

Yazd University
Idioms & Expressions: Text 9
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- 1. Saddled with debt (run up a debt):** to be under a heavy debt
Our company is saddled with a great debt and should be sold as soon as possible.
- 2. Santa Claus:** An imaginary old man with red clothes and a long white beard who brings presents for children at Christmas.
- 3. Save one's breath:** keep silent because talking is useless
You had better save your breath and not bother talking to him.
- 4. Save one's neck:** save from danger or trouble
I tried to save my neck by working some extra hours each day during this economic crisis.
- 5. See red:** become very angry, be furious
He really saw red when I told him that I had an accident with his car.
- 6. Have one's heart on something:** to want sth very much
My younger brother had his heart on getting a new lap top for his birthday.
- 7. to settle a score with someone:** to resolve a problem you have with somebody
I'm fed up with this hostility. I'm going to settle the score with her.
- 8. Shake a leg:** to hurry
Please shake a leg! We are already late for the concert.
- 9. Short-handed:** to be alone in doing something
We were short-handed at work today and therefore we are now exhausted.
- 10. Show one's true colors:** show one's real personality
When in need, your friends may show their real colors.
- 11. Show up:** to arrive
We were all waiting for you last night but you didn't show up!
- 12. Pissed off:** to be very annoyed, sad or disappointed
I get pissed off with the way some people behave towards their parents.
- 13. (not to) Sleep a wink:** not to sleep at all
The upstairs neighbors were making a lot of noise last night that I didn't sleep a wink.
- 14. Slip of the tongue:** an error of speech
The lecturer made a slip of the tongue when used 'strict' instead of 'district'.

15. Slippery as a snake: crafty and shrewd

You cannot trust what he says; he is slippery as a snake.

16. Sly as a fox: extremely cunning

You wouldn't believe how much they are deceitful; they're sly as a fox.

17. Smell something fishy: be suspicious

I smell sth fishy here! You aren't going to surprise me, are you?

18. Snail's pace: very slow movement

In this heavy traffic you have no option but to move at snail's pace.

19. Split hairs: to argue about very small differences; to be very careful

He is always splitting hairs about every unimportant matter.

20. Splitting headache: a severe headache

My mother suffers from a chronic splitting headache.

21. Spic and span: extremely clean and tidy

We have to get the house spic and span before our guests arrive.

22. Spring chicken: a young and inexperienced person

I don't know how old she is but she seems to be still a spring chicken.

23. Stab in the back (hit under the belt): to harm sb in an unfair way

My father went broke just because his closest friend stabbed him in the back.

24. Stew in one's own juice: to suffer from sth that oneself causes

Let him stew in his own juice. He cheated on the exam and now should pay for it.

25. Have a sweet tooth: to love sweets

Many children have a sweet tooth and that's why they develop tooth decay.

26. Have a swelled head: to be arrogant, selfish

Ever since she has got that job, she seems to have a swelled head.

Some Proverbs

27. The other man's grass is always greener: perceiving what others have is better than yours

28. There are wheels within wheels: 'there is sth fishy going on'. to be suspicious about somebody or some matter.

29. There is no smoke without fire: every hearsay, even a small one, may be to some degree true.

30. Time is money: to emphasize that our moments of life are precious

31. Tit for tat: it's when you do the same thing, or say the same words, to compensate for some unfair word or harm somebody has used towards you.

32. Too many cooks spoil the broth = Two captains sink the ship: these imply that there should be no more than one manager, director, or boss.

33. Treat others as you would like to be treated: try to put yourself in the shoes of others when dealing with them

34. Trying to run before learning to walk: it's to disapprove those who want to reach success without passing the required steps.

35. Two heads are better than one: to emphasize cooperation in doing jobs or making decisions

36. Vessels leak what they hold: people verbalize or do what they have in their minds; actions and words stem from the mind and heart.