



# Idioms

**Idioms are words, phrases, or expressions that cannot be taken literally. In other words, when used in everyday language, they have a meaning that is different from their literal meaning.**

Idiomatic expressions	Their meanings
a bolt from the blue	an unexpected happening
a bone of contention	a cause of disagreement
a feather in one's cap	an achievement
a fish out of water	out of place
a storm in a teacup	a fuss about nothing
a wild goose chase	a plan with no chance of success
add fuel to the fire	make matters worse
at a snail's pace	very slowly
at the eleventh hour	at the last minute
break the ice	begin first
burn the candle at both ends	overwork
call a spade a spade	state things bluntly
get out of bed on the wrong side	be grumpy
have a bee in one's bonnet	be obsessed with something
in the pipeline	about to happen
jump the gun	start too soon
let the cat out of the bag	reveal a secret
once in a blue moon	rarely
move the goalposts	change the rules
on the cards	possible
two-faced	hypocritical
spill the beans	tell a secret
under a cloud	under suspicion
Achilles heel	weak spot
start from scratch	start from the beginning
throw in the towel	give up
long in the tooth	old