



Certain Idioms and Their Meaning in the English Language

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ABSTRACT

At a time when the volume and quality of data are increasing as a result of the development of modern technologies, it is also important to choose from the given data the ones that are necessary and easy to use. The field of English is very rich and it can be difficult to organize and receive the information in it in a short time. Idiom (Greek: *ídios* - "characteristic", "uniqueness") - a type of phraseology; a unit of speech or phrase that is unique to a particular language and cannot be exactly translated into other languages.

Keywords:

idioms, meaning of the word, phrase, phraseology, phraseologism, combination of words.

Introduction: In this article we will talk not only about idioms but also about their meanings. Memorizing idioms is not only easy but also a fun exercise in the way that we want to advise. World languages have idioms. For the Russian language, the word "phraseologism" is more familiar.

An idiom is a combination of several words that convey a common meaning. These words lose their special meaning. If you do not know the meaning of an idiom, you cannot understand its meaning. In addition, phraseological units give color to our sentences. Therefore, they should be remembered and used in speech.

Materials And Discussion: In Great Britain they don't talk about politics, religion, family. Especially with strangers. The only suitable topic for conversation is the weather. Therefore, many English idioms are related to this topic.

Rain cats and dogs - it's raining. In Russian - poured like a bucket.

This English idiom originated in the 18th century. It was introduced by the English writer J. Swift. In those days, there was weak protection of sewer pipes. They even passed the shower. All the contents, including pets: the carcasses of cats and dogs were dumped.

To steal the thunder is to steal someone's idea. This English idiom came from theaters in the 18th century. At that time, there were no sound devices, and lead balls were shaken in a bowl to create the sound of thunder. Playwright J. Dennis used metal in his work. The game was rejected, but the idea of the metal balls was stolen from Dennis. Let's observe several examples.

1) Watching like a hawk

Meaning: Watching something very, very, closely

Children often hear this idiom from a parent or other caregiver, "I'm watching you like a hawk."

It's often used to make sure that someone or something doesn't misbehave or make a mistake.

Example: The boss watches us like a hawk

2. Mad as a hornet (USA)

Meaning: Very angry, or furious

A hornet is a type of wasp. When it gets angry, it can do a lot of damage, cause pain and generally be dangerous. If someone is saying that they're as mad as a hornet, then they're warning you to look out. While the term "mad as a hornet" is popular in the United States, other English-speaking countries and cultures often say something similar. In the Southern region of the United States where farming was (and in some places still is) a major industry, people used to say the idiom "mad as a wet hen," describing the anger a hen would have if you stole her eggs.

Example: Mom was as mad as a hornet when we broke the mirror.

3. Like shooting fish in a barrel

Meaning: Very easy to catch or trick

It can also mean a very easy task. This idiom goes back to the early 1900s. Think of how easy it would be to shoot fish in a barrel. It's a given.

Example: I'm an expert in auto repair, fixing this is like shooting fish in a barrel.

4. Open a can of worms

Meaning: Create a whole new set of problems

This phrase is often used when you try to solve a problem or answer a question, but you only create more problems or more questions. Nobody is sure of the exact origin of this idiom, but some people believe it came from a time when fisherman bought canned worms for bait. They would bring the worms to the fishing site, but if they knocked the can over, they had a whole new problem of catching their bait. Some also believe that "can of worms" is a modern version of the idiom, "Pandora's box." [Pandora's box comes from an old myth](#), and it also means to create a new set of problems.

Example: You've opened a real can of worms here.

5. At a snail's pace

Meaning: Moving very slowly

This idiom is pretty self-explanatory because we know that snails and slugs move very slowly. This idiom has been used for a very long time. The phrase is found in William Shakespeare's play "[Richard III](#)," which was written and first performed in 16th century England.

Example: Traffic is moving at a snail's pace.

6. Busy as a bee. Meaning: Extremely busy

This idiom originated from Chaucer's "[Canterbury Tales](#)" (specifically, "The Squire's Tale") which was written around 1386. The English is very old, but the phrase remains popular to this day. "Lo, suche sleightes and subtiltees In wommen be, for ay **as busy as bees**." The above language looks very different from modern English, but the animal idiom is exactly the same. Today, the phrase is used to describe someone being very busy, but working with a purpose in a pleasant manner.

Example: My son is working on his science project. He's been as busy as a bee all day.

7. The world is your oyster. Meaning: You have many good opportunities in front of you

It's not easy to open an oyster. Finding opportunities in the world is like opening an oyster, meaning it's not easy. Sometimes, when you open an oyster, you'll find a pearl. When you say that "the world is your oyster," you have a positive outlook about the opportunities in front of you. If you have an oyster in your hands, it could contain a beautiful treasure that belongs completely to you.

Example: You just graduated from a wonderful university, so the world is your oyster!

8. Dog eat dog

Meaning: Very competitive

When you use this idiom, you're saying that the competition is so stiff (intense) that people will do anything to get ahead, even if it means hurting someone. "Dog eat dog" may be used to describe a situation, a school, a company or an industry. The exact origin varies. It may have come from similar phrases used in English writings from a long time ago. For example, one similar phrase was used in a 16th century Latin proverb which says "dog does not eat dog."

Example: It's a dog eat dog world out there.

Conclusion: In short, idioms are words that are used for daily adjustments, which contribute to making human speech more beautiful and graceful. As in any other language, the meaning of idioms in English is often obscure at first glance, hidden under a network of cultures and centuries (and sometimes thousands of years) of language formation.

The meaning of each phrase should be studied carefully and separately. It seems like a difficult and long process, but it is fun to constantly immerse in the world of obscure meanings. In particular, local sentences are connected to the situation, and comparisons and comparisons begin.

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