



DRINK & DRAW

Literal idioms

What's the game?

Idiom's are funny old things. Is it really raining cats and dogs? Did anything ever actually cost an arm and a leg? What is the best thing since sliced bread?

Take a look at the list of idioms and their meanings on the following pages. Pick your favourite to draw, and see what fun you can have taking them a bit too literally! It'll be a piece of cake!

Be sure to take photos of your artwork and share on our event page or tag us on social media!

  @circusofillustration  @wearethecircus

<i>Idiom</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
A blessing in disguise	A good thing that seemed bad at first
Beat around the bush	Avoid saying what you mean, usually because it is uncomfortable
Bite the bullet	To get something over with because it is inevitable
Break a leg	Good luck
Cutting corners	Doing something poorly in order to save time or money
Get out of hand	Get out of control
Go back to the drawing board	Start over
Hang in there	Don't give up
Hit the sack	Go to sleep
Let someone off the hook	To not hold someone responsible for something
Miss the boat	It's too late
On the ball	Doing a good job
Pull someone's leg	To joke with someone
Speak of the devil	The person we were just talking about showed up!
That's the last straw	My patience has run out
Time flies when you're having fun	You don't notice how long something lasts when it's fun
To get bent out of shape	To get upset
Under the weather	Sick
Wrap your head around something	Understand something complicated
A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush	What you have is worth more than what you might have later
A penny for your thoughts	Tell me what you're thinking
A perfect storm	The worst possible situation
Actions speak louder than words	Believe what people do and not what they say
Add insult to injury	To make a bad situation worse

<i>Idiom</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
Barking up the wrong tree	To be mistaken, to be looking for solutions in the wrong place
Birds of a feather flock together	People who are alike are often friends (usually used negatively)
Bite off more than you can chew	Take on a project that you cannot finish
Break the ice	Make people feel more comfortable
By the skin of your teeth	Just barely
Costs an arm and a leg	Very expensive
Do something at the drop of a hat	Do something without having planned beforehand
Don't count your chickens before they hatch	Don't count on something good happening until it's happened.
Don't cry over spilt milk	There's no reason to complain about something that can't be fixed
Don't put all your eggs in one basket	What you're doing is too risky
Every cloud has a silver lining	Good things come after bad things
Get a taste of your own medicine	Get treated the way you've been treating others (negative)
Give someone the cold shoulder	Ignore someone
Go on a wild goose chase	To do something pointless
He has bigger fish to fry	He has bigger things to take care of than what we are talking about now
He's a chip off the old block	The son is like the father
Hit the nail on the head	Get something exactly right
It's a piece of cake	It's easy
It's raining cats and dogs	It's raining hard
Kill two birds with one stone	Get two things done with a single action
Let the cat out of the bag	Give away a secret
On thin ice	On probation. If you make another mistake, there will be trouble.



<i>Idiom</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
Once in a blue moon	Rarely
Rain on someone's parade	To spoil something
Spill the beans	Give away a secret
Take a rain check	Postpone a plan
Take it with a grain of salt	Don't take it too seriously
The ball is in your court	It's your decision
The best thing since sliced bread	A really good invention
The devil is in the details	It looks good from a distance, but when you look closer, there are problems
The early bird gets the worm	The first people who arrive will get the best stuff
The elephant in the room	The big issue, the problem people are avoiding
There are other fish in the sea	It's ok to miss this opportunity. Others will arise.
Throw caution to the wind	Take a risk
You can't judge a book by its cover	This person or thing may look bad, but it's good inside
A snowball's chance in hell	No chance at all
A stitch in time saves nine	Fix the problem now because it will get worse later
A storm in a teacup	A big fuss about a small problem
An apple a day keeps the doctor away	Apples are good for you
As right as rain	Perfect
Bolt from the blue	Something that happened without warning
Come rain or shine	No matter what
Curiosity killed the cat	Stop asking questions
Cut the mustard	Do a good job
Fit as a fiddle	In good health
Get a second wind	Have more energy after having been tired
Go down in flames	Fail spectacularly
Have your head in the clouds	Not be concentrating

<i>Idiom</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
Hear something straight from the horse's mouth	Hear something from the person involved
He's sitting on the fence	He can't make up his mind
It is a poor workman who blames his tools	If you can't do the job, don't blame it on others
It takes two to tango	One person alone isn't responsible. Both people are involved.
Jump on the bandwagon	Follow a trend, do what everyone else is doing
Leave no stone unturned	Look everywhere
Let sleeping dogs lie	Stop discussing an issue
Like two peas in a pod	They're always together
Make hay while the sun shines	Take advantage of a good situation
On cloud nine	Very happy
Once bitten, twice shy	You're more cautious when you've been hurt before
Out of the frying pan and into the fire	Things are going from bad to worse
Run like the wind	Run fast
Shape up or ship out	Work better or leave
Snowed under	Busy
That ship has sailed	It's too late
The pot calling the kettle black	Someone criticizing someone else he is just as bad
Those who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones	People who are morally questionable shouldn't criticize others
We see eye to eye	We agree
When it rains it pours	Everything is going wrong at once
You can catch more flies with honey than you can with vinegar	You'll get what you want by being nice
You can't make an omelet without breaking some eggs	There's always a cost to doing something

