



IDIOMS & PHRASES

Idioms (A)

List of English idioms that start with A.

1	A Bit Much: More than is reasonable; a bit too much
2	A Bite at The Cherry: A good opportunity that isn't available to everyone
3	A Busy Bee: A busy, active person who moves quickly from task to task.
4	A Cat Has Nine Lives: Cats seem to get away with dangerous things
5	A Cat in Gloves Catches No Mice: You can't get what you need if you're too careful.
6	A Cat Nap: A short sleep during the day
7	A Cold Day In July: (Something that) will never happen
8	A Cold Fish: Someone who is not often moved by emotions, who is regarded as being hard and unfeeling.
9	A Cut Above: Slightly better than
10	A Cut Below: Inferior to; somewhat lower in quality than
11	A Day Late And A Dollar Short: Too delayed and insignificant to have much effect
12	A Dog in The Manger: A person who selfishly prevent others from using, enjoying or profiting from something even though he/ she cannot use or enjoy it himself.
13	A Few Sandwiches Short Of A Picnic: Abnormally stupid, not really sane
14	A Good Deal: To a large extent, a lot
15	A Great Deal: To a very large extent
16	A Guinea Pig: Someone who is part of an experiment or trial
17	A Hair's Breadth: A very small distance or amount
18	A Home Bird: Somebody who prefers to spend his social and free time at home.
19	A Hundred And Ten Percent: More than what seems to be the maximum
20	A Lame Duck: A person or enterprise (often a business) that is not a success and that has to be helped.

21	A Leg Up: An advantage, a boost
22	A Lemon: A vehicle that does not work properly
23	A Life Of Its Own: An independent existence
24	A Little Bird Told Me: I don't wish to divulge where I got the information
25	A Little Bird Told Me: I got this information from a source I cannot reveal.
26	A Little from Column A, a Little from Column B: A course of action drawing on several different ideas or possibilities
27	A Lone Wolf: Someone who is not very social with other people
28	A Lot on One's Plate: A lot to do
29	A Million and One: Very many
30	A Notch Above: Superior to; higher in quality
31	A Penny for Your Thoughts: What are you thinking?
32	A Penny Saved is A Penny Earned: Every small amount helps to build one's savings
33	A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words: A visual presentation can communicate something very effectively
34	A Plum Job: An easy and pleasant job that also pays well
35	A Rare Bird: Somebody or something of a kind that one seldom sees.
36	A Scaredy-Cat: Someone who is excessively scared or afraid.
37	A Second Bite At The Cherry: A Second chance to do something
38	A Sight for Sore Eyes: Someone that you're pleased to see
39	A Sitting Duck: A person or object in a vulnerable position that is easy to attack or injure.
40	A Snowball's Chance in Hell: Little to no likelihood of occurrence or success
41	A Stitch in Time Saves Nine: Fix something quickly, because if you don't, it will just get more difficult to fix
42	A Stone's Throw: A very short distance
43	A Storm in a Teacup: Unnecessary anger or worry about an unimportant or trivial matter
44	A Tall Order: A difficult task
45	A Week Is A Long Time In _____: In the field mentioned, the situation may change rapidly
46	About Time: Far past the desired time

47	About To: On the point of, occurring imminently
48	Above And Beyond: More than is expected or required
49	Above Board: Openly, without deceit. Honestly, reputably.
50	Above The Law: Exempt from the laws that apply to everyone else.
51	Above The Salt: Of high standing or honor
52	Above Water: Not in extreme difficulty. Especially said of finances
53	Accident Of Birth: Luck in something due to family good fortune
54	Accident Waiting To Happen: A dangerous way of setting up or organizing something
55	According To Hoyle: Properly, in accordance with established procedures
56	Ace In The Hole: A hidden advantage
57	Ace Up One's Sleeve: A surprise advantage of which others are not aware.
58	Acid Test: A crucial event that determines the worth of something
59	Acknowledge The Corn: Admit to a mistake, especially a small one; point out one's own shortcomings, or another's
60	Acquired Taste: Something one learns to appreciate only after trying it repeatedly
61	Across The Board: In relation to all categories, for everyone
62	Across The Pond: On or to the other side of the Atlantic Ocean.
63	Act High and Mighty: Be arrogant, presume that one is better than others
64	Act Of Congress: Hard to get, said of authorization
65	Act One's Age: To be mature, not childish
66	Actions Speak Louder Than Words: One's character and intentions are shown more accurately by one's actions than by one's words.
67	Achilles' Heel: The weak point of an otherwise powerful person or organization
68	Add Fuel To The Fire: Worsen already existing tension
69	Add Insult To Injury: Compound a defeat with humiliation or mockery
70	Add Insult to Injury: Humiliate someone in addition to doing damage to him or her
71	After One's Own Heart: Similar in a pleasing way
72	After The Fact: Too late; after something is completed or finalized

73	After The Lord Mayor's Show (UK): Anticlimactic; occurring after something impressive
74	Against The Clock: Forced to hurry to meet a deadline
75	Against the Clock: In a very limited amount of time; with a shortage of time being the main problem
76	Against The Grain: Contrary to one's natural inclinations
77	Against The Run Of Play: A typical of the way a game has been going
78	Age Before Beauty: Something said by a younger woman to an older one, for instance allowing her to pass through a doorway
79	Agree To Disagree: Accept or set aside a disagreement
80	Agreement In Principle: In a negotiation, an agreement in which not all details have been worked out
81	Aha Moment: Sudden realization, the point at which one suddenly understands something
82	Ahead Of One's Time: Offering ideas not yet in general circulation; highly creative
83	Ahead Of The Curve: Innovative, devising new ideas in advance of others
84	Ahead Of The Curve: Offering ideas not yet in general circulation; highly creative
85	Ahead Of The Game: Making faster progress than anticipated; ahead of schedule
86	Air Rage: Angry behavior inside an airplane
87	Airy Fairy: whimsical, nonsensical, impractical
88	Albatross Around One's Neck: Something from one's past that acts as a hindrance
89	Alive and Kicking: In good health despite health problems
90	All Along: For the entire time something has been happening
91	All And Sundry: Everyone(separately) Each one.
92	All Bark And No Bite: Tending to make verbal threats but not deliver on them
93	All Bets Are Off: What seemed certain is now unclear
94	All Dressed Up And Nowhere To Go: Prepared (with clothing or otherwise) for an event that does not occur

95	All Ears: Listening willingly, waiting for an explanation
96	All Eyes And Ears: Attentive
97	All Eyes Are On: Watching alertly or attentively. Having prominent eyes. Everyone is paying attention to
98	All Fur Coat And No Knickers: Superficially attractive, physically or otherwise
99	All Hands on Deck: Everyone must help.
100	All Hat And No Cattle: Pretentious, full of bluster
101	All Hell Breaks Loose: The situation becomes chaotic.
102	All In A Day's Work (Excl.): That's what I'm here for; although I have accomplished something, it is part of what I'm expected to do
103	All In Good Time: Eventually; at a more favorable time in the future. This phrase encourages one to be patient.
104	All in One Piece: Safely
105	All It's Cracked Up To Be: As good as claims or reputation would suggest
106	All Mouth And No Trousers: Superficial, engaging in empty, boastful talk, but not of real substance
107	All Over But The Shouting: Certain to end in a specific way
108	All Over Hell'S Half Acre: All over the place; everywhere.
109	All Over The Board: Everywhere, in many different locations
110	All Over The Map: Everywhere; in many different locations
111	All Over The Place: Everywhere; in many different locations
112	All Rights Reserved: Said of a published work; all reproduction rights are asserted by the copyright holder
113	All Roads Lead to Rome: There is more than one effective way to do something; many different methods will produce the same result
114	All Set: Ready, prepared, finished
115	All Sizzle And No Steak: Failing to live up to advance promotion or reputation
116	All Talk and No Trousers: Prone to empty boasts
117	All Told: With everything taken into consideration
118	All That Jazz: Similar things, similar qualities, et cetera
119	All The Marbles: The entire prize or reward

120	All The Rage: Very fashionable
121	All the Rage: Very much in fashion
122	All The Same: Anyway; nevertheless; nonetheless.
123	All The Tea In China: Great wealth, a large payment
124	All Things Being Equal: In the event that all aspects of a situation remain the same
125	All Things Considered: Taking all factors into consideration
126	All Thumbs: Clumsy
127	All Very Well: True to a certain extent
128	All Wet: Completely mistaken
129	Along The Lines Of: In general accordance with, in the same general direction as
130	Amateur Hour: A display of incompetence
131	Amber Gambler: Someone who accelerates to try to cross an intersection before a traffic light turns red
132	Amber Nectar: Beer
133	American Dream (The): The belief among Americans that hard work leads to material success
134	An Apple a Day Keeps the Doctor Away: Eating healthy foods will keep one from getting sick (and needing to see a doctor)
135	An Axe: To Grind A grievance, a disagreement with someone that justifies confrontation.
136	An Early Bird: A person who gets up early in the morning, or who starts work earlier than others.
137	An Eye for an Eye: Justice in which reparation or vengeance exactly matches the harm caused to the victim
138	An Offer One Can't Refuse: An extremely attractive offer
139	Ancient History: Something, such as a disagreement, that happened long ago and ought to be forgotten
140	And All That: Et cetera, and so on.
141	And Counting: And the number just mentioned is increasing (or decreasing)
142	And Change: And an additional amount of money that's less than the next round number

143	And His Mother: An intensifier for an inclusive noun or phrase such as everyone, everybody
144	And So Forth: Indicates that a list continues in a similar manner, etc.
145	And So On: Indicates that a list continues in a similar manner, etc.
146	And The Like: And other similar items, etc.
147	And Then Some: And even more than what has just been mentioned
148	Another Nail In One's Coffin: Something that leads to someone's death, literally or figuratively.
149	Answer Back: Respond impertinently; to talk back.
150	Ants In Your Pants: Restlessness
151	Any Port in a Storm: If you're in trouble, you'll turn to anything that improves the situation.
152	Any Tom, Dick or Harry: Any ordinary person
153	Angel's Advocate: Someone who takes a positive outlook on an idea or proposal
154	Angle For: Aim toward something, try to obtain something, often indirectly or secretly Apple of One's Eye: A favorite person or thing, a person especially valued by someone
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156	Apple of Someone's Eye: The person that someone loves most of all and is very proud of
157	Apples and Oranges: Of two different classes, not comparable
158	Apples and Oranges: Of two different classes, not comparable
159	Arm Candy: An attractive woman accompanying a powerful or famous man at a social event
160	Armed to the Teeth: Carrying many weapons
161	Around the Clock: At all times
162	As American as Apple Pie: Very or typically American
163	As Far as I Can Throw (someone): Only slightly
164	As Fit as A Fiddle: To be healthy and physically fit
165	As Pale as A Ghost: Extremely pale
166	As Pale as Death: Extremely pale
167	As Poor as a Church Mouse: Very poor

168	As Red as A Cherry: Very red
169	Asleep at the Wheel (Switch): not paying attention to one's work; not doing one's job diligently.
170	At Death's Door: Very near death
171	At Each Other's Throats: Constantly and strongly arguing
172	At Loggerheads: In a state of persistent disagreement
173	At Loggerheads: In a state of persistent disagreement.
174	At Sixes and Sevens: Someone is in a state of confusion or not very well organized.
175	At the Drop of a Hat: Spontaneously, suddenly
176	At the Eleventh Hour: It happens when it is almost too late.
177	At the End of One's Rope (Tether): Running out of endurance or patience
178	At the End of the Day: In the final analysis; when all is said and done
179	At Wit's End: Frustrated because all measures to deal with something have failed

Idioms (B)

List of English idioms that start with B.

