**50 Most Important Idioms**

**A hot potato**

Speak of an issue (mostly current) which many people are talking about and which is usually disputed

**A penny for your thoughts**

A way of asking what someone is thinking

**Actions speak louder than words**

People's intentions can be judged better by what they do than what they say.

**Add insult to injury**

To further a loss with mockery or indignity; to worsen an unfavorable situation.

**An arm and a leg**

Very expensive or costly. A large amount of money.

**At the drop of a hat**

Meaning: without any hesitation; instantly.

**Back to the drawing board**

When an attempt fails and it's time to start all over.

**Ball is in your court**

It is up to you to make the next decision or step

**Barking up the wrong tree**

Looking in the wrong place. Accusing the wrong person

**Be glad to see the back of**

Be happy when a person leaves.

**Beat around the bush**

Avoiding the main topic. Not speaking directly about the issue.

**Best of both worlds**

Meaning: All the advantages.

**Best thing since sliced bread**

A good invention or innovation. A good idea or plan.

**Bite off more than you can chew**

To take on a task that is way to big.

**Blessing in disguise**

Something good that isn't recognized at first.

**Burn the midnight oil**

To work late into the night, alluding to the time before electric lighting.

**Can't judge a book by its cover**

Cannot judge something primarily on appearance.

**Caught between two stools**

When someone finds it difficult to choose between two alternatives.

**Costs an arm and a leg**

This idiom is used when something is very expensive.

**Cross that bridge when you come to it**

Deal with a problem if and when it becomes necessary, not before.

**Cry over spilt milk**

When you complain about a loss from the past.

**Curiosity killed the cat**

Being Inquisitive can lead you into an unpleasant situation.

**Cut corners**

When something is done badly to save money.

**Cut the mustard**

To succeed; to come up to expectations; adequate enough to compete or participate

**Devil's Advocate**

To present a counter argument

**Don't count your chickens before the eggs have hatched**

This idiom is used to express "Don't make plans for something that might not happen".

**Don't give up the day job**

You are not very good at something. You could definitely not do it professionally.

**Don't put all your eggs in one basket**

Do not put all your resources in one possibility.

**Drastic times call for drastic measures**

When you are extremely desperate you need to take drastic actions.

**Elvis has left the building**

The show has come to an end. It's all over.

**Every cloud has a silver lining**

Be optimistic, even difficult times will lead to better days.

**Far cry from**

Very different from.

**Feel a bit under the weather**

Meaning: Feeling slightly ill.

**Give the benefit of the doubt**

Believe someone's statement, without proof.

**Hear it on the grapevine**

This idiom means 'to hear rumors' about something or someone.

**Hit the nail on the head**

Do or say something exactly right

**Hit the sack / sheets / hay**

To go to bed.

**In the heat of the moment**

Overwhelmed by what is happening in the moment.

**It takes two to tango**

Actions or communications need more than one person

**Jump on the bandwagon**

Join a popular trend or activity.

**Keep something at bay**

Keep something away.

**Kill two birds with one stone**

This idiom means, to accomplish two different things at the same time.

**Last straw**

The final problem in a series of problems.

**Let sleeping dogs lie**

Meaning - do not disturb a situation as it is - since it would result in trouble or complications.

**Let the cat out of the bag**

To share information that was previously concealed

**Make a long story short**

Come to the point - leave out details

**Method to my madness**

An assertion that, despite one's approach seeming random, there actually is structure to it.

**Miss the boat**

This idiom is used to say that someone missed his or her chance

**Not a spark of decency**

Meaning: No manners

**Not playing with a full deck**

Someone who lacks intelligence.

**Off one's rocker**

Crazy, demented, out of one's mind, in a confused or befuddled state of mind, senile.

**On the ball**

When someone understands the situation well.

**Once in a blue moon**

Meaning: Happens very rarely.

**Picture paints a thousand words**

A visual presentation is far more descriptive than words.

**Piece of cake**

A job, task or other activity that is easy or simple.

**Put wool over other people's eyes**

This means to deceive someone into thinking well of them.

**See eye to eye**

This idiom is used to say that two (or more people) agree on something.

**Sit on the fence**

*This is used when* someone does not want to choose or make a decision.

**Speak of the devil!**

This expression is used when the person you have just been talking about arrives.

**Steal someone's thunder**

To take the credit for something someone else did.

**Take with a grain of salt**

This means not to take what someone says too seriously.

**Taste of your own medicine**

Means that something happens to you, or is done to you, that you have done to someone else

**To hear something straight from the horse's mouth**

To hear something from the authoritative source.

**Whole nine yards**

Everything. All of it.

**Wouldn't be caught dead**

Would never like to do something

**Your guess is as good as mine**

To have no idea, do not know the answer to a question