

## **List of idiom & phrases**

**To be upto the scratch - to be up to the acceptable standard.**

**To take the biscuit-to be the worst example of something.**

**To try to make bricks without straw - To do some work without proper tool.**

**To wear out one's welcome- to go to some place frequently.**

**To be like water off a duck's back-to have no effect.**

**Run down - criticise. (Don't rundown your friends in Public).**

**Pore over - go through (read). (with attention)**

**Crossed swords-disagreed. (The two famous writers crossed swords with each other on every issue).**

**Standstill-Complete halt. (The traffic came to a standstill after the heavy downpour of rain).**

**To make both ends meet - to live within one's income. (Most parents find it difficult to make both ends meet because of inflation).**

**Play ducks and drakes - squandered, to waste money.**

**without a cloud - without trouble**

**Blare a trail-initiate work and be a pioneer.**

**Held court with - entertained with interesting funny stories.**

**To drop a hint - to give an indication**

**To meet half-Way to - come to terms by making compromise.**

**To roll up one's sleeves - to get ready to do something.**

**To put a good fall on something - to endure cheerfully.**

**To send one about one's business - to send someone away in an incourteous manner.**

**Gift of the gab -Talent for speaning**

**Go a long way- helped considerably.  
(The new law goes a long way towards solving the problems).**

**To cope with - Handle/Adjust.**

**The eleventh hour - at the last moment.**

**Maiden Speech - first speech.**

**Give Vent to their feeling - to express**

**Bear with - have patience with**

**Blowing his own trumpet - Praising himself**

**Making hay while the Sun shines - taking advantage of a favourable opportunity.**

**Laid down their arms - Surrendered.**

**Read between the lines - understand the sense rather than the actual words.**

**By fits and starts-Irregularly**

**Put up with - Tolerate**

**Talking Through his hat-Talking nonsense.**

**(I didn't mind what he was saying, as he was only talking through his hat).**

**Go through fire and water - undergo any risk.**

**Get a flea in his ear - to get a severe scolding. [When the servant tried to make the matter clear he got a flea in his ear].**

**Let it all hangout - to reveal everything.**

**Not breathe a word about the matter- Not to reveal the secret matter**

**A Nosyparker - One who takes interest in others.**

**A-nose-poker-meddling with in every one's affairs).**

**To pap everybody with hatchet - to do favours in an unpleasant manner.**

**Come out of the shell - to become less shy and more confident when talking to other people.**

**Play to the gallery - to behave in an exaggerated way to draw people's attention.**

**His blood ran cold - he was frightened.**

**Not have a leg to stand on – to be in a position where you are unable to prove something or explain why something is reasonable**

**To make ducks and drakes - to squander.**

**To carry off one's feet- to be wild with excitement.**

**To make one's blood creep - to fill one with horror.**

**To all intents and purposes - practically, virtually.**

**To cast one's net wide - to cover a wide field of activities.**

**Put others out of countenance - to make one uncomfortable.**

**To sail one down the river - to betray someone.**



**Rub up- to revise one's knowledge of a subject.**

**To hit upon something - to find something by chance. [He has hit up on a idea of making money within a short period with meagre resources].**

