

Common American Idioms & Expressions

How to Use This Guide

1. Find the **Expression** you heard or read.
2. Look at the **Simple Meaning**.
3. Read **When Is It Used?** to understand the situation.
4. Read the **Example** to see how the expression is used.



Chart 1 – Everyday Life & Conversation

Expression	Simple Meaning	When Is It Used?	Example
A lot on my plate	Have many things to do.	When you are very busy.	<i>"I have a lot on my plate this week."</i>
A piece of cake	Something very easy.	When something is easy.	<i>"The test was a piece of cake."</i>
Break the ice	Start a friendly conversation and help people feel comfortable.	When people meet for the first time or a group is quiet.	<i>"She told a funny story to break the ice."</i>
Drop off	Take someone or something somewhere and leave them there.	When you deliver something or take someone somewhere.	<i>"I'll drop off the papers this afternoon."</i>
Figure out	Find an answer or solution.	When you solve a problem or understand something.	<i>"I need to figure out how to use this computer."</i>
Find out	Learn or discover information.	When you get new information.	<i>"I need to find out what time the class starts."</i>
Give me a hand	Help me.	When you need help.	<i>"Can you give me a hand with these boxes?"</i>
Hang in there	Keep trying. Do not give up.	When someone is having a difficult time.	<i>"Hang in there! You are almost finished."</i>
In a hurry	Moving or working quickly because you do not have much time.	When you need to be somewhere soon.	<i>"I'm in a hurry. I have a meeting at 10."</i>
Keep an eye on	Watch or check something.	When you ask someone to watch a person or thing.	<i>"Can you keep an eye on my bag?"</i>
No big deal	It is not a serious problem.	When you want to tell someone not to worry.	<i>"Don't worry. It's no big deal."</i>
Pick up	Get or collect someone or something.	When you go somewhere to get a person or thing.	<i>"I'll pick up my daughter after work."</i>

Raining cats and dogs	Raining very hard.	In casual conversation about heavy rain.	<i>"Take an umbrella. It's raining cats and dogs!"</i>
Run out of	Have nothing left.	When you have used all of something.	<i>"We ran out of coffee."</i>
Shoot the breeze	Have a casual conversation or make small talk.	When talking casually with friends or co-workers.	<i>"We sat outside and shot the breeze."</i>
Show up	Arrive.	When someone arrives at a place.	<i>"He showed up ten minutes late."</i>
Sounds good	I agree; that is a good idea.	When you agree with a plan.	<i>"Let's meet at 2." "Sounds good!"</i>
Take a rain check	Say no to an invitation now but suggest doing it later.	When you cannot accept an invitation now.	<i>"I can't go tonight. Can I take a rain check?"</i>
Take care of	Help, manage, or deal with something.	At work, home, or when helping someone.	<i>"I'll take care of that problem."</i>
Take your time	Do not hurry.	When someone can work slowly or carefully.	<i>"Take your time. There is no rush."</i>
That makes sense	I understand; that is logical.	When you understand an explanation.	<i>"Now I understand. That makes sense."</i>
Work out	Be successful; it can also mean exercise.	In everyday conversation, depending on the situation.	<i>"I hope everything works out."</i>
Your neck of the woods	The general area where someone lives.	When talking about someone's local area. Informal.	<i>"Are there any good restaurants in your neck of the woods?"</i>



