English Idioms in Use
39 Food
40 Roads
41 Houses and household objects
42 Nature
43 Boats and sailing
44 Science, technology and machines

**Idioms using these keywords:**

45 Finger, thumb, hand
46 Foot, heel, toe
47 Bones, shoulder, arm, leg
48 Head
49 Face, hair, neck, chest
50 Eyes
51 Ear, lips, mouth, nose, teeth, tongue
52 Heart
53 Brain, mind, blood and guts
54 Back
55 Long
56 Line
57 Act, action, activity
58 Good and bad
59 Ground
60 Similes and idioms with *like*

Key 130

List of phonetic symbols 170

Index 171
Index

The numbers in the index are Unit numbers not page numbers.

get/go from A to B 40
be on about 27
Absence makes the heart grow fonder 29
be brought/called to account 10
There’s no accounting for taste(s) 15
an acid test 10
clean up your act 57
act the fool/goat 1, 57
act your age 57
a balancing act 57
be a hard/rough act to follow 12
catch sb in the act 57
get on the act 57
get your act together 57
put on an act 57
a piece/slice of the action 57
be back in action 57
be out of action 57
follow/take a course of action 57
Actions speak louder than words 29
a hive of activity 57
add fuel to the fire/flames 33
add insult to injury 12
play devil’s advocate 13
be after sb’s blood 3
You can say that again! 11
against (all) (the) odds ii, 15
act your age 57
a hidden agenda 9
at the top of sb’s/the agenda 15
a breath of fresh air 42
be floating/walking on air 2
be in the air 42
be up in the air 42
clear the air 42
pluck a number out of the air 33
airs and graces 20
set alarm bells ringing 16
all ears 51
all over the place 26
all work and no play 29
be all at sea 43
be all sweetness and light 12
be all talk (and no action) 57
give sbth your all 17
go all out 17
have all the makings of 13
if all else fails 15
make all the difference 6
not be all it’s cracked up to be 13
not be all there 1
once and for all 32
be (right) up your alley/street 40
leave well alone 16
along the lines of sth 56
not go amiss 18
a party animal 36
one way or another 15
have a lot to answer for 13
not take no for an answer 28
the answer to sb’s prayers 8
(not) ring any bells / a bell (with me) 4
anybody who is anybody 20
never/not do anything/things by halves 13
keep up appearances 20
whet your appetite 39
An apple a day keeps the doctor away. ii
a grey area 34
a list as long as your arm 55
change your arm 19, 47
cost (sb) an arm and a leg 47
could do sth with one arm/hand tied behind
your back 54
twist sb’s arm 47
hold/keep sb at arm’s length 47
a chink in your armour 38
be up in arms 38
be asking for it/trouble 12
cast aspersions on 12
lead sb astray 16
at a (considerable) price 24
at a push 17
at the end of the day 31
be at each other’s throat 49
be at loggerheads i, 22
be/feel at home 41
make yourself at home 41
avoid sth like the plague 60
have an axe to grind 38
great/go from A to B 40
be as easy as taking candy from a baby 17
be left holding the baby 7
throw the baby out with the bathwater 13
back-pedal 44
You scratch my back and I’ll scratch yours. 54
at the back of your mind 53
at/in the back of beyond 54
be glad/happy/pleased/not sorry to see the back
of sth 54
be (like) water off a duck’s back i, 37
be back in action 57
be on sb’s back 54
be on the back burner 54
by/through the back door 54
come/fall off the back of a lorry 54
could do sth with one arm/hand tied behind
your back 54
fed up (to the back teeth) 3
get/put sb’s back up 3, 54
go back a long way 55
go back to square one 35
blood and guts 53
be after sb's blood 3
be out for blood 3
blue blood 34
get blood out of a stone 53
in cold blood 53
new blood 20
sb's blood is up 3
blow a fuse/gasket 3, 44
blow hot and cold 33
blow sth out of (all) proportion 14
see how / which way the wind is blowing 33
blue blood 34
blue-collar 34
between the devil and the deep blue sea 33
once in a blue moon 32
out of the blue i, 42
until you are blue in the face 34
call sb's bluff 35
be in the same boat 43
miss the boat 43
push the boat out 43
rock the boat 43
burn your boats/fbridges 38, 43
as bold as brass 60
a bone of contention 47
be as dry as a bone i, 60
have a bone to pick with sb 47
I (can) feel it in my bones ii, 47
the bare bones 47
take a leaf out of sb's book 41
be in sb's good books 22
burn the candle at both ends 41
the best of both worlds 58
at the bottom of the (career) ladder 25
be hit rock bottom 42
get to the bottom of 8
the bottom line 56
be duty bound to do sth 18
by/in leaps and bounds 26
a brain drain 53
have sth on the brain 53
pick sb's brains 53
rack your brains 30
put the brakes on 44
as bold as brass 60
put a brave face on sth 49
sb's bread and butter 39
the best/greatest thing since sliced bread 39
be/live on the breadline 24
break sb's heart 52
a dog's breakfast 37
make a clean breast of it 49
a breath of fresh air 42
in the same breath 27
take your breath away 21
breathe down sb's neck 49
be banging/hitting your head against a brick wall ii, 48
come up against a brick wall 7

burn your bridges/boats 38, 43
bring a lump to your throat 14
bring sth home to sb 41
bring sth to a head 48
bring sth to light 8
be on the brink of sth ii
be brought/called to account 10
look like something the cat brought/dragged in 60
be as daft as a brush 60
pass the buck i, 35
kick the bucket 1
not budge/give an inch 10, 23
the travel bug 36
be like a red rag to a bull 60
take the bull by the horns 37
bite the bullet 38
come (back) down to earth with a bump/bang/jolt ii
burn the candle at both ends 41
burn your boats/bridges 38, 43
be on the back burner 54
get/have your fingers burned/burnt 45
be as busy as a bee 60
sb's bread and butter 39
have butterflies in your stomach 36
give sb a buzz 44
be a piece of cake 17
have your cake and eat it 39
the icing on the cake 39
call it a day 32
call sb's bluff 35
call the shots 38
be at sb's beck and call 9
not have a minute to call your own 32
be called/brought to account 10
cool, calm and collected i, 21
a can of worms 10, 37
carry the can 9
can't for the life of me 4
burn the candle at both ends 41
be as easy as taking candy from a baby 17
be on the cards 35
lay/put your cards on the table 35
play your cards right 35
the cards are stacked against you 19
take care of the pence/pennies 29
career ladder 25
at the bottom of the (career) ladder 25
at the top of the (career) ladder 25
climb to the top of the career ladder 25
carry the can 9
a basket case 1
cast aspersions on 12
cast/run your eye over 50
let the cat out of the bag ii, 37
look like something the cat brought/dragged in 60
not (enough) room to swing a cat 37
put/send the cat among the pigeons i, 3, 37
While the cat's away, the mice will play. 29