180	Babe In Arms: A baby being carried
181	Babe In The Woods: An innocent, naive person
182	Babe Magnet: A man to whom women are attracted
183	Baby Blues: Blue eyes.
184	Baby Boomer: A person born in the years following World War II, when there was a temporary marked increase in the birth rate
185	Babysitter Test: An evaluation of the ease of use of household appliances, especially remote control devices
186	Back And Forth: Dialogue, negotiations
187	Back At You: Same to you (used to return a greeting or insult)
188	Back Burner (On The): Not urgent; set aside until later
189	Back Forty: Remote, inaccessible land
190	Back in the Day: Formerly, when I was younger, in earlier times
191	Back Of Beyond: A remote location

192	Back Office: Support services for a business
193	Back on One's Feet: Physically healthy again
194	Back to Square One: Back to the start
195	Back to Square One: Forced to begin something again
196	Back to the Drawing Board: Forced to begin something again
197	Back to the Salt Mine(s): We have to go back to work.
198	Back to the Salt Mines: It's time for me (us) to go back to work
199	Back the Wrong Horse: To support the losing side
200	Backing and Filling: Delaying a decision by making small changes or arguing about small details
201	Backseat Driver: A passenger in a car who gives unwanted advice to the driver is called a backseat driver.
202	Backseat Driver: Someone who likes to give (often annoying) advice to the driver of a car, or the leader of some other enterprise
203	Bad Apple: A discontented, trouble making, or dishonest person
204	Bad Blood: Enmity or hatred that stems from something in the past
205	Bad Egg: Someone who is not to be trusted
206	Bad Taste In One's Mouth: Unease, a feeling that something unspecified is wrong in a situation
207	Bag of Tricks: A set of methods or resources
208	Bail Out: To rescue someone from a bad situation, to shield someone from the consequences of his or her actions
209	Ball and Chain: 1. One's spouse (derogatory but often affectionate); 2. an ongoing burden
210	Ballpark Figure: A rough estimate
211	Banner Year: A year marked by strong successes
212	Bang for Your Buck: Value for money
213	Bang for Your Buck: Value for your money
214	Bang One's Head Against the Wall (Against a Brick Wall): Try repeatedly to do something without making progress
215	Baptism by Fire: A difficult task given right after one has assumed new responsibilities
216	Bar Fly (or Barfly): Someone who spends much of his or her time in bars

217	Bare One's Heart (Soul): To confess one's deepest secrets	Bark Up the Wrong Tree: Pursue a mistaken approach or belief; be wrong in a course of action
218	Basket Case: So upset or stunned that one is unable to function; in a hopeless condition	
219	Bat/Play for Both Teams: To be bisexual.	
220	Bat/Play for the Other Team: To be homosexual.	
221	Batten Down the Hatches: Prepare for a storm	
222	Batten Down the Hatches: Prepare for a storm	
223	Be A Barrel of Laughs: To be fun, funny, and pleasant.	
224	Be A Cold Day In Hell: (Something that) will never happen	
225	Be An Item: Two people are an item when they are having a romantic relationship	
226	Be Footloose and Fancy-Free: To be free of responsibilities, including romantic commitments	
227	Be Head Over Heels (In love): Be in love with somebody very much	
228	Be in Seventh Heaven: Extremely happy	
229	Be in Two Minds (about something): To not be certain about something, or to have difficulty in making a decision	
230	Be Like Chalk and Cheese: Things or people who are very different and have nothing in common	
231	Be Lovey – Dovey: Expressing your love in public by constantly kissing and hugging	
232	Be on the Mend: Be improving after an illness	
233	Be Snowed Under: Be extremely busy with work or things to do	
234	Bean Counters: Accountants, finance professionals in an organization	
235	Bean Counters: Accountants, finance professionals in an organization	
236	Beat Around the Bush: To speak in a roundabout way in order to avoid confronting an unpleasant topic	
237	Beat Someone To The Draw: To accomplish or obtain something more quickly than someone else	
238	Beat Someone to the Punch: Do something before or faster than someone else	
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240	Beat the Drum for (Something): Speak in favor of something to try to generate support
241	Beauty Is Only Skin Deep: External appearance is a superficial basis for judging someone
242	Bed of Roses: A comfortable situation
243	Bedroom Eyes: An expression of the eyes that seems to invite sex
244	Bee in One's Bonnet: Someone who has a bee in their bonnet has an idea which constantly occupies their thoughts.
245	Beggar Thy Neighbor: To do something beneficial for oneself without worrying about how it affects others
246	Behind the Eight (or 8) Ball: At a serious disadvantage
247	Behind the Scenes: In a way not apparent to the public
248	Behind the Times: Old-fashioned
249	Bell the Cat: Take on a difficult or impossible task
250	Bells And Whistles: Attractive but unnecessary features of a product
251	Belly Laugh: Loud, hearty laughter
252	Bend an Elbow: Drink alcoholic beverages at a tavern
253	Best (Greatest) Thing Since Sliced Bread: An innovative development
254	Best of Both Worlds: Combining two qualities that are usually separate
255	Bet One's Bottom Dollar (On Something): Be certain that something will happen
256	Bet the Farm: Risk everything; spend all one's money on something in hopes of success Better late Than Never: It implies that a belated achievement is
257	better than not reaching a goal at all.
258	Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Caught between two undesirable options
259	Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea: In a difficult position
260	Beyond the Pale: Too morally or socially extreme to accept
261	Beyond the Shadow of a Doubt: Absolutely certain
262	Big Apple: An informal name for New York City
263	Big Brother: Government, viewed as an intrusive force in the lives of citizens; government spying

264	Big Cheese: An important person in a company or organization
265	Big Deal: An important event or accomplishment
266	Big Fish: An important person
267	Big Picture: A wide perspective; a broad view of something
268	Big time: If you do something big time, you do it to a great degree.
269	Birds of a Feather: People having similar characters, backgrounds, interests, or beliefs.
270	Bird's-Eye View: A view from above; a broad perspective on something
271	Bite Off More Than You Can Chew: Try to do more than one is capable of doing
272	Bite the Bullet: To do something even though it involves pain, discomfort, or difficulty
273	Bite the Hand That Feeds You: Act badly toward someone who has helped you
274	Bitter Pill to Swallow: An unpleasant fact that one must accept
275	Black and White: A clear distinction between good and bad, positive and negative
276	Black Eye: A mark of shame
277	Black Sheep: A person who does not fit into a group, especially a family
278	Black-and-Blue: Bruised, showing signs of having been physically harmed
279	Blank Check: Permission to spend or do whatever one wishes; carte blanche
280	Blind Date: When two people who have never seen each other before go on a date
281	Blinded by Love: When a person is so madly in love with somebody that they can't see the person's faults or negative characteristics
282	Blood and Thunder: A dramatic, spectacular performance
283	Blow Away the Cobwebs: If something blows away the cobwebs, it makes you feel more lively and refreshes your ideas.
284	Blow Hot and Cold: Shift one's level of enthusiasm repeatedly
285	Blow Off Steam: To express anger and frustration in a way that does no damage
286	Blow One's Top: Lose one's temper
287	Blow One's Stack: To lose one's temper and explode in anger

288	Blow the Cobwebs Away (or Out of Something): Make space for fresh ideas, encourage something new
289	Blow the Whistle: Reporting an illegal or unacceptable activity to the authorities
290	Blow Up: Explode
291	Blow Your Own Trumpet: Brag; emphasize one's own contributions
292	Blue Blood (adj. blue-blooded): Person of aristocratic background
293	Blue Eyed Boy: A person who is a favorite of those in authority; someone whose mistakes are forgiven
294	Blue Light Special: 1. a temporary sale at a discount store. 2. a traffic stop by the police.
295	Bob's Your Uncle: The rest is easy; you're almost finished
296	Bolt From the Blue: Something completely unexpected
297	Bone Dry: Completely dry, totally without moisture
298	Born on The Wrong Side of the Blanket: Born to parents who were not married
299	Borrow Trouble: Take needless risks, invite problems
300	Bottom of the Barrel: Low-quality choices
301	Boy Toy: A young man who is the lover of an older, often wealthier woman (see toyboy)
302	Boys will be Boys: A phrase of resignation used when boys get into trouble or are stereotypically reckless or rowdy
303	Brainstorm: To generate many ideas quickly
304	Break a Leg: Good luck! This is used for a stage performer-or for anyone else who is about to give some kind of a performance, such as an important speech
305	Break Out in A Cold Sweat: To perspire from fever or anxiety
306	Break the Bank: Exhaust one's financial resources
307	Break The Ice: To get something started, particularly by means of a social introduction or conversation
308	Break up/ Split up (With Somebody): End the relationship
309	Bring Home the Bacon: Earn money for one's family
310	Bringing a Knife to a Gunfight: Underequipped or unprepared

311	Brush Under the Carpet: Attempt to temporarily conceal a problem or error
312	Bucket List: Things you want to see or do before you die
313	Bull in a China Shop: A clumsy or tactless person
314	Bump in the Road: A temporary problem, a small setback
315	Bundle Up: Put on lots of warm clothing
316	Burn One's Bridges: Leave a job or a relationship on such bad terms that one does not stay in contact
317	Burn the Candle at Both Ends: To work too hard, with possible bad consequences for one's health
318	Burn the Candle at Both Ends: Work very long hours
319	Burn the Midnight Oil: To work late into the night
320	Burn the Midnight Oil: Working late into the night
321	Bury (Hide) One's Head In the Sand: Ignoring something that's obviously wrong, not facing reality
322	Bury the Hatchet: Make peace, agree to end a dispute
323	Business as Usual: A normal situation (whether related to business or not), typically restored after some change
324	Busman's Holiday (UK): A working vacation
325	Busman's Holiday: A vacation where you do the same thing you do at work, a working vacation
326	Busted Flush: A failure, someone or something that seemed promising but did not develop well
327	Butter Wouldn't Melt in (Someone's): Mouth This person is cool in manner, prim and proper
328	Buy a Pig in a Poke: To buy something with no prior inspection
329	Buy Time: Cause a delay in something with the aim of improving one's position
330	By a Whisker: By a very short distance
331	By All Means: Of course, certainly
332	By Hook or by Crook: By some possibly dishonest means
333	By the Skin of One's Teeth: Barely escaping disaster
334	By Word of Mouth: Via personal communications rather than written media

Idioms (C)

List of English idioms that start with C. **Call a Spade a Spade**: To speak frankly

335	and directly about a problem
336	Call It a Day : Decide that one has worked enough on something for the day
337	Call It a Night : End an evening's activities and go home
338	Call the Shots : Make the important decisions in an organization
339	Call the Tune : Making important decisions and controlling a situation.
340	Can't See the Forest for the Trees : Is unable to maintain a wider perspective
341	Can't Swing A Dead Cat In (Place) : Without Hitting A (Thing) There are many examples of [thing] in this [place].
342	Carrot-and-Stick (Approach) : A tactic in which rewards are offered, but there is also the threat of punishment
343	Carry a Torch (for) : To continue to be in love with someone even after a relationship has ended
344	Carry Coals To Newcastle : Supply something that is unneeded; engage in useless labor
345	Carry the Can : To take the blame for something one did not do
346	Cash In One's Chips : 1. To take advantage of a quick profit 2. To die
347	Cash-Strapped : In need of money
348	Cast the First Stone : To be the first to criticize or attack someone
349	Castle in the Air : An impractical plan
350	Cat Fight : A fight between two women
351	Cat Got Your Tongue? : Don't you have anything to say?
352	Cat on a hot tin roof : Be extremely nervous
353	Cat-and-Mouse (adj.) : In a toying way; playful in an unpleasant way
354	Catch One's Death of Cold : To become very ill (with a cold/flu etc.)
355	Catch Some Rays : To sit or lie outside in the sun
356	Catch Someone's Eye : Attract someone's attention
357	Catch-22 : A difficult situation from which there is no escape because options for avoiding it involve contradictions
358	Cat's Paw : A person being used by someone else, a tool

359	Caught Red-Handed: Apprehended while committing a crime
360	Circle the Wagons: To prepare as a group to defend against attack, adopt a defensive posture
361	Claim to Fame: Unusual feature or offering
362	Clean Up Nicely: Look good when one is dressed up. Usually said of women
363	Clear the Air: Defuse tension, be honest about conflict so as to reduce it
364	Clip Someone's Wings: Reduce someone's privileges or freedom
365	Close, But No Cigar: You are very close but not quite correct.
366	Cock and Bull Story: A far-fetched story, probably untrue
367	Cock-A-Hoop: Elated, excited
368	Cold Day in Hell: A condition for something that would be extremely unlikely to occur
369	Come By Something Honestly: Acquire something honestly, or inherit it
370	Come Clean: To confess; to admit to wrongdoing
371	Come Hell or High Water: No matter what happens
372	Come Out in the Wash: To be resolved with no lasting negative effect
373	Come Out of the Closet: Reveal a secret about oneself, usually that one is gay (homosexual)
374	Come Out Swinging: Respond to something very aggressively
375	Come Rain and Shine: Do regularly, whatever the circumstances
376	Come to Grips With: To acknowledge a problem as a prelude to dealing with it
377	Come to Terms With (Something): Feel acceptance toward something bad that has happened
378	Coming Down the Pike: Likely to occur in the near future
379	Cook Someone's Goose: To insure someone's defeat, to frustrate someone's plans
380	Cook Up a Storm: Cook a great deal of food
381	Cooking Up a Storm: Cooking a great deal of food
382	Cool as A Cucumber: Calm and composed even in difficult or frustrating situations; self-possessed
383	Cool Cat: Someone who has the respect of their peers in a young, casual way.

