

Idioms

1. **(Have a) sweet tooth** – when you badly feel like having candy or other sweet food (*boní mě mlsná*).
2. **A pain in the neck/ass** – something is terribly annoying, bothering (*osina v zadnici*)
3. **A win-win situation** – A situation that has good results in many ways. *I rent a room in my brother's house. He needs the extra money, I need a room. It's a win-win situation.*
4. **Add insult to injury** – to act in a way that makes a bad or displeasing situation worse (*sál do rány, olej do ohně*).
5. **Actions speak louder than words** – People's intentions can be judged better by what they do than what they say.
6. **Back to square one** – to start over (e.g. because sth. went wrong the first time) (*zpět na začátek, na první políčko*) “*We must go back to square one and start this project again.*”
7. **Barking up the wrong tree** – accusing the wrong person (*plakat nad špatným hrobem*)
8. **Beat around the bush** – avoiding the main issue, not speaking directly about a topic (*chodit kolem horké kaše*).
9. **Call it a day** – to declare the end of a task (*dát si padla*)
10. **Can't judge a book by its cover** – cannot judge something based on appearance (*Nesud' knihu podle obalu.*)
11. **Curiosity killed the cat** – being inquisitive can lead to an unpleasant situation (*nebud' zvědavý, budeš brzy starý*)
12. **Cut to the chase** – to skip some unimportant parts in your speech in order to get to the point. *Hi guys, as we don't have much time here, so I'm going to cut to the chase. We've been having some major problems in the office lately.* (Přejít k jádru věci.)
13. **Give the benefit of the doubt** – Believe someone's statement, without proof. (*podpořit, nesoudit předčasně*)
14. **Go bananas** – to become crazy
15. **Go the extra mile** – To go beyond what is necessary or expected in order to please someone, achieve something, or get something done correctly. *My dentist always goes the extra mile, offering free back massages at the end of a stressful tooth extraction.*
16. **Keep an eye on** – to watch sth. carefully (*nespustit z očí*). *Could you please keep an eye on my bag? I'll be back in no time.*
17. **Like father like son** – when son resembles some father's features (*Jablko nepadá daleko od stromu.*)
18. **Lose your touch** – to lose an ability or talent you once had when dealing with things, people or situations. *"I don't understand why none of the girls here want to speak to me." "It looks like you've lost your touch with the ladies."*
19. **Picture paints a thousand words** – a visual image is far more descriptive than words
20. **Sick and tired** – To be bothered or annoyed by. *She is sick and tired of her dog chewing up her shoes every day.*
21. **Speak of the devil!** – This expression is used when the person you have just been talking about arrives.
22. **So far, so good** – Everything is fine now but there may be problems later on. *So, how the printer working after you fixed it? – So far so good.*
23. **Up my alley** – Suited to one's interests. *I'm sure Dave can fix your car—mechanical things like that are really up his alley.*
24. **To be Greek to someone** – hard to understand (*španělská vesnice*). “*English language is Greek to me.*”
25. **Tip of the iceberg** – The small easily visible part of a larger problem. *The fact that Carrie is dating a member of the mafia is just the tip of the iceberg; she's also smuggling contraband into the country.*
26. **(It's) raining cats and dogs** – heavy rain
27. **(It's a) piece of cake** – the task or activity we are doing is very easy (*hračka, brkačka*).
28. **Cry over spilt milk** – being upset/sad about an accident (*brečet nad rozlitym mlékem*) “*Don't cry over spilt milk. It's too late now.*”
29. **Hit the... books** – start learning (e.g. before an exam). “*Sorry but I can't watch the game with you tonight, I have to hit the books. I have a huge exam next week!*”
- hay, sack (*jít do hajan*); ceiling (*rozžlobit se*); the nail on the head (*břebčec na hlavíčku*); the bottle (*začít chlastat*); the bull's eye (*trefit do černého*); the mark (*uspět, trefit se do černého*); the road (*vyrážet na cestu*)
30. **Up in the air** – things are uncertain or unsure. Definite plans have not been made yet. (*Je to ve hvězdách.*) “*Jen, have you set a date for the wedding yet?*” “*Not exactly, things are up in the air and we're not sure if our families can make it on the day we wanted. Hopefully we'll know soon and we'll let you know as soon as possible.*”
31. **Ring a bell** – sth. sounds familiar (you have a feeling you might have heard it before). “*Hmmm, I'm not sure, but that name rings a bell. Was she the one who went to Paris last year?*”
32. **Knock on wood** – one is doing or intending to do so, in order to avoid "tempting fate" after making a favorable prediction or boast.