Chart 2 – Feelings & Emotions

Expression	Simple Meaning	When Is It Used?	Example
Bent out of shape	Very upset or angry about something.	When someone is more upset than the situation requires.	<i>“Don’t get bent out of shape about a small mistake.”</i>
Beside oneself	Extremely upset or worried.	When someone has a very strong emotional reaction.	<i>“She was beside herself with worry.”</i>
Bundle of nerves	A very nervous or anxious person.	When someone is extremely nervous.	<i>“I was a bundle of nerves before the interview.”</i>
Butterflies in my stomach	A nervous or excited feeling.	Before a test, interview, presentation, or other important event.	<i>“I had butterflies in my stomach before my interview.”</i>
Down in the dumps	Feeling sad or discouraged.	When someone is having a difficult time.	<i>“He’s been down in the dumps since he lost his job.”</i>
Get cold feet	Become nervous or scared before a big event.	Before an important event or decision.	<i>“He got cold feet before the wedding.”</i>
Get it off your chest	Talk about something that has been bothering you.	When you want to share a worry, problem, or feeling.	<i>“I need to get this off my chest.”</i>
Gets my goat	Really bothers or annoys me.	When something makes you annoyed.	<i>“It really gets my goat when people are late.”</i>
Hot under the collar	Very angry or upset.	Informal conversation when someone is angry.	<i>“He got hot under the collar when he heard the news.”</i>
It’s like pulling teeth	Something is very difficult to get done or get information about.	When something requires a lot of effort.	<i>“Getting an answer from him was like pulling teeth.”</i>
On cloud nine	Extremely happy.	When someone is very happy about something.	<i>“She was on cloud nine after getting the job.”</i>
On pins and needles	Very nervous or excited while waiting for something.	When waiting for important news or a result.	<i>“I was on pins and needles waiting for the results.”</i>
Under the weather	Feel sick or unwell.	When you are not feeling well.	<i>“I’m feeling under the weather today.”</i>



Chart 3 – Problems, Mistakes & Challenges

Expression	Simple Meaning	When Is It Used?	Example
Behind the eight ball	In a difficult position.	When you have a problem and it is hard to move forward.	<i>"We are behind the eight ball because the deadline is tomorrow."</i>
Better late than never	It is better to do something late than not do it.	When someone finally does something after a delay.	<i>"I finally started exercising. Better late than never!"</i>
Bite the bullet	Face a difficult situation with courage.	When you decide to do something difficult or unpleasant.	<i>"I need to bite the bullet and make the phone call."</i>
By the skin of your teeth	Just barely; only by a very small amount.	When you almost fail or miss something.	<i>"I caught the bus by the skin of my teeth."</i>
Cheap shot	An unfair or hurtful action or comment.	When someone attacks another person unfairly.	<i>"That comment was a cheap shot."</i>
Down to the wire	Finished at the last possible moment.	When there is almost no time left.	<i>"The project went down to the wire."</i>
Drop the ball	Make a mistake or fail to follow through.	When someone forgets or fails to do something important.	<i>"I dropped the ball and forgot to send the email."</i>
Go belly up	Fail or go out of business.	When a business or plan fails.	<i>"The company went belly up."</i>
Hit below the belt	Act unfairly by using someone's weakness against them.	When someone is unfair or cruel in an argument.	<i>"Bringing up her personal problem was hitting below the belt."</i>
Quit cold turkey	Stop a habit completely and suddenly.	When someone stops a habit all at once.	<i>"He quit smoking cold turkey."</i>
Slap on the wrist	A small punishment or warning.	When someone receives a very light punishment.	<i>"He got a slap on the wrist for being late."</i>
Spill the beans	Reveal a secret or information you should not share.	When someone tells secret information.	<i>"Who spilled the beans about the surprise party?"</i>