catch sb in the act 57

catch sb red-handed 34

catch sb's eye 50

catch in the middle 23

be caught in the crossfire 38

be caught napping 16

hit the ceiling/roof 41

left, right and centre 26

chance your arm 19, 47

not have the ghost of a chance 6

change hands 45

change tack 43

a change of heart 52

chase your tail 36

get it off your chest 49

run round like a headless chicken 37

be child's play 17

a chink in your armour 38

have a chip on your shoulder 47

when the chips are down 35

a vicious circle 10

go round in circles 10

clean up your act 57

make a clean breast of it 49

clear the air 42

clear the decks 43

loud and clear 28

steer clear of 43

climb to the top of the career ladder 25

work against the clock 32

go/run/work like clockwork 32

pop your clogs 1

be too close for comfort 16

sail close to the wind 43

be on cloud nine 2

not have a clue 4

clutch at straws 7

the other side of the coin 10

to coin a phrase 27

cold-blooded 53

a cold fish 36

blow hot and cold 33

get cold feet 46

give sb the cold shoulder 47, 49

in cold blood 53

pour cold water on sth 33

cool, calm and collected i, 21

come to light 8

come (back) down to earth with a bang/bump/jolt ii, 42

come a long way 55

come down on one side or the other 41

come home to you 41

come to a head 48

come to terms with 14

come up against a brick wall 7

come/spring to mind 30

the shape of things to come 31

if push comes to shove 18

if the worst comes to the worst 58

if/when it comes to the crunch 38

be too close for comfort 16

see sth coming (a mile off) 19

commit sth to memory 30

common ground 59

a foregone conclusion 19

the pros and cons i, 10

to your heart's content 52

a bone of contention 47

too many cooks 29

cool, calm and collected i, 21

see sth out of the corner of your eye 50

politically correct 20

cost (sb) an arm and a leg 47

follow/take a course of action 57

steer a middle course 43

the ball is in your court 35

at the crack of dawn 32

not be all it's cracked up to be 13

by hook or by crook i, 17

cross your fingers 45

cross your mind 30

at cross-purposes 22

sb's paths cross 40

get your lines/wires crossed 44

keep your fingers crossed 45

be caught in the crossfire 38

at a crossroads 40

when it comes to the crunch 38

a shoulder to cry on 47

be a far cry from sth 23

It's no good / There's no point crying over spilt milk. 29

as cunning/sly as a fox 60

cut a long story short i, 55

cut the ground from under sb's feet 59

cut things fine 16

have your work cut out 25

be a dab hand 45

be as daft as a brush 60

look daggers at 38

be pushing up (the) daisies ii

put a dampener/damper on 2

on dangerous ground 59

a dark horse 36

be in the dark 42

keep sb in the dark 42

be past / pass your sell-by date 39

at the crack of dawn 32

An apple a day keeps the doctor away. ii

at the end of the day 31

call it a day 32

make your day 2, 21

frighten/scare the (living) daylights out of ii

have seen better days 31

it's early days (yet) 31

a dead end 40

be a dead loss 13

would not be seen dead 18
dead-end job 25
Big deal! 23
look like death warmed up 1
clear the decks 43
be in deep water 33
between the devil and the deep blue sea 33
go off the deep end 3
jump in the deep end 33
throw sb in the deep end 33
be out of your depth 33
leave a lot to be desired 9
between the devil and the deep blue sea 33
play devil's advocate 13
a rough diamond 20
make all the difference 6
try a different tack 43
dig your heels in 46
dig yourself into a hole 7
be in dire straits 7
be a blessing in disguise 6
drive sb to distraction 13
do your own thing 18
make do 8
a spin doctor 9
An apple a day keeps the doctor away. ii
a doddle 17
a dog's breakfast 37
go to the dogs 37
be in the doldrums 43
easier said than done 7
give sb a dose/taste of their own medicine 1
in small doses 23
from/since the year dot 31
sign on the dotted line 56
give sb the benefit of the doubt 10
down-and-out 20
down-to-earth 42
be down in the dumps 2, 21
keep your head down 48
never live sth down 15
go downhill 40
six of one and half a dozen of the other 11
drag your feet/heels 26, 46
look like something the cat dragged/brought in
a brain drain 53
draw a blank 7
draw a line under sth 56
draw the line (at sth) 56
the luck of the draw 19
goto/work like a dream 6
wouldn't dream of 14
drive/send sb round the bend/twist i, ii, 3, 40
drive sb to distraction 13
drive sb up the wall 3
a backseat driver 44
drop sb a line 56
a drop in the ocean 33
be as dry as a bone i, 60
be (like) water off a duck's back i, 37
be down in the dumps 2, 21
bite the dust 1, 42
like gold dust 12
be duty bound to do sth 18
be dying for/to 18
play it by ear 51
go in one ear and out the other 51
have a word in sb's ear 51
give sb an earful 3
it's early days (yet) 31
all ears 51
be up to your ears/eyes (in work) 25
can't believe your ears 51
be the salt of the earth 33
come (back) down to earth with a bang/bump/jolt ii, 42
go to the ends of the earth 33
easier said than done 7
be as easy as falling off a log 17
be as easy as taking candy from a baby 17
have your cake and eat it 39
be on edge 21
have the edge over 13
get a word in edgeways 28
be as slippery as an eel 60
have egg on your face 39
Don't put all your eggs in one basket. 29
be in your element 42
be out of your element 42
if all else fails 15
a dead end 40
at the end of the day 31
be at the end of your tether 21
be at your wits' end 3
be at/on the receiving end 9
get (hold of) the wrong end of the stick 4
go off the deep end 3
jump in the deep end 33
light at the end of the tunnel 8
not be the end of the world 2
throw sb in the deep end 33
to the bitter end 39
burn the candle at both ends 41
go to the ends of the earth 33
odds and ends i
tie up loose ends 8
be your own worst enemy 38
be man enough to do sth ii
be green with envy 34
a narrow escape 16
a necessary evil 16
the lesser of two evils 15
make an exhibition of yourself 13
put sth down to experience 5
an eye-opener 50
as far as the eye can see 60
cast/run your eye over 50

