

Commonly Used Idioms

IDIOMS	MEANINGS	PHRASES
✓ A bone of contention	Reason of Conflict	This land is a bone of contention among the brothers.
✓ Above Board	Honest and fair	His Honesty is above board.
✓ A Birds Eye View	Overview	You can get a birds-ey view of the city from the hills.
✓ A curtain lecture	Wife conflict with husband	His wife often gives him a curtain lecture.
✓ A far cry	Far away	It is a far cry from here to Karachi
✓ A jailbird	convicted criminal	He is a jailbird and does not care for the law.
✓ A red-letter day	Good day	Fourteen August (Pakistan Independence Day) is a red-letter day for us.
✓ A white elephant	Useless with no benefit	This old car is a wild elephant for me
✓ A wild goose chase	No gain	To pass the BA examination without effort is a wild goose chase.
✓ All and sundry	Everyone	All and sundry were invited to the party.

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✓ All at sea	Worried	He was all at sea and could not answer a single question.
✓ All in all	All things considered	A principal is all in all in college.
✓ An ax to grind	Private purpose	Asim will help you only when he has an ax to grind.
✓ An eyewash	Cheating	Her tears were nothing but an eyewash.
✓ Animal spirits	Full of cheers	The actor was full of animal spirits.
✓ At daggers drawn	Conflicts	The two friends are at dagger dawn these days.
✓ At sixes and seven	Without proper arrangement	His books were lying at six and seven.
✓ At a stone through	Near	Our house is a stone through from Salma's.
✓ Back out	U-turn	He promised to help me but now he has backed out.
✓ Back up	Care for	We back up the rights of Kashmiris.

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✓ Bag and baggage	With everything they have	He left the city bag and baggage.
✓ Bear out	Confirm	He will bear out my honesty.
✓ Beat about the bush	Rubbish talking	Do not beat about the bush come to the point.
✓ Better half	Wife	Salma is my better half.
✓ Bird of passage	Vagabond	He does not stop at one place, he is a bird of passage.
✓ Birds of features	Same thoughts	Birds of feature flick together.
✓ Black sheep	Fake actors	Get rid of black sheep if you want to succeed.
✓ Bluestocking	Women fond of studying	She is a bluestocking lady in our family.
✓ Bone of contention	Reason of Conflict	This land is a bone of contention among them.
✓ Bosom Friend	True friend	Aslam is my bosom friend.

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✓ Bread and butter	Income	He works hard to earn his bread and butter
✓ Break out	Blow up	War broke out between India and China.
✓ Bring to book	Take to task	The criminal must be brought to book.
✓ Bring to light	Reveal	His crimes were brought to light
✓ Burn the midnight oil	Great hard work	He burnt the midnight oil and got success.
✓ Burn the candle at both ends	Consume uselessly	He burnt the candle at both ends and soon came to grief.
✓ Bury the hatchet	End up fight	Let us bury the hatchet and be friends again.
✓ By and by	Slowly slowly	By and by, she will recover.
✓ By and large	Totally	By and large, he is going well.
✓ Capital punishment	Sentence of death	The terrorist was given capital punishment.

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✓ Carry the day	Be successful	Our hockey team carried the day.
✓ Cat and dog life	Always in a fight	The husband and wife are leading a cat and dog life.
✓ Cat's paw	Instrument	He is a cat's paw in the hands of his wife.
✓ Cheeks by jowl	Close	The two friends were sitting cheeks by jowl.
✓ Cold-blooded murder	Cruel murder	Everybody lamented her cold-blooded murder.
✓ Cocks and bull story	Fake story	I could not believe her cocks and bull story.
✓ Chicken-hearted fellow	Coward man	He proved a chicken-hearted fellow in the fight.
✓ Come of	Have a relation to	He comes from a very noble family.
✓ Come off	Happens	Her marriage will come off next month.
✓ Crocodile tears	Fake tears	She shed crocodile tears before her husband.

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✓ Cut a sorry figure	Apologetic	He cut a sorry figure in the debate.
✓ Cut and dried	Clear and well planned	There are no cut-and-dried rules in this office.
✓ Cut to quick	Hurt someone feeling	His insulting remarks cut her to the quick.
✓ Dark horse	Hidden gem	He proved a dark horse in the election.
✓ Dead letter	Ended law	This law now has become a dead letter.
✓ Die in harness	Killed in effort	The poor worker died in harness.
✓ Do away with	End something	He did away with his weakness in English.
✓ Dog in manger	One who creates a disturbance	Selfish people follow a dog in the manager's policy.
✓ Drawn game	Equal pay	The two teams played a drawn game.
✓ Face the music	Will bear	If you fail you have to face the music.
✓ Fall foul of	Having a fight	We should not fall foul of someone.