

Adjective Idiomatic Phrases

- **A bitter pill to swallow:** A difficult or unpleasant truth to accept.
- **Example:** Failing the exam was a bitter pill to swallow, but it motivated her to study harder.
- **Read between the lines:** Understand a deeper or hidden meaning in something.
- **Example:** To understand her true feelings, you need to read between the lines of her words.
- **Born with a silver spoon in one's mouth:** Privileged from birth, often in terms of wealth and opportunities.
- **Example:** He never had to work for anything; he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth.
- **Throw in the towel:** Give up or surrender in the face of difficulty.

- **Example:** After hours of trying, he decided to throw in the towel and admit defeat.

- **Pulling someone's leg:** Teasing or joking with someone in a playful manner.
- **Example:** He was just pulling your leg when he said he won the lottery.

- **Putting the cart before the horse:** Doing things in the wrong order.
- **Example:** Planning the party before sending out invitations is like putting the cart before the horse.

- **A diamond in the rough:** Someone or something with potential but in need of refinement.
- **Example:** With the right guidance, he could be a diamond in the rough in the business world.

- **Biting off more than you can chew:** Taking on more responsibilities or tasks than you can handle.
- **Example:** Joining three clubs and taking five classes may be biting off more than you can chew.

- **Knock on wood:** Superstitious gesture to avoid jinxing something good.
- **Example:** I've never had a car accident, knock on wood.

- **The early bird catches the worm:** Being proactive and starting early can lead to success.
- **Example:** She always arrives at the office early because the early bird catches the worm.

- **Let the cat out of the bag:** Accidentally reveal a secret.
- **Example:** He let the cat out of the bag about the surprise party.

- **In the heat of the moment:** Acting impulsively without thinking.
- **Example:** In the heat of the moment, he said things he didn't mean.

- **Throw caution to the wind:** Take a risk without worrying about the consequences.
- **Example:** She decided to throw caution to the wind and follow her dreams.

- **Take it with a grain of salt:** Be skeptical or not fully believe something.
- **Example:** His tall tales should be taken with a grain of salt.

- **The grass is always greener on the other side:** People often think others have it better.

- **Example:** She thought a different job would be better, but the grass is always greener on the other side.

- **Don't count your chickens before they hatch:** Don't assume success before it's certain.
- **Example:** Don't start celebrating your victory; don't count your chickens before they hatch.

- **Walking a fine line:** Navigating a situation carefully and delicately.
- **Example:** As a mediator, she's skilled at walking a fine line between conflicting parties.

- **A taste of your own medicine:** Experiencing something you often inflict on others.
- **Example:** He finally got a taste of his own medicine when someone criticized his work.

- **Like a bull in a china shop:** Being clumsy or reckless in a delicate situation.
- **Example:** He entered the art gallery like a bull in a china shop, knocking over a sculpture.

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- Out of sight, out of mind: Forgetting about something when it's not visible or present.
- Example: She stored her old books in the attic, and they were out of sight, out of mind for years.
- On cloud nine: Feeling extremely happy or euphoric. *Example:* After receiving the promotion, she was on cloud nine.
- In the red: Having a negative financial balance or debt. *Example:* His extravagant spending put him in the red this month.
- Burning the midnight oil: Working late into the night. *Example:* To finish the project on time, they had to burn the midnight oil.
- Under the weather: Feeling unwell or slightly ill. *Example:* I can't go to the party tonight; I'm feeling a bit under the weather.
- Behind the eight ball: In a difficult or disadvantageous position. *Example:* Missing the crucial meeting put him behind the eight ball at work.
- A piece of cake: Something very easy to do. *Example:* Solving that math problem was a piece of cake for her.
- On the same page: Having a shared understanding or agreement. *Example:* It's important for the team to be on the same page regarding the project goals.
- In hot water: In trouble or facing consequences for one's actions. *Example:* He found himself in hot water after missing the important deadline.
- Out of the blue: Unexpectedly or without warning. *Example:* The job offer came out of the blue; I wasn't expecting it at all.
- On the ball: Alert, competent, and attentive. *Example:* She's always on the ball during meetings, never missing any details.

