

### **Definition of *idiom***

**1:** an expression in the usage of a language that is peculiar to itself either in having a meaning that cannot be derived from the conjoined meanings of its elements (such as *up in the air* for "undecided") or in its grammatically atypical use of words (such as *give way*)

**2a:** the language peculiar to a people or to a district, community, or class : **DIALECT**

**b:** the **syntactical**, **grammatical**, or structural form peculiar to a language

**3:** a style or form of artistic expression that is characteristic of an individual, a period or movement, or a medium or instrument

### **Some idioms:**

#### **1. A hot potato**

Meaning: Something that is difficult or dangerous to deal with.

Example: Terrorism is a political hot potato in Afghanistan.

#### **2. A penny for your thoughts**

Meaning: Way of asking what someone is thinking.

Example: After several minutes of silence he finally looked at her and said, "A penny for your thoughts, Lily."

#### **3. Actions speak louder than words**

Meaning: What you do is more significant than what you say.

Example: He: I am sorry. I'll try to be a better person henceforth.

She: Actions speak louder than words.

#### **4. Add insult to injury**

Meaning: To make a bad situation worse.

Example: Their basement was flooded, and then, to add insult to injury, a pipe burst in the kitchen.

#### **5. An arm and a leg**

Meaning: A lot of money.

Example: It's the best cruise in the world, but it will cost you an arm and a leg.

#### **6. At the drop of a hat**

Meaning: Immediately; without any hesitation

Example: Ellie was always ready to go shopping at the drop of a hat.

### **7. Back to the drawing board**

Meaning: Start something all over again.

Example: I failed this semester, but now I am back to the drawing board.

### **8. Ball is in your court.**

Meaning: It is up to you to take the next step

Example: I've made my decision, now the ball is in your court.

### **9. Barking up the wrong tree**

Meaning: Looking in the wrong place; accusing the wrong person.

Example: He did not commit the crime, you're barking up the wrong tree.

### **10. Be glad to see the back of**

Meaning: Be glad to see someone leave.

Example: I never liked her. I'll be glad to see the back of her.

### **11. Beat around the bush**

Meaning: Avoid answering a question; not speaking directly about the issue.

Example: Tell me what the problem is, stop beating around the bush.

### **12. Best of both the worlds**

Meaning: Situation where in one can enjoy two different opportunities.

Example: She had the privilege of a professor and freedom of a student. She had the best of both worlds.

### **13. Best thing since sliced bread**

Meaning: A good idea or plan; an excellent new invention

Example: I love your idea. It's the best thing since sliced bread.

**Task: give your own idioms?**