384	Cool Your Heels: Wait Couch Potato: A lazy person who watches a great deal of television Crash a Party: To attend a party without being invited
385	Crickets: Silence Cross to Bear: A problem one must deal with over a long time, a heavy burden
386	Crunch Time: A period of high pressure when one has to work hard to finish something
387	Crunch the Numbers: Do calculations before making a decision or prediction
388	Cry Over Spilt (USA: Spilled): Milk To waste energy moaning about something that has already happened
389	Cry Wolf (verb): To issue a false alarm, to ask for help when none is needed
390	Cry Your Eyes Out: Cry hard for a very long time
391	Cry Your Eyes Out: Cry hard for a very long time
392	Curiosity Killed The Cat: Stop asking questions, don't be too curious
393	Cut (Someone) To the Quick: To deeply hurt someone emotionally
394	Cut Corners: Economize by reducing quality; take shortcuts
395	Cut It Fine: To do something at the last moment
396	Cut Off Your Nose to Spite Your Face: To act in a proud way that ultimately damages your own cause
397	Cut Someone Some Slack: Avoid treating someone strictly or severely
398	Cut to the Chase: Get to the point; explain the most important part of something quickly; skip the preliminaries
399	Cut the Gordian Knot: To solve a complex problem in a simple way
400	Cut the Mustard: Do something adequately
401	Cut Your Teeth on Something: To learn basic skills in a field
402	Cutting-Edge: Very novel, innovative
403	Champagne taste on a beer budget: Expensive or extravagant tastes or preferences that are beyond one's economic means.
404	Change Horses in Midstream: Change plans or leaders in the middle of a process
405	Change of Heart: A change in one's opinion or outlook
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409	Change One's Tune: To alter one's opinion about something.
410	Changing of the Guard: A change in leadership at an organization
411	Chase Rainbows: To pursue unrealistic goals
412	Cheap Shot: An unfair attack; a statement that unfairly attacks someone's weakness
413	Cherry-Pick: To present evidence selectively to one's own advantage
414	Cherry-Pick: To select the best or most desirable
415	Chew the Fat: Chat for a considerable length of time
416	Chickens Come Home To Roost: The negative consequences of previous actions reveal themselves
417	Child's Play: A very easy task
418	Chill Out: Do something that helps them to calm down and relax for a while.
419	Chin Music: Meaningless talk
420	Chin Up/ Keep Your Chin Up: Cheer up; try to be cheerful and strong
421	Chip off the Old Block: Someone who resembles a direct ancestor, usually the father
422	Chomp (Champ) at the Bit: Be eager to do something
423	Chomp at the Bit: To be eager to do something
424	Chop Chop: Quickly, without delay
425	Chop Shop: A shop where stolen cars are disassembled for parts
426	Chuck a Wobbly: To act in an emotional way

Idioms (D)

List of English idioms that start with D.

427	Da Man (Slang): An accomplished or skillful person. Generally used in the compliment “”You da man!””
428	Dance to Someone's Tune: Consistently follow someone's directions or influence
429	Dance with the Devil: Knowingly do something immoral
430	Dark Horse: A surprise candidate or competitor, especially one who comes from behind to make a strong showing

431	Darken Someone's Door (Step): Make an unwanted visit to someone's home
432	Dead Ahead: Directly ahead, either in a literal or a figurative sense
433	Dead as the Dodo: Completely extinct; totally gone
434	Dead Eye: A good shooter, a good marksman
435	Dead Heat: An exact tie in a race or competition
436	Dead of Winter: The coldest, darkest part of winter
437	Dead ringer: Very similar in appearance
438	Dead Run: Running as fast as possible
439	Dead Shot: A good shooter, a good marksman
440	Deep Pockets: The new owner has deep pockets, so fans are hoping the football team will improve next year with new players
441	Deliver the Goods: Provide what is expected
442	Devil's Advocate: Someone who argues a point not out of conviction, but in order to air various points of view
443	Dirty Look: A facial manner that signifies disapproval
444	Do 12-Ounce Curls: Drink beer
445	Dodge a Bullet: To narrowly escape disaster
446	Doesn't Amount to a Hill of Beans: Is unimportant, is negligible
447	Dog Days of the Summer: The hottest day of summer
448	Dog in the Manger: A person who prevents others from using something, even though the person himself or herself does not want it
449	Dog-and-Pony Show: A flashy presentation, often in a marketing context
450	Dog-Eat-Dog: Intensely competitive
451	Don't Judge a Book by Its Cover: Don't be deceived by looks; don't rely on looks when judging someone or something
452	Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk: Don't worry about minor things.
453	Don't Look a Gift Horse in the Mouth: Do not question the value of a gift. The expression comes from the practice of determining the age and health of a horse by looking at its teeth.
454	Double-Dip: Improperly get income from two different sources
455	Double-Edged Sword: Something that can be helpful or harmful; something beneficial that also has a downside
456	Down in the Dumps: Depressed, sad

457	Down the Road: In the future (in your lifetime)
458	Drag One's Feet (or Heels): To do something reluctantly and slowly
459	Drag Your Feet: Do something very reluctantly; delay doing something
460	Drain the Lizard: Urinate
461	Draw a Blank: Be unable to remember something
462	Draw a Line in the Sand: Issue an ultimatum; specify an absolute limit in a conflict
463	Draw a Line Under (Something): To conclude something and move on to something else
464	Draw a Long Bow: Exaggerate, lie
465	Draw the Line: To set a limit to what one will accept
466	Dressed Up to the Nines: Someone is wearing very smart or glamorous clothes
467	Drink the Kool-Aid: Accept a set of ideas uncritically, often dangerous ones
468	Drive a Hard Bargain: To arrange a transaction so that it benefits oneself.
469	Drive a Hard Bargain: To negotiate effectively
470	Drive a Wedge Between: Try to split factions of a united group by introducing an issue on which they disagree
471	Drive Someone Up the Wall: Deeply irritate someone
472	Drop a Line: To write a letter or send an email
473	Drop the Ball: Fail to fulfill one's responsibilities; make a mistake
474	Dry Run: A practice execution of a procedure
475	Dutch Courage: Alcohol drunk with the intention of working up the nerve to do something
476	Dutch Uncle: A highly critical person
477	Dyed-In-The-Wool (adj.): Consistent in an affiliation or opinion over a long period; inveterate

Idioms (E)

List of English idioms that start with E.

478	Eager beaver: The term eager beaver refers to a person who is hardworking and enthusiastic, sometimes considered overzealous.
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479	Eagle-Eyed: Having sharp vision
480	Early Bird [noun or adjective]: Someone who does something prior to the usual time, or someone who gets up early.
481	Eat Crow: To admit one was wrong, and accept humiliation
482	Eat Humble Pie: To admit defeat or error, to accept humiliation
483	Eat Someone's Lunch: Defeat someone thoroughly
484	Eat Your Heart Out!: (excl.) Go ahead, be jealous.
485	Eighty-Six (v.): 1) Discard, eliminate. 2) Throw someone out of a bar or store.
486	Elephant in the Room: A major problem that no one is talking about
487	Elevator Music: Pleasant but boring recorded music that is played in public places.
488	Elevator Pitch: A brief presentation of an idea, one short enough to be delivered in an elevator
489	Eleventh Hour: The last minute
490	Even Steven: Owing nothing; tied (in a game)
491	Every Dog Has His (Its): Day Everyone has a moment of fame, power, or influence
492	Every Man and His Dog: Many people
493	Every Man for Himself: Pursue your own interests; don't expect help from others.
494	Excused Boots: Allowed to avoid mandatory tasks

Idioms (F)

List of English idioms that start with F. **Face the Music:** Dealing with

495	consequences of one's actions
496	Face the Music: To accept judgment or punishment
497	Fall for Something: Hook, Line, and Sinker To be completely deceived
498	Fall in Love with Somebody: Start feeling love towards somebody
499	Fall Off the Wagon: To begin using alcohol (or another problem substance) after quitting
500	Fall on One's Sword: To accept blame; to sacrifice oneself

501	Fall Prey to: Be victimized by; be harmed by; be vulnerable to
502	Fancy Someone (British English): To find someone very attractive
503	Farther (On) Down the Road: Later, at some unspecified time
504	Farther (On) Down the Road: Later, at some unspecified time
505	Fashion-Forward: Tending to adopt new styles quickly
506	Fat Cat: A highly placed, well-paid executive
507	Father Figure: A mentor, a person who offers guidance
508	Feast Your Eyes On: To take great pleasure in looking at someone or something
509	Feather in One's Cap: An achievement for which one is recognized; a noteworthy achievement
510	Feather One's (Own) Nest: Use one's influence or power improperly for financial gain.
511	Feather One's Nest: To take advantage of one's position to benefit oneself
512	Fed Up With: Refusing to tolerate something any further; out of patience
513	Feel Like a Million Dollars: To feel great, to feel well and healthy.
514	Feel On Top of The World: To feel very healthy
515	Fell off a Truck: Probably stolen or illicitly obtained; said of something offered for sale to avoid discussing its origins
516	Fell off the Back of a Lorry: Probably stolen or illicitly obtained; said of something offered for sale to avoid discussing its origins
517	Fifteen Minutes of Fame: Temporary renown
518	Fifth Wheel: A superfluous person
519	Fight Fire with Fire: Use the same measures that are being used against you, even if they're stronger than you would usually use
520	Fight Like Cat and Dog: Continually arguing with each other
521	Find One's Voice: Become more confident in expressing oneself
522	Find Your Feet: To adjust to a new place or situation
523	Finger-Pointing: Blame; a situation within a group where each member attempts to blame others
524	Finger-Pointing: Blame; a situation within a group where each member attempts to blame others Fire in the Belly: strong ambition
525	

526	First In, Best Dressed: The first people to do something will have an advantage
527	Fish for Compliments: Try to manipulate people into praising you
528	Fish or Cut Bait (usually an exclamation): Make a decision or give someone else a chance
529	Fish Out of Water: A person who is in unfamiliar, confusing surroundings
530	Five-Finger Discount: Shoplifting
531	Flash in the Pan: A one-time occurrence, not a permanent phenomenon
532	Flat Broke: Having no money at all
533	Flat Out Like a Lizard: Drinking Very busy
534	Flesh and Blood: Blood relatives, close relatives
535	Flew the Coop: Left, escaped
536	Flip-Flop (v. or n.): To vacillate between two choices, to be indecisive
537	Fly by the Seat of One's Pants: To improvise, to make decisions without planning or preparation
538	Fly High: Be very successful, especially temporarily
539	Fly Off The Handle: Lose one's temper suddenly and unexpectedly
540	Fly off the Handle: To become suddenly enraged
541	Follow In Someone's Footsteps (Tracks): Follow the example laid down by someone else; supplant
542	Follow Your Heart: Rely on one's deeper feelings and instincts when making a decision
543	Food for Thought: Something that makes you think carefully
544	For a Song: At very low cost
545	For a Song: At very low cost
546	For Crying Out Loud (excl.): An expression of extreme annoyance
547	For Xyz Reasons: For multiple reasons, not worth specifying individually
548	Foul Play: Crime, typically murder
549	Fourth Estate: The media and newspapers
550	Fox in the Henhouse (Chickenhouse): Someone who causes trouble
551	Freak Out: A wildly irrational reaction or spell of behavior
552	French Leave: Absence without permission

553	Freudian Slip: Accidental use of an incorrect word; a revealing slip of the tongue
554	From Pillar to Post: From one place to another, in a forced, random way
555	From Scratch: From individual ingredients, not using a prepared mix
556	From Soup to Nuts: Everything; from beginning to end
557	From the Bottom of One's Heart: Sincerely and with deep feeling
558	FUBAR: Hopelessly ruined, not working, messed up.
559	Fu** (Or Screw) The Dog (Pooch): To make an embarrassing error
560	Full Fathom Five: Lost deep in the sea
561	Full of the Joys of Spring: Very happy, enthusiastic and full of energy

Idioms (G)

List of English idioms that start with G.

