

Almost 600 Common American Idioms

Taken from:

<http://www.paulnoll.com/Books/Clear-English/index.html>

1. She is a peach. (She's sweet and helpful.)
2. He's full of beans. (He's not telling the truth.)
3. It's not my cup of tea. (I don't care for that.)
4. He's full of baloney. (He doesn't know what he's talking about.)
5. It's just sour grapes. (They have resentment.)
6. That's corny. (It's sentimental, old, and not funny anymore.)
7. I'm in a pickle. (I'm in a dilemma.)
8. He brings home the bacon. (He brings home the family money.)
9. She's in a stew. (She's upset.)
10. He's the top banana. (He's the headman.)
11. He's the salt of the earth. (He's a very good person.)
12. She's worth her salt. (She's a valuable employee.)
13. They're two peas in a pod. (If you see one you see the other.)
14. I'm nuts about you. (I'm in love with you.)
15. It's a piece of cake. (It's quite simple.)
16. You can't have your cake and eat it too. (You can't use it and save it.)

17. He's a real ham. (He's just an actor (a bad actor.))
18. It's a hard nut to crack. (It's a difficult problem to solve.)
19. Let's talk turkey. (Let's talk seriously.)
20. He's a bad egg. (He cannot be trusted.)
21. We need to break the ice. (Everyone's a little tense - lets be friendly.)
22. We'll get a baker's dozen. (We'll get 13 items (one extra.))
23. He's got a finger in every pie. (He has many deals going.)
24. You'll have to take potluck. (Be happy with what we have on hand.)
25. She's hard-boiled. (She makes tough deals.)
26. He's the apple of my eye. (He's my favorite person.)
27. He's a rotten egg. (He is a thoroughly evil person.)
28. It's for the birds. (It's a crazy idea.)
29. She eats like a bird. (She eats little or nothing.)
30. He's a wolf in sheep's clothing. (He's a bad guy pretending to be good.)
31. I smell a rat. (Someone has betrayed us.)
32. He's chicken-hearted. (He has no courage.)
33. I could eat a horse. (I'm extremely hungry.)
34. Please don't monkey around. (Get serious and stop playing.)
35. We'll kill two birds with one stone. (One solution solves two problems.)

36. It's three miles as the crow flies. (It's three miles going straight.)
37. Don't cry wolf. (Don't give a false alarm.)
38. It has dog-eared pages. (It's a well-used popular book.)
39. He's the underdog. (He's not the favorite to win.)
40. She's like a fish out of water. (She is not in her area of expertise.)
41. You'll stir up a hornet's nest. (You'll cause a great deal of new problems.)
42. Don't let him get your goat. (Don't let him get you upset.)
43. Don't make a mountain out of a molehill. (Don't make big of something insignificant.)
44. They are packed like sardines. (There is absolutely no room for even one more.)
45. We got a bird's eye view. (We had a very good viewpoint from on high.)
46. We're on a wild-goose chase. (We were chasing something that didn't exist.)
47. It's raining cats and dogs. (It is the heaviest rain I have ever seen.)
48. It's just monkey business. (The business is either his own business or fake.)
49. He'll weasel out. (He'll back out of all agreements.)
50. She'll go ape. (She'll become very upset.)
51. Let's talk turkey. (Let's begin to talk seriously.)

52. Don't let the cat out of the bag. (Don't tell our secret.)
53. Those are crocodile tears. (Those are false tears.)
54. He's a card shark. (He is a professional card player.)
55. We had a whale of a time. (We had a great time.)
56. He drinks like a fish. (He is a heavy alcohol drinker.)
57. I've got a frog in my throat. (I need to clear my throat in order to talk right.)
58. He rolled snake eyes. (His dice had two ones.)
59. She's pig-headed. (She is very stubborn.)
60. It sounds fishy. (It doesn't sound like it's true.)
61. Don't make a hog of yourself. (Don't take more than your share.)
62. Quit horsing around. (Stop being silly and get serious.)
63. He's a rat. (He is not to be trusted.)
64. He ratted on me. (He informed others about my secrets.)
65. She is a stool pigeon. (She informs on everybody.)
66. I can't make heads or tails of it. (I can't understand what you are talking about.)
67. She's no spring chicken. (She is a tough old lady.)
68. She lost her head. (She did something crazy.)
69. He can't keep his head above water. (He's too busy with many things.)

