

## **ENGLISH IDIOMS AND THEIR MEANINGS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This article demonstrates information about the most common idioms in English language and how and what kind of situations we use them. Also, figurative meaning of expressions and their examples are given in this article. Moreover, this article shows the concepts of scientists and linguists.*

**Key words:** *Phraseologiam, categorical features, actual, figurative, humorously, defensive, hotcakes, lollies, gooseberry, awkward, etymology, derivation, hurriedly, horseplay, yell, allude, allegedly, rectum, tendencies.*

### **АННОТАЦИЯ**

*В этой статье представлена информация о наиболее распространенных идеомах в английском языке и о том, как и в каких ситуациях мы их используем. Также в этой статье приведены переносные значения выражений и их примеры. Кроме того, в этой статье показаны концепции ученых и лингвистов.*

**Ключевые слова:** *фразеологизмы, категориальные признаки, актуальные, образные, юмористические, оборонительные, горячие пирожки, лолли, крыжовник, неловко, этимология, образование, торопливо, возня, кричать, намекать, якобы, прямая кишка, тенденции.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Phraseology (Greek phrasis - expression and phrase). Firstly, a branch of linguistics that examines the phraseological structure of the language (Phraseologism) in its current state and historical development. Secondly a set of phraseologisms in a particular language.

The main focus of Phraseology as a branch of linguistics is to study the nature of phraseology and their categorical features, as well as to determine the laws of use of phraseology in speech. The most important problem of phraseology is to differentiate and distinguish phraseologisms from word combinations that are formed in speech and to determine the signs of phraseology on this basis. The main tasks or issues of phraseology are: to determine the consistency of phraseological content and, in this regard, to study the character(s) of phraseology; description of homonymy, synonymy, antonymy, polysemy and variation of phraseology, identify the specific features of the words used in phraseology and their specific meanings, clarifying the

relationship between phraseology and word groups, clarify their syntactic role, study of the formation of new meanings of words within phraseological units and other Phraseology develops principles of separation of phraseological units, methods of their study, classification and description in dictionaries.

## DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

Idioms are a group of words which have a different meaning from the actual words and they have a figurative meaning not a literal meaning. Also an idiom is an expression in the usage of a language that is peculiar to itself either in having a meaning that cannot be derived from the conjoined meanings of its elements (such as up in the air for "undecided") or in its grammatically atypical use of words (such as give way). Furthermore, idioms are known as the language peculiar to a people or to a district, community, or class or the syntactical, grammatical, or structural form peculiar to a language. On the other hand, idioms are styles or form of artistic expressions that are characteristics of an individual, a period or movement, or a medium or instrument. An idiom is an expression that has a meaning apart from the meanings of its individual words. Here, some common idioms are given with examples.

**It's raining cats and dogs.** Its literal meaning suggests that cats and dogs are falling from the sky. We use it to mean that it is raining hard. "Raining cats and dogs" may refer to a storm with wind (dogs) and heavy rain (cats). "Cats and dogs" may come from the Greek expression cats and dogs, which means "contrary to experience or belief." If it is raining cats and dogs, it is raining unusually or unbelievably hard. For example: Yesterday the weather was terrible because it was raining cats and dogs.

**To stick your neck out.** It is to say or do something that is bold and a bit dangerous. A similar idiom that is used for slightly more dangerous situations is to "**go out on a limb.**" If you stick your neck out, it means you take a risk by saying or doing something that other people might not like. Examples: John stuck his neck out and told the boss what we thought of him. **Or** He always sticks his neck out when he feels the sence of anger.

**To break the ice** is to be the first one to say or do something, with the expectation that others will then follow or to do or say something that makes people who do not know each other feel more comfortable. Another idiom that means something similar is "**get the ball rolling**" Examples: Usually, I try to break the ice because lating from other is not my way. **Or** I tried to break the ice by talking to the people next to me about the weather.

