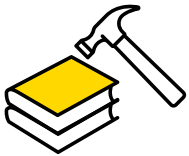


WHAT ARE IDIOMS?

An idiom is a phrase whose meaning isn't obvious from looking at the individual words. As they're used so often in everyday English, if you don't know them, it's almost impossible to understand the context. Learning common idioms in English will help you fit in with most situations. The way to understanding English idioms is never to look at them or read them in a literal sense. Instead, you should learn them in context so that you can understand their real meaning. As written above, the words in idioms often seem totally strange when translated literally. That means it's difficult to create a connection between these English expressions and their meanings. It is also really difficult to remember them. In this article to help you remembering them, I've chosen idioms in English that contain common verbs and prepositions you should know. English Idioms with Common Verbs and Prepositions.



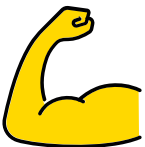
1. HIT THE BOOKS

Literally, hit the books means to physically hit your reading books. However, this is a commonly used expression among students when they have to study hard especially before an exam. "Sorry but I can't go out with you tonight, I have to hit the books. I have an exam next week!"



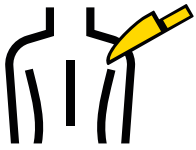
2. HIT THE SACK

Just like the first idiom, the literal meaning of this would be physically hitting a sack. A sack is a big bag people generally use to carry a big quantity of a product. But actually to hit the sack means to go to bed when you are really tired. "It's time for me to hit the sack, I'm so tired."



3. TWIST SOMEONE'S ARM

To twist someone's arm literally means to take a person's arm and turn it around. Here twisting someone else's arm means that you're great at convincing them, and they've finally agreed to do something after you've been convincing them. "Peter, why don't you come to the football match tonight?" "You know I can't, I have to stay home." "C'mon, you have to come! It's going to be so much fun. Please come?" "Oh all right, you've twisted my arm, I'll come!"



4. STAB SOMEONE IN THE BACK

If we take this idiom literally, it would mean taking a knife or another sharp object and putting it into a person's back. However to stab someone in the back also means to hurt someone by betraying them secretly and the person who does this is called a back stabber.

"Do you know that Tom stabbed Bob in the back?"

"No! I thought they were best friends, what did he do?"

"He invited his girlfriend to go out and now they are together."

"Wow, that's a betrayal! No wonder they're not friends anymore."



5. LOSE YOUR TOUCH

Literally, this means to no longer have the ability to touch or feel with your fingers or hands.

But to lose your touch actually means that you lose an ability or talent. Actually lose your touch is also used when you're usually good at a certain skill or talent, but then things start to go wrong.

"I don't understand why none of the boys here want to speak to me."

"It looks like you've lost your touch with the men."

"Oh no, they used to love me, what is wrong with me?"



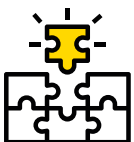
6. SIT TIGHT

Sit tight means that you sit down squeezing your body in a tight way, which would be very uncomfortable.

But if a person tells you to sit tight they want you to wait patiently and take no action until you hear otherwise.

"Excuse me, do you know when the show starts?"

"I don't know, you should sit tight and wait."



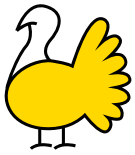
7. PITCH IN

This phrase actually makes no sense if you try to take it literally. However, as an idiom, it means to contribute to something or to join in.

"What are you going to buy Sally and John for their wedding?"

"I don't know. I don't have much money."

"What about all pitching in and buying them something great?"



8. GO COLD TURKEY

This phrase actually makes no sense if you try to take it literally.

To go cold turkey means to suddenly quit or stop addictive or dangerous behavior such as smoking or drinking alcohol.

“Shall I get you a pint of beer?”

“No, thanks. I stopped drinking.”

“Really, why?”

“I don’t know. I think it’s bad for my health. I just went cold turkey!”



9. FACE THE MUSIC

In literal terms, facing the music means turning your body to the direction of the music and standing in front of it.

Actually as an idiom it means to “face reality”.

“I can’t understand why I failed Physics.”

“You know you didn’t study hard, so you’re going to have to face the music and take the class again next semester.”



10. RING A BELL

The literal meaning of ring a bell is quite easy to understand. But the idiom means that somebody has mentioned something that sounds familiar to you, perhaps you’ve heard it before.

“You’ve met my friend Emma Robson, right?”

“I’m not sure, but that name rings a bell. Was she the one who married Karson?”



11. BLOW OFF STEAM

In reality we cannot blow off steam.

If you’re feeling angry or stressed and you want to get rid of them to feel better again, you will blow off steam.

“Why is Nick so angry and where did he go?”

“He had a fight with his brother, so he went for a run to blow off steam.”



12. CUT TO THE CHASE

When a person uses this idiom, they're telling you to hurry up and get to the important part. This idiom should be used while talking to someone you are closed to otherwise it can be rude.

"Hi guys, as we don't have much time left, I'm going to cut to the chase. We have had some problems in the office lately."



13. UP IN THE AIR

When we literally think about something being up in the air, we have the idea that something's floating or flying in the sky. But as an idiom it means that things are uncertain or unsure.

"Bill, have you set a date for your birthday party?"

"Not exactly, things are up in the air because I haven't had a confirmation from the pub yet."



14. ON THE BALL

If you read this phrase literally, it means to be either standing or sitting on a ball. —but who would do that?

Being on the ball means being very quick to understand certain things, very prepared for something or react quickly to a situation.

"Wow, you've already finished your homework? They aren't due until next week, you're really on the ball!"



15. GET OVER SOMETHING

When you have a difficult time and eventually you feel better that is the case to have got over something or someone.

"How's your granny? Has she got over the death of her dog yet?"

"I think so. She's already talking about getting a new one."