

"IDIOMS" (2020)

- 1) To break the ice : Do or say sth to relieve tension.
- 2) Nip in the bud : To stop immediately so that it does not become a worse problem.
- 3) See eye to eye with : Be in full agreement.
- 4) For good : Forever.
- 5) Tamper with : To change or touch sth esp. in a way that causes damage or harm.
- 6) The small hours : If sth happens in the small hours, it happens soon after midnight, in the very early morning.
- 7) Keep up appearances : Maintain an impression of wealth or well-being.
- 8) *Prima facie* : 'Based on the first impression'.
→ "There is a strong *prima facie* evidence that she committed perjury".

(2019)

- 1) To cast pearls before swine : Offer valuable things to people who do not appreciate them.
→ "I am afraid you're casting pearls before swine with your good advice. He won't listen!"
- 2) To step into one's shoes : Take control of a task or job from another person.
→ "He failed to notice the ambitious young men wanting to step into his shoes."

- 1) **Stuff and nonsense** : An expression used to show that you think that sth is stupid/silly or not true.
- 4) **A wild goose chase** : A foolish and hopeless search for or pursuit of sth unattainable.
- 5) **To be ill at ease** : Uncomfortable or embarrassed.
→ "He is always ill at ease when facing his boss."
- 6) **Sit on the fence** : Delay or avoid making a decision or choice // Not take sides in a dispute // Undecided about sth // Remain neutral when a decision or choice is required.
- 7) **In a jiffy** : A very short time; a moment.
- 8) **To preen oneself** : To spend a lot of time making oneself look neat and attractive.

(2018)

- 1) **Show and tell** : A teaching method in which pupils are encouraged to bring items they have selected to class and describe them to their classmates.
- 2) **Helter-skelter** : Involving disorderly haste or confusion // In disorderly haste or confusion // disorder; "
- 3) **To the death** : until dead; → "a fight to the ^{death}"
- 4) **Tilt at windmills** : To use time and energy to attack an enemy or problem that is not real or important.

- 5) **Het up** : Angry and agitated.
 - "Her husband is all het up about sth."
- 6) **The whole ball of wax** : Everything.
 - "The union demanded higher wages, a pension plan, job security - the whole ball of wax."
- 7) **It's about time** : used to say often in an annoyed way that sth should've happened sooner.
 - "It's about time that high schools taught their students about basic banking and finance."
- 8) **Punch-up** : A physical fight.

(2017)

- 1) **Spirit away** : To remove without anyone's noticing.
- 2) **Plough back** : Reinvest profits in the enterprise producing them.
 → "Savings made through greater efficiency will be ploughed back into the service."
- 3) **Eager beaver** : A keen and enthusiastic person who works very hard.
 - "John is such an eager beaver, nobody wants to work with him as he makes everyone else look bad."
- 4) **Ring a bell** : Sound vaguely familiar.
 → "The name rings a bell."
- 5) **Be left holding the baby** : Be left with an unwelcome responsibility, typically without warning.
 → "The other investors pulled out of the project & we were left holding the baby."

- 6) Cap in hand : Humbly asking for a favour.
 → "We have to go cap in hand begging for funds."
- 7) Hold out a carrot : Entice by offering an ^{advantage} ^
 → "The parents held out the carrot of a new bicycle to make their son study harder."
- 8) Over the moon : Extremely happy.

(2016)

- 1) Smash hit : Overwhelmingly successful or popular.
- 2) Murphy's law : If anything can go wrong, it will.
- 3) Place in the Sun : A ^{very successful, desirable} good, ^ or lucky position.
 "→ After years of struggling as an unknown actor, he has finally found a place in the sun."
- 4) Wooden spoon : The imaginary prize that a person or team is given if they finish last in a race or competition.
 "→ England must beat Scotland today to avoid getting the wooden spoon."
- 5) Go bananas : To become very excited or angry.
 → "The crowd went bananas when the concert began."
- 6) Beard the lion in his den : Confront or challenge s/o on their own ground.
- 7) Groan inwardly : Feel dismayed by sth but remain silent.
- 8) Chicken out : To decide not to do sth because one is afraid.

