

# Idioms & Proverbs

Just a few Idioms, Proverbs & Quotations are given here. Just cram them to enhance your English speaking skills.

## Idioms ( मुहावरे, बोलियाँ )

1	Abide by	Adhere to, To follow (पालन करना)	I always abide by the rules.
2	Above board	Honest & transparent (सच्चा व ईमानदार)	He is above board in the employee selection.
3	An axe to grind	Selfish (स्वार्थी)	Ram has his own axe to grind.
4	Apple pie order	In perfect order (सलीके से, अच्छी तरीके से)	Everything in this room is in apple pie order.
5	At a loss	To be confused, (असमंजस में होना )	I am at a loss due to having so many things mixed up.
6	At finger tips	To be an expert (एक्सपर्ट होना)	English grammar rules are at my finger tips.
7	Black sheep	A disgraceful person (कलंक)	He is a black sheep for his family.
8	Blue blood	Noble blood (शाही खून)	I have a blue blood.
9	Break in	Enter with aim of stealing (चोरी के उद्देश्य से घुसना)	He broke in the house.
10	Burning Question	Important question (महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न)	It is a burning question of the day.
11	By leaps and bounds	Rapidly (बहुत तेजी से)	I am preparing this book by leaps and bounds.
12	By virtue of	Because of (के कारण)	By virtue of his power, Security guard didn't stop him.
13	To bank upon	To depend (निर्भर होना)	I bank upon my Dad for everything.
14	To bring to book	To face the risk (खतरा मोल लेना)	His name is brought to book now.
15	Burn the candle in both ends	To waste everything (सब कुछ नष्ट कर देना)	He had lots of money but he burnt the candle in both ends and now, he has nothing.
16	Bury the hatchet	To forget a quarrel (विवाद को खत्म कर देना)	I have buried the hatchet.
17	Capital punishment	Punishment of Death (मृत्युदंड)	That terrorist has got capital punishment now.

18	Close shave	A narrow escape (बाल-2 बच निकलना)	It was a close shave; otherwise I would have died.
19	To catch tarter	To find the better competitor (शेर को सवाशेर मिलना)	Don't think yourself over smart. You will also catch a tarter some or the other day.
20	Break the ice	To remove the silence (चुप्पी तोड़ना)	Everything was quiet. Suddenly, I asked a question to Ram and broke the ice.
21	Cut no ice	No effect (कोई प्रभाव न पड़ना)	Your flattery can't cut any ice as he is a professional guy.
22	A dead letter	No longer in use (प्रयोग होना बन्द हो जाना)	Radio is a dead letter now.
23	Dark horse	A strange competitor	He might turn out to be a dark horse so be cautious.
24	Eye wash	To deceit (धोखा देना)	He washed my eyes and just escape in the guise of an old man.
25	By fits & starts	Irregularly (अनियमित तरीके से)	I am unhappy as the project is being prepared by fits and starts.
26	Fall flat	Collapse (टूटना, गिरना)	Share market has suddenly fallen flat.
27	For good	For keeps (हमेशा के लिए)	You can take this book for good.
28	To grease the palm	To bribe (घूस देना)	I greased the palm of that waiter. There is no need to grease policemen's palm if you strictly abide by the law.
29	Hale & hearty	Healthy and strong (स्वस्थ)	All the members of my family are hale and hearty.
30	Hard up	Financial difficulty (पैसे की किल्लत)	I am hard up at this time but hoping to receive good money in near future.
31	In a nut shell	As a summery (अन्त में)	In a nut shell, I would say that the corruption is the root cause of economic slowdown in India.
32	In the guise of	In the dress (भेष में)	He escaped in the guise of a politician.
33	In vogue	In fashion (फैशन में)	This kind of shirt is in vogue.
34	Look blue	Look nervous (नर्वस दिखना या लगना)	Don't look blue. Be confident. All is well.

