

IDIOMS AND PHRASES



IDIOMS

Idioms are expressions whose meanings are not directly derived from the literal definitions of the individual words, but instead convey a figurative or culturally understood meaning.

English Idiom	Hindi मुहावरा	Example Sentence
Break the ice	पहली बातचीत करना / माहौल हल्का करना	He told a joke to break the ice at the party.
Hit the nail on the head	कील पर हथौड़ा मारना (बिल्कुल सही कहना)	She hit the nail on the head with her analysis.
Let the cat out of the bag	भेद खोल देना	He let the cat out of the bag about the surprise party.
Once in a blue moon	कभी-कभी / बहुत कम	We go out for dinner once in a blue moon.
Bite the bullet	कड़वा घूंट पीना / कठिन परिस्थिति झेलना	I had to bite the bullet and face the exam.
Kill two birds with one stone	एक तीर से दो निशाने	By cycling to work, I kill two birds with one stone—save money and stay fit.
Under the weather	तबियत ठीक न होना	I'm feeling under the weather today.
Burn the midnight oil	रात देर तक काम करना	She burned the midnight oil to finish her project.
Cry over spilt milk	बीती बात पर पछताना	Don't cry over spilt milk, just move on.
A blessing in disguise	छुपा हुआ वरदान	Losing that job was a blessing in disguise.

PROVERBS

A proverb is a brief, familiar saying that conveys advice or reveals a truth rooted in common sense or life experience. It often imparts a moral or offers practical guidance.

English Proverb	Hindi Equivalent (मुहावरा)	Example Sentence
Honesty is the best policy	ईमानदारी सबसे अच्छी नीति है	My parents always taught me that honesty is the best policy.
Actions speak louder than words	काम शब्दों से अधिक प्रभावशाली होते हैं	He never brags, but his actions speak louder than words.
A stitch in time saves nine	समय रहते इलाज, नौ बचाव के बराबर है	Fix the leak now—a stitch in time saves nine.
Rome wasn't built in a day	बड़े काम समय लेते हैं	Be patient—Rome wasn't built in a day.
Where there's a will, there's a way	जहाँ चाह वहाँ राह	She got into the team because where there's a will, there's a way.

Don't count your chickens before they hatch	अंडों से पहले मुर्गियाँ मत गिनो	Wait for the results—don't count your chickens before they hatch.
All that glitters is not gold	चमकने वाली हर चीज़ सोना नहीं होती	Be careful— all that glitters is not gold.
Too many cooks spoil the broth	अधिक रसोइये खाना बिगाड़ देते हैं	Everyone gave input, and now the plan's a mess—too many cooks spoil the broth.
Practice makes perfect	अभ्यास से सफलता मिलती है	Don't give up—practice makes perfect.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Instruction: Choose the best interpretation of the idiom.

His idea was “dead in the water” after the budget cuts.

- (A) Approved quickly (B) Completely stopped or failed
(C) Under negotiation (D) Financially strong

2. Instruction: Select the correct meaning of the idiom.

After failing twice, she finally “hit the nail on the head.”

- (A) Caused a problem (B) Missed the point
(C) Made a perfect suggestion (D) Repeated the mistake

3. Instruction: Identify the meaning of the idiom in this sentence.

He was “burning the candle at both ends” during exam week.

- (A) Saving time (B) Working excessively
(C) Sleeping a lot (D) Avoiding work

4. Instruction: Choose the meaning of the idiom used in the sentence.

He was told to “bite the bullet” and complete the task.

- (A) Escape quickly
(B) Enjoy the challenge
(C) Do something unpleasant with courage
(D) Reject orders

5. Instruction: Determine the appropriate meaning of the idiom.

The CEO was “on cloud nine” after the company's success.

- (A) Deeply confused (B) Extremely happy
(C) Very tired (D) Indifferent

6. Instruction: Choose the right meaning of the idiom.

She told him to “hold his horses” before rushing into action.

- (A) Walk faster (B) Calm down and wait
(C) Make a quick decision (D) Run away

7. **Instruction: Select the correct meaning of the idiom.**

After the scandal, the company tried to “save face.”

- (A) Prevent further financial loss (B) Hide documents
(C) Maintain dignity or reputation (D) Cover their mistakes

8. **Instruction: Identify the meaning of the idiom in the context.**

The idea seemed strange at first but “grew on me.”

- (A) Became more appealing over time (B) Caused irritation
(C) Made me sleepy (D) Disappeared eventually

9. **Instruction: Choose the correct meaning of the idiom.**

She really “let the cat out of the bag” about the surprise party.

- (A) Started a fight (B) Disclosed a secret
(C) Adopted a pet (D) Ran away

10. **Instruction: Determine the correct interpretation of the idiom.**

The student was “in hot water” for missing the deadline.

- (A) Being praised (B) In trouble (C) Feeling lazy (D) Relaxing

ANSWER KEY

1. (B)	2. (C)	3. (B)	4. (C)	5. (B)	6. (B)	7. (C)	8. (A)	9. (B)	10. (B)
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