70. That's just off the top of my head. (Here's an idea without too much thought.)
71. She's got her head in the clouds. (Her ideas are not practical.)
72. She's levelheaded. (She's always has good practical ideas.)
73. I've got a lump in my throat. (I am emotionally involved and distressed.)
74. You'd better save your neck. (You must survive this situation.)
75. You better turn the other cheek. (Don't let what they say bother you!)
76. Just swallow your pride. (Forget your pride and solve the problem.)
77. My lips are sealed. (I will never reveal the secret.)
78. It's a slap in the face. (That is an insult.)
79. You can talk until you're blue in the face. (They aren't listening to you.)
80. You must face the music. (Admit your error - solve it and go on.)
81. She's got a big mouth. (She talks too much and says the wrong things.)
82. It's just hand to mouth. (It is a very low cost project.)
83. Keep a stiff upper lip. (Keep trying and you can succeed.)
84. It makes my mouth water. (I think that is a very attractive idea.)

85. It was by word of mouth. (I was told in person.)
86. It leaves a bad taste in my mouth. (I don't feel comfortable with that idea.)
87. It will melt in your mouth. (You will like this idea.)
88. You can save your breath. (They don't listen - they're not open to anything.)
89. She takes my breath away. (She's the most wonderful creature I've ever seen.)
90. I did it by the skin of my teeth. (I just barely got the job done.)
91. It's on the tip of my tongue. (I know it - I just can't say it now.)
92. You'll eat your words. (Any thing you say may come back to haunt you.)
93. She's got a sharp tongue. (Her words are like a sword - they can hurt.)
94. It's my mother tongue. (It is my native language.)
95. It was a slip of the tongue. (I didn't intend to say that.)
96. He said it tongue in cheek. (He was kidding when he said that.)
97. She's tongue-tied. (She's so excited she can't speak.)
98. I only have eyes for you. (You are the object of my affection.)
99. I never want to lay eyes on you. (Go! I never want to see you again.)

100. I've got my eye on you. (I'm watching you - one mistake and you're gone.)
101. He's making eyes at her. (He is flirting with her.)
102. That'll make your eyes pop. (You will be really surprised when this happens.)
103. I can't believe my eyes. (What I am seeing is hard to believe.)
104. There's more than meets the eye. (You are not telling me all the facts.)
105. She's a sight for sore eyes. (We're very happy to see her - we need her.)
106. You need to catch his eye. (You must get his attention.)
107. His eyes are bigger than his stomach. (He takes more food than he can eat.)
108. Feast your eyes on that. (Isn't that a wonderful thing we have here?)
109. She will pull the wool over his eyes. (She will fool him every time.)
110. It's a highbrow place. (It is a very high-class place.)
111. You'll pay through the nose. (It's extremely costly to do that.)
112. Don't turn up your nose at me. (Don't think you are better than I am.)
113. She's got a nose for news. (She can get a story from almost nothing.)
114. She won by a nose. (It was a very close race.)

115. You need to lead them by the nose. (You have to tell them every single detail.)
116. Keep your nose clean. (Be honest and ethical.)
117. It's nothing to sneeze at. (It is a good offer.)
118. It's under your nose. (It's right there in front of you.)
119. She won by a hair. (She won by just a tiny bit.)
120. I'm all ears. (I am listening with great interest.)
121. It was an ear-splitting sound. (The noise hurt my ears.)
122. It goes in one ear and out the other. (He doesn't listen to anyone.)
123. Keep your ear to the ground. (Listen everywhere to find what is going on.)
124. You'd better prick up your ears. (Pay attention to what is happening.)
125. She can wind him around her little finger. (She can manipulate him to do what she wants.)
126. He's got a finger in every pie. (He is trying every possible way.)
127. My hands are tied. (There is nothing I can do because of regulations.)
128. Please lend me a hand. (Help me with this.)
129. Give him a hand. (Clap your hand in appreciation.)
130. Give him a hand. (Help him.)
131. He's got a green thumb. (He is good at gardening.)
132. I'm all thumbs. (I am very clumsy.)

133. I've got it all at my fingertips. (I have all the right information.)
134. He's an old hand. (He has lots of experience at that.)
135. She's got her hands full. (She has more things to do than she can handle.)
136. I wash my hands of it all. (I want no part of this thing.)
137. He was caught red-handed. (He was caught in the act of a crime.)
138. Don't let it slip through your fingers. (Don't let this good customer get away.)
139. You must get the upper hand. (Get an advantage on your competitor.)
140. He's up in arms about it. (He has gotten upset about something.)
141. I only got hand-me-downs. (What I got was all second-hand stuff.)
142. I've got to hand it to you. (I admire what you have done.)
143. It's hands off to you. (You are not to do any work on this item.)
144. Try to thumb a ride. (Beg for a ride.)
145. We are short-handed. (I need your help.)
146. You must toe the line. (Everyone must follow all the rules.)

