#)

[SOS](#)

[spaced out](#)

[spell disaster](#)

[spike the ball](#)

[spirit away](#)

[split up](#)

[spring for](#)

[square up](#)

[stand away](#)

[stand to lose](#)

[start out](#)

[stay in line](#)

[step aside](#)

[stick-in-the-mud](#)

[stiff](#)

[stone's throw](#)

[straight dope](#)

[strapped](#)

[strictly for the birds](#)

[string a line](#)

[strung out](#)

[suck it up](#)

[suicide pass](#)

[sure as shit](#)

[sweat it](#)

[swell](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

# Idioms T

Each of the following is a link to a page containing ten idioms:

[tail between his legs](#)

[take a dive](#)

[take a load off your feet](#)

[take a round out of](#)

[take advantage of](#)

[take charge](#)

[take in](#)

[take it like a man](#)

[take my hat off to](#)

[take on a new light](#)

[take sides](#)

[take the pulse](#)

[take up the slack](#)

[take your pulse](#)

[takes one to know one](#)

[talk it up](#)

[tangle with](#)

[tear a strip off](#)

[tell him off](#)

[test drive](#)

[that a boy/that a girl](#)

[that's life](#)

[the apple doesn't fall far from the tree](#)

[The Big Apple](#)

[the breaking point](#)

[the cart before the horse](#)

[the devil makes work for idle hands](#)

[the eye of the storm](#)

[the gloves are off](#)

[The Grim Reaper](#)

[the inside track](#)

[the last word](#)

[the long arm of the law](#)

[the moment of truth](#)

[the one that got away](#)

[the powers that be](#)

[The Rock](#)

[the sin bin \(hockey\)](#)

[the take](#)

[the upper hand](#)

[the whole works](#)

[there's more than meets the eye](#)

[there's something rotten in the state of Denmark](#)

[think straight](#)

[threads](#)

[throw a game](#)

[throw good money after bad](#)

[throw up](#)

[tickled pink](#)

[tied up](#)

[time flies when you're having fun](#)

[time's a wasting](#)

[tip the scales at](#)

[to a fault](#)

[to go](#)

[toast](#)

[tons](#)

[toodles/toodle-oo](#)

[top secret](#)

[touch it with a ten-foot pole](#)

[tough act to follow](#)

[tough times](#)

[tranny](#)

[trifle with me](#)

[try your darndest](#)

[tune me out](#)

[turn in](#)

[turn the air blue](#)

[turn you on](#)

[twig to that](#)

[two cents' worth](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms U

Each of the following is a link to a page containing ten idioms:

[U-turn](#)

[under my care](#)

[under way](#)

[up and coming](#)

[up shit creek \[B\]](#)

[up to par](#)

[upchuck](#)

[use up](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms V

Each of the following is a link to a page containing ten idioms:

[vale of tears \(valley of tears\)](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained

# Idioms W

Each of the following is a link to a page containing ten idioms:

[wack](#)

[wait up](#)

[walk a straight line](#)

[want a piece of me](#)

[wash out](#)

[watch me like a hawk](#)

[water-cooler talk](#)

[way to go](#)

[weather the storm](#)

[went through the roof](#)

[what a brain](#)

[what-if](#)

[what was I thinking of](#)

[what's new](#)

[wheels fall off](#)

[where do they get off](#)

[white knuckles](#)

[whup your ass](#)

[wimp](#)

[window of opportunity](#)

[wipe out](#)

[with bells on](#)

[without a word of a lie](#)

[woof your cookies](#)

[work cut out for](#)

[work things out](#)

[world is your oyster](#)

[wouldn't be caught dead](#)

[wreak havoc](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Idioms X

Each of the following is a link to a page containing ten idioms:

[X Generation](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission.

# Idioms Y

Each of the following is a link to a page containing ten idioms:

[ya](#)

[yin yang](#)

[you can thank your lucky stars](#)

[you need money to make money](#)

[your goose is cooked](#)

[yuppie](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email [phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Idioms Z

Each of the following is a link to a page containing ten idioms:

[zap](#)

[zoo](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[Idiom Home](#)

Legend:

[B] bad language

Be interactive:

[Comment on this idiom](#)

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Wayne Magnuson English Idioms Sayings and Slang



Look for idioms by section

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Look for idioms containing a specific word

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Look for idioms explained by a specific word

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

There's more to idioms:

- [Hire the author](#)
- [Another collection \(caviar-flavoured\)](#)
- [The English Teaching Web](#) 

Be interactive:

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

# Wayne Magnuson English Idioms Sayings and Slang



Look for idioms by section

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Look for idioms containing a specific word

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Look for idioms explained by a specific word

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

There's more to idioms:

- [Hire the author](#)
- [Another collection \(caviar-flavoured\)](#)
- [The English Teaching Web](#) 

Be interactive:

[Contribute an idiom or an expression](#)

[Make us aware of a technical problem with this site](#)

The small print:

Copyright ©1995-2003 Wayne Magnuson

The contents of this page are free for personal and non-commercial use, provided this copyright notice is kept intact. All further rights, including the rights of publication in any form, have to be obtained by written permission from the publisher:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437, Email

[phbooks@telusplanet.net](mailto:phbooks@telusplanet.net)

A printed version of these idioms is available as ISBN 1-895012-09-0 (New: 4th printing now available) and a CD-ROM version as ISBN 1-895012-19-8.

Get the book at [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca).

## Hire the Author

If you want to [jazz up](#) your English, your books or documents, feel free to contact [me](#) for individual services.

Some examples:

- editing and proofreading
- one-to-one remote language training
- on-site language training
- ... *ask for more*

[Idiom Home](#)

Contact the author:

[Email](#) - Snail mail:

Prairie House Books

Box 84007 Market Mall, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 5C4, Phone +1 403 202-5438, FAX +1 403 202-5437