562	Game of Chicken: A conflict situation in which neither side will back down for
563	ear of seeming cowardly (chicken)
564	Get A Charley Horse: To develop a cramp in the arm or the leg
565	Get A Word In Edgewise: Be able to say something while someone else is
566	talking a lot
567	Get Along (with Someone): To have a satisfactory relationship
568	Get Bent Out of Shape: Become angry, upset
569	Get Carried Away: Become overly enthusiastic
570	Get In on the Ground Floor: Invest in or join something while it is still small
571	Get in Shape: Undertake a program of physical conditioning; exercise regularly
572	Get Off Scot Free: Be accused of wrongdoing but pay no penalty at all
573	Get One's Ducks in a Row: Have everything organized; get oneself organized
574	Get One's Hands Dirty: To do the unpleasant parts of a job
575	Get Someone's Goat: To irritate someone deeply
576	Get To Grips With: To begin to understand and deal with something
	Get the Ball Rolling: Do something to begin a process

577	Get the Picture: Understand what's happening
578	Get the Runaround: Be given an unclear or evasive answer to a question
579	Get the Sack, Be Sacked: To be fired
580	Get the Third Degree: To be questioned in great detail about something G
581	Get Wind of: Hear about
582	Get With the Program: Figure out what everyone else already knows. Often used sarcastically, as a command
583	Go Along (With): Agree to something, often provisionally
584	Go Ape: Express wild excitement or anger
585	Go Ballistic: Fly into a rage
586	Go-Bananas: To become irrational or crazy
587	Go-Bananas: To become irrational or crazy
588	Go-Belly-Up: To go bankrupt
589	Go Berserk: To go crazy
590	Go Bonkers: To be or become wild, restless, irrational, or crazy; to act in such a way Go Cold Turkey: Stop using an addictive substance suddenly, without tapering off
591	Go Down in Flames: Fail in a spectacular way
592	Go Mental: To suddenly become extremely angry
593	Go Nuclear: Use an extreme measure; because extremely angry
594	Go Nuts: To become crazy
595	Go Off Half-Cocked: To say or something prematurely, with a negative effect
596	Go Off the Deep End: To unexpectedly become very angry, especially without a good reason
597	Go Off The Rails: To go wrong, to begin acting strangely or badly
598	Go Out on a Limb: Assert something that may not be true; put oneself in a vulnerable position
599	Go Pear-Shaped: To fail; to go wrong
600	Go See a Man About a Dog: Go to the bathroom (said as a euphemism)
601	Go to the Dogs: To become disordered, to decay
602	Go to the Mattresses: To go to into battle

604	Go the Extra Mile: Put forth greater-than-expected effort
605	Go Under the Knife: Undergo surgery Go Viral: Begin To spread rapidly on the Internet
606	Internet
607	Go with the Flow: To accept the way things naturally seem to be going Grab (Take) the Bull by the Horns: To begin forthrightly to deal with a problem
608	Grasp (Grab) at Straws: To take desperate actions with little hope of success
609	Grease Monkey: A mechanic, especially an auto mechanic
610	Grease the Wheels: Do something to make an operation run smoothly
611	Greasy Spoon: An inexpensive restaurant that fries foods on a grill
612	Green Around the Gills: To look sick
613	Green as Grass: Lacking training, naive; often said of young people in new jobs Grind One's Teeth: Be very annoyed or angry about something without being able to say anything about it.
614	Guilty Pleasure: Enjoying something which is not generally held in high regard, while at the same time feeling a bit guilty about it, is called a guilty pleasure.
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617	Guinea Pig: A test subject, a person who is used as a test to see if something will work Give and Take: Negotiations, the process of compromise
618	
619	Give 'em Hell (often excl.): Express something passionately to a group
620	Give Lip Service to: Talk about supporting something without taking any concrete action
621	Give Lip Service: to Talk about supporting something without taking any concrete action
622	Give One's Two Cents (That's My Two Cents): Offer an opinion, suggest something
623	Give Someone a Holler: Contact someone
624	Give Someone a Piece of Your Mind: Angry tell someone what you think
625	Give Someone a Run for Their Money: Compete effectively with the leader in a particular field
626	Give Someone an Earful: angrily express an opinion to someone

627	Give Someone the Cold Shoulder: act hostile toward someone; to ignore, snub
628	Give Someone The Old Heave-Ho: Fire someone, remove someone from a group or team
629	Give Something a Whirl: Attempt something without being totally familiar with it
630	Give the Green Light: Approve something; allow something to proceed

Idioms (H)

List of English idioms that start with H.

631	Hail Mary (n. or adj.): A desperate, last-ditch attempt
632	Hair of the Dog (That Bit You): A small amount of the alcoholic beverage that caused your hangover
633	Hands are Tied: You are prevented from doing something. It is not within your power
634	Hands Down: Undoubtedly
635	Hang It Up: To retire, to end an activity one has pursued for a long time
636	Hang Tough: Maintain one's resolve
637	Hanging by a Thread: In great danger of elimination or failure
638	Happy-Go-Lucky: If you are a happy-go-lucky person, you are cheerful and carefree all the time.
639	Hard Nut to Crack: A difficult problem or a difficult person
640	Has the Cat Got Your Tongue?: Why are you not saying anything?
641	Hat Trick: Scoring three goals in hockey or soccer (football), or accomplishing three of anything.
642	Hatchet Job: A strong attack on someone's reputation; intentionally destructive criticism; calumny
643	Haul Over the Coals: To scold someone severely
644	Have (one's) head in the clouds: Not know what is happening around you or out of touch with reality
645	Have A Ball: To have a very enjoyable time

646	Have a Bone to Pick (with Someone): To want to discuss something someone has done that has angered or annoyed you.
647	Have a Bone to Pick (with Someone): To want to discuss something someone has done that has angered or annoyed you.
648	Have a Chip on One's Shoulder: To harbor resentment; to have an angry attitude
649	Have a Dog in the Hunt (Fight, Race): To support a certain person in a competition
650	Have a Lead Foot: A tendency to drive very fast
651	Have a Lot on One's Plate: Be busy, be in the middle of many ongoing tasks
652	Have a Lot Riding On (Something): Be depending on the successful outcome or development of something
653	Have a Nose for (Something): To have natural ability at something, a talent for finding something
654	Have a Screw Loose: Be slightly unbalanced or crazy
655	Have a Tough Row to Hoe: Be faced with a task that is difficult because of unfavorable conditions
656	Have A Whale of A Time: To enjoy yourself very much
657	Have an Ace Up One's Sleeve: To have a hidden advantage
658	Have Bigger Fish to Fry: Have more important things to do
659	Have Egg on Your Face: They are made to look foolish or embarrassed
660	Have Foot-in-Mouth Disease: To embarrass oneself through a silly mistake
661	Have Hand of Aces/Hold All the Aces: To be in a very strong position in a competition
662	Have It Out with Someone: To have an argument with someone in order to settle a dispute
663	Have One Foot in The Grave: To be near death (usually because of old age or illness)
664	Have One Over the Eight: A person is slightly drunk.
665	Have One Too Many: Drink too much alcohol
666	Have One's Cake and Eat It, Too: To want two incompatible things (usually used in the negative)
667	Have Skin in the Game: Be risking something in an undertaking

668	Have Something in the Bag: Be certain to win Have the Hots for Somebody: To be (sexually) attracted to somebody Have the Hots for Somebody: Finding somebody extremely attractive Have The Time of Your Life: If you have the time of our life, you enjoy yourself very much.
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672	Have the Time of Your Life: To have a very fun, exciting, or enjoyable time
673	Have Your Nose in the Air: Have a snobbish or disdainful attitude
674	Have Your Say: Express your opinion on something
675	Have Your Thumb Up Your Ass: Have nothing to do
676	He Who Laughs Last Laughs Best: Being victorious is often a matter of simply surviving a conflict
677	He Would Put Legs Under A Chicken: He will talk your head off; he is very talkative
678	Head (Go) South: Decline, get worse
679	Head and Shoulders Above: Far superior to
680	Head and Shoulders: Above Far superior to
681	Head Start: An advantage over everyone else
682	Heads Up (excl.): Get ready! Be prepared
683	Heads Up! : Be careful!
684	Heads Will Roll (Are Going to Roll): People will be fired
685	Heads Will Roll (Are Going to Roll): People will be fired
686	Hear (Something) Through the Grapevine: To learn something via gossip
687	Heart and Soul: With all one's energy or affection
688	Heavens Open: Start to rain heavily
689	Heavy Hitter: A powerful, influential person
690	Helicopter Parenting: Overattentive child-raising
691	Hell for Leather: Very fast, as fast as possible
692	High as a Kite: Strongly under the influence of drugs or intoxicants
693	High as a Kite: Strongly under the influence of drugs or intoxicants
694	High as a Kite: Strongly under the influence of drugs or intoxicants
695	Hightail It (Out of There): Flee
696	Highways and Byways: You take large and small roads to visit every part of the country.

697	Hit a Wall: suddenly stop making forward progress Hit It Out of the Park: Succeed brilliantly
698	Hit the Books: To study (generally said of students)
699	Ground Running: To begin a job or project with no learning or training period needed
700	Hit the Hay: To go to bed
701	Hit the Jackpot: Do something that brings great success
702	Hit the Nail on the Head: To be absolutely correct (said of an utterance)
703	Hit the Road: To leave
704	Hit the Roof: Explode in rage; become extremely angry
705	Hit the Roof: To become very angry
706	Hit the Sack: To go to bed
707	Hit the Spot: Be very satisfying (said of something eaten)
708	Hive Mind: The knowledge of humans as a group
709	Hobson's Choice: A choice among bad options
710	Hold One's Liquor: Be able to drink a large amount without being affected
711	Hold One's Peace: Be silent
712	Hold the Phone: Wait a moment (whether you're on the phone or not)
713	Hold the Phone: Wait a moment (whether you're on the phone or not)
714	Hold Your Horses (generally excl.): Stop; restrain yourself; don't be so excited
715	Home Away from Home: A habitual hangout; a place one frequents often and where one feels welcome
716	Home Truths: Honest, often painful criticism
717	Honor System: A system of payments that relies on the honesty of those paying
718	Hot Mess: Something or someone in a state of extreme disorder
719	Hot on the Heels (of): In close pursuit
720	Hot on the Heels (of): In close pursuit
721	Hot Potato: A controversial subject or difficult project that is best avoided

Idioms (I)

List of English idioms that start with I.

723	I Wouldn't Put It Past (Someone): I think it's quite possible that [this person] would do this.
724	If It Had Been a Snake, It Would Have Bitten Me: It was very obvious, but I missed it.
725	If the Shoe Fits, Wear It: If this description of you is accurate, accept it.
726	I'm All Ears: You have my attention, so you should talk
727	In a Fog: Confused, not mentally alert
728	In a Heartbeat: Immediately. This is especially used in hypothetical situations
729	In a Jam: In need of help, in a difficult spot
730	In a New York Minute: Very quickly
731	In a Nutshell: Expressed in a few words
732	In a Pickle: In need of help, in a difficult spot
733	In a Rut: Confined by routine, bored and seeking new experiences
734	In Broad Daylight: When something occurs in broad daylight, it means the event is clearly visible
735	In Clover: Benefiting from a positive financial situation
736	In For a Penny, In for a Pound: Committed to something even though the risks are increasing
737	In Full Swing: When something, such as an event, gets into full swing, it is at its busiest or liveliest time.
738	In His Cups: Drunk
739	In Hot Water: In need of help; in trouble
740	In One Fell Swoop: All at once, in a single action
741	In One's Element: In a situation which is entirely suitable, familiar, or enjoyable.
742	In Someone's Wheelhouse: In someone's strongest area of competence or enthusiasm
743	In Touch: In contact
744	In the Blink of an Eye: Quickly, seemingly instantaneously
745	In the Cards: Likely; likely to occur
746	In the Crosshairs (Cross Hairs): Targeted for blame or criticism
747	In the Dark: Not informed

748	In the Dark: Unaware of something
749	In the Driver's Seat: In a dominant position, in control
750	In the Hot Seat: Undergoing criticism or scrutiny; under pressure publicly
751	In the Interim: It denotes a period of time between something that ended and something that happened afterwards
752	In the Limelight, In the Spotlight: Receiving large amounts of publicity or attention
753	In the Long Run: Over an extended period of time
754	In the Nick of Time: Just in time; with no time to spare
755	In the opinion of the speaker, a person has just spent money unnecessarily and is, therefore, a fool.
756	In the Pipeline: Being prepared for the marketplace, being worked on
757	In the Red: Losing money; (of a market index) below a specified starting point
758	In the Same Boat: In a similar situation; similarly vulnerable
759	In the Toilet: In disastrous condition
760	In the Works: Under development; coming soon
761	Iron Out (Problems, Difficulties): To resolve
762	Is the Pope Catholic?: Isn't the answer obvious?
763	It Never Rains but It Pours: Bad luck and bad things tend to happen at the same time
764	It Takes Two to Tango: When something goes wrong involving two people, it's likely that they share the blame; cooperation is necessary
765	It Takes Two to Tango: You say this when you think that a difficult situation or argument cannot be the fault of one person alone.
766	It Won't Fly: It won't work; it won't be approved.
767	Itchy Feet: A person who has itchy feet is someone who finds it difficult to stay in one place and likes to travel and discover new places.
768	It's a Wash: A positive and a negative development cancel each other out, so the situation has neither improved nor gotten worse
769	It's All Greek to Me: It is unintelligible, impossible to understand
770	It's No Skin off My (Your) Nose (Back): The outcome will not affect me personally

771 **It's Not Over Till the Fat Lady Sings:** Do not give up too soon; things may improve.

