

## Common English Idioms

Every language uses idiomatic expressions. A literal translation is not enough to understand the meaning; you need to understand the context. Using English idioms shows that you have a good level of English. Here are some common English idioms to enrich your vocabulary and make you sound like a native when you speak English.

1. I rarely see my children as I'm always **on the road**.
2. John really **gets a kick out of** surfing on high waves.
3. Jane **has been on edge** a lot recently. Her new job must be really stressful.
4. My father **went on the wagon** last week, but I don't think it will last long.
5. I'm going to have **to face the music** when I get to work tomorrow, because my boss has discovered that I've been stealing from the stationery cupboard.
6. Boy, you're **a sight for sore eyes!** I haven't seen you for absolutely ages!
7. My word, you're a **spitting image** of your father when he was young!
8. Hello – your name **rings a bell**, have we met before?
9. Sheila really loves men. She always goes out **dressed to kill**.
10. Stop babbling - please just **cut to the chase!**
11. Thanks for your donation, but it's really just a **drop in the ocean**.
12. My old man **kicked the bucket** last week – so now I'm a free woman!
13. Another student **bit the dust** yesterday. There are now only five of us left in the class.
14. I've put 10 screws in the panel to make it more secure. That should **do the trick!**
15. It felt really good **to get that off my chest** – it's good to share problems with friends.
16. Hey - are you engaged to Robert? I **heard it through the grapevine!**
17. Well, that's all I know about Physics, **in a nutshell**.
18. You'd never pass the maths exam in **a month of Sundays!**
19. My marriage **has been on the rocks** ever since Paul had an affair with his secretary.
20. It's OK – no need to pay, 'cos the boss is going to **pick up the tab**.
21. My dad really knows how **to pull strings**, that's how I got into such a good school.
22. Do you mind if I **take a rain check** on that? It's just that I'm rather tired and want to go to bed early.
23. There's plenty of choice, so please **take your pick**.
24. Will you two please stop **talking shop**, we're supposed to be having some fun!

<b>Idiom</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
1. to be on the road	to be travelling
2. to get a kick out of (something)	to enjoy doing (something)
3. to be on edge	to be easily irritated
4. to go on the wagon	to stop drinking alcohol
5. to face the music	to accept the bad consequences of your actions
6. a sight for sore eyes	a very pleasant thing to see after much suffering
7. to be a spitting image	to look extremely similar
8. to ring a bell	to trigger a memory
9. dressed to kill	dressed to attract the opposite sex
10. to cut to the chase	to get to the point of the conversation
11. a drop in the ocean	a tiny, irrelevant amount
12. to kick the bucket	to die
13. to bite the dust	to fail, to drop out
14. to do the trick	to be a successful solution to a small problem
15. to get (something) off your chest	to confess or to share a problem
16. to hear (something) through the grapevine	to hear a rumour
17. in a nutshell	as a summary
18. a month of Sundays	a very long time
19. to be on the rocks	to be in serious trouble
20. to pick up the tab	to pay the bill
21. to pull strings	to influence people and their decisions
22. to take a rain check	to postpone until another day
23. to take (one's) pick	to choose
24. to talk shop	to talk about work