**Carry out - Execute.**

**Spilling the beans - Revealing the information indirectly.**

**Leaps and bounds – at a rapid pace.**

**Laying off- Dismissal from jobs.**

**Fell through - Failed.**

**Cut him off, without a shilling -  
disinherited him.**

**Has too many irons in the fire - is  
engaged in too many enterprises at the  
same time.**

**Let the cat out of the bag - to make a  
secret public.**

**Read between the lines-Find deeper  
meaning than the words appears to  
express**

**Ran riot-act without restraint**

**Give in-Yield.**

**Cheek by sowl-very near**

**Give the game away - Give out the secret**

**Turn an honest penny - make a legitimate living**

**To take to heart- to grieve over/being hurt (cut to the quick).**

**Yeoman's service - excellent work.**

**To put up with - to Tolerate/to bear with**

**To call it a day-Retire, to decide to stop doing something. [After 40 years in politics, Mr. Khan called it a day.]**

**Layout - Spend**

**To go the whole hog - to do it completely.**

**Bad blood - angry footing/enmity**

**A good samaritan - a helpful person**

**Set the record straight - give a correct account**

**Fair-weather friend - one who deserts you in difficulties.**

**Die in harness - died when still in service.**

**Keep under wraps - Secret.**

**Like a phoenix - with a new life.**

**A sore point with - Something which hurts.**

**A damp squib - a disappointing result.**

**In cold blood- deliberately.**

**To take someone for a ride - to receive someone**

**To move heaven and earth - to try everything possible.**

**To smell a rat - to be suspicious.**

**Stand of fish - Indifferent.**

**Blowing your own trumpet- Praising your own abilities.**

**An axe to grind - a private interest to serve.**

**An open book - Has no secrets.**

**A bolt from the blue - an unexpected event.**

**Cold comfort-Slight satisfaction.**

**To be all at sea - Confused.**

**To take to one's heels - To run away (from somebody).**

**To bite the dust- to fail or to be destroyed.**

**At one's wit's end - to get puzzled.**

**To take someone to task - to punish someone.**

**To face the music - to bear the consequences.**

**To run down - to disparage someone.**

**To strain every nerve - To make utmost efforts.**

**To flag a dead horse - to attempt to do the impossible.**

**To show a clean pair of shoes - to escape.**

**To die in harness - to die while in service.**

**To feather one's nest - to profit in a dishonest way.**

**Take after - resembles.**

**Make no bones about - Didn't have any hesitation in.**

**Heads will roll - Transfers will take place.**

**Make a clean breast of - Confessed without reserve**

**To keep up -to be at par**

**Draw on his fancy -used imagination/**

**Pay through the nose- to pay far too much money**



**Rest on their laurels -to be complacent**

**stave off-To keep something away from one, delay something**

**Bold from the blue - Unexpected.**

**Sailing in the same boat - being in the same difficult situation.**

**Gift of the gab - ability to speak well.**

**keep the wolf from the door - Escape starvation.**

**Soft option - Easy and agreeable option.**

**[There is not soft option to the crisis now]**

**Get a flea in his ear -to get a severe scolding.**

**Let it all hang out - to reveal everything.**

**Not breathe a word about the matter-not to reveal the secret matter.**

**A nosy parker- one who takes interest in others.**

**To pap (everybody) with hatchet - to do favours in an unpleasant manner.**

**Puts others out of countenance - to make one uncomfortable.**

**Deal him a severe blow - to hit or strike severely**

**Cut him off, without a shilling -  
disinherited him.**

**Fell through - Failed**

**Threw down the glove- accepted defeat**

**Fought to the bitter end - carried on a  
contest regardless of the consequences.**

**To catch up with - to come to their level.**

**[I joined college late and found it difficult  
to catch up with other students.]**

**Put his foot down-asserted his authority**

**a Man of letters - proficient in literary art**

**To pay off old scores - to take revenge**

**Wears his heart on his sleeve - Express his feelings openly.**

**Doctored the accounts - to manipulate the accounts.**

**Measure up - Reach the level.**

**Stole the show - won every body's praise**

**Good terms - was friendly.**

**Turned down - refused.**

**fly a kite- enter into an agreement**

**free for all - uncontrollable situation**

**My flesh creep - Horrified me**

**burnt his boats -left no means of retreat**

**Can't hold a candle to - not comparable to nurture.**

**Bring up-Introduced for discussion.**

**Cut no ice with me - Have no effect.**

**Hole and corner policy - Secret policy**

**Hue and cry - Any loud public outcry**

**Hush money - Money given to someone to keep something secret/bribe**

**In a nutshell-In very brief form**

**In black and white - In printed or written form.**

**In the long run-Ultimately**

**In full swing-At the height of activity**

**In the blue- In dumps depressed.**

**In the nick of time - At the last possible moment.**

**In the same boat - Sharing the same problems.**

**In vogue- In the current fashions.**

**Ins and outs - Intricacies or complications/full detail.**

**Jump to a conclusion - To come to a conclusion.**

**Kith and kin - Blood relations**

**Lame excuse-False excuse/baseless**

**excuse**

**Lion's share-Large part**

**Make a clean breast-To confess especially something bad or illegal**

**Maiden speech - First speech.**

**Make both ends meet-to live within one's means.**

**Man of iron - Man with strong will-power**

**Man of letters - Learned person/proficient**

**Man of straw-A weak person.**

**Move heaven and earth - To try one's best**

**Narrow escape/close Shave - To escape by a little margin**

**Nip in the bud - To put on end to something at its initial stage.**

**Null and void-Ineffective**

**REGET LOCK**

**TIMER OFF**



**Part and parcel - Inseparable part.  
Essential**

**Pay through his nose - To pay dearly.**

**Play ducks and drakes - to waste money/  
spending foolishly**

**Play second fiddle - to be at a  
subordinate position.**

**Pros and cons For and against.**

**Pull ones' legs - to make fun of or to  
tease.**

**Queer fish- Strange person.**

**Rain cats and dogs - Rain heavily.**

**Sum and substance - Main idea or gist.**

**Swan song-The last performance or  
farewell**

**Take the bull by the horns - To adopt the  
most direct but the most dangerous way  
of facing a difficulty.**

**Throw cold water upon - To discourage.**

**Tooth and nail - Violently.**

**Turn the corner - To pass through a  
critical point in a process.**

**Under the thumb of - Under the power or  
influence of.**

**Held fire - To delay doing Something**

**prochesta:your way to success**