Chart 4 – Sports, Action & Competition

Expression	Simple Meaning	When Is It Used?	Example
Get a kick out of	Be amused or entertained by something.	When something makes you laugh or enjoy yourself.	<i>"I get a kick out of watching old movies."</i>
Get ahead of the game	Have an advantage because you prepare early.	When you finish work or prepare before it is necessary.	<i>"I like to get ahead of the game by planning early."</i>
Give it your best shot	Try as hard as you can.	When you make your best effort.	<i>"Give it your best shot on the interview."</i>
Go to bat for someone	Speak or act in support of someone.	When you help or defend another person.	<i>"My supervisor went to bat for me."</i>
Hit it out of the park	Do an exceptional job.	When someone does something extremely well.	<i>"She hit it out of the park with her presentation."</i>
Hit the mark	Be exactly right or successful.	When an idea, answer, or solution is exactly right.	<i>"Her suggestion really hit the mark."</i>
In the ballpark	Close to the correct amount or answer.	When an exact number is not necessary yet.	<i>"Is your estimate in the ballpark of \$5,000?"</i>
Know the score	Understand what is happening.	When someone knows the important facts of a situation.	<i>"Don't worry. I know the score."</i>
Make the cut	Be chosen or included.	When people or things are selected from a larger group.	<i>"Only ten applicants made the cut."</i>
Monday morning quarterback	Criticize or give advice after something has already happened.	When someone says what should have been done after the event.	<i>"It's easy to be a Monday morning quarterback."</i>
Move the goalposts	Change the rules or requirements to make something harder.	When standards or expectations change after work has started.	<i>"They moved the goalposts after we finished the project."</i>
Out of your league	Beyond your skill, experience, or level.	When something is too difficult or advanced for someone.	<i>"That job may be out of my league right now."</i>
Political football	An issue that is used for political argument or advantage.	When politicians repeatedly argue about an issue.	<i>"The issue became a political football."</i>
Run interference	Help remove problems or obstacles for someone.	When you help another person succeed by dealing with problems.	<i>"I'll run interference so you can finish the report."</i>
Skin in the game	Have something important to gain or lose in a situation.	When someone has a personal or financial interest in the result.	<i>"She has skin in the game because she invested her own money."</i>
Take sides	Choose one person or group in a disagreement.	When people disagree and you support one side.	<i>"I don't want to take sides."</i>

The ball is in your court	It is your turn to act or respond.	When another person needs to make the next move.	<i>"I sent the information. Now the ball is in your court."</i>
Throw a curveball	Give someone a sudden, difficult surprise or problem.	When something unexpected makes a situation harder.	<i>"The schedule change threw us a curveball."</i>
Toe the line	Follow the rules or stay within acceptable limits.	When someone must follow rules or standards.	<i>"Employees are expected to toe the line."</i>



Chart 5 – Workplace, Projects & Task Management

Expression	Simple Meaning	When Is It Used?	Example
Back to the drawing board	Start again because the first plan did not work.	When a plan or project fails.	<i>“Our first plan did not work, so it’s back to the drawing board.”</i>
Beef up	Strengthen or improve something.	When you make a plan, skill, system, or document stronger.	<i>“We need to beef up our training program.”</i>
Brainstorm	Think of many ideas, usually with other people.	At work or school when a group needs ideas or solutions.	<i>“Let’s brainstorm some solutions.”</i>
Bring something to the table	Have a useful skill, idea, experience, or resource to offer.	When talking about what someone can contribute.	<i>“She brings a lot of experience to the table.”</i>
Call it a day	Stop working for the day.	Usually at the end of a workday or activity.	<i>“It’s 5:00. Let’s call it a day.”</i>
Call the shots	Make the important or final decisions.	When talking about who has decision-making power.	<i>“The director calls the shots.”</i>
Crunch the numbers	Study numbers carefully, especially financial information.	At work when analyzing costs, sales, budgets, or other numbers.	<i>“We need to crunch the numbers before deciding.”</i>
Cut corners	Do something too quickly or cheaply by skipping important steps.	When talking about poor-quality work or saving time or money.	<i>“We cannot cut corners when safety is involved.”</i>
Freeze someone out	Deliberately leave someone out or exclude them.	When someone is intentionally not included.	<i>“They froze him out of the meeting.”</i>
Game plan	A plan for how to handle something.	When deciding what steps to take.	<i>“Let’s make a game plan for the project.”</i>
Get the ball rolling	Start something or begin a process.	At work or school when you want to begin a project.	<i>“Let’s get the ball rolling on the new project.”</i>
Get your ducks in a row	Get things organized and ready.	When you prepare everything before starting something.	<i>“Let’s get our ducks in a row before the meeting.”</i>
Give something a fair shake	Give something a reasonable chance before deciding.	When you try something before judging it.	<i>“Give the new system a fair shake.”</i>
Go the extra mile	Do more than people expect.	Often used at work when someone makes an extra effort.	<i>“Maria always goes the extra mile to help her students.”</i>
Going forward	From now on; in the future.	When talking about what will happen next.	<i>“Going forward, please send the report by Friday.”</i>