772 **It's Not Rocket Science:** It's not difficult to understand.

773 **I've Had It Up to Here:** My patience is almost exhausted.

Idioms (J)

List of common English idioms that start with J.

774 **Jack of All Trades:** A person with a wide variety of skills

775 **Jam Session:** Playing improvised music in an informal setting

776 **Jim Crow:** The system of racial segregation in the American South prior to the American civil rights movement.

777 **Join the Club (excl.):** I feel sympathy for you because I have experienced something similar.

778 **Jump in with Both Feet:** Begin a new experience wholeheartedly

779 **Jump on the Bandwagon:** To follow a trend or craze

780 **Jump on the Bandwagon:** To follow a trend; follow the crowd

781 **Jump the Gun:** Start doing something too soon

782 **Jump the Shark:** To pass peak quality and begin to decline. Often used to describe television programs or movie series.

783 **Jump the Track:** To shift suddenly from one activity or line of thought to another

784 **Jump Through Hoops:** Complete a series of tasks in order to satisfy someone

785 **Just Around the Corner:** Occurring soon

786 **Just for the Record:** I would like to make it clear that ...

787 **Just What the Doctor Ordered:** Exactly the thing that is or was needed to help improve something or make one feel better

Idioms (K)

List of common English idioms that start with K.

788	Kangaroo Court: A court of law where proper procedures are not followed at all; a sham judicial proceeding
789	Keep (Something) at Bay: Maintain a distance from something or someone
790	Keep a Stiff Upper Lip: Control one's emotions; not give in to fear or grief
791	Keep an Eye On: To keep an eye on something or someone is to watch it periodically, to keep it under surveillance.
792	Keep an Eye Peeled: Be observant; watch out for something
793	Keep It Under Your Hat: Don't tell anyone; don't reveal this secret
794	Keep Someone at Arm's Length: Avoid close interaction or cooperation
795	Keep Your Nose Clean: Avoid trouble or situations that compromise one's honesty
796	Keep Your Powder Dry: Do not attack until you are ready.
797	Keeping One's Nose to the Grindstone: Working hard on something repetitive or tedious
798	Kick Ass, Kick Butt: 1) Defeat badly; 2) be excellent or highly effective (only kick ass would be used for 2)
799	Kick the Bucket: To die
800	Kick the Can Down the Road: Postpone an important decision
801	Kill a Fly With an Elephant Gun: Approach a problem with excessive measures
802	Kill Two Birds with One Stone: Act in such a way as to produce two desirable effects
803	Kill Two Birds with One Stone: Solve two problems with one move
804	Kill the Goose That Laid the Golden Egg: To destroy a source of ongoing profits or benefits
805	Kink in One's Neck: A cramp in one's neck that causes pain
806	King of the Hill: At the top of one's field; the most influential person in a given field or area
807	Kiss and Make Up: Make peace after an argument
808	Kith and Kin: Family (collectively)
809	Knock on Wood; Touch Wood: Let's hope I have good luck or continue to have good luck.

810	Knock Some Sense Into: To beat someone in order to teach him/her a lesson. May be used figuratively.
811	Knock Someone's Socks Off: Amaze someone
812	Knock Up: To impregnate a woman. Often used in the form knocked up.
813	Knockout: An extremely beautiful woman
814	Know (Something) Like the Back of One's Hand: To be very familiar with something, especially an area

Idioms (L)

List of common English idioms that start with L. **Larger Than Life:** Conveying a

815	sense of greatness, imposing
816	Last But Not Least: What I have just said does not reflect a ranking in importance.
817	Laughter is the Best Medicine: Laughing a lot is a very effective means of recovering from physical or mental injury Learn the Ropes: Become more
818	familiar with a job or field of endeavor; be trained
819	Leave Someone in the Lurch: Abandon someone in a difficult situation
820	Lend an Ear: Listen
821	Let Bygones Be Bygones: Agree to forget about a past conflict
822	Let Bygones Be Bygones: Agree to forget about a past conflict
823	Let Off Steam: To express anger and frustration in a way that does no damage
824	Let One's Hair Down: To relax and enjoy themselves.
825	Let Sleeping Dogs Lie: To avoid stirring up a problem; to leave things alone
826	Let the Cat Out of the Bag: Reveal a secret, usually a secret you or others are trying to keep
827	Let the Genie Out of the Bottle: Reveal something hitherto suppressed
828	Letter of the Law: The explicit meaning of a law, as opposed to the spirit of the law, the law's general intention
829	Lick One's Wounds: Rest after a bad defeat
830	Life is A Bowl of Cherries: Life is wonderful or very pleasant

831	Light a Fire Under Someone: Inspire someone to work very hard
832	Light at the End of the Tunnel: A sign of hope after a long period of difficulties
833	Like a Kid in a Candy Store: To be so excited about one's surroundings that one acts in a childlike or silly way
834	Like a Moth to a Flame: Drawn to something or someone despite the dangers
835	Like Father, Like Son: Sons inherit their fathers' traits and preferences, often even without realizing it.
836	Like Shooting: Fish in a Barrel Very easy
837	Like Taking Candy from a Baby: Very easy
838	Like Two Peas in a Pod: Bearing a strong resemblance
839	Like The Cat That Got The Cream: Looking particularly self-satisfied, often to the annoyance of others
840	Lion's Den: Any dangerous or frightening place.
841	Lion's Share: The largest part of something
842	Live Large: Have a luxurious lifestyle
843	Living in Cloud Cuckooland: Having unrealistic or foolish beliefs or plans.
844	Living on Borrowed Time: Following an illness or near-death experience, may people believe they have cheated death
845	Living Under a Rock: Ignorant of important events. Usually used as a question: Have you been living under a rock?
846	Loaded for Bear: Prepared for problems, well prepared for a challenge
847	Loan Shark: A predatory lender; one who makes high-interest loans to desperate people
848	Lock Horns: To lock horns is to argue, to come into conflict.
849	Long Shot: Something with little chance of success
850	Look the Other Way: Take no notice of violations of laws or rules, unofficially condone something
851	Look What the Cat Dragged In: Someone unwelcome has arrived.
852	Loose Cannon: Someone out of control; someone who speaks or acts recklessly
853	Lose It: To suddenly become unable to behave or think in a sensible way

854	Lose One's Touch: Suffer a decline in one's skill at doing something
855	Lose Touch: To fall out of contact
856	Lose the Thread: Be unable to follow someone's reasoning
857	Love at First Sight: Falling in love with somebody the first time you see them
858	Love Rat: Somebody who cheats on his/her partner
859	Love Someone With All of One's Heart And Soul: To love someone completely
860	Lower the Boom: Implement a punishment; reprimand severely
861	Low-Hanging Fruit: Easy parts of a task; solutions easy to obtain

Idioms (M)

List of common English idioms that start with M.

862	Mad As A Box Of (Soapy) Frogs: extremely mentally unstable; psychotic; detached from reality.
863	Mad as A Hatter: Mentally ill, psychotic
864	Main Squeeze: Committed romantic partner
865	Make a Break for It: Try to escape, run off
866	Make a Mountain out of a Molehill: To take something too seriously; to make too much of something
867	Make a Silk Purse out of a Sow's Ear: Turn something ordinary or inferior into something refined and beautiful
868	Make Ends Meet: Have enough money to cover basic expenses
869	Make Hay (While the Sun Shines): To take advantage of an opportunity at the right time.
870	Make Love: To have sexual intercourse
871	Make Nice: Act cordial despite conflict
872	Make One's Mark: Attain influence or recognition
873	Make Someone's Day: Do something pleasing that puts someone in a good mood
874	Make Waves: Cause controversy, disturb a calm group dynamic

875	Man Cave: A part of the house, often the basement, that is left to the man of the household, perhaps with a workshop, a television for watching sports, etc.
876	March to the Beat of Your Own Drum: When someone does things the way they want to, without taking anybody else or anything else into consideration.
877	Match Made in Heaven: A relationship in which the two people are great together, because they complement each other so well
878	May-December (adj.): Significantly different in age. Said of couples where one member is much older. The most common usage is May-December romance.
879	May-December Marriage: A marriage between a younger and an older partner, typically a young woman and an old man.
880	Me Time: Activities undertaken for one's own enjoyment, free from responsibilities to others.
881	Meeting of the Minds: Strong instinctive agreement on something
882	Mend Fences: Improve relations after a dispute
883	Mind One's P's and Q's: Be attentive to details; be on one's best behavior
884	Miss the Boat: Be too late for something; miss an opportunity
885	Monday Morning Quarterback: Someone who offers criticisms or comments after already knowing the outcome of something
886	Month of Sundays: A long time, many months
887	More Fun Than A Barrel of Monkeys: A very good time; a pleasant occasion
888	Mother Nature: The natural world
889	Move Heaven and Earth: Take all possible steps in trying to accomplish something
890	Move the Needle: Have a measurable effect on something
891	Move Up in the World: Become more successful
892	Movers and Shakers: Influential people, especially in a particular field
893	Much Of A Muchness: Essentially equal, not significantly different (said of a choice)
894	Mum's the Word: This is secret; don't talk about this. Often used as an answer to a request not to talk about something.
895	Music to My Ears: Good to hear; welcome news

896	Mutton Dressed Up as Lamb: A woman who dresses in a style appropriate to someone of a younger age
897	My Dogs Are Barking: My feet hurt.
898	My Old Man, My Old Lady: My spouse
899	My Way or the Highway: If you do not do things the way I want or require, then you can just leave or not participate.

Idioms (N)

List of common English idioms that start with N.

900	Nail-Biter: A suspenseful event
901	Nailing Jelly/Jello/Pudding To A Wall/Tree: An impossible task
902	Neck and Neck: Very close in a competition, with neither of two entities clearly in the lead
903	Neck of the Woods: A region, especially one's home region
904	Nest Egg: Retirement savings; wealth saved for a future purpose
905	Never in A Million Years: Absolutely never
906	Never Look a Gift Horse in the Mouth: It's rude to examine a gift closely; accept gifts politely.
907	New Wrinkle: A novel aspect to a situation, a new development
908	Nice Chunk of Change: A large amount of money
909	Nickel and Dime: To negotiate over very small sums; to try to get a better financial deal, in a negative way
910	Nine Times Out of Ten: Almost always
911	Nine-to-Five Job: A routine job in an office that involves standard office hours
912	Nip (Something) In The Bud: Deal with a problem before it becomes large
913	No Holds Barred (usually adj., often hyphenated): Unrestricted, without rules
914	No Love Lost Between: There is a mutual animosity between two people
915	No Names, No Pack Drill: By not accusing anyone specifically, I may avoid trouble.