147. He's got cold feet. (He's frightened and doesn't think he can do it.)
148. He's a heel. (He does not act like a gentleman with ladies.)
149. You better shake a leg. (You need to work faster.)
150. She's pulling my leg. (She is trying to trick or fool me.)
151. You'll foot the bill. (You will have to pay the entire cost.)
152. You'll have to put your foot down. (You'll need to assert yourself - be more forceful.)
153. You don't have a leg to stand on. (You are not secure in your position.)
154. You've got to put your best foot forward. (Go with the best idea that you have.)
155. Don't drag your feet. (Don't delay - get to work.)
156. You've got to get a foot in the door. (You must get the customers attention.)
157. The shoe is on the other foot now. (Now they have the problem, not us.)
158. You'll step on her toes. (You'll be moving in on her territory.)
159. He's got a chip on his shoulder. (He is looking for an excuse to fight.)
160. She gave him the cold shoulder. (She is trying to get him to leave her alone.)

161. Get off my back! (Leave me alone and let me get to work.)
162. Get it off your chest. (Tell me exactly what is bothering you.)
163. I need some elbowroom. (We are too crowded in this office.)
164. He's a thorn in my side. (Everything he does irritates me.)
165. He turns my stomach. (He totally disgusts me.)
166. I've got butterflies in my stomach. (I'm very nervous about this deal.)
167. She can't stomach it. (She thinks this deal is too rotten to do.)
168. He's lily-livered. (He too much a coward to do it.)
169. She makes my flesh creep. (She is extremely revolting in her attitude.)
170. She's a busybody. (She pays attention to everybody else's business.)
171. We need a heart to heart talk. (We need to talk confidentially.)
172. You need to learn this by heart. (You need to know this stuff well.)
173. Please! Have a heart. (Get some feelings about being nice.)
174. My heart is in my mouth. (I'm extremely nervous about this deal.)

175. Don't take it to heart. (Don't take this personally - it's just business.)
176. She's a hard-hearted woman. (She has no compassion for anyone.)
177. She's got a heart of stone. (She makes decisions without regard to people.)
178. Eat your heart out. (You are envious of my success.)
179. You'll break my heart. (I'll be disappointed about this.)
180. He's our ace in the hole. (When all else fails - he will save us.)
181. He's a stuffed shirt. (He is very pretentious.)
182. We are ahead of the game. (Right now we are in advantage (profitable?).)
183. They're all shook up. (They are upset that we are winning.)
184. They're all washed up. (They have been defeated.)
185. He's asleep at the switch. (He's not alert to what is going on.)
186. He'll do after a fashion. (He'll learn to do better but not well.)
187. She's a back seat driver. (She always will criticize any idea.)
188. He's a ball of fire. (He's one of best workers.)
189. You're barking up the wrong tree. (You have totally the wrong approach.)

190. His bark is worse than his bite. (He yells but he doesn't mean anything by it.)
191. You've got bats in your belfry. (You are crazy and have ridiculous ideas.)
192. She will bawl him out. (She will verbally discipline him.)
193. Don't beat around the bush. (Stop talking in circles - speak directly.)
194. Beat it. (Go away!)
195. I need my beauty sleep. (I need to sleep.)
196. It's no bed of roses. (This will not be easy.)
197. I'm behind the eight ball. (I am in trouble with the boss.)
198. He's beside himself with misery. (He is extremely miserable.)
199. It's better late than never. (Being late is bad but it's better than never.)
200. He's the big cheese. (He is the headman.)
201. He's the big wheel. (He's the big boss.)
202. He's the big shot. (He is an important man.)
203. Don't bite off more than you can chew. (Don't try to do more than you can accomplish.)
204. Don't bite the hand that feeds you. (Be loyal to your company that pays you.)
205. He'll soon bite the dust. (He soon will be found out and lose.)
206. Don't blow your top. (Stay calm.)