- Walking on air: Feeling extremely happy or elated. *Example:* After the wedding, they were walking on air with their new life together.
- In the dark: Uninformed or unaware of something. *Example:* I'm completely in the dark about the changes in the project.
- Biting the bullet: Facing a difficult situation with courage. *Example:* He had to bite the bullet and apologize for his mistake.
- Spill the beans: To reveal a secret unintentionally. *Example:* She accidentally spilled the beans about the surprise party.
- Jumping on the bandwagon: Joining a popular trend or activity. *Example:* Many businesses are jumping on the bandwagon of online marketing.
- Barking up the wrong tree: Pursuing a mistaken or misguided course of action. *Example:* Accusing her of theft is barking up the wrong tree; she's innocent.
- A dime a dozen: Very common and easy to find. *Example:* Those cheap souvenirs are a dime a dozen in tourist areas.
- In the nick of time: Just in time, at the last possible moment. *Example:* He arrived in the nick of time to catch his flight.
- The ball is in your court: It's your turn to make a decision or take action. *Example:* I've given you all the information; now the ball is in your court.
- On thin ice: In a risky or precarious situation. *Example:* After the argument, their relationship was on thin ice.
- Cutting corners: Taking shortcuts or doing something quickly without proper care. *Example:* They got into trouble for cutting corners in the construction project.
- In a nutshell: Summing something up briefly. *Example:* In a nutshell, the presentation covered our financial goals.

- Cry over spilled milk: Worrying about something that has already happened and cannot be changed. *Example:* There's no use crying over spilled milk; let's find a solution.
- The icing on the cake: Something that makes a good situation even better. *Example:* Winning the lottery was the icing on the cake of his successful year.
- Once in a blue moon: Very rarely or infrequently. *Example:* She visits her hometown once in a blue moon since moving away.
- Out of the woods: Free from danger or a difficult situation.
- *Example:* After months of recovery, she's finally out of the woods.
- Sick as a dog: Extremely ill or unwell.
- *Example:* I couldn't go to work because I was sick as a dog.
- In seventh heaven: In a state of extreme happiness or bliss.
- *Example:* Winning the championship put him in seventh heaven.
- On pins and needles: Anxious or nervous about something.
- *Example:* She was on pins and needles waiting for the exam results.
- Fit as a fiddle: In excellent physical condition.
- *Example:* Despite his age, he's still as fit as a fiddle.

- The pot calling the kettle black: Hypocritical criticism.
- Example: It's like the pot calling the kettle black when he talks about honesty.

- A watched pot never boils: Impatience makes time seem longer.
- Example: Stop checking your email every minute; a watched pot never boils.

- In the same boat: In a similar situation or predicament.
- Example: We're all in the same boat when it comes to dealing with the new policy.

- Like a fish out of water: Feeling uncomfortable or out of place in a new situation.
- Example: At the formal event, he felt like a fish out of water in casual attire.

- The straw that broke the camel's back: The final event that causes an already stressed situation to collapse.
- Example: Her resignation was the straw that broke the camel's back for the company.

- In the eleventh hour: At the last possible moment.
- Example: They completed the project in the eleventh hour.

- **Playing with fire:** Engaging in a dangerous or risky activity.
- **Example:** Not wearing a helmet while biking is like playing with fire.

- **A leopard can't change its spots:** People can't change their inherent nature.
- **Example:** Despite his promises, he still lied—like a leopard can't change its spots.

- **In someone's good graces:** In someone's favor or approval.
- **Example:** After the successful presentation, she was in the manager's good graces.

- **All ears:** Eager and attentive to listen.
- **Example:** When the teacher started telling a story, the students were all ears.

- **Clean as a whistle:** Completely clean and spotless.
- **Example:** She left the kitchen clean as a whistle after cooking dinner.

- **Like a moth to a flame:** Attracted to something irresistibly, even if it's dangerous.
- **Example:** He was drawn to her charm like a moth to a flame.

- **A penny for your thoughts:** Asking someone what they are thinking.
- **Example:** You seem lost in thought; a penny for your thoughts?

- **In the driver's seat:** In control or in a position of authority.
- **Example:** With the promotion, he's now in the driver's seat at the company.

- **Once bitten, twice shy:** Being cautious after a negative experience.
- **Example:** After the failed investment, he's once bitten, twice shy about financial risks.
- **Walking a tightrope:** Balancing on a thin line between success and failure.
- **Example:** Managing the project felt like walking a tightrope with tight deadlines.

- **A drop in the bucket:** A very small or insignificant amount compared to what is needed.
- **Example:** The donation was appreciated, but it was just a drop in the bucket for the charity's needs.

- **Raining cats and dogs:** Raining heavily.
- **Example:** We had to postpone the picnic because it started raining cats and dogs.

- On a wild goose chase: Pursuing something unlikely or unattainable.
- Example: Searching for that lost key turned out to be a wild goose chase.

- In the same ballpark: Roughly similar or in the same general range.
- Example: Their estimates for the project cost were in the same ballpark.