916	No Names, No Pack Drill: If no one can be identified, no one will be punished.
917	No Rhyme or Reason (to): Without logic or pattern
918	No Room to Swing A Cat: Very small, not big enough
919	No Shit, Sherlock: That's very obvious!
920	No Tree Grows to the Sky: Growth cannot continue indefinitely.
921	Not Cut Out for (Something): Not naturally skillful enough to do something well
922	Not Enough Room to Swing a Cat: A very small space
923	Not Give A Fig: To not care at all about something
924	Not Have A Cat In Hell's Chance: Have no possibility of succeeding, coming to pass, or achieving something
925	Not Have a Prayer: Have no chance of success
926	Not Know Jack: Not know anything
927	Not Lift a Finger: Do nothing to help
928	Not Mince Words: Moderate or weaken a statement
929	Not One's Cup of Tea: Not something one is interested in
930	Not Playing with A Full Deck: Stupid, mentally deficient or impaired
931	Not Ready for Prime Time: Not yet perfected; inexperienced
932	Not Sit Well with (Someone): Be difficult to accept; make someone uncomfortable
933	Nothing to Write Home About: Unspectacular, ordinary
934	Nuts and Bolts: Everyday details of something
935	Nutty as a Fruitcake: Crazy; idiotic; wacky.

Idioms (P)

List of common English idioms that start with P.

936	Pack Heat: Carry a gun
937	Paddle One's Own Canoe: To be able to act independently.
938	Page-Turner: A page-turner is an exciting book that's easy to read, a book that's difficult to put down.
939	Pain in the Ass; Pain in the Butt;

940	Pain in the Neck: Someone or something making your life difficult Paint the Town Red: Go out drinking and partying Par for the Course: What would normally be expected. This has a negative connotation.
941	
942	
943	Pass the Buck: Transfer a problem to someone else
944	Pass With Flying Colors: To succeed brilliantly, as on an exam or other test
945	Passing Fancy: A temporary interest or attraction
946	Pay Through the Nose (For Something): Pay a large amount of money
947	Peaches and Cream: A situation, process, etc., that has no trouble or problems
948	Pecking Order: Hierarchy, rank of importance
949	
950	Pencil Something In: Make tentative arrangements
951	Penny-Pinching: Frugal, avoiding expenses whenever possible
952	Pep Talk: An encouraging speech given to a person or group
953	Perfect Storm: A rare combination of disastrous occurrences
954	Pet Peeve: A small thing that you find particularly annoying
955	Pick a Fight: Intentionally provoke a conflict or fight with someone
956	Pick Up the Slack: Do something that someone else is not doing; assume someone else's responsibilities
957	Pick Up the Tab: To pay a bill presented to a group, especially in a restaurant
958	
959	Pie in the Sky: Something that is unrealistic or that cannot be achieved Piece of Cake: Very easily done
960	Pin Someone Down: Demand a decision or clear answer Pinch Pennies: To be careful with money, to be thrifty
961	Pink Slip: A layoff notice; loss of a job, typically because of layoffs
962	Pipe Dream: An unrealistic hope, a fantasy
963	Piping Hot: Very hot (generally said of food)
964	Pipped to the Post: Defeated by a narrow margin
965	Pissing Contest: A meaningless argument or competition, typically between males
966	Play Ball: Cooperate, agree to participate

967	Play Cat And Mouse: Trying to trick someone into making a mistake so you can defeat them.
968	Play Hardball: Adopt a tough negotiating position; act aggressively
969	Play it by Ear: To play a piece of music without referencing sheet music or a recording
970	Play It by Ear: To respond to circumstances instead of having a fixed plan
971	Play the Percentages: Bet on or rely on what is most likely to happen
972	Play the Ponies: Bet on horse racing.
973	Play With Fire: Do something very risky
974	Play Your Cards Right: Exploit a situation to your best advantage
975	Point of No Return: A place from which it is impossible to go back to the starting point
976	Point the Finger At: Blame (someone)
977	Point the Finger: At Blame (someone)
978	Poison Pill (n): A provision or feature added to a measure or an entity to make it less attractive, an undesirable add-on
979	Poison Pill: A provision or feature added to a measure or an entity to make it less attractive, an undesirable add-on
980	Pop One's Clogs: To die
981	Pop One's Cork: To release one's anger; to blow one's top
982	Pop the Question: Propose marriage
983	Pot Calling the Kettle Black: Accusing someone of something of which you are also guilty; being hypocritical
984	Pour (Rub) Salt into (on) the Wound (an open wound): Worsen an insult or injury; make a bad situation worse for someone
985	Powder Keg: An explosive situation, a situation in which people are angry and ready to be violent
986	Powder Keg: An explosive situation, a situation in which people are angry and ready to be violent
987	Powder One's Nose: To use the restroom (lavatory). This is used by women
988	Preach to the Choir, Preach to the Converted: To make an argument with which your listeners already agree

989	Preaching to the Choir: Making arguments to those who already agree with you
990	Pretty Penny: A lot of money; too much money (when referring to the cost of something)
991	Price Yourself Out of the Market: Try to sell goods or services at such a high price that nobody buys them.
992	Puddle Jumper: A small airplane, used on short trips
993	Pull Out All the Stops: Do everything possible to accomplish something
994	Pull Strings: Use influence that's based on personal connections
995	Pull the Plug On: Terminate (something)
996	Pull Yourself Together: Control your emotions; recover from a strong emotional upset
997	Puppies And Rainbows: Perfect, ideal (usually used slightly sarcastically, in contrast with a less ideal situation)
998	Puppy Dog Eyes: A begging look
999	Puppy Love: Adolescent love or infatuation, especially one that is not expected to last
1000	Pure as the Driven Snow: To be innocent and chaste (frequently used ironically)
1001	Push the Envelope: Go beyond common ways of doing something, be innovative
1002	Pushing Up Daisies: Dead
1003	Pushing Up Daisies: Dead and buried
1004	Put a Thumb on the Scale: Try to influence a discussion in an unfair way, cheat
1005	Put Down Roots: Establish oneself in a place; settle
1006	Put in One's Two Cents: Say your opinion
1007	Put Lipstick on a Pig: Make cosmetic changes to something bad
1008	Put one's Face On: Apply cosmetics
1009	Put Out Feelers: Make discreet, informal suggestions, ask around
1010	Put Someone on the Spot: Force someone to answer a question or make a decision immediately

1011	Put That in Your Pipe and Smoke It: Accept and consider what I'm saying, even if you don't like it!
1012	Put the Best Face On (Something): Emphasize the positive aspects of a bad situation
1013	Put the Brakes On: Slow something down
1014	Put the Cart Before The Horse: To do things in the wrong order
1015	Put the Cart Before the Horse: To do things out of the proper order.
1016	Put the Cat Among The Pigeons: Say or do something that causes trouble or controversy
1017	Put the Genie Back in the Bottle: Try to suppress something that has already been revealed or done
1018	Put the Pedal to the Metal: Drive as fast as possible
1019	Put Up with (Something): Tolerate, accept
1020	Put Words Into Someone's Mouth: Attributing an opinion to someone who has never stated that opinion
1021	Put Your Foot Down: Use your authority to stop negative behavior
1022	Put Your Foot In Your Mouth: Say something that you immediately regret
1023	Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is: Back up your opinions with a financial commitment

Idioms (Q)

List of common English idioms that start with Q.

1024	Quake In One's Boots: To be very frightened
1025	Quarter Past: Fifteen minutes after the hour
1026	Quarter To/Of: Fifteen minutes before the hour
1027	Queer the Pitch: Interfere with someone's plans; make something more difficult
1028	Quick as a Flash: Very fast
1029	Quick-and-Dirty: Approximate, hastily done
1030	Quote Unquote: Ironically speaking; suggesting that if a phrase were written out, it would be in quotation marks to convey sarcasm

Idioms (R)

List of commonly used English idioms that start with R.

1031	Race Against Time: To rush to meet a deadline, to be forced to do something very quickly
1032	Rain Cats And Dogs: Rain heavily
1033	Rain Cats and Dogs: Rain very heavily
1034	Rain on Someone's Parade: Spoil someone's plans
1035	Raise (Someone's) Hackles: Make someone angry and defensive
1036	Raise One's Voice: Talk loudly
1037	Raise Red Flags: Warn of trouble ahead
1038	Raise the Bar: Increase standards in a certain competition or area of endeavor
1039	Raise the Roof: Make a great deal of noise (said of a crowd)
1040	Rake (Someone) Over the Coals: To scold someone severely
1041	Rake Over the Ashes: Restart a settled argument; examine a failure
1042	Rake Someone Over the Coals: Scold severely
1043	Rank and File: The ordinary members of an organization
1044	Read Between the Lines: Perceive what is not explicitly stated
1045	Read the Tea Leaves: Predict the future from small signs
1046	Rear Its Ugly Head (said of a problem or something unpleasant): Appear, be revealed
1047	Rearrange the Deck Chairs on the Titanic: Taking superficial actions while ignoring a much larger and perhaps fatal problem
1048	Red Flag: A warning; a sign of trouble ahead
1049	Red Herring: A misleading clue; something intended to mislead
1050	Red Meat: Political appeals designed to excite one's core supporters; demagoguery
1051	Red Tape: Bureaucracy; difficult bureaucratic or governmental requirements
1052	Red-Light District: A neighborhood with many houses of prostitution
1053	Reinvent the Wheel: Devise a solution to a problem for which a solution already exists
1054	Riding High: Enjoying success

1055	Right as Rain: Absolutely correct
1056	Right Under (One's) Nose: In an obvious location, yet overlooked
1057	Right-Hand Man: Chief assistant
1058	Ring a Bell: Sound familiar
1059	Ring a Bell: When something seems familiar
1060	Rob Peter to Pay Paul: Pay off a debt with another loan; solve a problem in such a way that it leads to a new problem
1061	Rob the Cradle: To be sexually or romantically involved with someone who is very young
1062	Rob the Cradle: To be sexually or romantically involved with someone who is very young
1063	Rock Bottom: An absolute low point
1064	Rock the Boat: Cause a disruption in a group. Often used in the negative: don't rock the boat.
1065	
1066	Roll the Dice On: Take a risk
1067	Roll With the Punches: Deal with problems by being flexible
1068	Rome Wasn't Built in a Day: Complex projects take time
1069	Rookie Mistake: An error made by an inexperienced person
1070	Rotten to the Core: Entirely evil
1071	Rub (Something) in Someone's Face: Humiliate someone by repeating and criticizing his or her mistake
1072	Rub It In: Say something that makes someone feel even worse about a mistake
1073	Rub Someone's Nose in (Something): Humiliate someone by repeating and criticizing his or her mistake
1074	Rubber-Stamp (v.): Approve something without consideration, as a formality
1075	Rule of Thumb: A general principle or guideline, not a specific formula
1076	Run a Tight Ship: Manage an organization in a strict, well-regulated way
1077	
1078	Run in the Family: Be inherited (as a trait) by multiple members of a family
1079	Run in the Family: To be a common family characteristic
	Run into a Buzz: Saw Encounter severe and unexpected problems

1080	Run into a Buzz: Saw Encounter severe and unexpected problems
1081	Run off at the Mouth: Talk a lot about unimportant things, talk incoherently
1082	Run on Fumes: To be in a situation where one's energy or resources is almost exhausted
1083	Run Out of Steam: Lose momentum, become tired
1084	Run the Table: Win every game or contest

Idioms (S)

List of commonly used English idioms that start with S.

