## **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 than 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 form 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 to 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 a 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 you 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 and 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:

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