

IDIOMS FOR IELTS SPEAKING



MASTER **500+** IDIOMS IN USE
EXPLAINED IN **10** MINUTES A DAY



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Idioms For Ielts Speaking

Master 500+ Idioms In Use Explained In 10 Minutes A Day

— By Rachel Mitchell —

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INTRODUCTION

Thank you and congratulate you for downloading the book “*Idioms for IELTS Speaking: Master 500+ Idioms In Use Explained In 10 Minutes A Day*”

This book is well designed and written by an experienced native teacher from the USA who has been teaching IELTS for over 10 years. She really is the expert in training IELTS for students at each level. In this book, she will provide you with *over 500 essential Idioms For IELTS Speaking explained* with examples to help you **speak English more natural and confidently** and easily achieve an **8.0+** for the IELTS speaking *Fluency and Accuracy* and *Lexical Resource Band Score*, even if your vocabulary is not rich enough from the beginning.

As the author of this book, Rachel Mitchell believes that this book will be **an indispensable reference** and **trusted guide** for you who may want to maximize your *Fluency and Accuracy* band score in the IELTS speaking exam. Once you read this book, I guarantee you that you will have learned an extraordinarily wide range of useful, and practical IELTS Idioms that will help you **talk like a native speaker**, become **a successful IELTS taker** as well as you will even become **a successful English user** in work and in life **within a short period of time** only.

Take action today and start getting **8.0 + in IELTS speaking TOMORROW!**

Thank you again for purchasing this book, and I hope you enjoy it.

LETTER A

At all costs = at any costs: *to do everything you can to achieve something regardless of the difficulty, and expense involved.*

His dream is to become a great lawyer at all costs.

They were determined to win the game at any cost.

As easy as pie: *very easy.*

The test is as easy as pie.

Searching for beautiful flower images online is as easy as pie nowadays.

After so many years as an English teacher, doing taxes is as easy as pie for me.

A drop in the ocean: *a very small amount compared to what is required or needed.*

The amount of money that he gave me last night is just a drop in the ocean compared to what I needed.

I feel what I am doing is just a drop in the ocean.

Actions speak louder than words: *used for expressing that what you do something is more important than just talking about it.*

He usually talks about the importance of charity but never does anything.
Actions speak louder than words

Because actions speak louder than words, do not talk much, just act.

A hot potato: *a controversial topic, issue or situation.*

Money policy is fast becoming a hot potato.

The issues of abortion and tax have become real hot potatoes in my country these days.

Against the clock: *to do something quickly to finish it before a particular time.*

She is working against the clock to finish her essay by today.

We have to work against the clock to meet the deadline (to finish the project on time).

A rip-off: *something that is unreasonably expensive.*

We shouldn't have spent so much. That's a rip-off.

\$60 for a cup of coffee is a complete rip-off.

At first: *in the beginning.*

Don't judge anyone or anything at first sight.

Try again if you fail at first.

Around the corner: *coming very soon.*

Tom is quite nervous because his exam is just around the corner.

Spring is just around the corner.

A mile a minute: *very quickly.*

He walks a mile a minute and is very difficult to keep up with.

She is talking a mile a minute.

A man of his word: *someone who does what he promises to do.*

He is obviously a man of his word. You can trust him.

Tom is a man of his word. He always does what he says he is going to.

A ladies man: *a man that loves spending time and flirting with women.*

He is known as a ladies man.

Tom has the reputation for being quite a ladies' man.

Ace a test: *to do very well in a test/ to get a very high score on a test.*

You need to study hard to ace a test.

She had actually aced a test in math, a subject that had never come easily for her.

A bad egg: *someone who is bad and untrustworthy.*

That guy is a bad egg. Don't trust him.

Be careful of her. She is a bad egg.

LETTER B

Bump into somebody: *meet somebody by chance.*

I bumped into her at the mall.

I bumped into him at the pub a couple of days ago.

Be out of your depth: *expressing that you are in a situation that is too difficult or dangerous to deal with.*

She is used to teaching English writing but she was out of my depth when she had to teach English listening.

Behind the times: *expressing that something is not modern, old-fashioned, obsolete or out of date.*

If you don't want to fall behind the times, read the newspaper every day.

If you think the world is flat, you are behind the times.

The marketing plan for their products is a little behind the times.

To be up in arms about something: *expressing that you are very angry or upset about something.*

The local residents have been up in arms about the tax increase.

Be sick and tired of something: *to be very frustrated, annoyed, bored with or very unhappy about something.*

He is sick and tired of listening to clients' complaints.

I'm sick and tired of working the same tasks every day.

Bend over backwards: *to do everything you can to help or to please someone.*

Sarah bent over backwards to make her new husband feel at home.

Tom bent over backwards to please his girlfriend.

To be under the weather: *do not feel well; feel sick.*

Tom was feeling a bit under the weather today, so he chose to take the day off.

I'm feeling a bit under the weather. I think I've caught a cold.

Blew me away: *when something blows you away, it impresses you very much or makes you very excited.*

He just totally blew me away with his singing.

It blew me away when I heard that my little brother is going to get married.
That song really blew me away.

Back to the drawing board: *to start doing something again.*

I'll go back to the drawing board if my proposal is not accepted.

Our experiment was a failure, so we need to be back to the drawing board.