207. Don't blow your cool. (Remain calm and collected.)
208. I've got a bone to pick with you. (You've something that is a problem to me.)
209. You should brush up on it. (You need to study and learn this.)
210. You need to build a fire under them. (They need to be motivated.)
211. You'll need to burn the midnight oil. (You will have to work overtime.)
212. Don't break your word. (Do what you have promised.)
213. We need to break the news. (We need to tell them the bad news.)
214. Let's bury the hatchet. (Let's forget our old fights and hatreds.)
215. We won by a hair. (We won a very close victory.)
216. By hook or crook we'll do it. (We'll do it whatever it takes.)
217. Let's call it a day. (That's enough work for today.)
218. Let's call it quits. (Let's stop for now.)
219. You call the shots. (You make the decisions.)
220. It's a can of worms. (That is a big bunch of problems.)
221. I ride in a car pool. (A group of us ride to work together.)
222. Don't chicken out on us. (Don't get scared and leave.)

223. He's a chip off the old block. (He is just like his dad.)
224. We need to cut our losses. (We must withdraw from a losing situation.)
225. You've cooked your own goose. (You are in a problem of your own making.)
226. You make me crack up. (I find you extremely funny.)
227. You need to crack a book. (Open up a book and learn something.)
228. You need to crack a joke. (Don't be so serious all the time.)
229. It cramps my style. (You have put too many limits on me.)
230. He's the cream of the crop. (He is the best there is.)
231. Don't cut corners. (Follow all of the rules.)
232. It's a cut and dried situation. (There are no changes or discussions - just do it.)
233. We're at a dead stop. (We can't do anything right now.)
234. He's dead to the world. (He is so tired he can't function.)
235. It will soon die out. (That problem will be gone soon.)
236. They're a dime a dozen. (They aren't worth anything.)
237. Watch him do a double take. (He will gasp when he sees this.)

238.She's down in the dumps. (She is very depressed.)

239.She got a dose of her own medicine. (She got just the trouble that she gives others.)

240.Well, that's down the drain. (We have completely lost everything on this.)

241.That's all down the tubes. (We have totally lost everything on this.)

242.Don't drag your feet on this. (Get working and stop the delaying.)

243.I'm drawing a blank. (I don't have any idea on this.)

244.We need to draw the line here. (We make no more concessions.)

245.He drives a hard bargain. (He makes it tough to make much of a profit.)

246.It's just a drop in the bucket. (That is just the beginning of the problems.)

247.She eats like a bird. (She just picks at her food.)

248.She eats like a horse. (She eats like a hungry man.)

249.He's at the end of his rope. (He is just about out of ideas and energy.)

250.I feel like a million dollars. (I feel wonderful.)

251.Finders keepers - losers weepers. (The finders are happy - the losers unhappy.)

252.It will fit like a glove. (The two situations work well together)

253.They're going to flip their lid. (They are going to be extremely unhappy.)

254. He will fly off the handle. (He will be very upset.)
255. Don't fool around with that. (Leave that situation alone.)
256. It's a foolproof scheme. (This idea is sure to succeed.)
257. This is for keeps. (This is it - no changes - no getting out.)
258. You'll need to fork out some dough. (You will have to pay some cash.)
259. He's out getting forty winks. (He is taking a quick nap.)
260. Can they get away with that? (Will they be able to do that without trouble?)
261. Let's get down to brass tacks. (Let's do some serious talking.)
262. I'll get even. (I will return the bad you did to me.)
263. Get off my back. (Stop bothering me and let me do my work.)
264. Let's get the ball rolling. (Let's start the work on this.)
265. We'll get to the bottom of it. (We will find out exactly what is the problem.)
266. He got out of the bed on the wrong side. (The day started bad and hasn't gotten any better.)
267. He doesn't have a ghost of a chance. (There is no way he can succeed.)

268. He's giving me a hard time. (He is teasing me about that.)
269. Give him an inch and he'll take a mile. (Give a little and he takes a lot.)
270. Don't give yourself away. (Don't let them know what your plan is.)
271. They'll have to give up the ghost. (They will have to give up trying.)
272. He's a real globetrotter. (He travels all over the world.)
273. They just go around in circles. (They go in all directions without any success.)
274. They will go into orbit. (They will be very upset.)
275. They can just go jump in a lake. (If they don't like it - too bad.)
276. Don't go off the deep end. (Don't go to extremes on this.)
277. Grass is greener on the other side of the fence. (Other things always look easier.)
278. Just grin and bear it. (Forget the problems - keep working.)
279. They often just ham it up. (They like to get very dramatic.)
280. He's got one foot in the grave. (He is too old.)
281. We had a high time. (We had a good time.)
282. You hit the nail on the head. (That is exactly the situation.)