English Idioms in Use 175
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Idiom</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>catch sb's eye</td>
<td>get cold feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have/keep one eye on</td>
<td>get/have itchy feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in the blink of an eye</td>
<td>have/keep both/your feet on the ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in your mind's eye</td>
<td>stand on your own two feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>keep an eye on</td>
<td>sit on the fence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>keep an eye out for sb/sth</td>
<td>fever pitch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>see sth out of the corner of your eye</td>
<td>be as fit as a fiddle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn a blind eye</td>
<td>a level playing field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>see eye to eye</td>
<td>fight a losing battle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>raise (a few) eyebrows</td>
<td>an uphill fight/battle/struggle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be up to your eyes/ears (in work)</td>
<td>be a figment of your imagination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>can't keep your eyes off</td>
<td>have your fill of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>couldn't believe your eyes</td>
<td>find out how the land lies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have eyes like a hawk</td>
<td>find your feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>open sb's eyes to sth</td>
<td>a fine/thin line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with your eyes open</td>
<td>cut things fine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>face the music</td>
<td>the fine/small print</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a long face</td>
<td>not lift a finger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be as plain as the nose on your face</td>
<td>pull your finger out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have egg on your face</td>
<td>put your finger on sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>keep a straight face</td>
<td>cross your fingers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>make/pull a face</td>
<td>get/have your fingers burned/burnt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>on the face of it</td>
<td>have green fingers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>put a brave face on sth</td>
<td>keep your fingers crossed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stuff your face</td>
<td>There's no smoke without fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take sth at face value</td>
<td>add fuel to the fire/flames</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>until you are blue in the face</td>
<td>get on like a house on fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>face to face</td>
<td>hold fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a fact of life</td>
<td>not set the world on fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the facts of life</td>
<td>play with fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fade/pale into insignificance</td>
<td>be in the firing line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>if all else fails</td>
<td>first hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not have the faintest idea</td>
<td>a cold fish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fall into place</td>
<td>be like a fish out of water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fall/come off the back of a lorry</td>
<td>have/throw a fit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fall off your perch</td>
<td>be as fit as a fiddle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fall on stony ground</td>
<td>add fuel to the flames/fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fall/land on your feet</td>
<td>be as flat as a pancake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be as easy as falling off a log</td>
<td>flavour of the month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>under false pretences</td>
<td>How time flies!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have a familiar ring (to it)</td>
<td>be floating/walking on air</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as far as the eye can see</td>
<td>get in on the ground floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be a far cry from sth</td>
<td>go with the flow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fast and furious</td>
<td>fly off the handle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be as light as a feather</td>
<td>a fly on the wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>birds of a feather</td>
<td>wouldn't hurt a fly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ruffle sb's feathers</td>
<td>get off to a flying start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fed up (to the back teeth)</td>
<td>foaming at the mouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I (can) feel it in my bones</td>
<td>not have the foggiest (idea)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>feel/be at home</td>
<td>follow in sb's footsteps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>feel/be under the weather</td>
<td>follow suit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>put out feelers</td>
<td>follow/take a course of action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a gut feeling/reaction</td>
<td>be a hard/tough act to follow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have mixed feelings</td>
<td>Absence makes the heart grow fonder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rushed off your feet</td>
<td>give sb food for thought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be under your feet</td>
<td>act the fool/goat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cut the ground from under sb's feet</td>
<td>You could've fooled me.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drag your feet/heels</td>
<td>foot the bill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fall/land on your feet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
go with the flow 42
get beyond a joke 26
get from A to B 40
get work like a dream 6
get work like clockwork 32
be on the go 25
have a go at 17
let yourself go 14
make a go of 6
not go amiss 18
act the goat/fool 1, 57
be in the lap of the gods 19
your mind goes blank 30
be as good as gold 60
like gold dust 12
It's no good / There's no point crying over spilt milk. 29
be as good as gold 60
be in sb's good books 22
give sb a free hand 45
keep your hair on! 49
not turn a hair 49
pull/tear your hair out 49
six of one and half a dozen of the other 11
never/not do anything/things by halves 13
give sb a hand 45
a bird in the hand 29
be a dab hand 45
could do sth with one hand/arm tied behind your back 54
first hand 45
give sb a hand 45
turn your hand to sth 45
fly off the handle 41
Many hands make light work. 29
change hands 45
have your hands full 25, 45
take the law into your own hands 9
take your life into your hands 16
wash your hands of 45
your life is in sb's hands 16
hang by a thread 16
hang in the balance 14
a question mark (hanging) over 28
hard/hot on the heels of sth 46
be a hard/tough act to follow 12
give sb a hard/rough/tough time 12, 14
take a long, hard look at sth 55
a long haul 55
have a bash 17
have a bone to pick with sb 47
have a chip on your shoulder 47
have a familiar ring (to it) 4
have a go at 17
have a lot of time for sb 31
have a lot to answer for 13
have a mind of its own 53
have a screw loose 1
have a shot at 38
have a soft spot for sb 22
have a sweet tooth 39
have a word in sb's ear 51
have all the makings of 13
have an axe to grind 38
have butterflies in your stomach 36
have egg on your face 39
have eyes like a hawk 60
have green fingers 34, 45
have had it up to here 3
have it in for sb 22
have it out with sb 22
have itchy feet 1
have mixed feelings 21
have sb over a barrel 7
have second thoughts i, 5
have seen better days 31
have sth on the brain 53
have the edge over 13
have your cake and eat it 39
have your fill of 21
have your hands full 25, 45
have your heart set on sth 52
have your work cut out 25
have/get your fingers burned/burnt 45
have/get/take the bit between your teeth 36
have/keep an open mind 53
have/keep one eye on 50
have/keep both your feet on the ground 46
have/throw a fit 3
not have a clue 4
not have a leg to stand on 47
not have the faintest idea 4
not have the foggiest (idea) 4
not have the ghost of a chance 6
have eyes like a hawk 60
be banging/hitting your head against a brick wall ii, 48
be like a bear with a sore head 37, 60
hire sb's head off 48
bring sth to a head 48
come to a head 48
get your head (around) 48
keep your head 48
keep your head above water 48
keep your head down 48
knock sth on the head 48
laugh your head off 48
lose your head 48
need sth like you need a hole in the head 18
not be right in the head 1
off the top of your head 48
put ideas into sb's head 48
scream your head off 48
shout your head off 48
run round like a headless chicken 37
turn heads 48
hear sth on/through the grapevine 5
Absence makes the heart grow fonder. 29

