


**21** IDIOMS

Idioms are special expressions. Below are some common idioms.

Idiom	Meaning
to build castles in the air	to daydream
an all-rounder	a person with the ability to do a number of jobs satisfactorily
to back out	to withdraw from an agreement
to have no backbone	to have no will of one's own
to back up	to assist/support
a bad egg	a worthless person
to keep the ball rolling	to keep things going
his bark is worse than his bite	he threatens people, but is unlikely to carry out his threat
like a bear with a sore head	very bad-tempered
to beat about the bush	to talk in a roundabout way
to make a beeline (for)	to follow a straight line (to a place) in order to get there as quickly as possible
to kill two birds with one stone	to do two jobs with one action
to bite the hand that feeds you	to harm or be ungrateful to somebody who has helped you
to be in black and white	to write it down on paper
one's bread and butter	one's livelihood
to nip it in the bud	to stop something before it can develop
to kick the bucket	to die
to bury the hatchet	to let past sorrows, offences be forgotten
to paddle your own canoe	to do things by yourself
to rain cats and dogs	to rain very heavily
chicken-hearted	weak and cowardly
a chip off the old block	very like the father or mother in looks or behaviour
to have green fingers	to be good at making plants grow
a cock and bull story	a silly and incredible story
to pass with flying colours	to do very well in a test or examination

**20 SIMILES**

A simile is a figure of speech and it compares two things. We use similes to make our writing more interesting.

<p>as agile as a monkey                  as alike as two peas in a pod                  as angry as a wasp                  as beautiful as a rainbow                  as big as an elephant                  as black as coal, pitch                  as blind as a bat                  as bold as brass                  as brave as a lion                  as bright as a button, a new pin                  as bright as day                  as busy as a bee                  as clear as a bell, crystal                  as cold as ice                  as cool as a cucumber                  as crazy as a loon                  as cunning as a fox                  as cute as a button                  as deep as the sea                  as delicate as a flower                  as devoted as a mother                  as dry as a bone, dust                  as dull as dishwater                  as easy as ABC                  as fat as a pig                  as fit as a fiddle                  as flat as a pancake                  as free as a bird                  as fresh as a daisy                  as gentle as a lamb, a dove                  as good as gold                  as graceful as a swan                  as happy as a lark                  as hard as nails                  as heavy as lead, an elephant                  as high as a kite                  as hoarse as a crow                  as hot as hell                  as hungry as a bear, a wolf                  as innocent as a lamb</p>	<p>as large as life                  as light as a feather, air                  as loud as thunder                  as merry as a cricket                  as neat as a pin                  as obstinate as a mule                  as old as the hills                  as pale as death                  as patient as Job                  as playful as a kitten                  as pleased as Punch                  as poor as a church mouse                  as pretty as a picture                  as proud as a peacock                  as pure as snow, a lily                  as quick as a wink, lightning                  as quiet as a mouse                  as sharp as a needle, a razor                  as silent as the grave                  as silly as a goose                  as slippery as an eel                  as slow as a snail                  as slow as a tortoise                  as smooth as silk                  as soft as wool                  as solid as a rock                  as sour as vinegar                  as steady as a rock                  as straight as an arrow                  as strong as a horse, an ox                  as stubborn as a mule                  as sturdy as an oak                  as sure as death                  as sweet as honey                  as tall as a giraffe                  as thin as a rake, a toothpick                  as timid as a rabbit                  as tough as leather, a nail                  as white as snow, a ghost, a sheet                  as wise as Solomon, an owl</p>
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