**To get long in the tooth** means to get old, to be old, often too old to do something The expression was originally used when referring to horses since gums

recede with age. So the longer the teeth a horse has, the older it is said to be. If you describe someone as long in the tooth, you are saying unkindly or humorously that they are old or getting old. For instance: My grandfather is getting long in the tooth, therefore, some physical and mental tirednesses are seen on his body.

**To have a chip on one's shoulder** is usually an expression to describe a person who acts, as you say, rudely or aggressively, but also in a manner that could be described as "aggressively defensive." The person seems always ready for a fight. to seem angry all the time because you think you have been treated unfairly or feel you are not as good as other people. Example: He's got a chip on his shoulder about not having been to university.

**Taking two bits of the cherry** means that to have another opportunity for something that you wanted or a second chance to do something, especially something that you failed at the first time. Example: Although you have failed your university exam, now you are taking two bits of cherry.

**Selling like hot cakes** means Selling like hot be a great commercial success or to dispose of something very quickly and with little effort, to sell or get rid of large quantities of something very easily. Example Sentences: These books are selling like hotcakes. **Or** My dad says that the new cars are selling like hotcakes. **Or**, It is very hot outside. These ice lollies will sell like hotcakes.

When it comes to the origin of hotcakes, they are an American invention dating back to the 1600s. It is the same thing as a crepe that has been around since the 1400s. They were loved by the English when encountered at French fairs. The term has been used since about 1839. There is no clear origin. However, hotcakes are always a staple at any fair and sells out rather quickly. It is easy to believe that this has been the trend since they were first invented.

**Playing gooseberry** means that to be present somewhere with two other people who are having a romantic relationship and who want to be alone together. For example: 'I didn't want to play gooseberry with you and Bev,' he smiled.

**Feel/Be like a fish out of the water** means a person who feels awkward or unhappy because they are in a situation that is not familiar or because they are different from the people around them. Example: I didn't have any friends that were alike me when I was a child. I just always felt like a fish out of water.

**Dressed up to the ninth** means to be wearing fashionable and formal clothes for a special occasions or to be dressed flamboyantly or smartly. For example: My mum always try to dress up to the ninth.

The origin of this idiom is that nine is the most troublesome number in etymology. There are several phrases of uncertain parentage that include the world.

The most frequently heard attempts explain the phrase's derivation involve associating the number nine with clothing in some way.

**Taking nineteen to the dozen** means to speak rapidly, hurriedly, energetically and without stopping. Examples: He showed us around the house while taking nineteen to the dozen.

**The ball is in your court** it is time for someone to deal with a problem or make a decision, because other people have already done as much as they can or means this is your decision. In fact, this idiom originates from the game of tennis. Example: She has helped me in every way she can the ball's in my court now.

**Great minds think alike** means when two people have the same or make the same choice. For instance: Mumy sister and me are painting our personal rooms same colour, great minds think alike.

**You are what you eat** means it is important to eat healthy, nutritional food in order to be healthy and fit. The phrase 'You Are What You Eat' means that it is important to eat good food in order to be healthy and fit. Example of Use: "I'm feeling more energetic now that I've started eating more salad." Answer: "You are what you eat!"

Interesting fact about You Are What You Eat. The first mention of the phrase 'you are what you eat' came from the 1826 work *Physiologie du Gout, ou Medetations de Gastronomie Transcendante*, in which French author Anthelme Brillat-Savarin wrote: "Tell me what you eat and I will tell you what you eat."

**Water under the bridge** is used to refer to events that are in the past and consequently no longer to be regarded as important or problems that someone has had in the past that they do not worry about because they happened for a long time ago and cannot now be changed. Examples: I do not want to talk about that, it is all water under the bridge now. **Or**, We did have our disagreements but that is the water under the bridge now.

**Cross your fingers** to hope that things will happen in the way that you wanted them to or if you cross your fingers, you put one finger on top of another and hope for good luck. If you say that someone is keeping their fingers crossed, you mean they are hoping good luck. Examples: He crossed his fingers asking for luck for the first time in his life. **Or**, We are keeping or fingers crossed that the weather stays nice.

