

Cambridge English First

First Certificate in English (FCE)
CEFR Level B2

INTERCAMBIOIDIOMASONLINE

IDIOMS



Intercambioidiomas

Idioms

Idioms are expressions that have much more meaning than the words alone. For example, *to spill the beans* does not mean to drop the beans; it means to reveal a secret to somebody. Idioms can never be tricky at first but with practice they come naturally and reveal a lot about the culture behind a language. For me they are what makes languages fun and interesting.

Idioms are usually the main part of the transition of intermediate vocabulary into advanced level language. You need to incorporate them into your speaking and writing. This way your language will become far more colourful.

At B2 level, idioms are not essential, but they will definitely improve your grade.

To use idioms well, what you need to do is practice using them in contexts. You must associate them with situations that you understand and link them to familiar vocabulary.



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Hobbies and free time

Let off steam – TO UNWIND

Put your feet up – TO RELAX

Take five – TO TAKE A BREAK

Surf the net – USE THE INTERNET

Be on the ball – TO BE ON FIRE (estar en racha)

Jump the gun – TO JUMP AHEAD (precipitarse)

Travel and getting around

Be down to earth – TO BE HUMBLE OR REALISTIC

Go with the flow – TO BE EASY GOING

Have itchy feet – TO WANT TO MOVE OR PROGRESS

Be a globetrotter – TO HAVE TRAVELLED A LOT



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Education and lifestyles

Hit the books – TO STUDY A LOT

Pull an all nighter – TO WORK ALL NIGHT

Be on the mark – TO BE CORRECT

Cover all the bases – TO DO A BIT OF EVERYTHING

Be ahead of the pack – TO BE BETTER THAN OTHER PEOPLE

With flying colours – TO DO SOMETHING WELL

Work and obligations

Work like a dog – TO WORK HARD

Work 9-5 OR Work 24/7 – TO WORK LONG HOURS

Work around the clock – TO WORK LONG HOURS

Be a people person – TO BE SOCIABLE

Be a big fish – TO BE AN IMPORTANT PERSON

Be a go-getter – TO BE AMBITIOUS



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Money and spending

Be a cheapskate – TO BE TIGHT/NOT LIKE SPENDING MONEY

Foot the bill – TO PAY FOR EVERYTHING

Have an eye for – TO BE ABLE TO FIND CERTAIN THINGS WELL

Be pinching pennies – TO NOT HAVE A LOT OF MONEY

Be on the dole – TO BE UNEMPLOYED

Be skint – TO NOT HAVE A LOT OF MONEY

Time

Around the corner – TO BE VERY SOON

In a flash – TO DO SOMETHING FAST

In the nick of time – TO BE JUST IN TIME

Lose track of time – TO NOT KNOW THE TIME

When pigs fly – TO RULE SOMETHING OUT/NEVER

Once in a blue moon – TO DO SOMETHING RARELY



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Eating and drinking

Take with a pinch of salt – NOT TAKE SOMETHING SERIOUSLY

Be a piece of cake – TO BE EASY

Be tough to swallow – TO BE A DIFFICULT SITUATION TO ACCEPT

Take the biscuit – TO BE OUT OF ORDER/UNREASONABLE

Be as easy as pie – TO BE VERY EASY

Spill the beans – TO REVEAL/TELL A SECRET

Pig out – TO EAT A LOT

Not be someone's cup of tea – TO DISLIKE

Health and fitness

Get your heart pumping – TO BECOME ACTIVE

Push yourself – TO MAKE AN EFFORT

Risk life and limb – TO TAKE A HUGE RISK



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People and their lives

Give a hand with sth – TO HELP WITH SOMETHING

Keep an eye on sb – TO OBSERVE SOMETHING

Have a cat nap – TO SLEEP FOR A SHORT TIME

Give the green light – TO GIVE PERMISSION

Be a busy body – TO BE NOSY/ TO GOSSIP ABOUT SOMETHING

Be a know it all – TO THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING

Technological advances

Surf the net – USE THE INTERNET

Blow a fuse – TO BECOME FURIOUS

Pull the plug – TO GIVE UP OR STOP DOING SOMETHING

To make something tick – TO MAKE SOMETHING FUNCTION WELL

Wildlife and the environment

Rain cats and dogs – TO RAIN A LOT

Be bucketing it down – TO RAIN A LOT

Face the facts – TO ACCEPT A REALITY



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Life, crime and society

Let the cat out of the bag – TO REVEAL A SECRET

Smell a rat – TO SENSE SOMETHING IS WRONG

Curiosity killed the cat – TO BE CURIOUS AND GET INTO TROUBLE

Copy cat – TO DO THE SAME AS SOMEONE ELSE

Smell something fishy – TO BE SUSPICIOUS

Design and creativity

Be dressed to kill – TO WEAR GOOD CLOTHES

Dress like a tramp – TO WEAR BAD CLOTHES

See through rose-tinted glasses – TO SEE IN A POSITIVE WAY

Cost an arm and a leg – TO BE EXPENSIVE

Spend an arm and a leg – TO COST AN ARM AND A LEG



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Happiness and relationships

Be over the moon – TO BE VERY HAPPY

Be on cloud noun – TO BE VERY HAPPY

Be in the clouds – TO BECOME DISTRACTED

Jump for joy – TO BE EXCITED

Be an item – TO BE A COUPLE

Tie the knot – TO GET MARRIED

Have butterflies in your stomach – TO BECOME NERVOUS