



IDIOMS

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1. ONCE IN A BLUE MOON:

Meaning - Something that happens very rarely

Sentence - Once in a blue moon, the blue jay can be seen in these parts of the forest.

2. BEATING AROUND THE BUSH:

Meaning - Avoiding the main topic

Sentence - The President was beating around the bush when the citizens demanded a reason for the forgery of legal documents.

3. CHIP ON YOUR SHOULDER:

Meaning - When someone is upset about something that happened a while ago

Sentence - He has a chip on his shoulder for being abandoned by his parents in his childhood.

4. CRY OVER SPILT MILK:

Meaning - Complaining about a loss or failure from the past

Sentence - He was mad because he couldn't clear the cut off due to a silly mistake. But, then he realized there was no use crying over spilt milk and decided to become more careful.

5. SPILL THE BEANS:

Meaning - To disclose a secret

Sentence - The little one spilled the beans about the surprise vacation we had planned.

6. PIECE OF CAKE:

Meaning - Something that is easy to understand or do

Sentence - I thought that the problem would be tough, but it turned out to be a piece of cake!

7. BLESSING IN DISGUISE:

Meaning - Something good and useful that did not initially seem that way

Sentence - His accident was a blessing in disguise because it gave him a lot of time to think about his life while he was recovering, and as a result, he made some important decisions that improved his life.

8. COME HELL OR HIGH WATER:

Meaning - Possible obstacles in your path (will not stop you)

Sentence - I have decided that come hell or high water I will become an engineer.

9. TASTE OF YOUR OWN MEDICINE:

Meaning - When someone receives the same treatment, usually negative, that he/she gives to others

Sentence - She is always taunting others and hurting their sentiments. I just wish someone would give her a taste of her own medicine.

10. GOLDEN HANDSHAKE:

Meaning - A big sum of money given to a person when he/she leaves a company or retires

Sentence - The management of the company wanted to decrease their workforce. They offered a golden handshake to their aged employees.

11. MEAN BUSINESS:

Meaning - Being serious/dedicated

Sentence - The border is sealed by troops who mean business.

12. APPLE OF ONE'S EYE:

Meaning - Being cherished more than others are

Sentence - Sam is adored by his teacher for his childlike nature. He is the apple of her eye.

13. THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS:

Meaning - The benefits of widely differing situations, enjoyed at the same time.

Sentence - I had the best of both worlds since I worked as an ordinary member of the team but got to learn from the leaders.

14. FEELING A BIT UNDER THE WEATHER:

Meaning - Feeling slightly ill

Sentence - I may not be able to jog today, as I am feeling a bit under the weather.

15. ICING ON THE CAKE:

Meaning - Something that turns good into great

Sentence - India's victory over England on India's Independence Day was like icing on the cake.

16. COST AN ARM AND A LEG:

Meaning - Be very expensive

Sentence - His laziness made him miss his flight to Chandigarh. The next ticket cost him an arm and a leg.

17. JUMP THE BANDWAGON:

Meaning - To join a popular activity or trend

Sentence - When he was detected with diabetes, he quickly jumped on the bandwagon and joined the Zumba dance class.

18. BALL IS IN YOUR COURT:

Meaning - When it is up to you to make the next decision or step.

Sentence - Now the ball is in your court; decide whether you want to reply or not.

19. BITE OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW:

Meaning - To take up a task which you may not be able to accomplish due to lack of ability.

Sentence - I bit off more than I could chew when I decided to take up the 300-page research project.

20. CAN'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER:

Meaning - Cannot judge something primarily on appearance.

Sentence - The house looked impressive in the advertisement. Still I made a trip to the house to check everything. It is wise not to judge a book by its cover.

21. HEAR IT ON GRAPEVINE:

Meaning - To hear rumors about something or someone

Sentence - I heard it on grapevine that he had stiffed an old man asking for his pension.

22. IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO:

Meaning - Actions or communications need more than one person

Sentence - Even though I thought I would be fired after the altercation with my manager, thankfully upper management realized that it takes two to tango.

23. LAST STRAW:

Meaning - The final problem in a series of problems

Sentence - My body was already in bad shape. The accident was the last straw. I am now on complete bed rest.

24. TO BE IN THE DOLDRUMS:

Meaning - To be in low spirits

Sentence - Sam was in the doldrums after he was insulted by the boss in front of his colleagues.