**Let the cat out of the bag** means to allow a secret to be known usually without intending to or it is a colloquialism meaning to reveal facts previously hidden. It could refer to revealing conspiracy (friend or not) to it's target, letting it outsider into an inner circle of knowledge (explaining in it joke) or the revelation of a pilot twist in a movie or a play. It is also known as to reveal a secret carelessly or by mistake.

Example : I was trying to keep party a secret ,but John went and let the cat out of the bag.

**Bend over backward** means make an effort to achieve something, especially to be fair or helpful or try extremely hard to help or to please someone to do something. Example: She bent over backwards to help him. **Or**, We have bent over backwards to ensure a fair trial for the defendants.

**Until the cows come home** means If you say that someone can do something until the cows come home, but it will have no effect, you are emphasizing that it will have no effect even if they do it for a very long time. Example: You can initiate police until the cows come home, but unless they are monitored, you won't get results.

**Horseplay** is rough play in which people push and hit each other, or believe in a silly way. Example:The lamp got broken when the kids were engaging in a little horseplay. **Or**, When he saw us spraying each other with the hose instead of washing the car, Dad yelled,"cut out the horseplay".

**Open a can of worm** is to create a complicated situation in which doing something to correct a ploblem leads to many more problems or if you say that someone is opening a can of worms, you are warning them that they are planning to do or talk about something which is more complicated, unpleasant or difficult than they realize and which might be better left alone. Examples:You have opened up a whole new can of worms here, I think. **Or**, His recently published autobiography opened a fresh can of worms. **Or**, Our boss is reluctant to change the policy now because she does not want to open a can of worms.

**Burn bridges** means to destroy or loose one's path, relationship, connections, reputation, opportunities, particularly intentionally. Example: Even if you are dismissed from a job in the worst way, take care not to burn your bridges with unseemly comments on the way out, since you never know who you will meet again.

**Keeping a stiff upper lip** means someone who has a stiff upper lip does not show their feelings when they are upset or show courage in the face of pain or adversity For example, I know you are upset about the loosing the game, but keep a stiff upper lip. This expression presumably alludes to the trembling lips that precede bursting into tears. Example: He was taught to keep a stiff upper lip, whatever happens. Not showing or feeling emotions.

**Knock her socks off** means If something knocks your socks off, you find it extremely exciting or good and doing something which was never done before, impressing someone, showing something astonishing to excite someone or performing something outclass. Origin of the phrase, "knock or blow someone's socks

off' was initially put on record in the South America in the 1940s, where this phase referred as defeating someone in the fight. Due to this reason, the phrase had negative associations, but it began to obtain more positive implication as it was used in a positive manner later on such as impressing someone by providing them with something astounding. Example sentences: Anna's performance at the concert last night just knocked my socks off. **Or**, This exciting news knocked the socks off of everyone in the school.

**Jump ship** means to leave an organization or cause, either because you think it is about to fail or because you want to join a rival organization. To depart from a ship, especially without permission (nautically). To leave something especially suddenly or rapidly (figuratively). Example: As soon as the battleship docked in Singapore, Roger jumped ship, never to return.

**Short end of the stick** means unfair or unfavourable treatment. Also, to be in worse position or situation, or to be treated worse than anyone else. Some believe it comes from worse end of the staff, used since the early 1500s, which in the mid-1800s became, in some instance, short or shitty end of the stick, allegedly from a stick poked up one's rectum by another in command of the situation.

**The apple does not fall from the tree** is a also proverb that means a child displays the characteristics or tendencies that the parent does or has done, that a child behave in a same way as the parents do or cares about the same things that the parents do. Example: John always speaks loudly as his father because the apple does not fall from the tree.

**Sweep it under the rug** means to hide a problem or try to keep it secret instead of dealing with it. Example: The committee is being accused of sweeping financial problems under the rug to avoid embarrassment.

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