- 283.They will hit the ceiling. (They will be extremely upset.)
- 284.That is a hit below the belt. (That is not playing fair or honest.)
- 285.I'm going to hit the sack. (I'm going to bed.)
- 286.She's going to hit the hay. (She is going to bed.)
- 287.That just won't hold water. (That idea just won't work.)
- 288.He can't hold down a job. (He has lost every job he ever had.)
- 289.Don't horse around. (Don't play around - be serious.)
- 290.Keep them in the dark. (Don't let them know what is going on.)
- 291.You must hang in there. (Keep trying.)
- 292.She has a lot of hang-ups. (She has a lot of irrational objections.)
- 293.I can see the handwriting on the wall. (I can sense the mood of people.)
- 294.Go and have a ball. (Go and enjoy yourself.)
- 295.We will have the last laugh. (They are winning now but in the end we will win.)
- 296.Hold on to your hat. (Be patient.)
- 297.Hold on to your horses. (Hold your horses) (Don't get too excited.)
- 298.Have your own way. (OK! Do what you want.)

299. You've got two strikes against you. (One more mistake and you are out!)
300. That's it in a nutshell. (That is a short summary of the situation.)
301. She's often in my hair. (She is often in my way.)
302. We've got one thing in the hole. (One thing is on our side.)
303. They are in the same boat. (We both have the same problem.)
304. We are in full swing now. (We are all working full time on this.)
305. We have more irons in the fire. (We have many other things to do.)
306. He's a jack-of-all-trades. (He has many talents.)
307. Don't jump down my throat. (Don't criticize me so severely.)
308. It's just what the doctor ordered. (That is an excellent solution.)
309. You keep the ball rolling. (Keep up your good efforts.)
310. Now keep that under your hat. (Don't tell this to anyone.)
311. You keep plugging away. (Keep working to solve this.)
312. That's a kick in the pants. (That is a good encouragement.)
313. Knock it off! (Stop doing that!)

314.He's about to kick the bucket. (He is about to die.)

315.He knows the ropes. (He knows what he is doing.)

316.That is the last straw. (He has made one error too many.)

317.You need to let off some steam. (Don't contain all your anger.)

318.Don't lie down on the job. (Keep working - don't slow down.)

319.She is a long shot to win. (She is not the most likely winner.)

320.He's a long-winded talker. (He talks and talks.)

321.She looked daggers at him. (She gave him a look of disapproval.)

322.Don't look down on them. (Don't think you are better than they are.)

323.You'll lose your shirt doing that. (You will lose everything.)

324.That is a lost cause. (You cannot succeed.)

325.We'll lower the boom on them. (We will soundly defeat them.)

326.That'll make the fur fly. (That will get their attention.)

327.She can't make ends meet. (She spends more than she makes.)

328.Make yourself at home. (Act as if this was your home.)

329.He's a man of his word. (He always keeps promises.)

- 330.It's a matter of life and death. (This is a very serious situation.)
- 331.Your name is mud. (You will be thought of as a loser.)
- 332.It's like looking for a needle in a haystack. (It is a difficult thing to find.)
- 333.She's an old flame. (She's a past girlfriend.)
- 334.It happens once in a blue moon. (It will never happen.)
- 335.It's on the house. (You do not need to pay for it.)
- 336.Be on the lookout for her. (Watch for her.)
- 337.He's on the bandwagon. (He has joined our side of the argument.)
- 338.She's on the ball. (She is very perceptive.)
- 339.He's out of date. (He is living in the past.)
- 340.That is out of the question. (That idea is not acceptable.)
- 341.Don't go out on a limb. (Don't make any commitments on that.)
- 342.We'll paint the town red. (We will go out to party.)
- 343.He'll just pass the buck. (He will blame someone else.)
- 344.He passed out at the party. (He was so drunk he lost consciousness.)
- 345.A penny for your thoughts. (What were you thinking just now?)

346. He'll just pick a fight. (He will provoke you into a fight.)
347. I'm on pins and needles waiting. (I'm anxious to find out something.)
348. We won't play second fiddle to them. (We will not be in second place.)
349. You've got to pull yourself together. (Get organized and not so emotional.)
350. He'd pinch pennies. (He is too careful with money.)
351. It's just a play on words. (The meaning is not what the words say.)
352. Everybody must pitch in. (All must help.)
353. We'll polish them off. (We will defeat them all.)
354. Will you pop the question? (Will you ask her to marry you?)
355. He's an apple polisher. (He tries too hard to please the boss.)
356. I can pull strings. (I have some connections with the right people.)
357. It's just puppy love. (It is just infatuation.)
358. Put on your thinking cap. (Give this some serious thought.)
359. Let's put our cards on the table. (Let's be honest with each other.)
360. You put the cart before the horse. (Put first things first.)