a change of heart 52
a man/woman after your own heart 52
bare your heart/soul 52
break sb's heart 52
have your heart set on sth 52
know/learn sth off by heart 52
lose heart 52
open your heart 52
pour your heart out 52
put your heart and soul into sth 52
sb's heart is in the right place 52
sb's heart is in their mouth 51
sb's heart misses/skips a beat 52
sb's heart sinks 52
set your heart on sth 52
take sth to heart 52
to your heart's content 52
heart-to-heart 52
in the heat of the moment 33
be in seventh heaven 2
heavy-going 17
as heavy as lead 60
dig your heels in 46
drag your heels/feet 26, 46
hit the big time 6
hit the ceiling/roof 41
hit the road 40
hit the rock bottom 42
not know what hit me 21
be hitting/banging your head against a brick wall ii, 48
be like a bear with a sore head 37, 60
hire sb's head off 48
bring sth to a head 48
come to a head 48
get your head (around) 48
keep your head 48
keep your head above water 48
keep your head down 48
knock sth on the head 48
laugh your head off 48
lose your head 48
need sth like you need a hole in the head 18
not be right in the head 1
off the top of your head 48
put ideas into sb's head 48
scream your head off 48
shout your head off 48
run round like a headless chicken 37
turn heads 48
hear sth on/through the grapevine 5
Absence makes the heart grow fonder. 29
be in hot water 33
blow hot and cold 33
strike while the iron is hot 15
get on like a house on fire 22
be as safe as houses 41
people who live in glass houses 29
wouldn't hurt a fly 36
hit sb where it hurts (most) ii
the icing on the cake 39
not have the faintest idea 4
not have the foggiest (idea) 4
put ideas into sb's head 48
if need be 18
be a figment of your imagination 5
from time immemorial ii
in a nutshell 10
in cold blood 53
in keeping with sth 18
in the bag 8
be in line for sth 56
be in the dark 42
be in the doldrums 43
be in the red 34
be in your element 42
be/get/stay in touch with sb 22
have it in for sb 22
keep in touch with sb 22
keep sb in the picture 41
put sb in the picture 41
not budge/give an inch 10, 23
add insult to injury 12
the ins and outs 5
know sth inside out 4
fade/pale into insignificance 14
add insult to injury 12
strike while the iron is hot 15
get/have itchy feet 1, 46
give sth up as a bad job 58
make the best of a bad job 58
jog sb's memory 30
be no joke 27
come (back) down to earth with a jolt/bang/bump ii, 42
jump for joy 2, 21
against your better judgement 58
jump for joy 2, 21
jump in the deep end 33
jump the gun 38
jump/get/leap on the bandwagon 13
the law of the jungle 37
Just my luck! 19
keep a lid on sth 14
keep a low profile 20
keep a straight face 49
keep an eye on 50
keep an eye out for sb/sth 50
keep an open mind 53
keep in touch with sb 22
keep sb in the dark 42
keep sb in the picture 41
keep sb on their toes 46
keep sb/sth at bay 22
keep track 26
keep up appearances 20
keep your fingers crossed 45
Keep your hair on! 49
keep your hand in 45
keep your head 48
keep your head above water 48
keep your head down 48
keep yourself to yourself 22
keep/bear in mind 30
keep/have an open mind 53
keep/have one eye on 50
keep/have both your feet on the ground 46
keep/hold sb at arm's length 47
can't keep your eyes off 50
in keeping with sth 18
hold the key to sth 41
kick the bucket 1
get a (real) kick out of sth 2
do sth for kicks 2
kill two birds with one stone i, ii, 37
make a killing 24
not take kindly to sth 21
on a knife-edge 16
put/stick the knife in ii, 38
twist the knife 38
knock sth on the head 48
tie yourself (up) in knots ii, 10
know sth inside out 4
know sth like the back of your hand 54
know the ropes 43
know where you stand 5
know your stuff 4
know/learn sth off by heart 52
not know the meaning of the word 28
not know what hit me 21
not know where to put yourself 21
not know which way to turn 21
at the bottom of the (career) ladder 25
climb to the top of the career ladder 25
climb to the top of the career ladder 25
at the top of the (career) ladder 25
career ladder 25
land/fall on your feet 46
find out how the land lies 42
take a stroll/trip down memory lane 30
in the lap of the gods 19
in the lap of luxury 24
loom large 23
be larger than life 23
it's the last straw 29
laugh your head off 48
Don't make me laugh. 11
a laughing stock 13
be no laughing matter 27
become a law unto yourself 9
lay down the law 9
take the law into your own hands 9
the law of the jungle 37
lay/put your cards on the table 35
lead sb astray 16
as heavy as lead 60
one thing leads to another 15
shake like a leaf 42
take a leaf out of sb's book 41
lean/bend over backwards 54
leap/get/jump on the bandwagon 13
by/in leaps and bounds 26
learn the ropes 43
learn your lesson 5
learn/know sth off by heart 52
leave a lot to be desired 13
leave a sour taste in the mouth 39
leave sb in the lurch 14
leave sb to their own devices 9
leave your mark 6
I can take it or leave it. 11
left, right and centre 26
be left holding the baby 7
the left hand doesn't know what the right hand
is doing 1
cost (sb) an arm and a leg 47
not have a leg to stand on 47
pull sb's leg 47
hold/keep sb at arm's length 47
go to any/great lengths 55
the lesser of two evils 15
learn your lesson 5
teach sb a lesson 5
let off steam 44
let the cat out of the bag ii, 37
let yourself go 14
let/get sb off the hook 9
a level playing field 35
keep a lid on sth 14
lie through your teeth i, 51
a pack of lies 27
find out how the land lies 42
a fact of life 7
be larger than life 23
can't for the life of me 4
Get a life! 11
Such is life. 11
take your life into your hands 16
That's life. 11
It's/That's the story of my life. 11
the facts of life 7
This is the life! 11
your life is in sb's hands 16
once in a lifetime 32
not lift a finger 45
thumb a lift 45
light at the end of the tunnel 8
be all sweetness and light 12
be as light as a feather 60
bring sth to light 8
come to light 8
give sth the green light 34
make light of 27
Many hands make light work. 29
shed/throw light on 8
like greased lightning 8
like gold dust 12
A likely story. 27
be out on a limb 16
go out on a limb 16
line of work 56
a fine/thin line 56
be in line for sth 56
be in the firing line 38
be out of line 56
draw a line under sth 56
draw the line (at sth) 56
drop sb a line 56
sign on the dotted line 56
step out of line 56
the bottom line 56
toe the line 46
along the lines of sth 56
along/on the right lines 56
along/on the same lines 56
get your lines/wires crossed 44
read between the lines 56
lingua franca 28
pay lip service to 51
My lips are sealed. 51
a list as long as your arm 55
A little bird told me. 36
live (from) hand to mouth 51
live on another planet 42
live/be on the breadline 24
never live sth down 15
people who live in glass houses 29
you haven't lived 11
in/within living memory 30, 31
a load/weight off your mind 53
be as easy as falling off a log 17
sleep like a log 42
be at loggerheads i, 22
a lone wolf 36
a long face 55
a long haul 55
a list as long as your arm 55
come a long way 55
cut a long story short i, 55
go a long way 55
go back a long way 55
How long is a piece of string? 55
in the long run 31
in the long/medium/short term 31
It's a long story. 55
Long time no see. 55
long-winded 55
take a long, hard look at sth 55
look daggers at 38
look like death warmed up 1
look like something the cat brought/dragged
in 60
look right/straight through sb 14
not look a gift horse in the mouth 11
take a long, hard look at sth 55
loom large 23
have a screw loose 1
tie up loose ends 8
come off the back of a lorry 54
lose heart 52
lose sight of 5
lose your head 48
fight a losing battle 38
be a dead loss 13
be lost for words 27
make up for lost time 31
have a lot of time for sb 31
have a lot to answer for 13
leave a lot to be desired 13
loud and clear 28
Actions speak louder than words. 29
keep a low profile 20
be in luck 18
Just my luck! 19
No such luck! 11, 19
push your luck 19
take pot luck 19
the luck of the draw 19
You should be so lucky! 19
bring a lump to your throat 14
leave sb in the lurch 14
in the lap of luxury 24
be made for 12
wave a magic wand 8
work like magic 6
snail mail 37
make a beeline for sb/sth 36
make a big thing of 23
make a clean breast of it 49
make a go of 6
make a killing 24
make a name for yourself 20
make a real pig of yourself 36
make a small fortune 24
make all the difference 6
make an exhibition of yourself 13
make do 8
make it big 23
make it up to sb 22
make light of 27
make the best of a bad job 58
make the most of 14
make up for lost time 31
make up your mind 53
make waves 33
make your day 2, 21
make sb's mouth water 39, 51
make yourself at home 41
make/pull a face 49
Don't make me laugh. 11
have all the makings of 13