25. TO SIT ON THE FENCE:

Meaning - To remain neutral

Sentence - Since I was not aware of the details, I decided to sit on the fence during the argument between my cousins.

26. BREAK THE ICE:

Meaning - To initiate a social conversation or interaction

Sentence - At the start of the lecture, the new professor tried to break the ice by telling a joke.

27. A BIRD'S EYE VIEW:

Meaning - A view from a very high place that allows you to see a very large area

Sentence - The Singapore Big Wheel offers a bird's eye view of the city.

28. A LITMUS TEST:

Meaning - A method that helps to know if something is correct

Sentence - Taking up the job served as a litmus test for me to know how good I was at applying my knowledge.

29. AT THE DROP OF A HAT:

Meaning - Willingness to do something instantly

Sentence - She expects me to make dinner at the drop of a hat even if I am very busy with office work.

30. AFRAID OF ONE'S OWN SHADOW:

Meaning - To become easily frightened

Sentence - Her creepy encounter with the supernatural had a devastating effect on her. She is now afraid of her own shadow.

31. A HOUSE OF CARDS:

Meaning - A poor plan

Sentence - The State's new scheme was initially welcomed, but later turned out to be a house of cards when it was discovered how easy it was to perpetrate a scam.

32. BLACK AND BLUE:

Meaning - Full of bruises

Sentence - The young lad was all black and blue after a tiff with a raging senior.

33. BE ON CLOUD NINE:

Meaning - Be very happy

Sentence - I will be on cloud nine when my first article gets published.

34. BONE OF CONTENTION:

Meaning - A subject or issue over which there is continuing disagreement

Sentence - The examination system has long been a serious bone of contention in the HRD Ministry.

35. EAT HUMBLE PIE:

Meaning - To apologize humbly

Sentence - He will have to eat humble pie for the disrespect shown to the Captain.

36. FOOL'S PARADISE:

Meaning - False sense of happiness or success

Sentence - They were living in a fool's paradise, refusing to accept that they were facing poverty.

37. GIVE COLD SHOULDER:

Meaning - To ignore

Sentence - I sent her a message to apologize for my misbehavior, but she gave me the cold shoulder.

38. GET A RAW DEAL:

Meaning - To not be treated as well as other people

Sentence - The fact is that students in government schools get a raw deal.

39. HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD:

Meaning - To do the correct thing

Sentence - She hit the nail on the head when she laid out a list of justifiable grievances she had with the company.

40. HAND TO MOUTH:

Meaning - live on only basic necessities

Sentence - The severe drought led the farmers to live hand to mouth.

41. HIT THE BULL'S EYE:

Meaning - To be exactly right about something or achieve the best result possible.

Sentence - The detective hit the bull's eye when he figured out that nobody but the doctor could have had access to the poison.

42. LET THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG:

Meaning - To reveal the secret carelessly or by mistake

Sentence - Now that she had let the cat out of the bag, she had no option but to confess.

43. MAKE A FACE:

Meaning - To show dislike or disappointment through facial expressions

Sentence - Little Stella made a face at the sight of bitter gourd in her food.

44. OPEN PANDORA'S BOX:

Meaning - To find a source of great troubles and problems

Sentence - Finding the wallet on the road opened up a Pandora's box. I was arrested for stealing when I went to report it at the police station.

45. IT'S GREEK TO ME

Meaning - Something that is not understandable

Sentence - I failed my commerce test; it was all Greek to me!

46. DON'T PUT ALL YOUR EGGS IN ONE BASKET:

Meaning - Do not put all your resources in one basket.

Sentence - The boy put all his money into his dream start up that eventually failed. I had told him not to put all his eggs in one basket.

47. TO CALL A SPADE A SPADE:

Meaning - To be brutally frank, outspoken, blunt in speech.

Sentence - Let's call a spade a spade - popular he may be, but that man is a liar.

48. TO BE A GOOD SAMARITAN:

Meaning - To be kind and compassionate to someone in distress

Sentence - I was sure I would be stuck on the highway till the morning, but a Good Samaritan offered me a ride home.

49. TO PUT IN A NUTSHELL:

Meaning - To say in a few words or to make something concise

Sentence - The Textbook Development Committee decided to put the 30-page chapter in a nutshell to help save time for students during revision.

50. TO POUR OIL ON TROUBLED WATERS:

Meaning - To make peace

Sentence-I am always stuck pouring oil on troubled waters when my mother and wife start their bickering.