35	Lead a cat & dog life	Quarrelling life (झगड़ालू ज़िन्दगी)	I don't want to lead a cat & dog life.
36	Let bygones be bygones	To ignore past (जो बीत गया सो बीत गया )	Forget the pass. Let bygones be bygones.
37	Man of street	Ordinary man (आम आदमी)	We are men of street so we shouldn't forget our limitations
38	Man of letters	A scholar (विद्वान)	Pt. Nehru was a man of letters.
39	Make a mountain of mole hill	To exaggerate (बात को बढ़ा चढ़ाकर बताना)	Whatever you appreciate, you actually make a mountain of mole hill.
40	Nook and corner	Each corner (कोना कोना या चप्पा चप्पा)	Betel sellers are at every nook and corner these days.
41	Once for all	Finally, At the end (अन्त में)	Once for all, I conclude "Love is something without which we are incomplete".
42	Point blank	Frankly (बिना हिचकिचाहट के)	He replied to me point blank.
43	A rough diamond	An illiterate but noble (अनपढ़ लेकिन गुणी)	He is a rough diamond that's why even if he is illiterate; he has reached to this amplitude in business.
44	Red tapism	Too many official formalities (बहुत सारी औपचारिकताएँ)	The problem with government departments is too much red tapism.
45	To run down	Weak in health (तबियत खराब होना)	He is run down in health these days that's why he is not coming to school.
46	A sharp tongue	A bitter tongue (कड़वा बोलने वाला)	He speaks only truth that's the reason he is said to be having a sharp tongue.
48	A stumbling block	An obstacle (रोड़ा, रास्ते का काँटा)	Financial hard up is a stumbling block for us.
49	Sink differences	To forget differences (मनमुटाव खत्म कर देना)	I have sunk differences a long back.
50	To split hairs	To go into minute details (बारीकी तक घुसना)	Don't split hairs of this matter.
51	To standby	To support, To help (साथ देना)	I will always stand by you; be it a happy time or a grief.
52	A white lie	A harmless lie (झूठ जो नुकसान न पहुँचाये)	Sometimes in life, you have to tell a white lie.
53	To win laurels	To win fame (फेमस हो जाना)	Rahul has won laurels due to this social welfare organization.

54	To wind up	To bring to an end (समाप्त करना)	I am going to wind up the discussion now.
55	A bosom friend	A close friend (खास दोस्त)	He has been a bosom friend of mine since childhood.
56	En route	On the way (रास्ते में)	Dehradun is en route when you go to Shimla from Delhi.
57	Hither and thither	Here and there (यहाँ वहाँ)	Why are your clothes lying hither and thither?
58	In vain	Useless (निरर्थक, बेकार)	Our endeavor will not go in vain.
60	Rank and file	Common people (आम आदमी)	Luxury is mostly not for rank and file people.
61	Look down upon	To hate (नफरत करना या नीचा समझना)	I never look down upon the poor.

### **Proverbs (कहावतें)**

नीचे कुछ कहावतें दी गयी हैं, इन्हें याद कर लीजिए –

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| 1. A bad man is better than a bad name.                | बद अच्छा बदनाम बुरा।                           |
| 2. A burnt child dreads the fire.                      | दूध का जला छाँछ भी फूँक-2 कर पीता है।          |
| 3. A diamond cuts a diamond.                           | लोहा लोहे को काटता है।                         |
| 4. A friend in need is a friend indeed.                | ज़रूरत में जो काम आये, वही असली दोस्त है।      |
| 5. A honey tongue, a heart of gale.                    | मधुर वाणी, दगाबाज की निशानी।                   |
| 6. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.            | अधूरा ज्ञान खतरनाक होता है।                    |
| 7. A man is known by the company he keeps.             | मनुष्य अपनी संगति से पहचाना जाता है।           |
| 8. A nine day's wonder.                                | चार दिन की चाँदनी।                             |
| 9. A rotten apple injures its companions.              | एक गन्दी मछली सारे तालाब को गन्दा कर देती है।  |
| 10. All is well that ends well.                        | अन्त भला तो सब भला।                            |
| 11. All that glitters is not gold.                     | हर चमकने वाली चीज़ सोना नहीं होती।             |
| 12. Barking dogs seldom bite.                          | भौंकने वाले कुत्ते काटते नहीं।                 |
| 13. Beauty needs no ornaments.                         | सौंदर्य को आभूषणों की ज़रूरत नहीं।             |
| 14. Beggars are not choosers.                          | दान की बछिया के दाँत नहीं गिने जाते।           |
| 15. Beauty is in the eyes of beholder.                 | खूबसूरती देखने वाले की आँखों में होती है।      |
| 16. Between two stools, we come to the ground.         | धोबी का कुत्ता घर का न घाट का।                 |
| 17. Fool to others, to himself a sage.                 | अपने मुँह मियाँ मिट्टू होना।                   |
| 18. Let bygones be bygones.                            | जो बीत गया सो बीत गया।                         |
| 19. Many a little makes a mickle.                      | बूँद बूँद से घड़ा भरता है।                     |
| 20. Tit for tat / word for word / measure for measure. | जैसे को तैसा।                                  |
| 21. To make a mountain of a mole hill.                 | राई का पहाड़ बनाना।                            |
| 22. Too much courtesy, too much craft.                 | मधुर वाणी, दगाबाज की निशानी।                   |
| 23. Prosperity gains friends and Adversity tries them. | अमीरी दोस्त बनाती है और गरीबी उन्हें परखती है। |
| 24. Poverty breeds contempt. / Poverty breeds strife.  | गरीबी झगड़े की जड़ होती है।                    |
| 25. Limit your spendings to your earnings.             | ज़ितनी लम्बी चादर हो उतने ही पैर फैलाने चाहिए। |