make a beeline for 36
make a big thing of 23
make a clean breast of it 49
make a go of 6
make a killing 24
make a name for yourself 20
make a real pig of yourself 36
make a small fortune 24
make all the difference 6
make an exhibition of yourself 13
make do 8
make it big 23
make it up to sb 22
make light of 27
make the best of a bad job 58
make the most of 14
make up for lost time 31
make up your mind 53
make waves 33
make your day 2, 21
make sb's mouth water 39, 51
make yourself at home 41
make/pull a face 49
Don't make me laugh. 11
have all the makings of 13

a man/woman after your own heart 52
be man enough to do sth 11
Many hands make light work. 29
put sth on the map 40
a question mark (hanging) over 28
be wide of the mark 35
leave your mark 6
matter-of-fact 28
be a matter of opinion 28
be no laughing matter 27
be only a matter of time 31
be that as it may 10
not know the meaning of the word 28
give sb a dose/taste of their own medicine 1
in the medium/long/short term 31
commit sth to memory 30
have a memory like a sieve 60
in/within living memory 30, 31
jog sb's memory 30
take a stroll/trip down memory lane 30
be on the mend 1
The more the merrier. 11
get the message 5
While the cat's away, the mice will play. 29
take the mick/mickey 27
middle-of-the-road 40
caught in the middle 23
in the middle of nowhere 23
steer a middle course 43
the middle ground 23
seemspot sth a mile off 19, 23
stand/stick out a mile 23
be miles away 23
It's no good / There's no point crying over spilt milk. 29
Thanks a million! 11
Out of sight, out of mind. 30
at the back of your mind 53
be a load/weight off your mind 53
bear/keep in mind 30
come/spring to mind 30
cross your mind 30
give sb a piece of your mind 3
have a mind of its own 53
have/keep an open mind 53
make up your mind 53
put/set sb's mind at rest 53
slip your mind 30
speak your mind 28
your mind goes blank 30
in your mind's eye 50, 53
not have a minute to call your own 32
a misery guts 2
miss the boat 43
miss the point 28
sb's heart misses/skips a beat 52
have mixed feelings 21
in the heat of the moment 33
on the spur of the moment 35
a money-spinner 24
spend money like water 24
flavour of the month 39
be over the moon 2, 42
once in a blue moon 32
The more the merrier. 11
make the most of 14
go through the motions 17
by word of mouth 51
foaming at the mouth 51
leave a sour taste in the mouth 39
live (from) hand to mouth 51
make sb's mouth water 39, 51
mouth-watering 51
not look a gift horse in the mouth 11, 42
sb's heart is in their mouth 51
get a move on 26
face the music 7
make a name for yourself 20
you name it 11
be caught napping 16
a narrow escape 16
a necessary evil 16
be a pain in the neck 49
breathe down sb's neck 49
if need be 18
need sth like you need a hole in the head 18
neither here nor there 11
get/grate on sb's nerves 12
a nervous/quivering nerves wreck 43
never live sth down 15
new blood 20
in the nick of time 31
nine times out of ten 32
be on cloud nine 2
in no time at all 32
be second to none 12
neither here nor there 11
be as plain as the nose on your face 60
get right up sb's nose 51
No such luck! 11, 19
No way! 11
pay through the nose for sth i, 24
poke/stick your nose into 51
turn your nose up 51
be not on 15
There's nothing to it. 11
think nothing of 14
in the middle of nowhere 23
pluck a number out of the air 33
do your nut 3
in a nutshell 10
be as nutty as a fruitcake 1
put/stick your oar in 43
da drop in the ocean 33
the odd one out 20
against (all) (the) odds ii, 19
odds and ends 1
be off the beaten track 40
be off your rocker 1
be off your trolley 1
go off the deep end 3
off and on 32
off the top of your head 48
off your own bat 35
off-colour 1
off-the-cuff 27
on and off 32
on the off-chance 19
be on about 27
be on edge 21
be on sb's back 54
be on the ball 35
be on the cards 35
be on the go 25
be on the mend 1
be on the right track 40
be on the run 26
be on the threshold of sth 31
be on the wrong track 40
be not on 15
off and on 32
on a knife-edge 16
on and off 32
on paper 25
on the big/expensive, etc. side 13
on the blink 50
on the face of it 49
on the one hand 10
on the other hand 10, 45
on the spot 26
to be on the safe side 8
once and for all 32
once in a blue moon 32
once in a lifetime 32
be one sandwich short of a picnic 1
come down on one side or the other 41
could do sth with one arm/hand tied behind your back 54
Don't put all your eggs in one basket. 29
go one better 58
go back to square one 35
go in one ear and out the other 51
have/keep one eye on 50
kill two birds with one stone i, ii, 37
on the one hand 10
one thing leads to another 15
one way or another 15
six of one and half a dozen of the other 11
the odd one out 20
open sb's eyes to sth 50
open your heart 52
have/keep an open mind 53
with your eyes open 50
be a matter of opinion 28
be a tall order 28
on the other hand 10
six of one and half a dozen of the other 11
the other side of the coin 10
out of the blue 1, 42
out-of-date 31
be out for blood 3
be out of action 57
be out of line 56
be out of sorts 2
be out of this world 12
be out of touch with 4
be out of your depth 33
be out of your element 42
be out a limb 16
go out of hand 45
get out of your way to do sth 17
go out on a limb 16
have it out with sb 22
out-and-out 12
Out of sight, out of mind. 30
the odd one out 20
the ins and outs 5
be as strong as an ox 60
be over the moon 2, 42
be over the top 15
do your own thing 18
have a mind of its own 53
be as flat as a pancake 60
panic stations 16
on paper 25
a party animal 36
pass your sell-by date 39
pass the buck i, 35
be past your sell-by date 39
sb’s paths cross 40
give you pause for thought ii
pay lip service to 51
pay the price for 24
pay through the nose for sth i, 24
There’s no peace/rest for the wicked! ii
take care of the pence/pennies 29
people who live in glass houses 29
fall off your perch 1
to coin a phrase 27
pick sb’s brains 53
pick up the bill/tab ii, 24
pick up the pieces 8
have a bone to pick with sb 47
take your pick 18
be one sandwich short of a picnic 1
geret the picture 41
keep sb in the picture 41
put sb in the picture 41
a piece/slice of the action 57
be a piece of cake 17
give sb a piece of your mind 3
How long is a piece of string? 55
pick up the pieces 8
a guinea pig 36
make a real pig of yourself 36
put/send the cat among the pigeons i, 3, 37
a bitter pill (to swallow) 1
sugar the pill 1
a pillar of society 20
be in the pipeline 44
fever pitch 26
all over the place 26
fall into place 8
