

IDIOMS,



and everyday expressions:

A foody = Conoscitore, intenditore di cibo

My cousin is a real foody, he only eats in the finest restaurants.

Fed-up = Stufo

I am fed-up with waiting for them. Let's go home!

Get stuffed ! / Stuff you (ecc.)! = Vai a farti...!

Why don't you go and.....!!!

Stuff you, you arrogant snob!!!.

Stuff this job!

Stuffy (air or person)= Con la puzza sotto il naso, aria di chiuso o soffocante

The room had been closed all winter. It was very stuffy until we opened the window.

Is he always so stuffy?

Bread = Money

Can you lend me some bread until Saturday?

Puffed up (person)= Piena di se

Since his promotion he has become all puffed up!

Easy as pie= facile facile

The test was as easy as pie!

Go bananas = Fare il pazzo, incavolarsi

My father went bananas when I damaged his car!

The crowd went bananas when Johny Depp arrived.

The apple of my (etc.) eye = Persona adulate

Her daughter is the apple of her eye.

Full of beans = Piena di energia

He must be 80, but he is always full of beans!

Spill the beans = fare trapelare una notizia, tradire, sputare il rospo.

It's a secret, so don't spill the beans.

Butter (someone) **up** = Adulare per un scopo

The secretary is trying to butter up the boss again...

Have your cake and eat it (too) = Avere la moglie ubriaca e la botte piena

I will lend you my car, but you must pay for the petrol – you can't have your cake and eat it too!

That's the way the cookie crumbles = Così va il mondo / così è la vita.



Pretty girls only marry rich men? That's the way the cookie crumbles.

Like it or not, that's the way the cookie crumbles.

Have egg on your face = essere in imbarazzo dopo una gaffe

He said that China would never become an industrial power, so now he has egg on his face.

The cream of the crop = Il meglio (del meglio)

Of the new generation of actors, he is the cream of the crop.

Eat (someone) out of house and home = Essere un peso esagerato per le finanze di qualcuno.

My children are eating me out of house and home!

Have/Keep all your eggs in one basket = Riporre tutte le proprie speranze in una sola cosa.

When you are job-hunting, don't put all your eggs in one basket.

His philosophy towards girlfriends is "never keep all your eggs in one basket"!

(Buy) a lemon = (Acquistare) qualcosa che non vale il prezzo pagato o non funziona.



When I bought that car I bought a lemon!

That 'special offer' was really a lemon!

No use crying over spilt milk = Inutile (rim-) piangere per ciò che non si può rimediare. ? 'Quel che è fatto è fatto'.



The fire destroyed our house, but there's no sense in crying over spilt milk.

There's no use in crying over spilt milk – you will find another boyfriend!

Go nuts = Arrabbiarsi, diventare matto, comportarsi da folle.

The fans went nuts when the band appeared.

This situation is making me go nuts.

He will go nuts when he sees the damage.

Pay peanuts = Pagare pochissimo.

This job pays peanuts.

I paid peanuts for a solid in Albania.

Two peas in a pod = Due cose perfettamente simili / sosie.

The twins are like two peas in a pod.

The statues appear to be two peas in a pod.

To be in a pickle = Essere in difficoltà, confuso.

I'm in a real pickle – shall I accept the offer or not?

He was in a pickle because nothing was ready when his guests arrived.

Take something/someone with a pinch of salt = Non credere completamente in...(spesso ironico).

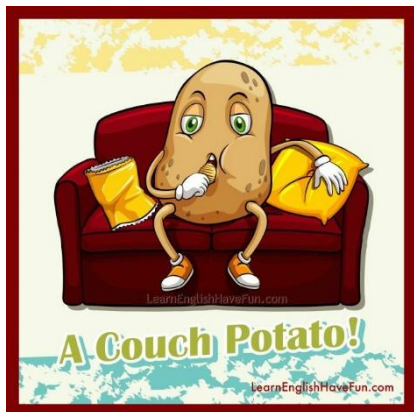
I think you should take his words with a pinch of salt...

A bun in the oven = Incinta

Is it true she's got a bun in the oven?

A couch potato / Like a sack of potatoes =

Persona pigra / Cadere, accasciarsi come un peso morto.



Couch potatoes never find a job!

I hit him and he fell like a sack of potatoes.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating =

Vedremo se andrà a finire bene o meno...

On paper the plan looks good, but the proof of the pudding....

To cook the books = Falsificare la contabilità.

The accountant had cooked the books for years before he was discovered.

Cook (someone's) goose = Guastare i piani di qualcuno, rovinare qualcuno.

I cooked my own goose when she saw me kiss her sister.

Losing his job at his age has really cooked his goose.

Cook up an excuse = Inventare una scusa.

What excuse can I cook up this time?

His attempt to cook up an excuse failed.

Rub salt in the wound = Insistere su qualcosa di dannoso / che fa male, prolungando/peggiorando il dolore – La beffa dopo il danno.