(2015)

(5)

- 1) Itching palm : A desire or greed for money.
(also itchy palm) → "The porter has an itchy palm; he wants a big tip."
- 2) The primrose path : A life of pleasure & leisure that results in -ve or detrimental outcome.
Usually used in the phrase, "lead (one) down the primrose path."
- 3) Break one's fall : To stop oneself / someone from falling. → "He slipped on the ice and hurt his hand when he tried to break his fall."
- 4) Wash one's hands of : disown or disclaim responsibility for. → "The social services washed their hands of his daughter."
- 5) To become reconciled to : To forgive, accept, or make peace with s/o, something, or some situation.
→ "He eventually became reconciled to his position in life."
- 6) To militate against : To make sth unlikely to happen // To prevent sth from happening.
→ "His inexperience militates against his getting an early promotion."
- 7) To be cognizant of : Aware of, have knowledge of
- 8) Wages of sin : The results or consequences of evildoing. → "She ate all of the strawberries and ended up with a terrible stomachache - the wages of sin, no doubt."

(2014)

- 1) To bring grist to the mill :
- 2) To keep one's fingers crossed : To hope for good.
→ "Helen will soon find out whether she got into law school; in the meantime, she is keeping her fingers crossed."
- 3) With one's tongue in one's cheek : In a way that is not serious and that is meant to be funny.
- 4) A storm in the ^{a teacup} tea cup : Great outrage or excitement about a trivial matter.
→ "I fail to understand why the advertising industry is raising such a storm in a teacup!"
- 5) To talk through one's hat : Talk foolishly, wildly, or ignorantly. → "Come on, you're talking through your hat on that."
- 6) Hum and Haw : To be uncertain and take a long time deciding sth.
(Also; hem and haw)
→ "We hummed and hawed for months before actually deciding to buy the house."
Acc. to Oxford :- "To take a long time to make a decision or before you say sth."
- 7) To let the grass grow under one's feet : To wait before doing sth or to do sth slowly.
- 8) Penny wise and pound foolish : Careful about small amounts of money but not abt large amounts. → "Forbidding pvt phone calls in the ofc can't really reduce the company's expenses; it's just being penny wise and pound foolish."

(2013)

- 1) The milk of human kindness : Care and compassion for others. → "She is certainly not overflowing with the milk of human kindness, is she?"
- 2) A rule of thumb : A broadly accurate guide or principle, based on practice rather than theory.
- 3) Out and out : in every respect ; absolute.
- 4) To wash one's dirty linen in public : To discuss ^{someone's} very private, personal matters, esp. that may be sensitive or embarrassing, in public or with other people.
- 5) To pay through the nose : Pay much more than a fair price.
- 6) To lose face : Be humiliated or come to be less highly respected.
→ "The code of conduct required that he strike back or lose face."

(2012)

- 1) Wool gathering : Indulgence in aimless thought or dreamy imagining ; absent-mindedness.
- 2) Under the harrow : In distress, upset, troubled, etc.
- 3) Cold comfort : Poor or inadequate consolation.
" 2 rs drop in petrol price was the cold comfort for poor people."
- 4) A gold digger : A person who forms relationships with others purely to extract money from them, esp. a woman who strives to marry a wealthy man.

- 5) Walk with God : To lead a morally upright life.
- 6) On the thin ice : In a precarious or risky situation.
- 7) A queer fish : A person whose behaviour seems strange or unusual.
- 8) Unearthly hour : A time of day that is unreasonably early or late.