sb’s heart in the right place 52
go places 6
avoid sth like the plague 60
be plain sailing 43
be as plain as the nose on your face 60
live on another planet 42
all work and no play 29
be child’s play 17
play ball 35
play devil’s advocate 13
play it by ear 51
play with fire 33
play your cards right 35
While the cat’s away, the mice will play. 29
a level playing field 35
pluck a number out of the air 33
take the plunge 35
There’s no point. It’s no good crying over spilt milk. 29
a sore point/spot 1
be beside the point 28
miss the point 28
poke fun at 12
poke/stick your nose into 51
I wouldn’t touch sb/sth with a barge pole. 18
politically correct 20
go to the polls 9
pop your clogs 1
take pot luck 19
pour cold water on sth 33
pour your heart out 52
the answer to sb’s prayers 8
prepare the ground 59
under false pretences 13
at a (considerable) price 24
pay the price for 24
the fine/small print 28
no prizes for guessing sth 19
keep a low profile 20
blow sth out of (all) proportion 14
the pros and cons i, 10
pull out (all) the stops 25
pull sb’s leg 47
pull your finger out 17
pull your weight 17
pull/make a face 49
pull/tear your hair out 49
push the boat out 43
push your luck 19
at a push 17
if push comes to shove 18
be pushing up (the) daisies ii
Don't put all your eggs in one basket. 29
not know where to put yourself 21
put a brave face on sth 49
put ideas into sb's head 48
put on an act 57
put out feelers 37
put paid to 24
put sb in the picture 41
put sth down to experience 5
put sth on hold 25
put the brakes on 44
put two and two together 4
put your finger on sth 45
put your foot down i, 46
put your foot in it 7, 46
put your heart and soul into sth 52
put/set the record straight 5
put/throw a spanner in the works 44
an unknown quantity 23
a question mark (hanging) over 28
a quivering/nervous wreck 43
rack your brains 30
be like a red rag to a bull 60
road rage 40
be as right as rain 1
raise (a few) eyebrows 50
ram sth down sb's throat 49
a gut reaction/feeling 53
read between the lines 56
rough and ready i, 13
get a (real) kick out of sth 2
be at/on the receiving end 9
recharge your batteries 1
put/set the record straight 5
on the road to recovery 1
red tape 34
a red herring 34
be in the red 34
be like a red rag to a bull 60
catch sb red-handed 34
give sb free rein 36
put/set sb's mind at rest 53
There's no rest/peace for the wicked!  ii
along/on the right lines 56
be as right as rain 1
be on the right track 40
left, right and centre 26
look right/straight through sb 14
not be right in the head 1
play your cards right 35
sb's heart is in the right place 52
the left hand doesn't know what the right hand
is doing i
ring a bell 30
have a familiar ring (to it) 4
(not) ring a bell / any bells (with me) 4
(not) ring true 27
set alarm bells ringing 16
a rip-off 24
road rage 40
hit the road 40
on the road to recovery 1
be/hit rock bottom 42
rock the boat 43
be off your rocker 1
start the ball rolling 35
hit the roof/ceiling 41
not (enough) room to swing a cat 37
know the ropes 43
learn the ropes 43
show sb the ropes 43
rough and ready i, 13
a rough diamond 20
give sb a rough/hard/rough time 12, 14
rub sb up the wrong way 3, 22
ruffle sb's feathers 3
a rule of thumb 45
bend the rules 9
be on the run 26
in the long run 31
run round like a headless chicken 37
run to ground 33
run-of-the-mill 25
run/cast your eye over 50
run/go/work like clockwork 32
rushed off your feet 25, 46
be stuck in a rut 60
get out of a rut 25
get / be given the sack 25
get / give sb the sack 25
safe and sound i, 16
be as safe as houses 41
to be on the safe side 8
easier said than done 7
sail close to the wind 43
be plain sailing 43
be the salt of the earth 33
along/on the same lines 56
be in the same boat 43
be on the same wavelength 44
in the same breath 27
be one sandwich short of a picnic 1
You can say that again! 11
scare/frighten the (living) daylights out of ii
behind the scenes 25
from scratch 32
You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours. 54
scream your head off 48
have a screw loose 1
be all at sea 43
between the devil and the deep blue sea 33
My lips are sealed. 51
take a back seat 54
second best 58
be second to none 12
have second thoughts i, 5
as far as the eye can see 60
be glad/happy/pleased/not sorry to see the back of sth 54
Long time no see 55
see eye to eye 50
see how which way the wind is blowing 33
see sth coming (a mile off) 19
see sth out of the corner of your eye 50
see/spot sth a mile off 23
would not be seen dead 18
be past /pass your sell-by date 39
send/driver put the cat among the pigeons i, 3, 37
pay lip service to 51
have your heart set on sth 52
not set the world on fire 33
set/put the record straight 5
be in seventh heaven 2
shake like a leaf 42
the shape of things to come 5
all shapes and sizes 23
shed/throw light on 8
shut your ground 59
take a shine to sb 22
be in sb's shoes 15
step into sb's shoes 25
talk shop 25
be one sandwich short of a picnic 1
cut a long story short i, 55
in the short/medium/long term 31
give it a shot/whirl 8
have a shot at 38
call the shots 38
a shoulder to cry on 47
give sb the cold shoulder 47, 49
have a chip on your shoulder 47
stand shoulder to shoulder 47
shout your head off 48
if push comes to shove 18
show sb the ropes 43
be sick and tired 21
come down on one side or the other 41
go out of bed on the wrong side 41
on the big/expense, etc. side 13
the other side of the coin 10
to be on the safe side 8
have a memory like a sieve 60
lose sight of 5
Out of sight, out of mind. 30
be a sign of the times 31
sign on the dotted line 56
be as ugly as sin 60
sb's heart sinks 52
sit on the fence 41
six of one and half a dozen of the other 11
all shapes and sizes 23
by the skin of your teeth 16, 51
sb's heart skips/misses a beat 52
sleep like a log 42
a slice/piece of the action 57
the best/greatest thing since sliced bread 39
a slime ball ii
a slip of the tongue 27
slip your mind 30
be as slippery as an eel 60
slog/work your guts out 53
as sly/cunning as a fox 60
a small fortune 23, 24
in small doses 23
It's a small world 11
lose a small fortune 24
make a small fortune 24
small talk 27
the small/fine print 28
There's no smoke without fire. 33
go up in smoke 33
at a small's pace 37
snail mail 37
be snowed under 25
a pillar of society 20
have a soft spot for sb 22
a sore point/spot 1
be like a bear with a sore head 37, 60
stand/point out like a sore thumb 45
be out of sorts 2
bare your soul/heart 52
put your heart and soul into sth 52
