

# DEFINING THE IDIOM

<u>IDIOM</u>	<u>TRANSLATION</u>	<u>EXAMPLE</u>
<i>A PIECE OF CAKE</i> (also <i>AS EASY AS PIE</i> )	Both expressions are remarkably alike. They mean: <u>easy to do</u> or <u>a cinch</u> .	“I thought the final exam was <u>a piece of cake</u> .”
<i>BACK SEAT DRIVER</i>	A person who gives unwanted advice to the driver of a vehicle.	“You’re distracting me. Don’t be such a <u>back seat driver!</u> ”
<i>BACK TO SQUARE ONE</i>	Start over again at the beginning.	“I thought we made progress, but we’re <u>back to square one</u> .”
<i>BEATING AROUND THE BUSH</i>	Talking excessively without getting to the point.	“Politicians say a lot, but mainly they <u>beat around the bush</u> .”
(get) <i>BENT OUT OF SHAPE</i>	To become very upset about something.	“I know you lost the game, but don’t get so <u>bent out of shape</u> .”
<i>BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE</i>	Frustrating inability to do something because of equal but opposite pressures.	“What shall I do? I’m stuck <u>between a rock and a hard place</u> .”
<i>CATCH-22</i>	A no-win situation in which the outcome will be bad, no matter what happens.	“If I kiss her, I’m in trouble. If I don’t, I’m in worse trouble. It’s a <u>Catch-22</u> .”
<i>CHARLEY HORSE</i>	A muscle cramp, especially in the legs. (The origin is obscure.)	“I can hardly walk because of this stupid, painful <u>charley horse</u> .”
<i>COLD TURKEY</i>	Ending a fixed habit without preparation or tapering off, the way a dead turkey quits.	“He quit his two-pack-a-day smoking habit <u>cold turkey</u> .”
<i>COULDN’T CARE LESS</i> (or <i>COULD CARE LESS</i> )	Although seemingly opposite, both convey the same meaning of not caring at all.	“I <u>couldn’t care less</u> what that tramp had to say about me.”
<i>DEAD RINGER</i>	A person who bears an uncanny natural resemblance to someone else.	“Maria’s new boyfriend is a <u>dead ringer</u> for Mel Gibson.”
<i>DOWN IN THE DUMPS</i>	Not having a good day. Feeling sad, discouraged, depressed.	“Did you see his face? He sure looks <u>down in the dumps</u> today.”
<i>FLY-BY-NIGHT</i>	Dishonest, not to be trusted.	“He invested his money in a <u>fly-by-night</u> Internet company.”

<u>IDIOM</u>	<u>TRANSLATION</u>	<u>EXAMPLE</u>
<b><i>KNOW WHERE SOMEONE IS COMING FROM</i></b>	To understand another person's situation or position on something.	"Don't say another word. I <b><u>know where you're coming from.</u></b> "
<b><i>LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE</i></b>	Don't create problems by reopening old wounds. Leave things be.	"I was going to ask about her ex, but decided to <b><u>let sleeping dogs lie.</u></b> "
<b><i>MAKE A MOUNTAIN OUT OF A MOLEHILL</i></b>	To exaggerate by turning a small problem into a big deal.	"It isn't as bad as it seems. Don't <b><u>make a mountain out of a molehill.</u></b> "
<b><i>MURPHY'S LAW</i></b>	The comical proposition that if anything can go wrong, it will.	"That's why bread always lands butter side down. It's <b><u>Murphy's Law.</u></b> "
<b><i>(in a) NUTSHELL</i></b>	In the fewest possible words, concisely.	"I don't need to know all the details. Just give me the facts <b><u>in a nutshell.</u></b> "
<b><i>ON THE FRITZ</i></b>	Broken, not operating, out of order.	"We can't watch <i>Fear Factor</i> tonight because my TV is <b><u>on the fritz.</u></b> "
<b><i>POKER FACE</i></b>	A face without expression, showing no emotion.	It was impossible to tell what she was thinking. She had a <b><u>poker face.</u></b> "
<b><i>PULLING (someone's) LEG</i></b>	Making a joke by lying and then pretending the lie is true.	"No, you didn't win the lottery. He was just <b><u>pulling your leg.</u></b> "
<b><i>RAINING CATS AND DOGS</i></b>	Nothing to do with animals falling from the sky. It means raining really hard.	"The weather was awful. It was <b><u>raining cats and dogs</u></b> all day long."
<b><i>SHOOT THE BREEZE</i></b> we'll	Idle away the time relaxing and talking, usually with friends.	"If you're not busy later, drop by and sit around and <b><u>shoot the breeze.</u></b> "
<b><i>STILL WET BEHIND THE EARS</i></b>	Inexperienced or naïve.	It's no fun having a new teacher who is <b><u>still wet behind the ears.</u></b> "
<b><i>TWO-FACED</i></b>	Someone who pretends to be a friend but really isn't. Untrustworthy.	"He says nice things to my face, then talks behind my back. He's <b><u>two-faced.</u></b> "
<b><i>UNDER THE WEATHER</i></b>	Not feeling well at the moment, though not seriously ill.	I was fine yesterday, but today I'm a bit <b><u>under the weather.</u></b> "
<b><i>WALK THE TALK</i></b>	Do what you talk about doing. Practice what you preach.	Most often heard as: "If you <b><u>talk the talk</u></b> , you'd better <b><u>walk the walk.</u></b> "