1085	Sacred Cow: An individual or organization that one cannot criticize
1086	Saving Grace: Something that redeems a bad situation
1087	Scare the Living Daylights Out of Someone: Frighten someone severely
1088	Scorched Earth (Tactics, Policy, etc.): Ruthless, extremely destructive
1089	Screw The Pooch: To make a serious error
1090	School Of Hard Knocks: Difficult real-life experiences from which one has learned
1091	Second Banana: A person in a subservient position
1092	Second Stringer: A substitute player in a sport; a substitute for a job who is not the most talented person
1093	Second Wind: Renewed energy
1094	See Eye to Eye: To concur, agree
1095	See Something Out of the Corner of Your Eye: Use peripheral vision
1096	Seize (Take) the Bull By the Horns: Attack a problem directly
1097	Seize the Day: Take an opportunity
1098	Sell (Someone) a Bill of Goods: Trick someone; be deceptive
1099	Sell Like Hotcakes: Be sold very quickly
1100	Selling Point: An attractive feature of something for sale
1101	Set in Stone: Fixed; unchangeable
1102	Set something to Music: To write a piece of music to accompany a set of words
1103	Set the Bar (Too) High: To set a high standard for something

1104	Set the Thames on Fire: Do something amazing. Usually used in the negative.
1105	Set the World on Fire: Do something amazing; have a brilliant stretch in one's career
1106	Shake the Dust off Your Shoes (Feet): Make a clean break with a relationship or situation
1107	Shape Up or Ship Out: Behave properly or leave the organization
1108	Sharp as A Tack: Mentally agile
1109	Shell Game: A method of deception in which you conceal your actions by moving something frequently
1110	Shift Gears: Change the subject, or change what one is doing
1111	Shipshape And Bristol Fashion: Tidy, clean
1112	Shit a Brick: Be extremely fearful.
1113	Shoot from the Hip: Talk or act without consideration
1114	Shoot Off One's Mouth: Talk without considering one's words
1115	Shoot Oneself In The Foot: Do something that damages oneself or one's own cause
1116	Short Fuse: A quick temper; a tendency to anger quickly
1117	Shot Across the Bow: A warning of more serious actions to come
1118	Shoulder A Weight Off Your Shoulders: You no longer worry about something or deal with something difficult
1119	Show Me an X And I'll Show You a Y: There is a consequence to X that you may not have thought of.
1120	Show One's True Colors: Reveal one's true nature
1121	Show Your Cards: Reveal your resources or plans
1122	Sick and Tired of: Extremely annoyed by something that occurs repeatedly
1123	Sick as a Dog: Extremely ill.
1124	Sick as a Parrot: Very disappointed
1125	Sight for Sore Eyes: A sight that makes you happy
1126	Silver Bullet: Something simple that resolves a difficult problem
1127	Simmer Down: Become less angry; regain one's composure
1128	Sink or Swim: Fail or succeed
1129	Sing a Different Tune: Change your opinion

1130	Sit On (Something): Delay revealing or acting on something
1131	Sit Tight: Wait and do not go anywhere
1132	Sitting Duck: Something or someone easily attacked or criticized
1133	Pretty: In a favorable situation
1134	Six
1135	Feet Under: Dead and buried
	Six Feet Under: Dead and buried
1136	Six of One, a Half Dozen of the Other: The two choices have no significant differences.
1137	Six Ways to (from) Sunday: In every possible way
1138	Slam Dunk: An effort that is certain to succeed
1139	Sleep Like a Baby: To experience a very deep and restful sleep; to sleep soundly
1140	Sleep with the Fishes: Dead, often by murder
1141	Slip Someone a Mickey: Add a drug to an alcoholic drink in order to knock someone out
1142	Slippery Slope: A series of undesirable effects that, one warns, could result from a certain action
1143	Slower than Molasses: Exceptionally slow or sluggish; not fast at all
1144	Small Beer: Unimportant, insignificant
1145	Small Fry: People or organizations with little influence; children
1146	Small Potatoes: Unimportant, insignificant
1147	Smell a Rat: Suspect deception
1148	Smoking Gun: indisputable evidence of a crime
1149	Snafu: A malfunction; a chaotic situation
1150	Snake Oil: A useless medicine; a quack remedy; a product or measure promoted as a solution that really does nothing to help
1151	Snake Oil: Medicine of unproven value; fraudulent medicine
1152	Sneak Peek: A sneak peek is an opportunity to view something in advance of its official opening or debut
1153	Soak Up the Sun: To enjoy the sun
1154	Sold On (Something): Convinced of something
1155	Some Eggs: Achieving a major goal requires the ability to tolerate some problems

1156	Someone's Fingerprints Are All Over (Something): Someone's influence is evident
1157	Something to Crow: About Something to be proud of, an accomplishment about which one is justified in bragging
1158	Son of a Gun: 1) A rogue. 2) An exclamation of surprise.
1159	Sore Point: A sensitive topic for a particular person
1160	Sour Grapes: Disparagement of something that has proven unattainable
1161	Sour Grapes: Spiteful disparagement of a goal one has failed to achieve
1162	Spare The Rod And Spoil The Child: It is necessary to physically punish children in order to raise them right.
1163	Speak of the Devil (and He Shall Appear): The person we have just been talking about has entered.
1164	Speak with A Plum in (one's) Mouth: To speak in a manner that is indicative of a high social class.
1165	Spick and Span: Clean and neat
1166	Spill the Beans: Reveal a secret
1167	Spin A Yarn: Tell a story
1168	Spin One's Wheels: Engaging in activity that yields no progress; getting nowhere
1169	Spit into The Wind: Wasting time on something futile
1170	Spoiling for a Fight: Combative, wanting conflict, eager to argue or fight
1171	Spoiling for a Fight: Combative, wanting conflict, eager to argue or fight
1172	Square the Circle: Attempt an impossible task
1173	Stab Someone in the Back: To betray (somebody)
1174	Stalking Horse: Someone who tests a concept in advance of its application; a candidate who enters a political race in order to test the strength of the incumbent
1175	Stand (Someone) In Good Stead: Be useful in the future
1176	Stand On One's Own Two Feet: To be independent and self-sufficient
1177	Stand One's Ground: Refuse to back down; insist on one's position
1178	Start with a Clean Slate: To start (something) again with a fresh beginning; to work on a problem without thinking about what has been done before
1179	Steal Someone's Thunder: Upstage someone

1180	Stem the Tide: To stop or control the growth of something, usually something unpleasant.
1181	Step Up One's Game: Work to advance to a higher level of a competition
1182	Step Up to the Plate: Prepare to take action, be the person in a group who takes action
1183	Stick It to the Man: Do something that frustrates those in authority
1184	Stick Your Nose into Something: Intrude into something that is not your affair
1185	Sticker Shock: Surprise at the high price of something
1186	Stick-in-the-Mud: A person who dislikes or adapts slowly to new ideas
1187	Sticky Wicket: A difficult, tricky situation
1188	Stiff-Necked: Stubborn; excessively formal
1189	Storm in a Teacup: A commotion that dies down quickly, about something unimportant
1190	Stormy Relationship: Relationship that has a lot arguments and disagreement
1191	Stumbling Block: An obstacle, physical or abstract
1192	Straight Arrow: An honest, trustworthy person
1193	Strain at a Gnat and Swallow a Camel: To make a fuss over something unimportant while ignoring larger issues
1194	Strike A Chord: Used to describe something that is familiar to you, reminds you of something or is connected to you somehow.
1195	Sugar Daddy: A rich man who is generous with younger women in return for sexual favors
1196	Sure-Fire: Certain to occur
1197	Swan Song: A final appearance
1198	Swan Song: This expression is used to describe a final act before dying or ending something.
1199	Sweep Under the Carpet: Attempt to temporarily conceal a problem or error
1200	Sweep Under the Rug: Attempt to temporarily conceal a problem or error
1201	Sweet Dreams!: Sleep well!
1202	Sweeten the Deal: Add something to an offer during a negotiation

1203	Sweeten the Pot: Increase the amount of winnings potentially available in a game of chance, especially poker
1204	Swim Against the Tide: Do something contrary to a trend or usual opinion
1205	Swim with Sharks: To take a major risk
1206	Swim with the Fishes: Have been killed, especially with involvement of organized crime
1207	Swing for the Fences: Attempt to achieve the largest accomplishment possible
1208	Swing for the Fences: Attempt to achieve the largest accomplishment possible
1209	Sword of Damocles: Something that causes a feeling of constant threat.

Idioms (T)

List of useful English idioms that start with T.

1210	Take (Someone) to the Cleaners: 1) Swindle; 2) defeat badly
1211	Take a Deep Dive (Into): Explore something extensively
1212	Take a Flyer: To take a risk; especially to make a speculative investment
1213	Take a Gander: Go to take a look at something
1214	Take a Hike: Go away
1215	Take A Powder: To leave, especially in order to avoid a difficult situation
1216	Take a Rain Check: Decline an invitation but suggest that you'll accept it at a later time.
1217	Take Five (Ten): Take a short break of five (ten) minutes
1218	Take Five: To take one brief (about five minutes) rest period
1219	Take It Easy: 1) Relax, rest; 2) (as a command) Calm down!
1220	Take It Easy: Don't hurry; relax; don't get angry
1221	Take It Easy: When you relax, or do things at a comfortable pace, you take it easy.
1222	Take It on The Chin: Be attacked; suffer an attack
1223	Take It or Leave It (command): You must decide now whether you will accept this proposal
1224	Take Someone to Task: Reprimand someone strongly

1225	Take Something with a Pinch (grain) of Salt: If you take what someone says with a pinch of salt, you do not completely believe it.
1226	Take the Cake: Be the most extreme instance
1227	Take the Edge Off (of Something): To slightly improve something negative
1228	Take the Fifth: Refuse to answer because answering might incriminate or cause problems for you
1229	Take the Gloves Off: Negotiate in a more aggressive way
1230	Take the High Road: Refuse to descend to immoral activities or personal attacks
1231	Take The Mickey (Piss) (Out Of Someone): Make fun of or ridicule someone
1232	Take the Shine Off (Something): To do something that diminishes a positive event
1233	Take the Starch out of (Someone): Make someone less confident or less arrogant
1234	Take The Wind Out of Someone's Sails: To reduce someone's confidence, often by doing something unexpected
1235	Take Your Life in Your Hands: Undergo extreme risk
1236	Take Your Medicine: Accept something unpleasant, for example, punishment, without protesting or complaining
1237	Take Your Time: Don't hurry, work at a relaxed pace
1238	Taste of Your Own Medicine: The same unpleasant experience or treatment that one has given to others
1239	Teach an Old Dog New Tricks: To change someone's long-established habits. Usually used in the negative: You can't teach an old dog new tricks.
1240	Tear One's Hair out: Be extremely worried or frustrated
1241	Tear-Jerker: A film or book that makes you cry
1242	Tee Many Martoonies: Too many martinis, scrambled to suggest drunkenness
1243	Tell It to the Marines: I don't believe you; you must think I'm gullible.
1244	Tempest in a Teapot: A commotion about something unimportant
1245	Ten a Penny: Ordinary, inexpensive
1246	Ten to One: Something very likely

1247	Test the Waters: Experiment with something cautiously
1248	Test the Waters: Try something out in a preliminary way
1249	Tie the Knot: Get married
1250	Tighten the Screws: Increase pressure on someone
1251	Tight-Lipped: secretive, unwilling to explain something
1252	Til the Cows Come Home: For a very long time
1253	Time is Money: time is valuable, so don't waste it.
1254	Tip of the Iceberg: A small, visible part of a much larger problem
1255	Tip One's Hand: Reveal one's advantages; reveal useful information that one possesses
1256	TLC: Tender Loving Care
1257	To be A Peach: Someone or something that is extremely good, impressive, or attractive
1258	To be Smitten With Someone: To be completely captivated by someone and feel immense joy
1259	To be someone's One and Only: To be unique to the other person
1260	To be the Apple of Someone's Eye: To be loved and treasured by someone
1261	To Bear Fruit: To develop in a profitable or positive way
1262	To Bear Fruit: To develop in a profitable or positive way
1263	To Carpool: To travel to the same place with a group of people in one car. e.g. work/school
1264	To Each His Own: People have different tastes.
1265	To Get Cold Feet: To experience reluctance or fear
1266	To Have a Chip on One's Shoulder: To be combative, to be consistently argumentative
1267	To Have Butterflies In Your Stomach: To be nervous
1268	To Have One For the Road: To have one last (alcoholic) drink before you go home
1269	To Pay an Arm and a Leg: A very high cost
1270	To Pop (one's) Cherry: To do something for the first time
1271	To Pull Someone's Leg: Lie playfully
1272	To Run Hot and Cold: To be unable to make up one's mind
1273	To the Letter: Exactly (said of instructions or procedures)