361. That will put a feather in his cap. (This will be a credit to him.)
362. Don't put all your eggs in one basket. (Don't depend on just one thing.)
363. It's raining cats and dogs. (It is a heavy rain.)
364. You've got to read between the lines. (Look at what they mean not what they say.)
365. That rings the bell. (Now I remember.)
366. Don't rob the cradle. (She's too young for you.)
367. He'll just rock the boat. (He will get everyone upset.)
368. We've got lots of red tape. (All the government regulations are difficult.)
369. It's just a rip off. (They will cheat you.)
370. He rubs me the wrong way. (I do not like his attitude.)
371. As a rule of thumb I refuse. (Generally I refuse.)
372. It's pretty run down. (It is in bad condition.)
373. He needs a security blanket. (He always needs reassurance.)
374. Seeing is believing. (I only believe what I can see.)
375. That'll separate the men from the boys. (We will find out who is serious.)
376. You've got them shaking in their boots. (They are afraid now.)
377. You'll have to sink or swim. (It will be win all or lose all now.)

378. We are sitting pretty. (We are in a good position.)
379. She slays me with that nonsense. (She disgusts me with those silly ideas.)
380. Everything is ship shape. (Everything is in good order.)
381. Why don't you sleep on it? (Think about it tonight - let me know tomorrow.)
382. We just made small talk. (We didn't talk about anything serious.)
383. Go ahead and sound off. (Say what you think.)
384. He's spaced out. (He is on drugs.)
385. It will spread like wildfire. (This idea will be very popular.)
386. They have stacked the deck. (We are not playing under even conditions.)
387. They have stacked the cards. (They have cheated us to their advantage.)
388. We will need to start from scratch. (We need to start at the beginning.)
389. I don't want to steal his thunder. (I will let him break the good news.)
390. She tried to steal the spotlight. (She wants undeserved attention.)
391. You must stick to your guns on that. (Your idea is good - stay with it.)
392. He's just a stick-in-the-mud. (He is too old fashioned.)

393. You won't strike it rich. (This idea won't make you rich.)
394. You need to strike while the iron is hot. (Do it while the opportunity is right.)
395. We won't take a back seat to them. (We won't be in second place to them.)
396. We're in the driving seat. (We control the situation.)
397. Our new project will soon take off. (It will be a great success.)
398. You have to take your medicine. (If you did wrong you must pay.)
399. You can take the floor. (It is your turn - speak.)
400. You run with it. (The project is yours to make it a success.)
401. Take your hat off to no one. (You are as good as anyone else.)
402. We won't take sides. (We will be neutral on this.)
403. That is a tall story. (I don't believe your explanation.)
404. We'll throw the book at them. (If they did wrong they must pay.)
405. We will throw in the towel. (We give up.)
406. We'll throw in the sponge. (We give up.)
407. We'll throw a party. (We will have a party.)
408. She'll throw a fit. (She will be extremely upset.)
409. We'll hold them to the letter. (They will have to follow all the rules.)

410. Remember that time marches on. (You are wasting time.)

411. I think they will tie the knot. (They will get married.)

412. We're tickled to death about it. (We are very pleased.)

413. We had the time of our life. (We had a good time.)

414. It will be touch and go for a while. (We won't know if we succeed or fail.)

415. We will need to touch up things. (We need to solve some little problems.)

416. It will be to the tune of a million. (It will cost about a million dollars.)

417. It's part of the tricks of the trade. (It is one of my secret solutions.)

418. It's time to turn in. (It's time to go to sleep.)

419. We will turn the tables on them. (We will reverse the situation.)

420. She had better turn over a new leaf. (She needs to change her ways.)

421. He's got me turned on. (He has me excited about that.)

422. Don't just twiddle your thumbs. (Get to work!)

I'll continue with the list of American idioms from where we left off:

423. I put her under your wings. (She will report to you.)

424.He is up to something. (He is doing something secretly.)

425.Don't get up in arms. (There is no need to get excited or upset.)

426.He'll upstage us. (He'll do better than us.)

427.We won't wait on them. (We are going ahead and not wait for them.)

428.They'll walk all over you. (They will take advantage of you.)

429.He's walking on air. (He is really excited.)

430.You're walking on thin ice. (You may fail at any moment.)

431.He will just warm the bench. (He will sit by while we work.)

432.Don't wash your dirty linen in public. (Don't tell your bad points to others.)

433.You'll just be wasting your breath. (Don't bother, they won't listen.)

434.The wear and tear will defeat us. (The effort is not worth the rewards.)