33. **Kill two birds with one stone** – a single action knocks out two tasks or responsibilities--accomplish two different things at the same time (*zabít dvě mouchy jednou ranou*). “*Why not go to the post office on your way to the mall and kill two birds with one stone?*”
34. **Put two and two together** – to make a conclusion based on facts (*dát si dvě a dvě dohromady*). “*When he told me about it I put two and two together.*”
35. **Costs an arm and a leg** – Something costs a lot of money, so it would be as painful (for your wallet) as cutting off an arm and a leg to pay for it! (*prodat levinu*) “*Matt, I really want that car, but it costs an arm and a leg. I don't think I should get it for now.*”
36. **Kick the bucket** – a euphemistic meaning 'to die' (*zaklepat/natáhnout bačkory*)
37. **The black sheep of the family** – not a very popular/successful/well-behaved family member (*černá ovce rodiny*) “*My brother is the black sheep of the family.*”

38. **Run in the family** – a feature or ability that appears in more members of family (*dědičné*) “*Art runs in the family, my father is a painter, my mother is a sculptor and my brother and I can draw very well.*”
39. **Cunning as a fox** – very cunning (*mazaný jak liška, po čertech chytrý*)
40. **Storm in a teacup** – a lot of unnecessary anger and worry about an unimportant matter (*bouře ve sklenici vody; z komára velblouda*)
41. **Break a leg** – good luck (*Zlom vaz*)
42. **Hold your horses** – to tell sb to stop and consider carefully their decision or opinion (before they act) (*Ne tak zhurta*).
43. **Alive and kicking** – to continue to be well, healthy and successful. (*žít a zdráv*)
44. **(To arrive) safe and sound** – to reach a place in good health and unharmed. (*žít a zdráv*)
45. **Bear fruit** – to yield successful results (*Nést ovoce*). *He thinks his new plan will undoubtedly bear fruit.*
46. **Music to my ears** – something that is very pleasant to hear (e.g. good news). *The news about his promotion was music to his ears.*
47. **All eyes and ears** – attentive. *The team was all eyes and ears as the coach explained the challenges ahead.* **All ears** – listening carefully (*jsem jedno velké ucho*)
48. **Fingers crossed** – wish for good luck (*držet palce/pěstí*). *Will you keep your fingers crossed for me while I'm taking the exam?*
49. **Thumbs-up** – approval. *It really pleased me that the boss gave me a thumbs-up on my presentation.*
50. **Get carried away** – to become overly enthusiastic (*nechat se unést*). *Sure, you can invest a little money, but don't get carried away.*
51. **Steal someone's thunder** – taking attention or glory away from someone else (*připravit někoho o efekt*).
52. **On pins and needles** – feeling nervous or worried (*Na trn*).
53. **Pull someone's leg** – to trick or fool someone (*tahat za nos*).
54. **Let the cat out of the bag** – to ruin a surprise or tell a secret (*vybreptat to*).
55. **All bark and no bite** – all talk and no action (*skutek utek*).
56. **On the same page** – when everyone agrees on the same thing. (*Vidíme to stejně. Souhlasíme.*)
57. **(We are) all in the same boat** – to have the same problem (*na stejné lodi*).
58. **Bite more than you can chew** – trying to do too much (*vzít si příliš velké sousto*).
59. **Your guess is as good as mine** – To have no idea, do not know the answer to a question
60. **Cut someone some slack** – To not judge someone too harshly; be lenient with sb. *Hey. Cut me some slack. I was really busy with my frog hunting business last week and forgot to call. I'm sorry!*
61. **Finding a needle in a haystack** – Virtually impossible to find (*Najít jehlu v kupce sena*). *Trying to get a new job these days is like trying to find a needle in a haystack.*
62. **To have the last laugh** – to have the final success in an argument or situation, especially after previous defeat or doubt of others. (*kdo se směje naposled...*) *Her book was rejected by ten publishers, but she had the last laugh. She published it herself, and now it's a bestseller.*
63. **Zip your lip** – be quiet (about). (*Pusu na zámeček*) *Ok, I'll tell you the secret about her, but zip your lip about it!*
64. **Get cold feet** – To experience reluctance or fear (*dostat starch, zneróznět*). *I was ready to dive into the pool from the high board, but I got cold feet and couldn't – It's do it.*
65. **Head start** – An advantage over everyone else (*náskok*). *You've got a head start over/another's trying to get the job because you've got relevant work experience.*
66. **Heads up** – Get ready! Be prepared; an update. *Heads up! The vice-president is visiting the office today, and I want everyone here. Let me give you a little heads-up.*
67. **Off the top of my head** – Guessing or estimating without full information. (*napadá mě*) *Off the top of my head, I'd say the presentation will take you about four hours to finish.*
68. **Rub sth. in someone's face** – Humiliate someone by repeating and criticizing his or her mistake (*omlátit o blavu, připomínat*) *I really screwed up my speech, and Caroline keeps rubbing the disaster in my face.*
69. **By/through word of mouth** – Via personal communications rather than written media (*ústně*). *I heard about this new K-pop singer through word of mouth – I haven't even seen an ad on Facebook.*
70. **A drop in the bucket/ocean** – a very small or unimportant amount (*kapka v moři*)
71. **A penny for your thoughts** – A way of asking what someone is thinking (*Načpak asi myslíš?*)
72. **Bed of roses** – an easy, comfortable situation, an easy life (*na růžích ustláno*)
73. **Big mouth** – it's hard for such a person to keep a secret. *Don't tell him that, he's got a big mouth.*
74. **Big fish** – to be the boss, the leader, a person of importance. (*velká ryba*)
75. **Big-hearted** – a very kind and generous person (*Má velké srdce*)
76. **Blows off steam** – to do some activities in order to get rid of stress/anger. (*upustit páru*) “*Why is Nick so angry and where did he go?*” “*He had a fight with his brother, so he went for a run to blow off steam.*”
77. **Chicken/chicken out** – to be too afraid to do sth. (*vzít do zaječích*) “*He called me a chicken because I was too scared to climb that tree.*” “*You'll have to marry her, you can't chicken out again this time.*”
78. **Cross that bridge when you come to it** – Deal with a problem if and when it becomes necessary, not before (*Nestahuj kalhoty když brod je ještě daleko*).
