

30 ENGLISH IDIOMS

1. ***Once in a blue moon*** - rarely

I watch horror films once in a blue moon.

2. ***Not my cup of tea*** - don't like

Rom-coms are not my cup of tea.

3. ***Think outside the box*** - think creatively

My best friend always thinks outside the box.

4. ***Chalk and cheese*** - very different

My cousin and I are chalk and cheese when it comes to fashion.

5. ***Swings and roundabouts*** - a balance of positive + negative

In my town there are lots of job opportunities, but the cost of living is very high, so it's swings and roundabouts.

6. ***Have chemistry*** (with someone) To feel a special connection to someone.

The two actors have amazing chemistry on screen.

7. ***Pick of the bunch*** - the best choice

Out of all the restaurants in town, that Italian one is the pick of the bunch.

8. ***Head and shoulders above*** - better than others

My best friend is head and shoulders above everyone else when it comes to English exams.

9. ***A blessing in disguise*** - a bad situation that becomes good

Not getting that job was a blessing in disguise, because I got a better one.

10. ***Double-edged sword*** - has positive and negative consequences

Technology is a double-edged sword.

11. ***A drop in the ocean*** - the effect is small, more is needed

Recycling helps combat climate change. But it's a drop in the ocean. We need to do more.

12. **A walk in the park** - an easy task

That exam was no walk in the park.

13. **Off the top of your head** - to think of something spontaneously

I can't think of the name of the singer off the top of my head.

14. **To recharge the batteries** - to relax / to unwind

Exercise is a good way to recharge the batteries.

15. **Put yourself in someone else's shoes** - see things from another person's perspective.

Before you judge her, put yourself in her shoes. She must have felt awful.

16. **Make your mind up** - to decide

I can't make my mind up which dress to wear.

17. **Itchy feet** - having a desire to travel

I had itchy feet last month, so I went to Italy to explore.

18. **Cost an arm and a leg** - expensive

This jacket cost an arm and a leg.

19. **Don't run before you can walk** - don't do advanced tasks before basic ones

If you want to learn a language you need to learn the basics first. Don't run before you can walk.

20. **Burn the candle at both ends** - stay up late and get up early

I'm so tired these days. I've been burning the candle at both ends.

21. **keep a lot of plates spinning** - multi-tasking

It's a tough job keeping so many plates spinning in Senior High, such as schoolwork, socialising, homework, IELTS etc.

22. **blood boil** - extremely angry

Bully really makes my blood boil

23. **Cheesed off** - slightly annoyed

My friend cancelled the party an hour before. I was totally cheesed off.

24. **fly off the handle** - get angry quickly

My mother flew off the handle when I broke her plate.

25. **donkey's years** - a long time

I haven't been there for donkey's years.

26. **A shoulder to cry on** - a supportive friend

My best friend is a shoulder to cry on.

27. **Popped into my mind** - to suddenly think of something

The movie that popped into my mind is La Strada.

28. **Pull your hair out** - to get very annoyed

I felt like pulling my hair out when the train was late.

29. **be in the same boat** - to be in the same situation

We both lost our keys, so we were both in the same boat.

30. **to have green fingers** - to be good at gardening

My nan has green fingers. She's amazing at gardening.

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Steve Edwards