435.You'll wear out your welcome. (Don't stay too long.)

436.I'll pay you when my ship comes in. (When I get rich I'll pay you.)

437.We just have to weather the storm. (Keep working in rough times.)

438.I can see the writing on the wall. (I can sense that thing may be bad.)

439. Let's wind up this problem. (We need to finish this.)
440. We will agree word for word. (We agree exactly.)
441. Just a word to the wise - Shut up! (Listen to me!)
442. You just zip your lip. (Stop talking so much.)
443. Keep your shirt on. (Don't get so impatient.)
444. They are pulling your leg. (They are playing a trick on you.)
445. She is rolling in the dough. (She has lots of money.)
446. He's stinking rich. (He's very wealthy.)
447. We'll make him the fall guy. (We will put the blame on him.)
448. He will take the rap. (He will be the guilty one.)
449. It's a bum rap. (He is innocent.)
450. You need to bend over backwards. (You need to try very hard.)
451. You need to bite the bullet. (You need to endure a difficult situation.)
452. Stick it out! (Endure a difficult situation!)
453. They will bite the dust. (They will go down to defeat.)
454. Has the cat got your tongue? (Can't you talk?)
455. They will have to cough up the money. (They will have to willingly come up with money.)
456. It's different strokes for different folks. (Everyone has different interests and tastes.)
457. She's dressed to kill. (She's wearing her finest clothes.)

- 458.He's driving me up the wall. (He is annoying me greatly.)
- 459.That's duck soup. (That is very easy.)
- 460.What is eating you? (What is annoying you?)
- 461.Someone is feeding you a line. (Someone is deceiving you.)
- 462.We can get it for a song. (We can get it for very little money.)
- 463.We can get away clean. (We can escape punishment.)
- 464.Don't get in her hair. (Don't bother her.)
- 465.She will get the ax. (She will be fired.)
- 466.We need to get the jump on them. (We need to get an advantage on them.)
- 467.You should give it your best shot. (You should try your hardest.)
- 468.We will give them the slip. (We will escape.)
- 469.He will go to bat for you. (He will support you all the way.)
- 470.She is going to the dogs. (She is becoming rundown.)
- 471.She's got the world by the tail. (She's happy and successful.)
- 472.That's a horse of a different color. (That's an entirely different situation.)
- 473.If the shoe fits - wear it. (If you are wrong admit it.)
- 474.Don't jump the gun. (Don't be hasty.)

475. Let's kick up our heels. (Let's celebrate.)
476. This will knock their socks off. (This will enthuse and excite them.)
477. We won't leave them high and dry. (We won't abandon them.)
478. It is a lemon. (It is defective.)
479. We need to make a splash. (We need to be successful and get their attention.)
480. Money talks. (Money can influence people.)
481. They don't have a leg to stand on. (They have no defense for their actions.)
482. We'll put that on ice. (We'll save that one for the future.)
483. We are not out of the woods. (We are not out of danger.)
484. He is on his last legs. (He is sick and failing fast.)
485. We will play this one by ear. (We will improvise as we go along.)
486. Put your money where your mouth is. (You must follow through with what you say.)
487. They will raise a stink. (They will protest strongly.)
488. We will have to scratch their back. (We will have to do them a favor.)
489. They will sell you down the river. (They will betray you.)
490. Don't sell them short. (Don't underestimate them.)

491. You must shape up or ship out. (You must behave or leave.)
492. Let's just shoot the breeze. (Let's just chat informally.)
493. We are sitting pretty. (We are in a fortunate position.)
494. They gave us a snow job. (It was insincere talk.)
495. Don't spill the beans. (Don't reveal our secret.)
496. Don't spread yourself too thin. (Don't become involved in too many things.)
497. Don't stick your neck out on this. (Don't take too much risk.)
498. This is straight from the horse's mouth. (It is from a reliable source.)
499. You must take the bull by the horns. (You must take decisive action.)
500. You are talking through your hat. (You are making foolish statements.)
501. I said it tongue in cheek. (I didn't say it seriously.)
502. What do they have up their sleeve? (What facts have they concealed?)
503. She is a wet blanket. (She's boring and spoils everyone's fun.)
504. She is tooting her own horn. (She is boasting.)
505. Above all to thy own self be true. (First be honest to yourself.)

506. After all's said and done, more is said than done.

(In the end there's more talk than action.)

