

Phrases

Idioms are words, phrases, or expressions that are either grammatically unusual. Example: “Long time, no see”, or their meaning cannot be taken literally. Example: “It’s raining cats and dogs!” This expression does not mean that cats and dogs are falling from the sky, but it is a metaphorical expression (word picture) that means that it is raining very heavily.

What are idioms?

An Idiom (also called idiomatic expression) is an expression, word, or phrase that don’t mean exactly what the words say. They have, however, hidden meanings. Idioms are phrases that mean something different than what the words say.

Example:

- Time flies quickly when I’m swimming in the pool.
- Of course, clocks don’t have wings and time can’t fly through the air.
- Time flies is an idiom that means time goes by quickly.

Idioms with Meanings and Sentences

Idioms	Meaning	Sentences
ABC	The elementary knowledge	I do not know even the ABC of cricket.
Apple of one’s eye	Valuable things	My daughter is the apple of my eye.
Apple of discord	Something which causes strife	This house is an apple of discord between the brothers.
A bed of roses	An altogether agreeable position or situation	Life is not a bed of roses.
A bone of contention	Something which causes a quarrel	Kashmir is a bone of contention between India and Pakistan.
A bosom friend	A very intimate friend	Hold him everything because he is my bosom friend.
Bread and butter	Material welfare	Ordinary men think more of their daily bread and butter.

A brown study	a dream study	I startled him from his brown study.
Castles in the air	Visionary schemes	One who does nothing more than building castles in the air cannot achieve much.
Chicken hearted	With no courage	Thieves are normally chicken-hearted.
Crocodile tears	Hypocritical tears	He shed crocodile tears in front of the teachers.
Eyewash	Pretense	The sympathy of the political leaders for the poor is a mere eyewash.
A feather in one's cap	An honor	A century in a test match is a feather in anyone's cap.
A herculean task	Work requiring great effort	The conquest of Everest without oxygen was a herculean task.
An itching palm	A greedy disposition	He had an itching palm and sold offices for gold to the undeserving.
A man of letters	A literary man	Nehru was a man of letters.