

IDIOMS

Meaning

An idiom is an expression or phrase whose meaning does not relate to the literal meaning of its words.

Examples:

I need to **pick your brains**, can you teach me for Biology test tomorrow?

He was so focused on specific details of the project that he **couldn't see the forest for the trees**.

Idioms

Pick someone's brains



To ask someone who knows a lot about a subject for information or their opinion.

Can't see the forest for the trees



Being unable to grasp the overall situation because one is focused on the minor details.

Examples:

When competitors started lowering their prices, the company decided to **fight fire with fire** and reduced their prices too.

The company was losing money, so they had to **bite the bullet** and lay off several employees.



Synonym for fight fire with fire is 'eye for an eye'

Idioms

Fight fire with fire



Combat a challenge or problem by employing similar strategies used against you.

Bite the bullet



To force oneself to perform an unpleasant action or go through a difficult experience.

Examples:

He added **his two cents** during the meeting, though not everyone agreed.

I didn't believe him when he said he saw a UFO; I knew he was just **pulling my leg**.



Use 'just my two cents' instead of 'in my opinion'!

Idioms

My two cents



A phrase indicating that the speaker is giving a personal, and often humble, opinion.

Pull someone's leg



To tease or joke with someone, often by trying to make them believe something is not true.

Examples:

A new job opening just came up at the company you've always wanted to work for. **Make hay while the sun shines** and apply now.

It feels like I **bit off more than I could chew**, when I promised to complete this task in one day.

Idioms

Make hay while the sun shines



To take advantage of a good situation or opportunity while it lasts.

Bite off more than one can chew



Try to do more than one is able to do.

Examples:

Instead of **sitting on the fence**, why don't you list out the pros and cons so that you can reach a decision.

Maybe we can concentrate on just a few areas of the project, rather than trying to **boil the entire ocean**.



Think about when you're told to boil a whole ocean. How do you start? Where do you start? Undoubtedly, it is a difficult and impossible task.

Idioms

Sit on the fence



Delay or avoid making a decision or choice, or not taking sides in a dispute.

Boil the ocean



Making a task, an assignment, or a piece of work unnecessarily difficult, or undertaking an impossible chore or task.

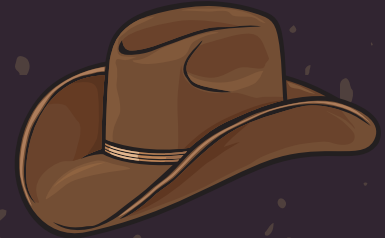
Examples:

Her flashy resume didn't match her actual skills, she's **all hat and no cattle**.

Teachers are the **salt of the earth**, they shape young minds.

Idioms

All hat and no cattle



Someone who talks big but doesn't follow through with action. Also having the appearance of capability or authority without actually possessing it.

Salt of the earth



Individuals who are essential or invaluable to a community or group.

Examples:

During exam week, students often **burn the midnight oil** to cram for their tests.

Even though he had lost the match, he had gained in experience and was now more confident. **Every cloud has a silver lining.**

Idioms

Burn the midnight oil



Work late into the night, especially on a project or task.

Every cloud has a silver lining



There is always a good or pleasant side-effect of a bad or unpleasant situation.

Example Sentences

Ally felt like **a fish out of water** when her boyfriend took her to an Anime convention.

Social media posts should be **taken with a grain of salt**. Sometimes it is exaggerated or just groundless rumours.

Idioms

A fish out of water



Being uncomfortable, restless, confused and to feel awkward due to unsuitable / strange environment.

Take it with a grain of salt



To understand that something is not completely true or right.

Examples:

If she continues to behave like this towards her senior officer, she'll be **digging her own grave**.

Before I **hit the sack**, I make it a point to check whether all the doors are locked and all the lights are turned off.

Idioms

Dig one's own grave



To do something that has negative consequences for you, even though these consequences can be easily seen.

Hit the sack



To indicate that it is time go to bed to sleep.