507. He has fallen afoul of the law. (He is in conflict with the law.)

508. It is all up in the air. (It is not been decided.)

509. Be on the alert for danger. (Watch for danger.)

510. That is up his alley. (It is compatible with his ability.)

511. In that she stands alone. (She is unequaled.)

512. They will be along soon. (They will be here soon.)

513. I will be able to get along. (I will be able to manage successfully.)

514. All along I knew they would fail. (From the beginning I knew they would fail.)

515. That will cost you an arm and a leg. (It will cost an extravagant amount.)

516. They welcomed us with open arms. (They were very cordial.)

517. I will get around to it soon. (I will be able to deal with it.)

518. It is sold as is. (It's sold with no guarantees.)

519. Don't turn your back on them. (Don't reject them.)

520. Don't turn your back to her. (She can't be trusted.)

521. Don't go back on your word. (Don't fail to keep your promise.)

522. It is in the bag. (We are assured of a successful outcome.)

523.They arrived bag and baggage. (They arrived with all their belongings.)

524.Keep on the ball. (Be alert, competent and efficient.)

525.He is off base. (He is badly mistaken.)

526.Right off the bat they fought. (Immediately they fought.)

527.We will go to bat for them. (We will assist them.)

528.Bear in mind their finances. (Remember their finances.)

529.Please, bear with me! (Please, understand my situation!)

530.We will need to tighten our belt. (We must become thriftier.)

531.You bet we will go. (Certainly we will go.)

532.Between you and me they won't do it. (In strictest confidence, they won't do it.)

533.He is big on meat and potatoes. (He likes meat and potatoes.)

534.We expect to make it big. (We expect to be very successful.)

535.It will fill the bill. (It will meet all our requirements.)

536.We did it bit by bit. (We did it little by little.)

537.They will try to put the bite on us. (They will try to borrow money from us.)

538.We are now in the black. (We are now profitable.)

- 539.The company is on the block. (The company is for sale.)
- 540.They are blowing hot and cold. (They are changing their minds.)
- 541.He is just blowing off steam. (He is just venting his anger.)
- 542.It came from out of the blue. (It was totally unexpected.)
- 543.The new changes are across the board. (It will affect all divisions and groups.)
- 544.I feel it in my bones. (I have a premonition about this.)
- 545.That is one for the books. (That is something entirely new.)
- 546.He has been hitting the bottle. (He has begun to drink (alcohol) to excess.)
- 547.That is out of bounds. (That is beyond your limits.)
- 548.Don't burn the bridges behind you. (Keep the possibility of retreat.)
- 549.He had money to burn. (He had lots of money.)
- 550.We will go by and by. (We will go in a little while.)
- 551.By and large they are honest. (For the most part they are honest.)
- 552.That was a close call. (It was a narrow escape.)
- 553.He burns the candle at both ends. (He spends too much energy in all directions.)

554. She can't hold a candle to her friend. (She is not nearly as good as her friend.)
555. Put your cards on the table. (Be frank about your motives and intentions.)
556. He's got a card up his sleeve. (He has a secret plan in reserve.)
557. It is just not in the cards. (It is not likely to occur.)
558. Try to catch your breath. (Rest so you can continue.)
559. We will chalk up that one to experience. (We will credit that to experience.)
560. We chewed the fat for a short while. (We talked casually for a while.)
561. Next week we will clean house. (Next week we will get rid of anyone undesirable.)
562. You must come clean. (You must confess your error.)
563. She is in the clear. (She is free from danger or suspicion.)
564. We need to clear the air. (Let's ignore emotional tensions and differences.)
565. She has her head in the clouds. (She is not in the real world.)
566. He killed her in cold blood. (He killed her without any feeling, or remorse.)
567. He was left out in the cold. (He got nothing.)

- 568.They were acting in concert. (They were acting together.)
- 569.They left him to cool his heels. (He was left waiting.)
- 570.They asked her to cool it. (She was asked to calm down and relax.)
- 571.He tried to cut corners. (He tried to bypass some rules.)
- 572.It's as easy as pie. (It is very simple.)
- 573.You need to cut that out. (Stop doing that.)
- 574.I'm beat. (I am very tired.)
- 575.Give it some elbow grease. (You need to go to work.)
- 576.It will cost you a bundle. (It will be quite expensive.)
- 577.We are antsy about that. (We are not confident about it.)
- 578.She is a blabbermouth. (She talks all the time.)
- 579.I'm flat broke. (I have no money.)
- 580.I'm fed up with him. (I have no patience with him.)
- 581.She is bent out of shape. (She is upset about something.)
- 582.We are up a creek (without a paddle) (We are in a difficult or unfortunate position.)

Taken from:

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