Burn the midnight oil: *to stay up late, to work late at night.*

Tom is going to take his exams next week, so he's burning the midnight oil.

Sarah had to burn the midnight oil to complete her essay.

Bare your heart: *to reveal your secret thoughts and feelings to someone.*

She decided to bare her heart through text messages to her closest friends.

Tom is too shy to bare his heart to his girlfriend.

To buy into something: *to accept something.*

Tom's never bought into this idea that his girlfriend has to be thin to be attractive.

Her boss didn't buy into her reason for being late at work.

To be bouncing off the walls: *to be so busy.*

It's like that you're bouncing off the walls.

The workers seem to be bouncing off the walls.

Be bummed out: *to be sad, depressed.*

She was bummed out when she heard bad news that her mom was ill.

Tom didn't get the promotion and he felt really bummed out.

To be dolled up: *to get all dressed up to look attractive.*

Lucy was dolled up in jewels for the party last night.

She spent an hour getting dolled up for the celebration.

To be out of this world: *to be extraordinary or impressive.*

Views from the hotel room are out of the world.

We are in a place that is out of the world.

To be dressed to kill: *to be dressed beautifully (wearing very smart or fashionable clothes)*

His wife was dressed to kill at the party last night.

Lucy is always dressed to kill on every Saturday night.

To break the news: *to disclose important information to someone.*

I don't want to break the news to him.

I think that we should not break the news at the moment.

You should try to break the news to her gently.

(To) butt in: *to interrupt; to interfere a conversation or activity without being invited.*

Stop butting in on my personal life!

Tom doesn't want Mary to butt in his personal life.

(To) blow it: *to fail to take advantage of a chance or an opportunity.*

You blew it, Tom!

He blew it. He lost the customer.

Big shot: *an important or powerful person.*

My brother is a big shot in advertising.

Her boyfriend is a big shot in the film industry.

Behind the times: *old-fashioned; out of date.*

His car is a bit behind the times.

If you don't want to fall behind the times, you should read the newspaper every day.

Be an item: *if two people are an item, they are dating and have a romantic relationship.*

Tom and Mary are an item.

Jack and Cindy are an item. They finally made it official.

Blew one's top: *lose one's temper (very angry or irritate).*

Tom's father blew his top when he found out that Tom had damaged his car.

Mary blew her top when she heard that her boyfriend had gone out with another girl.

Bring home the bacon: *to earn money by working to support the family.*

Women are supposed to raise the children and men will bring home the bacon.

Tom and his wife both bring home the bacon.

LETTER C

Cut it out!: *stop it; stop doing that.*

That music is really annoying. Cut it out!

Would you two cut it out and keep quiet? I'm trying to sleep.

Call it a day: *to stop working, to end a job.*

Mike, let's call it a day. It's really late.

Time to call it a day, guys. See you tomorrow!

Chill out: *to relax; to calm down.*

Chill out! We'll get there on time!

Come on! Let's sit down and chill out!

I think you need to chill out a little bit by watching a movie.

Cut corners: *to save money (to do something in the cheapest way).*

The government cut corners and put everyone in danger when they built the school with bad materials.

Remember that we want only the best, no cutting corners on this job.

We have to learn how to cut corners when we have five children to bring up.

Chicken out: *to become too frightened/scared to do something.*

Tom wanted to go skydiving, but he chickened out at the last minute.

She chickened out when she saw how deep the water was.

He was going to do a parachute jump, but he chickened out at the last second.

To cut class = to play hooky = to ditch class: *to deliberately not go to a class when you should be there.*

This is the second time this week Tom has cut class.

If you play hooky again, the teacher will be very angry.

Couch potato: *somebody who is lazy and inactive.*

He is a great couch potato; he can watch TV 24 hours a day.

Since Mary lost her job, she has become a couch potato.

Cold fish: *an unfriendly person.*

Her father is a real cold fish. I've never seen him laugh.

Sarah is a cold fish. She rarely talks to her colleagues.

To catch someone red-handed: *to capture someone in the act.*

He was caught red-handed using drugs.

The thieves were caught red-handed attempting to break into a house.

Count on: *to depend on someone to do what you want.*

She is very busy, don't count on her assistance.

You cannot count on him because he's too irresponsible.

(to) cut it out: *to stop (doing) something.*

I'm trying to sleep, cut it out, please!

The kids were playing games and I told them to cut it out.

Crack of dawn: *(a time) very early in the morning.*

My mom got up at the crack of dawn.

You should go to bed early since we have to leave at the crack of dawn tomorrow.

Crocodile tears: *tears or crying that are not sincere.*

She showed her crocodile tears when her stepmother died.

Don't shed crocodile tears over her death.

Her crocodile tears fool nobody.

Cost an arm and a leg: *to be very expensive.*

The movie is interesting, but the tickets cost an arm and a leg.

The car cost him an arm and a leg.

Catch one's breath: *to rest for a moment after exercise to restore normal breathing.*

He stopped running and tried to catch his breath.

She stopped and placed her hand on his arm to catch her breath.

Come down with: *to become ill with a particular illness.*

She has come down with the flu.

He had come down with a cold.

Can't stand (someone or something): *to hate or dislike someone or something very much.*

She can't stand to hear her parents arguing.

I can't stand traffic jam in rush hour.