1274	Toe the Line: Accept authority, follow the rules
1275	Tone-Deaf: Not good at perceiving the impact of one's words, insensitive
1276	Tongue-in-Cheek: Said ironically; not meant to be taken seriously
1277	Too Busy Fighting Alligators to Drain the Swamp: So occupied with multiple challenges that one can't keep the big picture in mind
1278	Too Many Cooks Spoil the Broth: A project works best if there is input from a limited number of people
1279	Too Many Chiefs and Not Enough Indians: Everyone wants to be a leader, and no one wants to do the actual work
1280	Too Many To Shake A Stick At: A large number
1281	Toot Your Own Horn: Brag; emphasize one's own contributions
1282	Top Banana: The boss, the leader
1283	Toss a Wrench (Spanner) Into: Sabotage; cause a process to stop
1284	Touch Base: Meet briefly with someone
1285	Touch One's Heart: Affect someone emotionally, be touching
1286	Touch Water: Be launched. Said of a boat.
1287	Tough Cookie: A very determined person
1288	Tough Cookie: Someone who can endure hardship; especially: a strong negotiator
1289	Tough Sledding: Difficult progress
1290	Turn a Blind Eye: (to) Choose not to notice something
1291	Turn on a Dime: Quickly reverse direction or position
1292	Turn Someone Inside Out: To cause strong emotional turmoil; to completely change someone
1293	Turn Something on Its Head: Reverse something, cause something to be done in a new way
1294	Turn Turtle: Capsize, turn over
1295	Turn the Corner: To begin to improve after a problem
1296	Turn the Tables: Reverse a situation
1297	Turnabout Is Fair Play: If you suffer from the same suffering you have inflicted on others, that's only fair
1298	Twenty-Four Seven: At any time
1299	Twist the Knife (in Deeper): Make someone's suffering worse

1300	Twist the Knife (in Deeper): Make someone's suffering worse
1301	Two a Penny: Ordinary, inexpensive
1302	Two Peas in A Pod: Two people who are very similar in appearance
1303	Thank God It's Friday (TGIF): Let's be happy that the workweek is over!
1304	That Ship Has Sailed: That opportunity has passed.
1305	That's Music to My Ears: I am very happy to hear this.
1306	That's a Stretch: What you are suggesting is very difficult to believe; I am very skeptical
1307	That's All She Wrote: That was the end of the story.
1308	The Apple Never Falls Far From the Tree: Family characteristics are usually inherited
1309	The Birds and the Bees: Human sexuality and reproduction
1310	The Cat Is Out of the Bag: The secret has been revealed.
1311	The Coast Is Clear: We are unobserved; it is safe to proceed.
1312	The Cherry On the Cake: The final thing that makes something perfect
1313	The Deck Is (The Cards Are): Stacked Against You Unfavorable conditions exist.
1314	The Jig Is Up: A secret illicit activity has been exposed; your trickery is finished
1315	The More Things Change, The More They Stay The Same: Although something may seem superficially new, it has not altered the basic situation.
1316	The Only Game in Town: The sole option for a particular service.
1317	The Powers That Be: People in charge, often used when the speaker does not want to identify them.
1318	The Real McCoy: A genuine item
1319	The Story Has Legs: People are continuing to pay attention to the story.
1320	The Time is Ripe: If you say that the time is ripe, you mean that it is a suitable point for a particular activity
1321	The Walls Have Ears We: may be overheard; be careful what you say
1322	The Walls Have Ears: We may be overheard; be careful what you say
1323	The Whole Enchilada: All of something.
1324	The Whole Shebang: Everything, all the parts of something
1325	The World Is Your Oyster: You have many opportunities and choices.

1326	There But For The Grace Of God Go I: I could easily have done what that person did.
1327	There's More Than One Way to Skin a Cat: There's more than one way of achieving a certain goal.
1328	There's No Such Thing as a Free Lunch: Nothing is given to you without some expectation of something in return.
1329	Thin On The Ground: Rare, seldom encountered
1330	Think Big: Consider ambitious plans; avoid becoming overly concerned with details
1331	Think Outside the Box: Try to solve a problem in an original way; think creatively
1332	Think Tank: A group of experts engaged in ongoing studies of a particular subject; a policy study group
1333	Think Tank: A group of experts engaged in ongoing studies of a particular subject; a policy study group
1334	Third Rail: A topic so sensitive that it is dangerous to raise. This is especially used in political contexts
1335	Third Time's a Charm: Even if you fail at something twice, you may well succeed the third time.
1336	Thirty-Thousand-Foot View: A very broad or general perspective
1337	This Has (Person X) Written All Over It: [Person X] would really like or be well suited to this.
1338	This Is Not Your Father's ____: This item has been much updated from its earlier versions.
1339	Three Sheets to the Wind: Very drunk
1340	Through the Grapevine: Via gossip
1341	Through Thick and Thin: In good times and bad
1342	Throw a Wet Blanket on (Something): Discourage plans for something
1343	Throw a Wrench Into: To sabotage; to cause to fail
1344	Throw Caution to the Wind: To act in a daring way, without forethought
1345	Throw Down the Gauntlet: To issue a challenge
1346	Throw Elbows: Be combative; be aggressive (physically or figuratively)
1347	Throw in the Towel: To give up, admit defeat

1348	Throw Someone for a Loop: Deeply surprise someone; catch someone off guard
1349	Throw Someone Under the Bus: Sacrifice someone else's interests for your own personal gain
1350	Throw the Baby Out with the Bath Water: Eliminate something good while discarding the bad parts of something
1351	Throw the Baby Out with the Bath Water: To discard something valuable or important while disposing of something worthless
1352	Throw The Book At: Prosecute legally as strongly as possible
1353	Throw the Fight: Intentionally lose a contest, usually in collusion with gamblers
1354	Throw the Game: Intentionally lose a contest, usually in collusion with gamblers
1355	Throw the Match: Intentionally lose a contest, usually in collusion with gamblers
1356	Thumbs-Up: Approval
1357	Train Wreck: Anything that develops in a disastrous way
1358	Trash Talk: Insults directed at one's opponent in a sporting event or contest
1359	Tread Water: Maintain a current situation without improvement or decline
1360	Trial Balloon: A test of someone's or the public's reaction
1361	Trip the Light Fantastic: Dance well; do ballroom dancing

Idioms (U)

List of useful English idioms that start with U.

1362	U Turn: A complete change of opinion, direction, etc.
1363	Ugly Duckling: An awkward child or young person who grows into a beautiful person
1364	Under (Below) the Radar: Not generally perceived, below popular consciousness
1365	Under Someone's Spell: Fascinated, entranced by someone
1366	Under the Impression: Believing something, perhaps mistakenly
1367	Under the Table: Without being officially recorded

1368	Under the Weather: Feeling ill
1369	Under the Weather: Not feeling well
1370	Under Wraps: Temporarily hidden, secret
1371	University of Life: Difficult real-life experience, as opposed to formal education
1372	Until the Cows Come Home: For a long time
1373	Until You're Blue in the Face: For a long time with no results
1374	Up a Creek: In a very bad situation
1375	Up for Grabs: Available
1376	Up for Grabs: Available for anyone
1377	Up in Arms: Angry, protesting (usually said of a group)
1378	Up in the Air: Not yet decided
1379	Up to One's Neck: Nearly overwhelmed
1380	Up to Scratch: Meeting a basic standard of competence or quality
1381	Up to Snuff: Meeting a basic standard
1382	Up the Ante: Raise the stakes; increase the importance of something under discussion
1383	Up the Duff: Pregnant
1384	Upset the Apple Cart: To disorganize or spoil something, especially an established arrangement or plan
1385	Use One's Head: To think, to have common sense

Idioms (V)

List of useful English idioms that start with V.

1386	Vale of Tears: The world in general, envisioned as a sad place; the tribulations of life
1387	Vicious Circle: A situation in which an attempt to solve a problem makes the original problem worse.
1388	Victory Lap: Visible public appearances after a victory or accomplishment
1389	Virgin Territory: Something that has never been explored, physically or intellectually

1390

Vote with One's Feet: To physically depart from something as a way of showing disapproval

Idioms (W)

List of useful English idioms that start with W. **Waiting in the Wings:** Ready to

1391	assume responsibilities but not yet active, ready to become a successor
1392	Waka-Jumping: Change political parties (said of politicians themselves)
1393	Wake Up and Smell the Coffee: Stop deluding yourself
1394	Wake Up on the Wrong Side of the Bed: Be grumpy or ill-humored. Generally used in past tense
1395	Walk on Eggshells: To have to act very sensitively in order to avoid offending someone
1396	Walk the Plank: Be forced to resign a position
1397	Wandering Eye: A tendency to look at and desire women or men other than one's committed romantic partner
1398	Wandering Eye: A tendency to look at and desire women or men other than one's committed romantic partner
1399	Wash Your Hands of (Something): Decline to take further responsibility; refuse to be involved with something anymore
1400	Water Under the Bridge: Something in the past that's no longer worth worrying about
1401	Watering Hole: A place where alcoholic beverages are served, a bar
1402	Weekend Warrior: Someone who has an office job but enjoys contact sports on weekends; a member of a military reserve force (whose exercises are typically on weekends)
1403	We'll Cross That Bridge: When We Come to It We'll deal with that problem if and when it comes up
1404	Welsh (Welch) on a Deal: Not observe the terms of an agreement
1405	Wet Behind the Ears: inexperienced, immature, new to something
1406	Wet Behind the Ears: inexperienced, immature, new to something
1407	Wet Blanket: Someone who dampens a festive occasion

1408	Wet Your Whistle: Drink something
1409	What Do You Make of (Him)?: What is your evaluation of this person?
1410	What Goes Around Comes Around: The kind of treatment you give to others will eventually return to you; things go in cycles
1411	What's Good for the Goose Is Good for the Gander: What's OK for a man is OK for a woman, too
1412	When Hell Freezes Over: Never
1413	When In Doubt, Leave It Out: When unsure about something, omit it.
1414	When in Rome, Do as the Romans Do: When you visit a new place, follow the customs of the people there
1415	When It Rains, It Pours: Problems tend to come in groups.
1416	When Pigs Fly: Never
1417	When the Chips Are Down: When a situation becomes urgent or difficult
1418	Where (When) the Rubber Meets the Road: Meets the Road In reality; where an idea meets a real-world test
1419	Where There's a Will, There's a Way: If you have a strong desire to accomplish something, you will achieve it even in the face of considerable odds.
1420	Where There's Smoke, There's Fire: If there is typical evidence of something, the most likely explanation is that it is actually occurring.
1421	Whisper Sweet Nothings (in Someone's Ear): Speak meaningless romantic utterances
1422	Whistle in the Dark: To be unrealistically confident or brave; to talk about something of which one has little knowledge
1423	Whistle Past the Graveyard: Remain optimistic despite dangers; be clueless
1424	Whistling Dixie: Being unrealistically optimistic
1425	White Elephant: An unwanted item that is difficult to sell or dispose of
1426	Who's She, the Cat's Mother?: Why does she have such a high opinion of herself?
1427	Wild Goose Chase: An impossible or futile search or task
1428	Window Dressing: A misleading disguise intended to present a favorable impression
1429	Window Shop: To look at merchandise in a store without intending to buy it

1430	Witch Hunt: An organized attempt to persecute an unpopular group of people and blame them for a problem.
1431	With Bells On: Eagerly, willingly, and on time.
1432	Work One's Fingers to the Bone: Work very hard over an extended period
1433	Worn to a Frazzle: Exhausted, completely worn out
1434	Wouldn't Be Caught Dead: Would absolutely not allow myself to do this
1435	Writing (Handwriting) on the Wall: Hints of coming disaster

Idioms (Y)

List of useful English idioms that start with Y.

1436	Year In, Year Out: Annually without change
1437	You Can Lead a Horse to Water, but You Can't Make It Drink: It's very hard to force someone to do something against his or her will.
1438	You Can Say That Again!: I agree totally!
1439	You Can Take It to the Bank: I absolutely guarantee this
1440	You Can't Judge a Book by Its Cover: You can't know people (or things) well by their external appearances.
1441	You Can't Make an Omelet (Omelette): Without Breaking
1442	You Can't Make Fish of One and Fowl of the Other: People must be treated equally.
1443	You Know the Drill: You are already familiar with the procedure.
1444	You Snooze, You Lose: If you delay or are not alert, you will miss opportunities
1445	Young at Heart: Having a youthful outlook, regardless of age
1446	Your Guess Is as Good as Mine: I don't know; I have no idea
1447	Your Mileage May Vary: You may get different results. This does not necessarily refer to a car, although it may.
1448	Your Number Is Up: You are going to die (or suffer some bad misfortune or setback)
1449	You're Driving Me Nuts: To make someone giddy or crazy
1450	Yours Truly: Me

Idioms (Z)

List of useful English idioms that start with Z.

1451	Zero In On: Focus closely on something; take aim at something
1452	Zig When One Should Be Zagging: To make an error; to choose an incorrect course
1453	Zip One's Lip: Be quiet