

# Essential english idioms (part 1 - A to G)

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A complete list of the most common English idioms and expressions:

ENGLISH IDIOMS (A to G)	MEANINGS
A bird's eye view	An unobstructed view from above
A drop in the ocean	Something very unimportant, insignificant.
A hot potato	Talk about an issue (from the News) that many people talk about and that is usually contested.
A penny for your thoughts	Tell me what you're thinking.
A perfect storm	the worst possible situation
A picture is worth 1000 words	Better to show than tell
A piece of cake	Something very easy to do
A snowball effect	A snowball effect
A storm in a teacup	A big commotion about a small problem
A taste of your own medicine	Ill-treatment rightly received for abusing others.
Actions speak louder than words	Actions speak louder than words
Add fuel to the fire	Put some oil on the fire
Add insult to injury	To aggravate an unfavourable situation
I'm all ears	Listen with great attention.
An apple a day keeps the doctor away	Apples are good for you!
An early bird	Person who is used to getting up early.
As right as rain	Perfect
At the bottom of the ladder	At the bottom of the scale, at the lowest level
At the drop of a hat	As soon as possible..., without hesitation
back in the day	at that time
Ball is in your court	It is now up to you to talk, to act, to prove yourself...
Barking up the wrong tree	Accusing the wrong person
Be a good catch	Be someone worth being married or having

Be at each other's throat	two people arguing in anger
Beat around the bush	To treat a topic, but omit its main points, often intentionally.
Best of both worlds	have all the advantages
Better late than never	It is better to do an action late than not to do it.
Bite off more than you can chew	Taking on a task that is too big
Bite the bullet	Get something over with because it's inevitable.
Bite your tongue	Stop saying something because it would be better not to say it.
Blessing in disguise	Something good that is not recognized as such at first.
Blow somebody away	Impressing someone
Blow someone's mind	Impressing someone
Bored to death	I'm so bored I could die
Bread and butter	The basic things you need to survive, such as food and shelter. Also used to describe the job or activity that provides you with the money you need to live. - 'Fishing is my bread and butter.'
Break a leg	Good luck!
Break the ice	Untie a tense atmosphere by initiating a group discussion or animation.
Broke	Means that you have no more money
Burn bridges	Destroy relationships
Butterflies in my stomach	Being nervous
By the skin of your teeth	Barely, just barely
Call it a day	That's it for today. (at work)
Calm before the storm	a lull, a respite before something bad
Can't judge a book by its cover	This proverb means that you cannot know a man by his appearance.
Cat got your tongue?	to be silent, to be speechless
Caught between two stools	Caught between two alternatives
Comparing apples to oranges	Compare two things that cannot be compared
Costs an arm and a leg	The cost is very expensive, even too expensive.
Couch potato	refers to a person who spends a lot of time sitting on his couch
I couldn't care less	I don't give a damn about that.
To cry wolf	By giving false alarms, the real alarm is no longer heard.

Curiosity killed the cat	Put yourself in an unpleasant situation by being curious
Cut corners	When something is done wrong to save money.
Cut someone some slack	Don't judge someone severely
Cut to the chase	Get to the point
Devil's Advocate	to defend an opinion that the majority thinks is wrong.
Dig in your heels / Stick to your guns	Refuse to compromise or change your mind
Do something at the drop of a hat	Do something without planning ahead
Don't beat a dead horse	Stop talking about a subject that is already finished.
Don't count your chickens before they hatch	Don't count on anything good until it happens.
Don't cry over spilt milk	Complaining about a loss of the past
Don't give up the day job	You're not very good at anything. You certainly couldn't do it professionally.
Don't put all your eggs in one basket	you have to be careful and not risk everything on a unique opportunity or project.
Don't sweat it	Don't worry about it.
Don't be so quick to judgment.	Don't judge so quickly.
Don't do anything I wouldn't do.	Behave yourself, don't do anything stupid
Don't play dumb with me.	to pretend to not know or not understand something
Don't push me.	Don't make me angry.
Down to Earth	Realistic
Down to the wire	To denote a situation whose outcome is not decided until the very last minute.
Drastic times call for drastic measures	When you are extremely desperate, you must take drastic measures.
Draw the line	Setting limits
Drive someone up the wall	irritate or annoy a lot
Easier said than done	Used to describe a relatively difficult action.
Elephant in the room	a problem that everyone knows very well but that no one talks about because it is taboo, embarrassing, etc.
Every cloud has a silver lining	Sometimes misfortune gives us advantages that we would not have had without it.

Everybody Was Freaking Out.	feel extremely surprised, upset, angry, or confused.
Fair Enough	All right, certainly, okay.
Far cry from (something)	Being far from (e. g. reality)
Feel blue	Be depressed or sad
Finding a needle in a haystack	Looking for something that we're very unlikely to find
Fish out of water	be out of place
Fit as a fiddle	to be very healthy and strong
Fortune favours the bold	You have to take risks to succeed.
Get back to me.	Come back and see me again.
Get on one's nerves	annoy, exasperate
Get out of hand	get out of control
Get Out of Here	Go away!
Get out of your comfort zone.	doing things that you don't feel comfortable with doing.
Get over yourself.	Reprends-toi en main.
Get real.	Sois réaliste.
Get something off your chest	Parler de quelque chose qui vous tracasse depuis longtemps
Get to the Point	Speak frankly, get to the heart of the matter directly
Get wind of something	be informed of something
Get your act together	Get control of one's thoughts and emotions and stop behaving in a foolish or uncontrolled way
Get your head around it	Make yourself comfortable.
Get your head in the game.	To focus on the task at hand.
Give it to me straight	Give it to me directly
Give me a break.	Stop bothering me.
Give me five	Means slapping palms above each other's heads as a a greeting, celebration gesture
Give somebody a hard time	Cause difficulty, trouble, embarrassment to someone
Give someone a hand	Give a momentary help.
Give someone the benefit of the doubt	In the absence of clear evidence, refrain from considering someone guilty.
Give someone the cold shoulder	Receive a cold welcome

Go ahead	Go For It! Do it!
Go For It	Go ahead! Do it!
Go bananas	Going crazy, hysterical
Go down in flames	Sudden and dramatic failure
Go back to the drawing board	Start over
Go on a wild goose chase	A completely unsuccessful search and a waste of time because the person or thing sought does not exist or is elsewhere
Go the extra mile	Make an extra effort
Go with the flow	Be relaxed and accept a situation, rather than trying to alter or control it.
Good for Nothing	Lazy person
Good For You	Can be used in seriousness or sarcastically
Good Luck	Hope you will be lucky!
Good Point	you're right
Good things come to those who wait	Good things happen to those who know how to wait, who know the value of patience, who know how to be patient
Good Thinking	Good point, you're right
Good to know.	It's a good thing to know
Goose bumps	When you are scared the hairs rise up
Got It	Understood!
Grab a bite	Eat something, a snack for example