safe and sound i, 16
leave a sour taste in the mouth 39
sour grapes 2
put/throw a spanner in the works 44
go spare 3
Actions speak louder than words. 29
speak your mind 28
not be on speaking terms 3
spend money like water 24
It's no good /There's no point crying over spilt milk. 29
a spin doctor 9
a sore/point 1
have a soft spot for sb 22
on the spot 26
spot/see sth a mile off 23
spread like wildfire 33
spread yourself too thin 7
the word spread 26
spring/come to mind 30
on the spur of the moment 35
go back to square one 35
stab sb in the back 54
the cards are stacked against you 19
sb's stamping/stomping ground 59
know where you stand 5
not have a leg to stand on
stand on your own two feet
stand sb in good stead
stand shoulder to shoulder
stand the test of time
stand your ground
stand sb in good stead
stand like a sore thumb
get off to a flying start
start the ball rolling
start/get off on the wrong foot
state-of-the-art
panic stations
stay in touch with sb
stand sb in good stead
go under your own steam
let off steam
steer a middle course
steer clear of
step into sb's shoes
step out of line
step by step
get (hold of) the wrong end of the stick
stick to your guns
stuck your nose into
put the knife in
put your oar in
stick out a mile
stick out like a sore thumb
a laughing stock
have butterflies in your stomach
sb's stomping ground
get blood out of a stone
kill two birds with one stone
fall on stony ground
pull out (all) the stops
A likely story.
It's a long story.
It's/That's the story of my life.
cut a long story short
keep a straight face
put/set the record straight
be in dire straits
it's the last straw
clutch at straws
be (right) up your street/alley
go from strength to strength
strike while the iron is hot
How long is a piece of string?
take a stroll/trip down memory lane
be as strong as an ox
an uphill struggle/battle/fight
be stuck in a rut
stuff your face
know your stuff
a stumbling block
sb/sth is a victim of their/its own success
Such is life.
sugar the pill
follow suit
suit sb down to the ground
a bitter pill (to swallow)
wish the ground would swallow you
sweat/slog/work your guts out
have a sweet tooth
be all sweetness and light
be in full swing
not (enough) room to swing a cat
pick up the tab/bill
lay/put your cards on the table
change tack
try a different tack
chase your tail
take/get/have the bit between your teeth
I can take it or leave it
not take kindly to sth
not take no for an answer
take a back seat
take a leaf out of sb's book
take a long, hard look at sth
take a shine to sb
take a stroll/trip down memory lane
take care of the pence/pennies
take pot luck
take sb/sth for granted
take sth at face value
take sth to heart
take the bull by the horns
take the law into your own hands
take the plunge
take your breath away
take your life into your hands
take your pick
take/follow a course of action
be all talk (and no action)
small talk
talk shop
he a tall order
red tape
give sb a taste/dose of their own medicine
leave a sour taste in the mouth
There's no accounting for taste(s)!
teach sb a lesson
tear/pull your hair out
by the skin of your teeth
fed up (to the back teeth)
get/have the bit between your teeth
grit your teeth
in the teeth of sth
lie through your teeth
nine times out of ten
in the short/medium/long term
come to terms with
not be on speaking terms
an acid test
stand the test of time
be at the end of your tether 21
Thanks a million! 11
That's life. 11
then and there 32
there and then 32
There's nothing to it. 11
be thick on the ground 59
Blood is thicker than water. 29
a thin/fine line 56
be thin on the ground 59
spread yourself too thin 7
make a big thing of. 23
one thing leads to another 15
the best/greatest thing since sliced bread 39
never/not do things/anything by halves 13
the shape of things to come 31
think better of sth 58
think big 23
think nothing of 14
This is the life! 11
a train of thought 30
give sb food for thought 5
give you pause for thought 5
have second thoughts 5
hang by a thread 16
be on the threshold of sth 31
be thrilled to bits 2, 21
be at each other's throat 49
bring a lump to your throat 14
ram sth down sb's throat 49
throw sb in the deep end 33
throw the baby out with the bathwater 13
throw/have a fit 3
throw/put a spanner in the works 44
throw/shed light on 8
a rule of thumb 45
be under sb's thumb 45
give sth the thumbs down/up 45
stand/stick out like a sore thumb 45
thrust a lift 45
tick over 44
the tide turns 33
tie up loose ends 8
tie yourself (up) in knots 10
could do sth with one arm/hand tied behind
your back 54
tighten your belt 24
How time flies! 11
be only a matter of time 31
before your time 31
for the time being 31
from time immemorial 11
give sb a hard/rough/tough time 12, 14
have a lot of time for sb 31
hit the big time 6
in a time warp 31
in no time at all 32
in the nick of time 31
Long time no see. 55
make up for lost time 31
stand the test of time 31
from time to time 32
be a sign of the times 31
nine times out of ten 32
(be) on the tip of your tongue 30, 51
be sick and tired 21
to hand 45
to the line 46
keep sb on their toes 46
toffee-nosed 20
get your act together 57
put two and two together 4
as if there was/were no tomorrow 31
like there's no tomorrow 31
a slip of the tongue 27
(be) on the tip of your tongue 30, 51
bite your tongue 51
too many cooks 29
have a sweet tooth 39
at the top of sb's/the agenda 15
at the top of the (career) ladder 25
be on top of the world 2, 21
be over the top 15
climb to the top of the career ladder 25
off the top of your head 48
be touch-and-go 19
be out of touch with 4
be/take/get/stay in touch with sb. 22
I wouldn't touch sb/sth with a barge pole. 18
be a tough/hard act to follow 12
give sb a tough/hard/rough time 12, 14
be off the beaten track 40
be on the right track 40
be on the wrong track 40
keep track 26
a train of thought 30
the travel bug 36
do the trick 6
take a trip/stroll down memory lane 30
be off your trolley 1
be asking for trouble/fit 12
(not) ring true 27
try a different tack 43
try your hand at sth 45
light at the end of the tunnel 8
not turn a hair 49
not know which way to turn 21
turn a blind eye 50
not turn a hair 49
turn your hand to sth 45
not know which way to turn 21
turn heads 48
turn your hand to sth 45
turn your nose up 51
when/while sb's back is turned 54
the tide turns 33
drive/send sb round the twist/bend 1, ii, 3, 40
twist sb's arm 47
twist the knife 38
two-time sb 22
kill two birds with one stone 1, ii, 37
stand on your own two feet 46

