

12 idioms	meanings and example sentences
to be all ears	<p><b>to be waiting eagerly to hear about something</b></p> <p><i>I'm all ears - tell us what they had to say.</i></p>
to take the bull by the horns	<p><b>to do something difficult in a brave and determined way</b></p> <p><i>Why don't you take the bull by the horns and tell him to leave?</i></p>
a hat-trick	<p><b>when someone is successful at achieving something three times (e.g. in sports scoring three goals in a single game)</b></p> <p><i>After two election victories the government clearly has hopes of a hat-trick.</i></p>
to save something for a rainy day	<p><b>to save for a time when money might unexpectedly be needed</b></p> <p><i>She had saved some money for a rainy day.</i></p>
to pull your socks up	<p><b>to make an effort to improve your work or behaviour because it is not good enough (informal)</b></p> <p><i>He's going to have to pull his socks up if he wants to stay in the team.</i></p>
to be down in the dumps	<p><b>to be unhappy</b></p> <p><i>She's a bit down in the dumps because she failed one of her exams.</i></p>
to let the cat out of the bag	<p><b>to allow a secret to be known, usually without intending to</b></p> <p><i>I was trying to keep the party a secret, but Mel went and let the cat out of the bag.</i></p>
to bend over backwards	<p><b>to try very hard to do something good or helpful</b></p> <p><i>Management insisted that he bent over backwards to be objective in presenting the story.</i></p>
to get/put your skates on	<p><b>used when you want to tell someone to hurry up (informal)</b></p> <p><i>Get your skates on, or we'll be late.</i></p>
to call a spade a spade	<p><b>to say the truth about something, even if it is not polite or pleasant (informal)</b></p> <p><i>He was above-board, outspoken, downright, blunt even, and bald, always calling a spade a spade.</i></p>
to be full of beans	<p><b>to have a lot of energy and enthusiasm (informal)</b></p> <p><i>I've never known anyone be so full of beans before breakfast.</i></p>
not a sausage	<p>"Did you find anything out?" "No, not a sausage."</p>