(2011)

- 1) To eat one's words : Retract what one has said, esp. in a humiliated way.
→ "They will eat their words when I win."
- 2) Dog in the manger : A person who has no need of, or ability to use, a possession that would be of use or value to others, but who prevents others from having it.
- 3) A close shave : A narrow escape from serious danger or trouble.
I had a close shave this morning. Some idiot almost knocked me off my back.
- 4) A Freudian Slip : Any inadvertent verbal or written mistake that reveals, or construed as revealing, an unconscious or repressed intention, belief, thought, etc.
- 5) A Gordian Knot : An extremely ^kdifficult ^{intricate}problem.
- 6) A cog in the machine : A small or insignificant member of a larger organization or system.
→ "Copywriters have been seen as just a cog in the big advertising machine."
- 7) A sugar daddy : A rich older man who lavishes gifts on a young woman in return for her company or sexual favours.

8) **A wet blanket** : A person who spoils other people's fun by failing to join in with or by disapproving of their activities.

(2010)

possible

1) **Make for** : Move towards a place // help to make sthⁿ

2) **Yeoman's service** : Very good, hard, and valuable work that s/o does esp. to support a cause.
 → "He had rendered yeoman's service to the cause of upliftment of the downtrodden."

3) **Discretion is the better part of valour** : It's better to avoid a dangerous situation than to confront it.

4) **A casting vote** : A deciding vote cast by a presiding officer to break a tie.

5) **Look down upon** : To consider s/o or sth inferior.

6) **Iconoclast** : A person who criticizes popular beliefs or established customs and ideas.

7) **Out of the woods** : Out of danger or difficulty.

8) **A swan song** : The final performance or activity of a person's career.

(2009)

1) **Leave in the lurch** : Leave without help or protection when it is needed.

2) **Hard and fast** : Fixed, definite

- 1) **Weather the storm** : To deal with a difficult situation without being harmed or damaged too much.
- 2) **Bear the brunt** : To suffer most as a result of a problem or difficult situation.
- 3) **Meet halfway** : To compromise with s/o, often in an argument or disagreement.
- 4) **Turncoat** : A person who deserts one party or cause in order to join an opposing one.
- 5) **Where the shoe pinches** : The source of trouble, difficulty, etc.

(2008)

- 1) **Blow one's top** : To become enraged, lose one's temper, to go mad, become insane.
→ "My brother will blow his top when he sees what happened to his car."
- 2) **A cock and bull story** : An unbelievable tale that is intended to deceive.
- 3) **Find one's feet** : Become confident or successful in a particular field or activity.
- 4) **Call it a night** : To stop sth for the rest of the night.
- 5) **The tip of the iceberg** : A small, noticeable part of a greater problem. → "These small local protests are just the tip of the iceberg."
- 6) **Below par** : Worse than is usual or expected.

If s/o goes from pillar to post, they're forced to keep moving from one place to another. (11)

7) From pillar to post : From one place to another in an unceremonious or fruitless manner.

8) Hang up : End the phone conversation by cutting the connection.

9) Turn ^{someone} someone in : To hand-over to the police.

10) By and by : soon, before long.

(2006)

1) Twiddle with : To play with sth in one's hand idly, esp. by turning it over and around repeatedly.

2) Vamp up : Conceal, construct, make up // To make sth more attractive and exciting.

3) Whittle away : To reduce or get rid of sth slowly // To gradually make sth smaller, weaker, or less effective.

4) Winkle out : To use a lot of effort to get (info) from a person.

5) Give someone the bum's rush : To forcefully remove someone from a place.

6) Loom large : To have great importance or influence.
→ "She was a critic who loomed large in literary circles."

7) Besetting sin : A main or constant problem or fault.
→ "My besetting sin is procrastinating things."

8) To hang fire : Delay or be delayed in taking action or progressing.
→ "A near agreement was hanging fire bcz of the concerns of some provinces."

(2005)

- 1) Keep one's nose to the grindstone : Work hard & continuously.
- 2) Throw someone for a loop : Surprise or astonish someone.
- 3) Letter-perfect : (of an actor or speaker) knowing by heart the words for one's part or speech ; word-perfect.
// Oxford : Correct in all details. ✓
- 4) Off the wall : Highly unusual.
- 5) Out to lunch : Crazy, inattentive, having or showing a very abnormal or sick state of mind.
- 6) Salt something away : To save sth, often money, secretly.
- 7) Take someone to the cleaners : Take all s/o's money or possessions in a dishonest way // Inflict a crushing defeat on s/o.
- 8) Wear the pants in the family : To have the greatest amount of authority or control in one's family.