79. **Cry me a river** – To tell a moaning person to shut up and that you don't care. *You can cry me a river, but you're still not going to that party tonight!*
80. **Cry wolf** – To ask for help when you don't need it (*keřčet na poplach, zhytečně*). *You have cried wolf so many times that no one believes you when you're really hurt.*

81. **Cut corners** – To skip certain steps in order to do something as easily or cheaply as possible, usually to the detriment of the finished product or end result. (*obejít, ochcat něco*). *Don't cut corners on this project—it has to be done thoroughly, no matter the cost. If you cut corners and don't apply a top coat, then your nails probably are going to chip faster.*
82. **Dead-end job** – without prospect of progress (*bez šance na postup*) “*I work as a secretary but it's a dead-end job.*”
83. **Don't put all your eggs in one basket** – don't put all your resources in one possibility. (*sázet na jednoho koně*)
84. **(Have a) nose for** – to have the ability to sense or find something (*mít na něco čich*). *My friend has a nose for news. He should be a news reporter*
85. **(They are) like two peas in a pod** – nearly identical, very similar (*jako vejce vejci*)
86. **(to play the) devil's advocate** – you pretend to disagree with what someone says in order to make the discussion interesting or to make people think hard about an issue. (*děbliv advokát*)
87. **24/7** – Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week; all the time; constantly. *My little sister irritates me 24/7!*
88. **A bitter pill (to swallow)** – an unpleasant situation or information that must be accepted. (*Spolknout hořkou pilulku.*)
89. **A couch potato** – someone who sits around and watches too much TV (*televizní maniak, povaleč*)
90. **A short fuse** – A quick temper (*prchlivost*). *Jamie is known for his short fuse; just a few days ago he screamed at his coach for not letting him play.*
91. **All one** – expression of agreeing or that you're fine with any of the proposals (*naprosto stejně, naprosto jedno*) “*It's all one to me when we meet.*”
92. **Ball is in your court** – It is up to you to make the next decision or step. (*Míč je na tvé straně. Jsi na řadě.*)
93. **Bite the bullet** – obligation to do something unpleasant (*Kousnout do kyselého jablka*)
94. **Bite your tongue** – When you want sb to remain silent (*Držet jazyk za zuby*).
95. **Blessing in disguise** – Something good that isn't recognized at first. (*Štěstí v neštěstí*)
96. **Burn the midnight oil** – To work late into the night, alluding to the time before electric lighting (*Co tu ještě strašiš?!*).
97. **Butterflies in my stomach** – To be nervous. *Liam had butterflies in his stomach before he went on stage to play the violin.*
98. **Drastic times call for drastic measures** – When you are extremely desperate you need to take drastic actions (*Když se kácí les...*).
99. **Draw the line** – To stop; to know the point where something goes from okay to not okay (*udělat tomu konec, nepřistoupit na*). *Now I draw the line at speaking in front of 34,000 people.*
100. **Drive (sb) up a wall** – to make sb mad, irritate. (*Vytáčet někoho*)
101. **Easy does it** – Proceed slowly and carefully. *Easy does it, guys—you're moving a priceless piece of art!*
102. **Eat like a horse** – eat a lot, large quantities (*jíst za tři; jako bumbrlíček*).
103. **Every cloud has a silver lining** – Be optimistic, even difficult times will lead to better days (*Všechno špatné je pro něco dobré*).
