

## Alphabetical Listing of Idioms

### A

**all's well that ends well** (a successful outcome is worth the effort)

**all thumbs** (clumsy)

**at the end of one's rope** (at the limit of one's ability to cope)

### B

**bark worse than one's bite** (not as bad-tempered as one appears)

**bend over backwards** (try very hard)

**bite the bullet** (endure a difficult situation)

bite **the dust** (go down in defeat)

**blow it** (fail at something)

**bury the hatchet** (make peace)

### C

**cat got your tongue** (can't talk?)

**come alive** (brighten up and become active)

**cough up** (give unwillingly)

### D

**different strokes for different folks**

(everyone has different interests and tastes)

**dressed to kill** (wear one's finest clothing)

**dressed to the teeth** (dressed elegantly)

**drive someone up a wall** (annoy someone greatly)

**duck soup** (easy, effortless)

### E

**early bird catches the worm** (arriving early gives one an advantage)

**eating someone** (bothering or worrying someone)

**eyes are bigger than one's stomach** (take more food than one can eat)

### F

**face the music** (accept the consequences)

**feed someone a line** (deceive someone)

**feel like a million dollars** (feel wonderful)

**fishy** (strange and suspicious)

**for a song** (for very little money)

**for the birds** (uninteresting and meaningless)

**fork over** (hand over)

### G

**get away clean** (escape punishment)

**get in someone's hair** (bother someone)

**get off someone's back** (stop bothering someone)

**get the axe** (be dismissed)

**get the ball rolling** (initiate action)

**get the jump on someone** (get the advantage over someone)

**get up on the wrong side of the bed** (wake up in a bad mood)

**give it one's best shot** (try hard)

**give someone the slip** (make a getaway)

**go fly a kite** (go away)

**go to bat for someone** (help out and support someone)

**go to the dogs** (become run-down)

### H

**hang on** (persevere)

**have the world by the tail** (be successful and happy)

**hit the ceiling** (become very angry)

**hit the hay** (go to bed)

**horse around** (play around)

**horse of a different color** (quite a different matter)

**hot under the collar** (extremely angry)

### I

**if the shoe fits** (admit the truth)

**in stitches** (laughing very hard)

**in the hole** (in debt)

### J

**jump down someone's throat** (become angry with someone)

**jump the gun** (to be hasty)

### K

**keep under one's hat** (keep something a secret)

**kick the bucket** (die)

**kick up one's heels** (celebrate)

**knock someone's socks off** (enthuse and excite)

## L

**leave someone high and dry** (abandon someone)

**lemon** (something defective)

**let sleeping dogs lie** (do not agitate a potential source of trouble)

**let the cat out of the bag** (inform beforehand)

**lose one's shirt** (lose a great deal of money)

## M

**make a splash** (be successful and attract attention)

**make ends meet** (pay one's bills)

**mind one's P's and Q's** (take care in speech and action)

**money talks** (money can influence people)

## N

**not have a leg to stand on** (to have no good defense for one's opinion or actions)

## O

**on ice** (set aside for future use)

**on one's last legs** (sick and failing)

**on the line** (in danger of being lost)

**out of the woods** (out of danger)

**out on a limb** (in a risky position)

## P

**paint the town red** (carouse and have a good time)

**pay through the nose** (pay too high a price)

**people who live in glass houses**

**shouldn't throw stones** (one should not criticize when one is equally at fault)

**play it by ear** (improvise as one goes along)

**pull someone's leg** (fool someone)

**pull strings** (exert influence)

**put one's money where one's mouth is** (follow through with a stated intention)

## R

**raise a stink** (protest strongly)

## S

**scratch someone's back** (return a favor)

**sell someone down the river** (betray someone)

**sell someone short** (underestimate someone)

**shake a leg** (hurry)

**shape up or ship out** (behave properly or leave!)

**shoot off one's mouth** (express one's opinions loudly)

**shoot the breeze** (chat informally)

**sitting pretty** (in a fortunate position)

**smell a rat** (feel that something is wrong)

**snow job** (insincere talk)

**spill the beans** (reveal a secret)

**spread oneself too thin** (become involved in too many activities)

**stick out one's neck** (take a risk)

**stick to one's guns** (maintain one's position)

**straight from the horse's mouth** (from a reliable source)

**string someone along** (lead someone on dishonestly)

## T

**take it on the lamb** (flee in a hurry) talk

**through one's hat** (make foolish statements)

**tongue-in-cheek** (not serious)

**toot one's own horn** (boast)

**turn someone off** (disgust someone)

## U

**up one's sleeve** (concealed)

## W

**wet blanket** (dull or boring person who spoils the happiness of others)