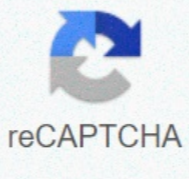




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Most commonly used english phrases with meanings

How many popular sayings can you think of? The total number of common phrases used in English and other languages around the world is quite staggering, yet you might only be able to name a few. You'll often hear these expressions in every day conversations while at work, school, or even at home. With so many existing, you will likely come across some that you're unfamiliar with. Then you're left to wonder: "What does that mean, and where does it come from?" Well, that's what Know Your Phrase is for! We have a list full of hundreds of phrases and sayings. You can use this list to learn about their meaning and origin. To get started, tap (or click) the menu above. Simply choose a letter to start exploring, or choose one of the categories below.A List of Phrases and Sayings For Animals, Sports, & MoreAnimal PhrasesHere is a list of common phrases related to animals. You'll find bird, dog and cat sayings, and more!Sports PhrasesA dictionary of popular sayings that come from sports, including baseball, boxing, and horse racing.Food PhrasesA delicious list of sayings related to food, eating and drinking. Take a look, it's as easy as pie! Unless, of course, it's not your cup of tea.Newly Added Phrases- One Fell SwoopHave you ever done something in one fell swoop? Find out the meaning of this phrase and read about its possible origin.- Clickbait - Definition and ExamplesFind out the definition of clickbait and see examples of how people spice up their titles in order to garner interest. You'll be shocked at what you learn about this expression!- Benefit Of The DoubtAnother phrase has been added to our list of sayings. What does it mean to give someone "the benefit of the doubt"? Read its definition and see examples. - Take It With a Grain Of SaltLearn what "taking something with a grain of salt" means. Also, see how this expression is used in example sentences to get a better idea of its definition.Common Phrases In EnglishHere is a list of 15 commonly used phrases in the English language. These are just some examples, for the full list, use the top menu.A - Phrases1. A Chip on Your ShoulderBeing angry about something that happened in the past; holding a grudge.2. A Dime a DozenWhen something is extremely common and/or simple to acquire.3. A Fool and His Money Are Soon PartedSomeone acting foolish with their money can easily lose it due to carelessness. 4. A Piece of CakeA task that is simple to complete; something that is easy to do. Similar to the common phrase "as easy as pie."5. An Arm and a LegSomething that's very expensive; an idiom meaning the price having to be paid is costly.B - Expressions6. Back to Square OneGoing back to the beginning; a popular saying that means a person has to start over, similar to "back to the drawing board."7. Barking Up The Wrong TreeTo make a wrong assumption about someone or something. 8. Beating Around the BushThis means a person is talking about something, but they are avoiding the main point, intentionally or not. 9. Between a Rock and a Hard PlaceBeing faced with two difficult choices; popular saying used to describe a dilemma.10. Burst Your BubbleTo ruin someone's happy moment or mood, usually by telling them disappointing news or information.C - Phrases11. Close But No CigarComing close to a successful outcome only to fall short at the end.12. Cry Over Spilled MilkOne shouldn't worry over things that have already happened and that cannot be changed.13. Cup of JoeA cup of joe is an American nickname for a cup of coffee. 14. Curiosity Killed The CatAn idiom meaning mind your own business, as too much poking and prodding could lead to harm.15. Cut To The ChaseTo get to the point, leaving out all of the unnecessary details. Similar to popular sayings such as "beating around the bush." There are plenty of other expressions on here to read about, over 200+ and counting.The Origin of SayingsMany of the old sayings on here have their own individual page where you can learn more about them, including their origin. However, it is not always clear where or how these expressions originated. In such cases, here is what will generally happen.If there is speculation on how a certain phrase originated and it sounds plausible enough, then this might be added to the phrase's individual page. However, if no theory is included, there will still usually be a quote with the saying in it. These quotes are usually pulled from old newspapers or books and they are typically the earliest known appearance of the phrase in print (that I know of). The purpose of these quotes is to give you an idea on how old it is. For example, if the earliest I have seen an expression is from a newspaper in the year 1900, then I'll quote it. However, this doesn't necessarily mean the term originated from that source or in that year. It simply means that it's at least that old.About UsWhat is this site about? In a nutshell, there are hundreds of common phrases and sayings on here for you to explore. You can learn their meaning, where they possibly came from, and see them used in example sentences. This is one of the main reasons this site was created was to help people understand what these old common sayings mean. Therefore, if you haven't already done so, use the alphabetical list at the top and start exploring! More phrases will be added to the list in time, so be sure to check back again to see what's new. English idioms, proverbs, and expressions are an important part of everyday English. They come up all the time in both written and spoken English. Because idioms don't always make sense literally, you'll need to familiarize yourself with the meaning and usage of each idiom. That may seem like a lot of work, but learning idioms is fun, especially when you compare English idioms to the idioms in your own language. Learning to use common idioms and expressions will make your English sound more native, so it's a good idea to master some of these expressions. The tables below are organized by how common the idioms are in American English. You can start by learning the very common English idioms, since these are the ones you'll encounter regularly watching American movies or TV, or visiting the United