

Idioms

An **IDIOM** is an expression peculiar to a particular language that means something different from the literal meaning of the words. Idioms are often used for humor, dramatic effect, or to illustrate irony.

IDIOM: Dennis kicked the bucket.

Literal Meaning:
Dennis saw a bucket and kicked it.

Figurative (Actual) Meaning:
Dennis died.

Some Common Idioms

Idiom	Meaning	Example of Use
Crocodile tears	insincere tears (Crocodiles are said to cry when eating their prey.)	When the football player broke his leg, his substitute wept crocodile tears .
To go up in smoke	to come to no practical or meaningful result (Kindling smokes but will not light a fire.)	The mayor's plans to get the presidential nomination went up in smoke when she couldn't end the workers' strike.
To pass the buck	to avoid responsibility (The "buck" may have been a piece of buckshot passed from one poker player to another to keep track of whose turn it was to deal.)	He always gives a serious answer and never tries to pass the buck .
Through the grapevine	secret means of spreading information	I heard through the grapevine that John will be elected class president.
To bite your tongue	to not say what you would really like to say; to keep quiet	I had to bite my tongue when he said he how worried he was. He's such a liar!
get on one's nerves	irritate someone; make someone upset	"I know you like that song, but it's getting on my nerves . Can you play something else?"
make a mountain out of a molehill	make something seem much more important than it really is	"Calm down. There's really nothing to worry about. You're making a mountain out of a molehill ."