

*In the Name of God
the most Compassionate
the most Merciful*

Two Languages and One Dialect

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Introduction

What is an idiom?

Idiom is a group of words in a fixed order that have a particular meaning that is different from the meanings of each word on its own. For example, to *«have bitten off more than you can chew»* is an idiom that means you have tried to do something which is too difficult for you.

To put in other words, an idiom is figurative expression or phrase used to express an idea vaguely, so it doesn't relate directly to the person you're speaking to.

A good example of this would be, *«you can't have your cake and eat it too»*. This idiom is saying that in some situations in life, you can't have two good things if they contradict with each other.

Some idioms are funny or silly while others can be quite profound. People love to use and teach idioms because they make the language a lot more enjoyable.

Idioms share cultural and historical information and broadens people's understanding and manipulation of a language. Among the various definitions of idioms are: (1) the language peculiar to a people, country, class, community or, more rarely, an individual; (2) a construction or expression having a meaning different from the literal one or not according to the usual patterns of the language (New Webster's Dictionary, 1993).

Idioms include all the expressions we use that are unique to English, including clichés and slang. Prepositional usage is also a common part of idiomatic expressions (Princeton Review, 1998). In the other words, Idiomatic Expression is an expression whose meanings cannot be inferred from the meanings of the words that make it up.