



Common Idioms and Figures of Speech

An *idiom* is a phrase whose meaning comes from standard usage rather than from its individual words. *Idioms* are obscure, meaning that they don't translate literally.

Ace: make an "A" on a test, homework assignments, projects, etc.

All ears: eager to hear what someone has to say.

All of a sudden: suddenly

At the end of one's rope: out of patience, out of options or alternatives

Bad-mouth: say unkind, unflattering, embarrassing (and probably untrue) things about someone.

Be broke: be without money

Be fed-up with (with someone or something): be out of patience, be very tired of
someone or something

Beat around the bush: evade an issue; avoid giving a direct answer.

Beat one's brains out: try very hard to understand or do something.

Blow one's top: become extremely angry.

Break a leg! : Good luck!

Break someone's heart: make someone feel very disappointed/ discouraged/ sad.

Bull-headed: stubborn; inflexible

Burn the midnight oil: study/ work all night or until very, very late at night.

Call it a day: stop work for the day.

Catch some Zs: sleep for a while; take a nap.

Chow down: eat.

Cost (someone) an arm and a leg: cost a lot; be very expensive.

Couch potato: someone who spends too much time watching TV.

Don't count your chicken before they hatch: Don't assume that something will happen until it has happened.

Drop someone a line: write to someone.

An egghead: a very intelligent person.

Feel blue: feel sad and depressed.

Fire someone: dismiss someone from a job because of a poor performance.

For ages: for a very long time.

Get going: leave.

Get lost: go away.

Give someone a hand: help someone; applaud (to show respect or appreciate for someone/ something).



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