104. **See eye to eye** – agree. (*Rozumět si, vycházet spolu*) *I don't see eye to eye with her but she's the boss.*
105. **Far cry from** – Very different from. (*na bony vzdálený*) *Living in the heart of New York City is certainly a far cry from living in the rural countryside.*
106. **Feel a bit under the weather** – Feeling slightly ill. (*Pod psa*.)
107. **Get sth. off your chest** – To talk about something that has been bothering you for a long time; to admit something you have done wrong. *I have to get this off my chest — I copied your answers on the final test.*
108. **Get your ducks in a row** – To take action to become well-organized, prepared, and/or up-to-date. (*Udělat si pořádek, dát se dokupy*) *Make sure Finance gets their ducks in a row before the audit.*
109. **Give sb. a hand** – to help (*podat pomocnou ruku*)
110. **Green thumb** – An expression used to describe someone's affinity/skill at gardening or growing plants. *Jillian has quite a green thumb; look at her tomato patch!*
111. **Guinea pig (GP)** – to allow some kind of test to be performed on sb (*pokusný králik*). *My wife tried a new cookie recipe and I was the guinea pig.*
112. **Hard nut to crack** – a difficult problem to solve (*tvrdý oříšek*)
113. **Last straw** – the last in a series of unpleasant events that finally makes you feel that you cannot continue to accept a bad situation. (*poslední kapka*)
114. **Make a long story short** – Come to the point - leave out details (*abych to zkrátil*)
115. **Off the hook** – to escape a situation of responsibility, obligation, or danger (*mimo nebezpečí*)
116. **On one's mind** – to be thinking about something. *What's on your mind? = Na co myslíš? X in one's mind – What do you have in mind? = Co máš na mysli?*
117. **On the house** – to get a drink (from a bartender) for free (*na účet podniku*). “*Everything is on the house today.*”
118. **Once in a blue moon** – happens very rarely (*jednou za uberský rok*).
119. **Pitch in/Chip in** – to join in, participate in an activity. “*What are you going to buy Sally for her birthday?*” “*I don't know. I don't have much money.*” “*Maybe we can all pitch in and buy her something great.*”
120. **No-brainer/No rocket science** – easy to understand.
121. **Plain as day** – Obvious; clear (*Jasně jako řeka*). *It's plain as day that you're in love with her, so just admit it.*
122. **Play it by ear** – If you play it by ear, you deal with things as they happen, rather than following a plan or previous arrangement. “*Where will we stay in Gloucestershire?*” — “*Oh, I guess a bed-and-breakfast place. We'll have to play it by ear.*”
123. **Play second fiddle** – To be less important. (*Hrát druhé housle*) *I hate playing second fiddle to my sister; she always does things better than I do!*
124. **Pop the question** – propose marriage. *I bought a ring and I'm ready to pop the question to Sophia.*

125. **Pull yourself together** – Calm down and behave normally. (*Dej se dobromady.*) *Pull yourself together, man! Sure, your girlfriend just dumped you and then you got hit by a car, but you can't let those things get you down.*
126. **Rob Peter to pay Paul** – To borrow or take money from one person or source to fund or repay the debt of another (*vyrážet kálin kálinem*). *Never use a credit card to pay a debt—that's just robbing Peter to pay Paul!*
127. **Sit tight** – to wait patiently and take no action until you hear otherwise
128. **Spill the beans** – to reveal someone's secret (*vyzpovít*).
129. **Stab someone in the back** – to hurt someone (esp. who was close to us and trusted us).
130. **Stick your nose into something** – To interfere. *Sharon always sticks her nose into everyone else's business.*
131. **(To hear sth.) straight from the horse's mouth** – Directly from the person involved. *A: "Is our test really getting rescheduled?" B: "Yep, our teacher was ahead of me in the lunch line, so I heard it straight from the horse's mouth."*
132. **Take it easy** – Relax (*Nedělat si těžkou hlavu.*). *I know you're not feeling well, so try to take it easy today.*
133. **Take with a grain of salt** – This means not to take what someone says too seriously.
134. **Taste of your own medicine** – Means that something happens to you, or is done to you, that you have done to someone else
135. **That's the way the cookie crumbles** – that's how it is.
136. **The lights are on but nobody's home** – to describe a person who isn't very smart.
137. **Hear sth through the grapevine** – When sb tells you sth as gossip or a rumor. *Alex lost his job. – Who told you that? – I heard it through the grapevine.*
138. **Twist someone's arm** – to convince sb. to do sth. *"Pretty girls will be there, too? Oh all right, you've twisted my arm, I'll come!"*
139. **When pigs fly** – something that you think will never happen (*na svatého Dyndy; až naprší a uschne*).
140. **You rock!** – You are great. (*Válík*). *Dude, you rock. I wouldn't be able to play it better myself!*
141. **(Comparing) Apples and Oranges** – Of two different classes, not comparable. (*srovnávat jablka a brusky*)