Hit the ground running	Start a job or project quickly and with energy.	When someone starts working immediately.	<i>"She started her new job and hit the ground running."</i>
Hold the line	Stay on the telephone while waiting.	When you ask someone to continue waiting on a call.	<i>"Please hold the line while I transfer you."</i>
Keep me in the loop	Keep me informed about what is happening.	When you want updates about a project or situation.	<i>"Please keep me in the loop about the changes."</i>
Learn the ropes	Learn how to do a new job or activity.	When someone is new to a job or organization.	<i>"My co-workers helped me learn the ropes."</i>
On the same page	Have the same understanding or agree about a plan.	When people are working together and need the same understanding.	<i>"Let's meet so we are all on the same page."</i>
Pass the buck	Blame someone else or give someone else responsibility.	When someone avoids responsibility.	<i>"He tried to pass the buck to his co-worker."</i>
Pick your brain	Ask someone for their ideas, knowledge, or advice.	When you want to learn from someone's experience. Informal.	<i>"Can I pick your brain about finding a new job?"</i>
Play hardball	Act very strongly or aggressively to get what you want.	Informal; often used for tough negotiations.	<i>"The company is playing hardball in the negotiations."</i>
Put a pin in this	Stop discussing something for now and return to it later.	At work or in a meeting.	<i>"Let's put a pin in this and come back to it tomorrow."</i>
Raise the bar	Set a higher standard or expect better performance.	When expectations or quality are increased.	<i>"This new program raises the bar for customer service."</i>
Reach out to someone	Contact someone to ask for information or help.	Common in work and professional communication.	<i>"I'll reach out to the manager tomorrow."</i>
Think outside the box	Think of new or unusual ideas.	When you need a creative solution.	<i>"We need to think outside the box."</i>
Touch base	Talk briefly to share information or get an update.	Common at work with a co-worker, supervisor, or client.	<i>"Let's touch base tomorrow about the project."</i>



Chart 6– People & Personalities

Expression	Simple Meaning	When Is It Used?	Example
Armed to the teeth	Having many weapons.	When describing someone or something with a lot of weapons. Usually not for everyday conversation.	<i>“The soldiers were armed to the teeth.”</i>
Busybody	A person who is too interested in other people’s private lives.	Usually negative.	<i>“Our neighbor is a busybody.”</i>
Chatty Cathy	A person who talks a lot.	Informal; can be playful but sometimes negative.	<i>“Sarah is a real Chatty Cathy.”</i>
Cheapskate	A person who does not want to spend money, even when they should.	Informal and usually negative.	<i>“Don’t be a cheapskate. You should leave a tip.”</i>
Control freak	A person who wants to control everything.	Usually negative; when someone tries to control every part of a situation.	<i>“My manager can be a bit of a control freak.”</i>
Couch potato	A person who spends a lot of time sitting and watching TV or doing very little.	Informal, often jokingly.	<i>“I was a couch potato all weekend.”</i>
Dead ringer	A person or thing that looks almost exactly like another.	When two people or things look very similar.	<i>“She is a dead ringer for her sister.”</i>
Dime a dozen	Very common and not special or valuable.	When many similar things or people are easy to find.	<i>“Good ideas are a dime a dozen; good plans are harder to find.”</i>
Don’t let the inmates run the asylum	People in charge should make the important decisions.	Informal expression; can sound insulting.	<i>“The manager needs to lead the team—don’t let the inmates run the asylum.”</i>
Eager beaver	A person who is very eager to work or do something.	Informal; often positive or playful.	<i>“He’s an eager beaver and always volunteers first.”</i>
Go-getter	A person who works hard and tries to succeed.	Often positive, especially at work.	<i>“Maria is a real go-getter.”</i>
Good Samaritan	A helpful person who helps someone in trouble.	When someone helps a stranger or another person who needs help.	<i>“A Good Samaritan stopped to help the driver.”</i>
Joined at the hip	Two people who are together almost all the time.	Informal; often playful.	<i>“Those two friends are joined at the hip.”</i>
Keep someone at arm’s length	Keep someone from becoming too close.	When you deliberately keep some distance from a person.	<i>“She keeps her co-workers at arm’s length.”</i>

