

# Idioms for Conversational English

# Idioms - 1

- Meaning: To stop working on something for the day because you have done enough (**Day**)  
Answer: call it a **day**
- Meaning: To discuss a matter without coming to the point (**Bush**)  
Answer: beat around the **bush**
- Meaning: To be very happy (**Cloud**)  
Answer: on **cloud** nine
- Meaning: To not feel well or to feel a bit ill (**Weather**)  
Answer: under the **weather**
- Meaning: To reveal a secret, often by mistake (**Beans**)  
Answer: spill the **beans**

# Idioms - 2

- **Meaning:** To have the same opinion or to agree completely (**Eye**)  
Answer: see eye to **eye**
- **Meaning:** To say something that is exactly right or correct (**Nail**)  
Answer: hit the **nail** on the head
- **Meaning:** To start a conversation and make people feel more relaxed, especially when they do not know each other (**Ice**)  
Answer: break the **ice**
- **Meaning:** To be very easy (**Cake**)  
Answer: a piece of **cake**
- **Meaning:** To joke with someone or tease them in a friendly way (**Leg**)  
Answer: pull someone's **leg**

# Idioms - 3

- Meaning: To face the difficult or unpleasant consequences of your actions (**Music**)  
Answer: face the **music**
- Meaning: To do something difficult/unpleasant but important/necessary (especially when others are reluctant) (**Bullet**)  
Answer: bite the **bullet**
- Meaning: To make something unpleasant or difficult easier to accept by adding something positive (**Pill**)  
Answer: sweeten the **pill (sugar coat)**
- Meaning: To accept a difficult situation that you cannot change (**Pill**)  
Answer: swallow a bitter **pill**
- Meaning: To be very busy or overwhelmed with work (**Ears**)  
Answer: up to your **ears**

# Idioms - 4

- Meaning: To deal with a problem only in a temporary way, not solving the real cause (**Band-aid**)  
Answer: a **band-aid** solution
- Meaning: To do as another person did before, especially in making a journey or following a particular career (**Footsteps**)  
Answer: follow in someone's **footsteps**
- Meaning: To completely misunderstand a situation or explain something incorrectly (**Bark up**)  
Answer: **bark** up the wrong tree
- Meaning: To try very hard to please someone or to get what you want (**Bend**)  
Answer: **bend** over backwards
- Meaning: To be very expensive (**Leg**)  
Answer: cost an arm and a **leg**

# Idioms - 5

- Meaning: To refuse to choose a side in an argument or decision (**Fence**)  
Answer: sit on the **fence**
- Meaning: To make a decision using your feelings or experience rather than facts or data (**Gut**)  
Answer: go with your **gut (gut feelings)**
- Meaning: To understand something complicated or confusing (**Head**)
  - Answer: get your **head** around (something)
- Meaning: To do to do something that saves you time, effort or money at the expense of quality (**Corners**)  
Answer: cut **corners**
- Meaning: To have a secret advantage or plan that you have not revealed yet (**Sleeve**)  
Answer: have an ace up your **sleeve**

# Idioms - 6

- Meaning: To say something that makes a situation worse, especially in an argument (**Fire**)  
Answer: add fuel to the **fire**
- Meaning: Someone's achievements and abilities are so great that you are not noticed or valued (**Shadow**)  
Answer: live in someone's **shadow**
- Meaning: It is up to you to make the next move (you are responsible for making an important decision) (**Ball**)  
Answer: the **ball** is in your court
- Meaning: To be very different and not comparable (**Oranges**)  
Answer: apples and **oranges**
- Meaning: To reveal what you are thinking or planning, especially your feelings or strategy (**Cards**)  
Answer: lay your **cards** on the table

# Idioms - 7

- Meaning: To start again from the beginning, because the previous attempt failed (**Drawing**)  
Answer: back to the **drawing** board
- Meaning: To get straight to the main point without unnecessary details, such as in a data presentation or meeting (**Chase**)  
Answer: cut to the **chase**
- Meaning: To think creatively and develop new approaches, like innovative algorithms or visualization techniques in data science (**Box**)  
Answer: think outside the **box**

# Idioms - 8

- Meaning: To read or work late into the night (e.g. work late analyzing large datasets or preparing a communication dashboard to meet deadlines) (**Oil**)
  - Answer: burn the midnight **oil**
- Meaning: Something that is impossible or extremely difficult to find, especially because the area you have to search is too large (e.g. Something extremely difficult to find, like a specific anomaly in a massive dataset) (**Needle**)
  - Answer: **needle** in a haystack
- Meaning: To go beyond normal limits and to try out a new and different idea that is often viewed as radical or risky (e.g. to test the limits of what's possible in AI models or data processing techniques) (**Envelope**)
  - Answer: push the **envelope**