

Learn the idioms
you actually use every day.

René

The Teacher



BREAK THE ICE

Meaning: To initiate conversation in a social setting.

Significado: Romper el hielo (iniciar una conversación).

Example: She told a joke to break the ice at the meeting.



PIECE OF CAKE

Meaning: Something very easy to do.

Significado: Pan comido (muy fácil de hacer).

Example: The test was a piece of cake.



HIT THE SACK

Meaning: To go to bed or sleep.

Significado: Ir a la cama (acostarse a dormir).

Example: I'm tired; I'm going to hit the sack.



UNDER THE WEATHER

Meaning: Feeling ill or sick.

Significado: Sentirse mal (enfermo).

Example: She stayed home because she was under the weather.



COSTS AN ARM AND A LEG

Meaning: Very expensive.

Significado: Costar un ojo de la cara (muy caro).

Example: That car costs an arm and a leg.



BITE YOUR TONGUE

Meaning: To stop yourself from saying something.

Significado: Morderse la lengua (no decir algo).

Example: I wanted to complain but had to bite my tongue.



LET THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG

Meaning: To reveal a secret.

Significado: Revelar un secreto.

Example: He let the cat out of the bag about the surprise party.



ONCE IN A BLUE MOON

Meaning: Very rarely.

Significado: Muy raramente.

Example: We go out to dinner once in a blue moon.



KEEP YOUR CHIN UP

Meaning: Stay positive in a difficult situation.

Significado: Mantener el ánimo (ser positivo).

Example: Keep your chin up; things will get better.



CATCH SOME RAYS

Meaning: To sunbathe or enjoy the sun.

Significado: Tomar el sol.

Example: Let's go to the beach and catch some rays.



HIT THE ROAD

Meaning: To begin a journey or leave.

Significado: Ponerse en camino (empezar un viaje).

Example: We need to hit the road early tomorrow.



IN HOT WATER

Meaning: In trouble or facing difficulties.

Significado: Estar en problemas.

Example: He was in hot water after missing the deadline.



ON CLOUD NINE

Meaning: Very happy or excited.

Significado: Muy feliz.

Example: She was on cloud nine after getting the job.



BREAK A LEG

Meaning: Good luck (especially in performances).

Significado: Buena suerte.

Example: Break a leg at your recital tonight!



SPILL THE BEANS

Meaning: To reveal secret information.

Significado: Contar un secreto.

Example: Don't spill the beans about the surprise.



BURN THE MIDNIGHT OIL

Meaning: To work late into the night.

Significado: Trabajar hasta tarde.

Example: She burned the midnight oil to finish the project.



BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE

Meaning: To pursue a mistaken or misguided course.

Significado: Equivocarse de camino.

Example: If you think I'm guilty, you're barking up the wrong tree.



BEAT AROUND THE BUSH

Meaning: To avoid talking about the main issue.

Significado: Andarse por las ramas.

Example: Stop beating around the bush and answer the question.



THROW IN THE TOWEL

Meaning: To give up or admit defeat.

Significado: Tirar la toalla (rendirse).

Example: After many failed attempts, he threw in the towel.



HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD

Meaning: To describe exactly what is causing a situation.

Significado: Dar en el clavo.

Example: You hit the nail on the head with that explanation.



CUT CORNERS

Meaning: To do something the easiest way, often badly.

Significado: Hacer algo a medias.

Example: Don't cut corners on quality.



KICK THE BUCKET

Meaning: To die.

Significado: Estirar la pata (morir).

Example: The old dog finally kicked the bucket.



LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE

Meaning: To avoid interfering in a stable situation.

Significado: No levantar la liebre.

Example: I decided to let sleeping dogs lie and not bring up the past.



PULL SOMEONE'S LEG

Meaning: To joke or tease someone.

Significado: Tomar el pelo.

Example: I was just pulling your leg about the surprise.



THE BALL IS IN YOUR COURT

Meaning: It is your decision or responsibility to act.

Significado: La pelota está en tu tejado.

Example: I've done my part; now the ball is in your court.



UNDER YOUR NOSE

Meaning: Something very obvious or close by.

Significado: Justo delante de ti.

Example: The keys were right under your nose.



BY THE SKIN OF YOUR TEETH

Meaning: Just barely or narrowly.

Significado: Por un pelo.

Example: He passed the exam by the skin of his teeth.



OFF THE HOOK

Meaning: Freed from an obligation or difficult situation.

Significado: Librarse de un problema.

Example: You're off the hook for the meeting.



THROUGH THICK AND THIN

Meaning: In good times and bad times.

Significado: En las buenas y en las malas.

Example: They stayed friends through thick and thin.



HIT THE JACKPOT

Meaning: To have great success or luck.

Significado: Tener mucha suerte.

Example: She hit the jackpot with her new job.



THROW CAUTION TO THE WIND

Meaning: To take a risk without worrying about the consequences.

Significado: Arrojar la cautela al viento.

Example: He threw caution to the wind and invested all his savings.



ON THE FENCE

Meaning: Undecided between two options.

Significado: Estar indeciso.

Example: I'm still on the fence about the job offer.



KICK UP A FUSS

Meaning: To complain loudly or make a big deal.

Significado: Montar un escándalo.

Example: She kicked up a fuss when her order was late.



ADD FUEL TO THE FIRE

Meaning: To make a bad situation worse.

Significado: Echar leña al fuego.

Example: His comments only added fuel to the fire.



BITE OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW

Meaning: To take on more responsibility than one can manage.

Significado: Querer abarcar más de lo que se puede.

Example: She bit off more than she could chew with that project.



BY THE BOOK

Meaning: To do something exactly according to the rules.

Significado: Seguir las reglas al pie de la letra.

Example: He does everything by the book.



CUT THE MUSTARD

Meaning: To meet expectations or perform well.

Significado: Estar a la altura.

Example: He didn't cut the mustard for the job.



GO THE EXTRA MILE

Meaning: To do more than what is expected.

Significado: Hacer un esfuerzo extra.

Example: She always goes the extra mile for her clients.



HIT BELOW THE BELT

Meaning: To act unfairly or unkindly.

Significado: Jugar sucio / Dar un golpe bajo

Example: His comment was really hitting below the belt.



JUMP ON THE BANDWAGON

Meaning: To join others in doing something popular.

Significado: Subirse al tren (hacer algo de moda).

Example: Many companies jumped on the bandwagon of remote work.



KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED

Meaning: To watch carefully or stay alert.

Significado: Mantener los ojos bien abiertos.

Example: Keep your eyes peeled for any suspicious activity.



BITE THE BULLET

Meaning: To face a difficult or unpleasant situation and deal with it bravely.

Significado: Afrontar una situación difícil o desagradable con valentía.

Example I hate going to the dentist, but I need to bite the bullet and make an appointment.