- Hit the nail on the head: Describe something exactly or do something exactly right.
- Example: She hit the nail on the head with her analysis of the situation.

- Keep your eyes peeled: Be watchful and attentive.
- Example: While hiking, it's important to keep your eyes peeled for wildlife.

- Like a bull in a china shop: Being clumsy or careless in a delicate situation.
- Example: He barged into the meeting room like a bull in a china shop.

- The elephant in the room: An obvious problem or issue that everyone is avoiding.
- Example: Their ongoing conflict was the elephant in the room during the family dinner.

- **Up in arms:** Extremely angry or outraged about something.
- **Example:** The community was up in arms over the proposed construction project.

- **A penny saved is a penny earned:** Money saved is as valuable as money earned.
- **Example:** He always prioritized budgeting, believing that a penny saved is a penny earned.

- **The last straw:** The final irritating or unacceptable event that triggers a reaction.
- **Example:** His constant lateness was the last straw, and she ended the friendship.

- **Don't cry over spilled milk:** Don't waste time lamenting things that cannot be changed.
- **Example:** Instead of dwelling on the mistake, he remembered not to cry over spilled milk.

- **Put all your eggs in one basket:** Relying on a single plan or strategy.
- **Example:** Diversifying investments is important; you shouldn't put all your eggs in one basket.

- In the blink of an eye: Very quickly or suddenly.
- Example: The car disappeared in the blink of an eye after the accident.

- Like a broken record: Repeating the same thing over and over.
- Example: He kept complaining about the weather, sounding like a broken record.

- A wolf in sheep's clothing: Someone who appears harmless but is actually dangerous.
- Example: He seemed friendly, but he turned out to be a wolf in sheep's clothing.

- The apple of someone's eye: Someone's favorite person or thing.
- Example: His daughter was the apple of his eye, and he cherished her.

- Put the cart before the horse: Doing things in the wrong order.
- Example: Launching the product before testing it would be putting the cart before the horse.

- A rolling stone gathers no moss: People who keep moving and changing are less likely to accumulate responsibilities or commitments.
- Example: He traveled a lot and lived by the motto that a rolling stone gathers no moss.
- The devil is in the details: Paying attention to small or hidden aspects is important. Example: When writing a contract, remember that the devil is in the details.
- Throwing caution to the wind: Taking a risk without worrying about the consequences. Example: They decided to go on a spontaneous road trip, throwing caution to the wind.
- A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush: Having something certain is better than the possibility of something better. Example: She chose the stable job offer because a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
- Donkey's years: A very long time. Example: We haven't seen each other in donkey's years.
- Flogging a dead horse: Continuing a futile effort. Example: Trying to fix that old computer is like flogging a dead horse; it's time to get a new one.
- A stitch in time saves nine: Taking prompt action prevents bigger problems later. Example: Repairing the leaky roof now is a stitch in time that saves nine.
- To have a heart of gold: Being exceptionally kind and generous. Example: She has a heart of gold, always helping those in need.
- All that glitters is not gold: Not everything that appears valuable is truly valuable. Example: That expensive-looking necklace turned out to be a fake; all that glitters is not gold.

- Don't put all your eggs in one basket: Diversify your resources to reduce risk. Example: Investing in various stocks is a good strategy; don't put all your eggs in one basket.
- A penny for your thoughts: Asking someone what they are thinking. Example: You seem lost in thought; a penny for your thoughts?
- In the doghouse: In trouble or disfavor with someone. Example: After forgetting their anniversary, he found himself in the doghouse.
- Rome wasn't built in a day: Important things take time to achieve. Example: Learning a new language is a gradual process; Rome wasn't built in a day.
- The calm before the storm: A peaceful period before a crisis or chaos. Example: The quiet morning was the calm before the storm of a busy workday.
- Read the riot act: Give a strong warning or reprimand. Example: The teacher had to read the riot act to the disruptive students.
- A rolling stone gathers no moss: People who keep moving and changing are less likely to accumulate responsibilities or commitments. Example: He traveled a lot and lived by the motto that a rolling stone gathers no moss.
- A fish out of water: Feeling uncomfortable or out of place in a new situation. Example: At the formal event, he felt like a fish out of water in casual attire.
- The pot calling the kettle black: Hypocritical criticism. Example: It's like the pot calling the kettle black when he talks about honesty.
- Burning the candle at both ends: Working excessively and getting little rest. Example: She's been burning the candle at both ends to meet project deadlines.
- In the red: Having a negative financial balance or debt. Example: His extravagant spending put him in the red this month.

- Walking on air: Feeling extremely happy or euphoric. Example: After receiving the promotion, she was walking on air.



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