I know I should not have bet **everything** on that horse, but don't rub salt in the wound.

You love to rub it in, don't you!

Spice up (something) = Imbellire (una storia, una festa, ecc.) per renderlo più interessante.

How can we spice up this party?

He often spices up his stories. She has certainly spiced up his life!

A wet biscuit = (persona) Privo di carattere, ininfluente.

How could she marry such a wet biscuit?!?

Show some character – don't be a wet biscuit!

A peach of...(something) = Bello, meraviglioso.

She's a peach of a girl.

That's a peach of an idea!

Nutty as a fruitcake = Totalmente pazzo.

My Uncle is as nutty as a fruitcake.

A half-baked idea = Un'idea mezza matta, poco ragionata/poco pratico.

Your ideas are always half-baked.

The German decision to invade Russia was a half-baked idea at best.

(Bring home) the bacon = Riuscire a compiere, ottenere un risultato positivo. / Guadagnare da vivere.

In international affairs, will America bring home the bacon or China?

That song was written 60 years ago, but it's still bringing home the bacon!

To milk (someone/something) = Spremere...

With the divorce, she milked him for everything he was worth!

Are you milking me for ideas again?

To go pear shaped = Andare a finire male/a rotoli.

At the start everything went well, but then things started to go pear-shaped.

My life went pear-shaped when she left me.

Crusty = (persona) Spigoloso/a.

He has few friends because he has always been so crusty.

Many old people are crusty...

To be chicken / Play chicken = Essere pauroso, fare un gioco (pericoloso) per dimostrare coraggio.

You're too chicken to ask her for a date!

The boys were playing chicken on the electrified railway line.

Know your (etc.) onions = sapere il fatto proprio, conoscere bene una materia ecc.

Ask John. When it comes to computers, he knows his onions.

The new trainer certainly knows his onions.

Don't worry; I know my onions...

A dog's dinner = Pasticcio/Qualcosa di disgustoso.

A big cheese = Persona importante, dirigente di alto livello.

The decorators made a real dog's dinner of the work!

She looks a dog's dinner in that dress.

A strawberry tart (Cockney slang = **fart**) = Pirlito

To blow a raspberry = fare una pernacchia.

He blew a raspberry at the policeman, and disappeared into the fog.

To be toast = Rovinare/Rimpiazzare qualcuno.

He used to be a big shot, now he's toast.

If you do that again, you'll be toast!

To trifle with.... = Giocare Con / prendere in giro.

Please don't trifle with my emotions.

He lost because he trifled with the electorate.

(Pay /Cost/ be) a trifle = Pagare ecc. pochissimo.

It only costs a trifle. Let's buy it!

(Not) My cup of tea = (Non è) cosa che gradisco, non è cosa mia...

Skiing is not my cup of tea.

I'm sorry, but plumbing is not my cup of tea.

Rhubarb! = Balle!

Prime Minister? You??? Rhubarb!!!

An old cow = Vecchia antipatica.

What is that old cow complaining about?

She's just a silly old cow – ignore her!

The big cheese himself interviewed me for the job.

You think you're a big cheese, do you?

A bad egg = Persona cattiva, capace di influenzare altri negativamente.



That boy is a bad egg.

He's not such a bad egg after all!

Carrot Top = Persona con capelli rosse/arancione.

At school his nickname was 'Carrot Top', but now he's bald!

Cheesy = Melenso, sdolcinato.

He wrote her a cheesy letter.

That film is so cheesy!

To cheese (someone) off = Infastidire e far arrabbiare qualcuno.

You are beginning to cheese me off!

What really cheeses me off is.....

Cool as a cucumber = Molto sicuro di se, pacato nei modi.

James Bond is always as cool as a cucumber, whatever the situation.

Cool as a cucumber, the killer made his escape.

A Gravy Train = Una 'macchina da soldi' - qualcosa che favorisce coloro che salgono sul 'carrozzone'.

After his election everyone wanted to jump on the gravy train.

The first computer programmers were on a real gravy train.

A hard nut (to crack) = Un 'duro' / problema difficile da risolvere.

The criminal was a hard nut.

The case was a hard nut for the police to crack.

Hot Potato = Grosso problema.



The boss has handed me this hot potato to resolve by Friday.

The political scandal soon became a hot potato.

In a nutshell = In sintesi, in poche parole.

It's difficult to describe the Middle-East situation in a nutshell.

In a nutshell, she left me!

Icing on the cake = La ciliegia sulla torta.

After the World Record, an Olympic gold medal is the icing on the cake.

Your refusal is the icing on the cake after so many disappointments.

Make mincemeat of... = Fare a pezzi, distruggere / vincere o superare facilmente.

The boxer made mincemeat of his opponent.

The lawyer made mincemeat of the arguments for the defense.

Out to lunch = Pazzo.

He's been out to lunch since 1996!