Long in the tooth	Old or older than expected.	Informal; can sound impolite when describing a person.	<i>"That computer is getting long in the tooth."</i>
No skin off my nose	Something does not affect you.	When you do not care because it does not affect you.	<i>"If they want to leave early, it's no skin off my nose."</i>
Party pooper	A person who ruins other people's fun.	Informal, often playful conversation.	<i>"Don't be a party pooper. Come dance with us!"</i>
Smart cookie	A smart or clever person.	Usually positive and informal.	<i>"You figured that out quickly. You're a smart cookie!"</i>
Stick your neck out	Take a risk that could affect your reputation.	When you take a chance to help someone or support an idea.	<i>"I'll stick my neck out and recommend her."</i>
Tightwad	A person who does not like to spend money.	Informal and usually negative.	<i>"He's such a tightwad."</i>
Wet behind the ears	Young or inexperienced.	When someone does not have much experience.	<i>"He's still wet behind the ears."</i>
Wet blanket	A person who is dull or stops other people from having fun.	Informal and negative.	<i>"Don't be a wet blanket. Come join us."</i>



Chart 7 – Animals, Body & Color Expressions

Expression	Simple Meaning	When Is It Used?	Example
A fly on the wall	Someone who watches or listens without being noticed.	When you wish you could quietly observe a situation.	<i>"I'd love to be a fly on the wall at that meeting."</i>
Ants in your pants	Unable to sit still; very restless.	When someone is moving around because they are impatient or excited.	<i>"The children have ants in their pants today."</i>
Apply some elbow grease	Use physical effort to clean, fix, or improve something.	When a task requires hard physical work.	<i>"This floor needs some elbow grease."</i>
Bare bones	The most basic version, with no extras.	When something has only the essential parts.	<i>"We started with a bare-bones plan."</i>
Barking up the wrong tree	Have the wrong idea about a person or situation.	When someone is looking in the wrong place or blaming the wrong person.	<i>"If you think I took your keys, you're barking up the wrong tree."</i>
Bats in the belfry	Behaving in a very strange or unreasonable way.	Informal; can be insulting, so use carefully.	<i>"He must have bats in the belfry to suggest that!"</i>
Elephant in the room	An obvious problem that everyone knows about but no one wants to discuss.	When an important issue is being avoided.	<i>"The budget problem is the elephant in the room."</i>
For the birds	Silly, useless, or not worth taking seriously.	Informal; often used to say you dislike something.	<i>"This complicated rule is for the birds."</i>
Green thumb	Be good at growing plants.	When someone is skilled at gardening.	<i>"My mother has a green thumb."</i>
Hair of the dog	Drinking more alcohol to try to reduce a hangover.	Informal; often joking. Not recommended as a health remedy.	<i>"He joked about having the hair of the dog."</i>
Hold your horses	Slow down or wait.	When someone is moving too quickly or acting too soon.	<i>"Hold your horses. We need to check the information first."</i>
Itchy feet	Feel restless and ready to move or travel.	When someone wants a change or new experience.	<i>"After two years in the same job, I have itchy feet."</i>
I'm all ears	I am ready to listen.	When you want someone to know you are listening.	<i>"Tell me what happened. I'm all ears."</i>
Monkey business	Silly behavior, dishonest behavior, or breaking rules.	Informal; often used when people are not behaving properly.	<i>"There will be no monkey business in the classroom."</i>

