What are idioms?

Definition

An **idiom** (also called **idiomatic expression**) is an expression, word, or phrase that has a figurative meaning conventionally understood by native speakers. This meaning is different from the literal meaning of the idiom's individual elements. In other words, idioms don't mean exactly what the words say. They have, however, hidden meaning.

Examples

- "Kick the bucket"
- "Spill the beans"

The meaning of these expressions is separate from the literal meaning or definition of the words of which they are made. Their meaning are however used figuratively. They mean respectively:

- "to die "
- "to tell people secret information"

Lists of idioms

English has thousands of idioms. Here are lists of idioms arranged in alphabetical order or in different categories.

This is a list of vocabulary items related to emotions

Happiness

Expression	Definition	Example
happy / glad		She seemed to be the happiest bride I've ever seen.
content / contented	satisfied or showing satisfaction with things as they are.	She was a contented wife.
elated	exultantly proud and joyful; in high spirits.	The winner felt elated and excited.
joyful	full of joy.	It was a joyful occasion.
joyous	full of or characterized by joy.	I heard a joyous laughter.

euphoric	exaggerated feeling of well-being or elation.	They received a euphoric welcome
delighted	feeling or showing great pleasure.	She had a delighted smile.
gleeful	exuberantly or triumphantly joyful.	She gave a gleeful smile.
mirthful	full of mirth; merry or amusing.	A mirthful laughter.
	feeling or expressing great happiness and triumph.	I met a jubilant crowd.

Sadness

Expression	Definition	Example
sad / unhappy	feeling or showing sorrow.	I can't bear the tears of a sad child.
feel blue		She's feeling blue after what has happened to her son.
	•	I am feeling low because my best friend is very ill.
depressed	low in spirit; downcast.	He was depressed by the loss of his son.
downhearted	marked by low spirits.	Fans were downhearted by the the defeat.

Anger

Expression	Definition	Example
0 3	experience a strong of displeasure or hostility.	She was angry about the insult.
cross	, 03	I was cross with her because she didn't invite me to her party.
annoyed	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Her comments have always annoyed me.

irritated	made impatient, annoyed or angry.	Her tone irritated him.
mad	angry, resentful.	Are you mad at me because I didn't come to your party?
furious	very angry.	My father was furious because I went out without his permission.
vexed	annoyed, frustrated, or worried.	I'm vexed with you
indignant	feeling or showing anger or annoyance at what is perceived as unfair treatment.	She was indignant at being the object of suspicion.
irate	extremely angry; enraged.	She received an irate letter from her husband.
seething	be filled with intense but unexpressed anger.	He was inwardly seething at the offense.