188 English Idioms in Use
the lesser of two evils 15
put two and two together 4
be as ugly as sin 60
be under sb's thumb 45
be under your feet 46
go under your own steam 44
an unknown quantity 23
up-and-coming 20, 25
an uphill battle/fight/struggle 40
be (right) up your alley/street 40
be up in arms 38
be up in the air 42
make it up to sb 22
on your way up 20
upper-crust 42
be walking/ floating on air 2
be like death warmed up 1
in a time warp 31
wash your hands of sb/sth 45
be (like) water off a duck's back 1, 37
be in deep water 33
be in hot water 33
be like a fish out of water 60
Blood is thicker than water. 29
keep your head above water 48
make sb's mouth water 39, 51
pour cold water on sth 33
spend money like water 24
wave a magic wand 8
be on the same wavelength 44
make waves 33
be in a bad way 58
come a long way 55
get your own way 9
go a long way 55
go back a long way 55
go out of your way to do sth 17
No way! 11
not know which way to turn 21
on your way up 20
one way or another 15
rub sb up the wrong way 3, 22
see how/which way the wind is blowing 33
be under the weather 1
be a weight/load off your mind 53
pull your weight 17
leave well alone 16
well-heeled 24
well-off 24
well-to-do i, 24
when the chips are down 35
know where you stand 5
not know where to put yourself 21
whet your appetite 39
(not) be worth your while 18
give it a whirl/shot 8
in black and white 34
white-collar 34
There's no peace/rest for the wicked! 44
be wide of the mark 35
spread like wildfire 33
get wind of sth 33
sail close to the wind 43
see how/which way the wind is blowing 33
get your wires/lines crossed 44
wish the ground would swallow you up 59
be at your wits' end 3
a lone wolf 36
a woman/man after your own heart 52
by word of mouth 51
for want of a better word 27
get a word in edgeways 28
have a word in sb's ear 51
in a word 27
not know the meaning of the word 28
the word spread 26
word for word 28
Actions speak louder than words. 29
be lost for words 27
all work and no play 29
be up to your ears/eyes (in work) 25
have your work cut out 25
line of work 56
Many hands make light work. 29
work against the clock 32
work like magic 6
work/go like a dream 6
work/go/run like clockwork 32
work/slog/sweat your guts out 53
put/throw a spanner in the works 44
be on top of the world 2, 21
be out of this world 12
It's a small world. 11
not be the end of the world 2
not set the world on fire 33
the best of both worlds 58
a can of worms 10, 37
go from bad to worse 58
sb's bark is worse than their bite 36
be your own worst enemy 38
if the worst comes to the worst 58
(not) be worth your while 18
wouldn't dream of 14
a nervous/quivering wreck 43
be on the wrong track 40
get (hold of) the wrong end of the stick 4
get out of bed on the wrong side 41
get/start off on the wrong foot 46
rub sb up the wrong way 3, 22
from/since the year dot 31
keep yourself to yourself 22