States. When you've mastered those, move on to rest. None of the idioms on this page are unusual or old fashioned, so you can be confident using any of them with native English speakers from all English-speaking countries. The most common English idioms These English idioms are extremely common in everyday conversation in the United States. You will hear them in movies and TV shows and can use them to make your English sound more like that of a native speaker. Idiom Meaning Usage A blessing in disguise a good thing that seemed bad at first as part of a sentence A dime a dozen Something common as part of a sentence Beat around the bush Avoid saying what you mean, usually because it is uncomfortable as part of a sentence Better late than never Better to arrive late than not to come at all by itself Bite the bullet To get something over with because it is inevitable as part of a sentence Break a leg Good luck by itself Call it a day Stop working on something as part of a sentence Cut somebody some slack Don't be so critical as part of a sentence Cutting corners Doing something poorly in order to save time or money as part of a sentence Easy does it Slow down by itself Get out of hand Get out of control as part of a sentence Get something out of your system Do the thing you've been wanting to do so you can move on as part of a sentence Get your act together Work better or leave by itself Give someone the benefit of the doubt Trust what someone says as part of a sentence Go back to the drawing board Start over as part of a sentence Hang in there Don't give up by itself Hit the sack Go to sleep as part of a sentence It's not rocket science It's not complicated by itself Let someone off the hook To not hold someone responsible for something as part of a sentence Make a long story short Tell something briefly as part of a sentence Miss the boat It's too late as part of a sentence No pain, no gain You have to work for what you want by itself On the ball Doing a good job as part of a sentence Pull someone's leg To joke with someone as part of a sentence Pull yourself together Calm down by itself So far so good Things are going well so far by itself Speak of the devil The person we were just talking about showed up! by itself That's the last straw My patience has run out by itself The best of both worlds An ideal situation as part of a sentence Time flies when you're having fun You don't notice how long something lasts when it's fun by itself To get bent out of shape To get upset as part of a sentence To make matters worse Make a problem worse as part of a sentence Under the weather Sick as part of a sentence We'll cross that bridge when we come to it Let's not talk about that problem right now by itself Wrap your head around something Understand something complicated as part of a sentence You can say that again That's true, I agree by itself Your guess is as good as mine I have no idea by itself Common English idioms & expressions These English idioms are used quite regularly in the United States. You may not hear them every day, but they will be very familiar to any native English speaker. You can be confident using any of them when the context is appropriate. Idiom Meaning Usage A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush What you have is worth more than what you might have later by itself A penny for your thoughts Tell me what you're thinking by itself A penny saved is a penny earned Money you save today you can spend later by itself A perfect storm the worst possible situation as part of a sentence A picture is worth 1000 words Better to show than tell by itself Actions speak louder than words Believe what people do and not what they say by itself Add insult to injury To make a bad situation worse as part of a sentence Barking up the wrong tree To be mistaken, to be looking for solutions in the wrong place as part of a sentence Birds of a feather flock together People who are alike are often friends (usually used negatively) by itself Bite off more than you can chew Take on a project that you cannot finish as part of a sentence Break the ice Make people feel more comfortable as part of a sentence By the skin of your teeth Just barely as part of a sentence Comparing apples to oranges Comparing two things that cannot be compared as part of a sentence Costs an arm and a leg Very expensive as part of a sentence Do something at the drop of a hat Do something without having planned beforehand as part of a sentence Do unto others as you would have them do unto you Treat people fairly. Also known as "The Golden Rule" by itself Don't count your chickens before they hatch Don't count on something good happening until it's happened. by itself Don't cry over spilt milk There's no reason to complain about something that can't be fixed by itself Don't give up your day job You're not very good at this by itself Don't put all your eggs in one basket What you're doing is too risky by itself Every cloud has a silver lining Good things come after bad things by itself Get a taste of your own medicine Get treated the way you've been treating others (negative) as part of a sentence Give someone the cold shoulder Ignore someone as part of a sentence Go on a wild goose chase To do something pointless as part of a sentence Good things come to those who wait Be patient by itself He has bigger fish to fry He has bigger things to take care of than what we are talking about now by itself He's a chip off the old block The son is like the father by itself Hit the nail on the head Get something exactly right by itself Ignorance is bliss You're better off not knowing by itself It ain't over till the fat lady sings This isn't over yet by itself It takes one to know one You're just as bad as I am by itself It's a piece of cake It's easy by itself It's raining cats and dogs It's raining hard by itself Kill two birds with one stone Get two things done with a single action by itself Let the cat out of the bag Give away a secret as part of a sentence Live and learn I made a mistake by itself Look before you leap Take only calculated risks by itself On thin ice On probation. If you make another mistake, there will be trouble. as part of a sentence Once in a blue moon Rarely as part of a sentence Play devil's advocate To argue the opposite, just for the sake of argument as