(2004)

- 1) Set one's cap at : To try to attract, secure, or win s/o as a romantic partner or spouse.
- 2) To draw the long bow : To exaggerate in telling sth.
- 3) To send a person to Coventry : To ostracise s/o, usually by not talking to them.
- 4) Beer and skittles : Amusement or enjoyment.
- 5) The acid test : A way of deciding whether sth is successful or true.

* To carry the day : Be victorious or successful. (13)

6) A skeleton in the cupboard : A discreditable or embarrassing fact that s/o wishes to keep secret.

7) To discover a mare's nest : A (false) extraordinary or wonderful discovery which proves or will prove to be illusory.

(2003)

1) Kick the bucket : Die

2) Bolt from the blue : A complete surprise : sth totally ^{unexpected}
→ "The decision came as a bolt from the blue!"

3) Put your foot down : To use your authority to stop sth from happening.

4) Worth one's salt : Good or competent at the job or profession specified. → "Any astrologer worth her salt would have predicted this."

5) Down the drain : If work or money is or goes 'down the drain', it is spoiled or wasted.

6) All ears : The saying is actually "calling all ears"; it is a reference to calling for all the help you can get.

7) Check by jowl : Very close together. → "The two communities had lived cheek by jowl."

8) In a nutshell : In the few possible words.
"She expressed her idea in a nutshell."

9) Give me five : Asking s/o to hit hand against yours.

* To carry coals to Newcastle : To do sth totally unnecessary. (14)

(2002)

Take to task : To scold, reprimand, or hold one accountable for some wrong they committed.

- 2) Take to one's heels : Run away.
- 3) Take with a grain or pinch of salt : To not believe sth to be completely accurate or true.

(2001)

1) The seeming meanings : Present a number of meanings.

2) To push to the walls : To force one into a desperate position in which one's options are limited and typically require desperate actions.

3) To read between the lines : Look for or discover a meaning that is implied rather than explicitly stated.

4) To be at daggers drawn : Be bitterly hostile towards each other.

5) To throw down the gauntlet : Issue a challenge.
→ "He threw down the gauntlet to cabinet colleagues."
// To invite s/o to fight or compete with you.

6) To be a Greek : To be incomprehensible or unintelligible.

7) To stand on ceremony : Insist on the observance of formalities.
→ "We don't stand on ceremony in the house."

8) From the horse's mouth : (of info) from a person directly concerned or another authoritative source.

hit a rock: To reach a low point in one's pursuits. (15)

1) To carry the cross: To handle or cope with one's burden; to endure one's difficulties.
→ "It's not an ideal situation, but we all have to carry our crosses."

(Additional)

- 1) All down the line: At every point or stage.
- 2) Cast your bread upon the waters: To do sth good or take a risk, usually without expecting very much in return.
- 3) By hook or by crook: By any possible means.
- 4) Shoe is on the other foot: A situation has changed to the opposite of what it was before.
- 5) Drive one's point home: To say sth in a very strong & forceful way.
- 6) Tread on someone's toes: Offend s/o by encroaching on their area of responsibility.
- 7) Take a leaf out of someone's book: Imitate or emulate s/o in a particular way.
- 8) A fly in the ointment: A minor irritation that spoils the success or enjoyment of sth.
Hot weather was the only fly in the ointment during tour to Islamabad.
- 9) Waiting in the wings: Ready to take over a role or a position when you have a chance to do so.
My assistant is waiting in the wings to take my job once I retire.
- 10) Rain on someone's parade: To spoil s/o's pleasure.
I hate to rain on your parade, but I think your A in chemistry was actually a clerical error.
- 11) Double down: Strengthen one's commitment.
Seeing others succeeding doubles down my will to succeed.