

10 clothing idioms

cut from the same cloth

to be similar



My son and I are cut from the same cloth.

with a fine-toothed comb

search carefully



We went over the flat with a fine-toothed comb.

fit like a glove

fit perfectly



That dress fits you like a glove.



to lose one's shirt

lose all one's money

I lost my shirt in a poker game.

roll up one's sleeves

prepare for hard work



It's time to roll up your sleeves and get to work.

have an ace up one's sleeve

have an advantage nobody knows about

That girl always has an ace up her sleeve.



to laugh up one's sleeve

to laugh secretly



I was laughing up my sleeve during the whole meeting.

get the boot

to get fired

I got the boot today, I have to find a new job.



fill someone's shoes

to do what someone else does just as well

No one can fill my mother's shoes.



below the belt

unfair

That move was below the belt.



10 baseball idioms

ballpark figure

an approximate number

Give me a ballpark figure on the cost of renovating the apartment.



cover one's bases

to be well prepared for a situation

I've covered my bases, I know everything about the project.



drop the ball

make a mistake

I dropped the ball and forgot.



pitch an idea

propose an idea

I just pitched a new idea to my boss.



play hardball

be determined to get what you want

I'm going to play hardball during the negotiations.



step up to the plate

to accept a challenge

I have to step up to the plate and take care of my family.



to strike out

to fail

We struck out, but we'll keep trying.



throw someone a curve ball

to confuse someone by doing something tricky

My competitor threw me a curve ball.



play ball with someone

to cooperate with someone

The politicians refused to play ball with the journalists.



right off the bat

from the beginning, straight away

We offended me right off the bat.



10 money idioms

as poor as a church mouse

very poor

My teacher is as poor as a church mouse.



to bet on the wrong horse

make a mistake in predicting the future

He bet on the wrong horse by supporting John Kerry.



to make a quick buck

to earn money quickly sometimes dishonestly

We made a quick buck on the stock market.



look like a million dollars

to look and feel fantastic

She looked like a million dollars at the reunion.



to be flat broke

to not have any money

I spent all my money and now I'm flat broke.



money is no object

the price doesn't matter

Waiter! Bring me your best champagne. Money is no object.



to tighten one's belt

start spending less money

We recently had to tighten our belt.



strapped for cash

to have little money, to need money

We don't go out much, because we're strapped for cash.



to work for peanuts

to work for little money

I'm done working for peanuts!



to go broke

to go bankrupt

Many businesses go broke.



10 eye idioms

to be all eyes

to watch closely

Whenever I go to a fashion show I'm all eyes.



to catch someone's eye

to attract someone's attention

That man was so handsome he immediately caught my eye.



have an eye for sth

to have good taste in something, be able to appreciate something

I have a good eye for detail.



in the public eye

in public

Celebrities are always in the public eye.



to turn a blind eye

to pretend not to notice

Many people turn a blind eye to poverty.



to see eye to eye

to agree with someone

My husband and I always see eye to eye.



keep an eye on

observe carefully

I always have to keep an eye on my kids.



to cry one's eyes out

to cry very hard

After my grandmother died I cried my eyes out.



to open someone's eyes

to make someone understand something

He finally opened his eyes to what was going on in his store.



with one's eyes shut

to be able to do something without effort

I can bake that cake with my eyes shut.



10 color idioms

black sheep (of the family)

a person who is a failure

She never went to college, she's the black sheep of the family.



catch someone red-handed

catch someone while they are doing something wrong

He was caught red-handed while trying to steal a car.



get the green light

get permission to do something

I got the green light from my boss to begin the project.



the grass is greener on the other side

people think they would be happier if things were different



green with envy

jealous

She was green with envy when she saw my new car.



once in a blue moon

very rarely

We go out once in a blue moon.



in black and white

in writing

It was in black and white, in the agreement.



roll out the red carpet

greet someone hospitably

They rolled out the red carpet for me.



a white lie

a small, harmless lie

I told a white lie not to hurt her feelings.

LIE

out of the blue

suddenly

He got mad at me out of the blue.

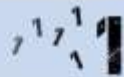


10 number idioms

all in one piece

safely

He got home from the party all in one piece.



back to square one

back to the start

The project failed, we're back to square one.

have one too many

drink too much alcohol

I can't drive, I had one too many.



on cloud nine

very happy

When my mom bought me a computer, I was on cloud nine.



one for the road

have a drink before leaving

Let's have one for the road!



six feet under

dead and buried

I'm going to be six feet under by 2000.



ten to one

something very likely

Ten to one I'm going to win.

10 TO 1

kill two birds with one stone

solve two problems with one move

I'll drop you off on the way to work, we'll kill two birds with one stone.



a million and one

very many

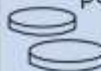
I have a million and one ideas.

1 000 001

put in one's two cents

say your opinion

I put in my two cents at the meeting.



10 animal-based comparative idioms

as quiet as a mouse

very quiet

Don't wake them up! Be as quiet as a mouse.



as blind as a bat

completely blind, or jokingly about poor eyesight

Without glasses she's as blind as a bat.



as stubborn as a mule

very stubborn

I can't convince you to anything, you're as stubborn as a mule.



as busy as a bee

very busy

She never has free time anymore, she's as busy as a bee with work.



as red as a lobster

very red

Whenever he gets mad, he becomes as red as a lobster.



as ugly as a toad

very ugly

That girl is as ugly as a toad.



as free as a bird

without any worries or duties

Travelling makes you feel as free as a bird.



as silly as a goose

very silly

You're being as silly as a goose.



as wise as an owl

very smart, wise

I always listen to my father, he's as wise as an owl.



as mad as a hornet

very angry, mad

I'm so angry! I'm as mad as a hornet.



10 food idioms

piece of cake

something easy

The math test was a piece of cake.



to go bananas

to become crazy

He went bananas.



bring home the bacon

to earn money

My husband brings home the bacon.



have bigger fish to fry

have more important things to do

I couldn't attend the meeting, I had bigger fish to fry.



That's the way the cookie crumbles

That's how it is.



like two peas in a pod

nearly identical, very similar

They're like two peas in a pod.



as red as a cherry

very red

Her cheeks were as red as cherry.



eat like a horse

eat a lot, large quantities

My husband eats like a horse.



walk on eggshells

try hard not to upset someone

I've been walking on eggshells around my boyfriend.



hard nut to crack

a difficult problem or a difficult person

He is a hard nut to crack.