part of a sentence Put something on ice Put a project on hold as part of a sentence Rain on someone's parade To spoil something as part of a sentence Saving for a rainy day Saving money for later as part of a sentence Slow and steady wins the race Reliability is more important than speed by itself Spill the beans Give away a secret as part of a sentence Take a rain check Postpone a plan as part of a sentence Take it with a grain of salt Don't take it too seriously as part of a sentence The ball is in your court It's your decision by itself The best thing since sliced bread A really good invention as part of a sentence The devil is in the details It looks good from a distance, but when you look closer, there are problems by itself The early bird gets the worm The first people who arrive will get the best stuff by itself The elephant in the room The big issue, the problem people are avoiding as part of a sentence The whole nine yards Everything, all the way, as part of a sentence There are other fish in the sea It's ok to miss this opportunity. Others will arise. by itself There's a method to his madness He seems crazy but actually he's clever by itself There's no such thing as a free lunch Nothing is entirely free by itself Throw caution to the wind Take a risk as part of a sentence You can't have your cake and eat it too You can't have everything by itself You can't judge a book by its cover This person or thing may look bad, but it's good inside by itself Familiar English idioms & proverbs These English idioms and proverbs are familiar and easily understood by native English speakers, but they are not usually used in everyday conversation. If you haven't mastered the more frequent idioms yet, they are a better place to start, but if you're already familiar with those expressions, the idioms below will further spice up your English. Idiom Meaning Usage A little learning is a dangerous thing People who don't understand something fully are dangerous by itself A snowball effect Events have momentum and build upon each other as part of a sentence A snowball's chance in hell No chance at all as part of a sentence A stitch in time saves nine Fix the problem now because it will get worse later by itself A storm in a teacup A big fuss about a small problem as part of a sentence An apple a day keeps the doctor away Apples are good for you by itself An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure You can prevent a problem with little effort. Fixing it later is harder. by itself As right as rain Perfect as part of a sentence Bolt from the blue Something that happened without warning as part of a sentence Burn bridges Destroy relationships as part of a sentence Calm before the storm Something bad is coming, but right now it's calm as part of a sentence Come rain or shine No matter what as part of a sentence Curiosity killed the cat Stop asking questions by itself Cut the mustard Do a good job as part of a sentence Don't beat a dead horse Move on, this subject is over by itself Every dog has his day Everyone gets a chance at least once by itself Familiarly breeds contempt The better you know someone the less you like him by itself Fit as a fiddle In good health as part of a sentence Fortune favours the bold Take risks by yourself Get a second wind Have more energy after having been tired as part of a sentence Get wind of something Hear news of something secret as part of a sentence Go down in flames Fail spectacularly as part of a sentence Haste makes waste You'll make mistakes if you rush through something by itself Have your head in the clouds Not concentrating as part of a sentence He who laughs last laughs loudest I'll get you back for what you did by itself Hear something straight from the horse's mouth Hear something from the person involved as part of a sentence He's not playing with a full deck He's dumb by itself He's off his rocker He's crazy by itself He's sitting on the fence He can't make up his mind by itself It is a poor workman who blames his tools If you can't do the job, don't blame it on others by itself It is always darkest before the dawn Things are going to get better by itself It takes two to tango One person alone isn't responsible. Both people are involved. by itself Jump on the bandwagon Follow a trend, do what everyone else is doing as part of a sentence Know which way the wind is blowing Understand the situation (usually negative) as part of a sentence Leave no stone unturned Look everywhere as part of a sentence Let sleeping dogs lie Stop discussing an issue as part of a sentence Like riding a bicycle Something you never forget how to do as part of a sentence Like two peas in a pod They're always together as part of a sentence Make hay while the sun shines Take advantage of a good situation as part of a sentence On cloud nine Very happy as part of a sentence Once bitten, twice shy You're more cautious when you've been hurt before by itself Out of the frying pan and into the fire Things are going from bad to worse by itself Run like the wind Run fast as part of a sentence Shape up or ship out Work better or leave by itself Snowed under Busy as part of a sentence That ship has sailed It's too late by itself The pot calling the kettle black Someone criticizing someone else he is just as bad as part of a sentence There are clouds on the horizon Trouble is coming by itself Those who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones People who are morally questionable shouldn't criticize others by itself Through thick and thin In good times and in bad times as part of a sentence Time is money Work quickly by itself Waste not, want not Don't waste things and you'll always have enough by itself We see eye to eye We agree by itself Weather the storm Go through something difficult as part of a sentence Well begun is half done Getting a good start is important by itself When it rains it pours Everything is going wrong at once by itself You can catch more flies with honey than you can with vinegar You'll get what you want by being nice by itself You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink You can't force someone to make the right decision by itself You can't make an omelet without breaking some eggs There's always a cost to doing something by itself

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