Need elbow room	Want or need more space.	When you need physical or personal space.	<i>"This office is crowded. We need more elbow room."</i>
Plenty of fish in the sea	There are many other possible romantic partners.	When comforting someone after a relationship ends.	<i>"Don't worry. There are plenty of fish in the sea."</i>
Put lipstick on a pig	Make something look better without fixing the basic problem.	When an improvement is only cosmetic or on the surface.	<i>"A new logo won't fix the problem—it's just putting lipstick on a pig."</i>
Running around like a chicken with its head cut off	Being very confused or disorganized.	When someone does many things without a clear plan.	<i>"I was running around like a chicken with my head cut off this morning."</i>
Shit-eating grin	A very pleased, smug, or knowing smile.	Very informal and vulgar; use only with people who are comfortable with this language.	<i>"He had a shit-eating grin after winning the game."</i>
Smell a rat	Sense that something is wrong or dishonest.	When you suspect a problem or dishonesty.	<i>"I smell a rat. Something is not right."</i>
Stick to something like white on rice	Stay very close to someone or something.	Informal and humorous.	<i>"The child stuck to her mother like white on rice."</i>
Straight from the horse's mouth	Information from the most direct or knowledgeable source.	When you hear information directly from the person involved.	<i>"I heard it straight from the horse's mouth."</i>
Zebras don't change their stripes	People usually do not change their basic character or behavior.	When saying that someone is likely to keep behaving in the same way.	<i>"He keeps making the same promises. Zebras don't change their stripes."</i>



Chart 8 – Money, Work & Daily Life

Expression	Simple Meaning	When Is It Used?	Example
A dime a dozen	Very common and not special or valuable.	When many similar things or people are easy to find.	<i>“Cheap souvenirs are a dime a dozen.”</i>
Bang for your buck	Get good value for the money you spend.	When comparing what you receive with what you pay.	<i>“This phone gives you a lot of bang for your buck.”</i>
Bought the farm	Died, especially unexpectedly.	Very informal and sometimes humorous; not appropriate when speaking respectfully about a death.	<i>“The expression is often used in old movies.”</i>
Go Dutch	Each person pays for their own food or share of a bill.	When people agree to pay their own way.	<i>“Let’s go Dutch for dinner.”</i>
Graveyard shift	A work shift during the night.	When someone works overnight hours.	<i>“She works the graveyard shift at the hospital.”</i>
Riding shotgun	Sitting in the front passenger seat of a car.	Informal; often used with friends or family.	<i>“I’m riding shotgun!”</i>
Top of the line	The best or most expensive version.	When describing a high-quality product or service.	<i>“They bought a top-of-the-line computer.”</i>
Up my alley	Something that fits my interests or skills.	When something is a good match for you.	<i>“This project is right up my alley.”</i>



Chart 9 – American Culture, Legal & Historical Expressions

Expression	Simple Meaning	When Is It Used?	Example
John Hancock	A person's signature.	Informal American expression; "signature" is more common in formal situations.	<i>"Please put your John Hancock here."</i>
Jump on the bandwagon	Start doing something because many other people are doing it.	When a person joins a popular trend.	<i>"Many companies jumped on the bandwagon."</i>
Plead the Fifth	Refuse to answer a question because the answer might cause legal problems for you.	An American legal expression based on the Fifth Amendment. Often used in legal or joking situations.	<i>"He refused to answer and said he would plead the Fifth."</i>



Chart 10 – Alphabetical Idiom Index

Use this list to quickly find an idiom and the chart where it appears.

