

The most commonly used idioms and the origin of idiomatic expressions in English language

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Annotation. This article investigates the usage of idiomatic expressions in English language, shows usage of them in everyday conversation, shows a number of most commonly used idiomatic expressions and the meaning of them. English people use some idioms in their everyday speech while interacting with their family members, colleague, friends and so on including daily conversation. They can be called as “The most commonly used idioms of English people”. I have tried to show a small number of them. Besides them, I have learned some idioms used by famous writers in his works including the names of animals and origin of some idiomatic expressions.

Key words: The role of idioms in learning language, idiomatic expressions, commonly used idioms, written and oral English, types of idiomatic expressions, examples of idioms, historical works, idioms of other works of literature, origin of idiom, animal’s name in idiomatic expressions.

Introduction. Idioms, proverbs, and phrases are common in everyday English. They are frequently encountered with both written and spoken English. Even though idioms may not make sense literally, you will have to learn the meaning and application of each one. While this may appear to be a lot of effort, studying idioms is enjoyable, especially in comparison English idioms to expressions in your own language. Idioms can help you enhance your conversational abilities by demonstrating to native speakers that you grasp the idiom's cultural meaning and context. One may more practice this during English language learning courses, the more comfortable and secure one will feel with conversational talents .

Main part. As every language has it’s own characteristics, in English language we can learn English idioms including idioms of commonly used, idiomatic expressions of work, nature, love, life and so on. Here, I have looked out some commonly used idiomatic expressions in English:

Think outside the box- try to solve problem in an original way.

Catch someone’s eye- attract someone’s attention.

Example: Today your look is best. You have caught my eye, really!

Tie the knot- to get married. She will tie the knot, tomorrow.

Break the habit-to stop doing something that is a habit, especially something bad or harmful
My son beats his brother. He has to break this habit.

All in all-all things are considered. Example: Every principle is all in all in school syllabus.

An eyewash- cheating. Example: His tears were nothing but an eyewash.

A dime a dozen- Something common.

An arm and leg- expensive. This house costs an arm and leg.

To cry over spilt milk-to express vain regrets for what cannot be recovered or undone. Example, you made a mistake, but there is no use crying over spilt milk.

Hold your horses- wait. Example, She will come after 20 minutes, please, hold your horses.

Break a leg!- used to wish good luck especially, to a performer.

When pigs fly- something that will never happen.

When pigs fly my sons tidy up the home.

Many other authors used idioms or used established idioms to great effect in their writings. Idioms are frequently used in dialogue to help make it more authentic and to clarify a character's personality, education, or background. Here are some additional idioms from classic literature:

Love is blind- first seen in writing in Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales" - "For love is blind all day, and may not see" - this phrase means that true love is really not superficial, and it also encompasses the idea that love might come at any time.

White elephant- something that cost a lot of money but has no useful purpose.

Origin. White elephants were previously adored in Thailand, and the animal even graced the country's flag until 1917, but they were also used as a sort of subtle punishment. According to mythology, if a Siamese king was angry by an underling or rival, the king would give him a white elephant as a gift. While the creatures were supposedly a prize, they were extremely costly to feed and shelter, and caring for one often put the receiver into financial disaster. Although it's unclear whether any specific monarch gave such a passive-aggressive gift, the term has since evolved to apply to any burdensome item, pachyderm or otherwise.

Crocodile tears- false or affected tears.

Origin. The term "crocodile tears" is now used to indicate a display of superficial or artificial sorrow, but it comes from a medieval idea that crocodiles shed tears of sadness while killing and devouring their prey. The legend derives from a book called "The Travels of Sir John Mandeville," which was written in the 14th century. The tome chronicles a courageous knight's experiences throughout his alleged journeys through Asia, and it was a huge hit upon its initial appearance. Among the book's many lies is a description of crocodiles that says, "These serpents sley men, and eat them sobbing, and they have no tongue".

Die hard-if a belief or way of behaving dies hard, it takes a long time to disappear, and is not given up easily: Old habits die hard.

Origin. While the phrase "diehard" now usually refers to someone who is a firm believer in a certain set of principles, it initially had a number of considerably more literal connotations. The word was first used in the 1700s to characterize convicted persons who struggled the most during their execution by hanging. After the Battle of Albuera in the Napoleonic Wars in 1811, the phrase became even more common. "Stand your ground and die hard... make the enemy pay dear for everyone of us!" a wounded British officer called William Inglis allegedly urged his unit ahead during the battle. During the conflict, Inglis' 57th Regiment suffered 75% losses, earning the nickname "the Die hards." Spill the beans- To leak a secret.

Origin. This one is a little tough because there isn't a simple answer. However, most experts agree that this is most likely derived from an ancient Greek voting system involving beans. People would cast their votes by placing one of two colored beans in a vase, with white indicating yes and black or brown indicating nay. This meant that if someone spilled the beans, the election's secret results would be exposed sooner than planned. As a result, spilling the beans is synonymous with disclosing confidential information.

Feeling under the weather- To feel ill.

Origin. This idiom is thought to have nautical origins. A sailor would go beneath the bow, which is the front part of the boat, when he was sick. This would ideally protect him from harsh conditions, as he was already sick and worried about getting sicker. As a result, an ill sailor could be regarded as "under the weather."

The proof is in the pudding- There is evidence to back up a previously made claim, specifically evidence intrinsic to the object in question.

Origin. Old British expression "the proof of the pudding is in the eating" is most likely to blame for the profusion of definitions. The abbreviated American version is meaningless, whereas the British version makes at least some sense. As a result, the idiom has been used in a variety of settings, with different interpretations of the word. The British version, on the other hand, comes closest to the third option listed above in terms of definition. The word proof was synonymous to test in the 16th century, which is when this idiom is thought to have surfaced. Pudding was also very different back then than it is now. Most likely, it was a minced-meat dish. As a result, the actual test of a pudding dish's success is how it tastes, not its adornment or appearance. In general, the only way to

determine whether something is successful is to use it for its intended purpose. The origins of the more American conceptions are uncertain, however they are widely used.

I have got it in the bag- Secured success.

Origin: despite previous documented uses, the version of this phrase that has become so generally recognized is due to the former New York Giants (now San Francisco Giants) baseball franchise. It all started with a superstition. In 1916, the Giants went on a 26-game winning streak. At the start of each game, a bag containing 72 extra baseballs would be placed on the field. These balls were used to replace any that had been damaged by being knocked into the seats or had become too dirty. During their incredible winning streak, the Giants believed that if they were ahead in the ninth (and last) innings, bringing the ball bag off the field would guarantee their victory because, According with team, they had the game under control.

Conclusion. To conclude, idioms can decorate the writers' works and speakers' speech. They bring concrete meaning including no more two words and may be prepositions. As every word has its origin, idiomatic expressions have their "history" as their origin. It might be connected with some historical events. Or we can come across connection with names of animals like "white elephant", "when pigs fly" and so on.

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