Idiom	Chart #		Idiom	Chart #
A dime a dozen	8		Hot under the collar	2
A fly on the wall	7		In a hurry	1
A lot on my plate	1		In the ballpark	4
A piece of cake	1		Itchy feet	7
Ants in your pants	7		It's like pulling teeth	2
Apply some elbow grease	7		I'm all ears	7
Armed to the teeth	6		John Hancock	9
Back to the drawing board	5		Joined at the hip	6
Bang for your buck	8		Jump on the bandwagon	9
Bare bones	7		Keep an eye on	1
Barking up the wrong tree	7		Keep me in the loop	5
Bats in the belfry	7		Keep someone at arm's length	6
Beef up	5		Know the score	4
Behind the eight ball	3		Learn the ropes	5
Bent out of shape	2		Long in the tooth	6
Beside oneself	2		Make the cut	4
Better late than never	3		Monday morning quarterback	4
Bite the bullet	3		Monkey business	7
Bought the farm	8		Move the goalposts	4
Brainstorm	5		Need elbow room	7
Break the ice	1		No big deal	1
Bring something to the table	5		No skin off my nose	6
Bundle of nerves	2		On cloud nine	2
Busybody	6		On pins and needles	2
Butterflies in my stomach	2		On the same page	5
By the skin of your teeth	3		Out of your league	4
Call it a day	5		Party pooper	6
Call the shots	5		Pass the buck	5
Chatty Cathy	6		Pick up	1
Cheap shot	3		Pick your brain	5
Cheapskate	6		Play hardball	5
Control freak	6		Plead the Fifth	9
Couch potato	6		Plenty of fish in the sea	7
Crunch the numbers	5		Political football	4
Cut corners	5		Put a pin in this	5
Dead ringer	6		Put lipstick on a pig	7
Dime a dozen	6		Quit cold turkey	3
Don't let the inmates run the asylum	6		Raining cats and dogs	1
Down in the dumps	2		Raise the bar	5
Down to the wire	3		Reach out to someone	5
Drop off	1		Riding shotgun	8

Idiom	Chart #		Idiom	Chart #
Drop the ball	3		Run interference	4
Eager beaver	6		Run out of	1
Elephant in the room	7		Running around like a chicken with its head cut off	7
Figure out	1		Shit-eating grin	7
Find out	1		Shoot the breeze	1
For the birds	7		Show up	1
Freeze someone out	5		Skin in the game	4
Game plan	5		Slap on the wrist	3
Get a kick out of	4		Smart cookie	6
Get ahead of the game	4		Smell a rat	7
Get cold feet	2		Sounds good	1
Get it off your chest	2		Spill the beans	3
Get the ball rolling	5		Stick to something like white on rice	7
Get your ducks in a row	5		Stick your neck out	6
Gets my goat	2		Straight from the horse's mouth	7
Give it your best shot	4		Take a rain check	1
Give me a hand	1		Take care of	1
Give something a fair shake	5		Take sides	4
Go belly up	3		Take your time	1
Go Dutch	8		That makes sense	1
Go the extra mile	5		The ball is in your court	4
Go to bat for someone	4		Think outside the box	5
Go-getter	6		Throw a curveball	4
Going forward	5		Tightwad	6
Good Samaritan	6		Toe the line	4
Graveyard shift	8		Top of the line	8
Green thumb	7		Touch base	5
Hair of the dog	7		Under the weather	2
Hang in there	1		Up my alley	8
Hit below the belt	3		Wet behind the ears	6
Hit it out of the park	4		Wet blanket	6
Hit the ground running	5		Work out	1
Hit the mark	4		Your neck of the woods	1
Hold the line	5		Zebras don't change their stripes	7
Hold your horses	7			

Language note: Some expressions are informal, humorous, old-fashioned, or can sound rude. Use the “When Is It Used?” information to decide whether an expression is appropriate.