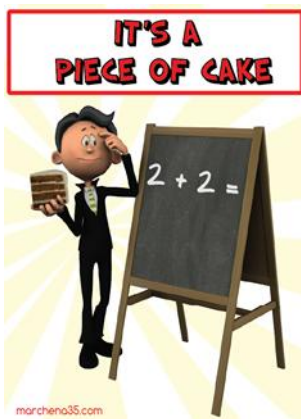
I think you're out to lunch!

A liquid lunch = Pasto a base di bevande alcoliche.

You must have had a VERY liquid lunch!

His lunches are often liquid!

A piece of cake = Molto facile.



The test was a piece of cake.

She was a piece of cake to convince.

Small potatoes = Persona o cosa di poco conto.

Ignore him. He's just a small potato.

The budget for education is small potatoes compared to the cost of defence.

Stew in your (etc.) own juice = Sono cavoli tuoi!

Don't ask me for help. Go stew in your own juice!

He's stewing in his own juice, finally.

Teach your grandmother to suck eggs = Insegnare a chi sa già o non ha bisogno di imparare.

He's a great mechanic, so don't try to teach your grandmother to suck eggs...

As a physicist, nobody could teach Einstein to suck eggs!

I have six children, you don't have any – are you trying to teach me to suck eggs?!

Top banana = Persona che comanda.

Who is the top banana around here?

He wants to be top banana...

Walk on eggshells = Proseguire molto cautamente.

The negotiators are walking on eggshells in the peace talks.

I advise you to walk on eggshells when you talk to her father!

(To be) Nuts about (someone/something) = Avere un interesse smisurato in/per/ verso...

She's nuts about me!

He's nuts about football.

A smart cookie = Persona intelligente, acuta.

She looks naive, but she's a really smart cookie.

Only the smart cookies will understand this...

(To be) **A fruit** = Homosexual, Gay

Fruity = Osé, risqué.

Some of the scenes in the film are very fruity.

His language is sometimes fruity.

Juicy = Piena di spunti/parti stimolanti.

The proposal was very juicy.

The first chapter of the novel is juicy.

(Something / Someone) **Fishy** = Qualcosa non va...

This contract is fishy.

He's really fishy.

(Something) **Fishy about**... Qualcosa non quadra...

There's something fishy about this place.

Souped up (car, etc.)= Con prestazioni migliorate.

In the 1950s many American teenagers drove souped-up cars.

A computer is just asouped-up abacus!

Mutton dressed as lamb = Donna di una certa età vestita e truccata da adolescente/giovanissima.

My mother is emvbarassing: she always looks like mutton dressed as lamb.

She came out of the boutique lokking like mutton dressed as lamb...

No Spring chicken = 'Non di primo pelo'.

I cannot run fast, I'm no spring chicken!

You can't fool me – I'm no spring chicken!

Sell like hotcakes = Vendere tantissimi in pochissimo tempo.

All the Beatles albums sold like hotcakes.

His new invention will sell like hotcakes.

Use your noodle = Usare il cervello.

You will resolve the problem if you use your noodle.

I wasn't using my noodle when I said "Yes!"

Red as a beetroot = Rosso dall'imbarazzo.

She becomes as red as a beetroot whenever he passes her.

The politician turned as red as a beetroot at the journalist's question.

Cut the mustard = Essere in grado, capace.

If you can't cut the mustard here, look for another job!

He can't cut the mustard as a professional footballer.

Eat humble pie = Umiliarsi, ammettere di aver sbagliato.

I was forced to eat humble pie after my mistake.

I'll make you eat humble pie!!!

Forbidden fruit = Tabù, minorenne...

That girl is forbidden fruit...

Some art is considered 'forbidden fruit', even today.

A finger in the/every pie = Essere coinvolto, avere interessi ovunque - 'prezzemolino in ogni minestra'.

He has a finger in every pie.

She wants a finger in every pie!



(To be) In a stew = In difficoltà, agitato a proposito.

The guests will arrive soon and I'm in a stew.

Why are you in such a stew?

(To be) In hot soup = Nei guai.

When your father sees the damage to the car you will be in VERY hot soup!

The government is in hot soup because of the scandal.

A honey-trap = Trappola per ingenui.

She's trying to create a honey-trap for him.

The proposal was just a honey-trap.

Salad days = (period della) Gioventù, giorni migliori del passato.



She was very popular in her salad days.

My salad days are over...

Lay an egg = Rendere, produrre.

His latest invention is really laying an egg.

I don't think this will lay many eggs.

Not worth a hill of beans = Privo di valore, non vale niente.

The land was not worth a hill of beans.

His promises are not worth a hill of beans.

Pie in the sky = Idea o scopo irraggiungibile, pura fantasia.

Your idea is just pie in the sky.

True democracy is simply pie in the sky.

Save (someone's) bacon = 'Salvare la pelle' di qualcuno.

Your loan has saved my bacon.

I saved his bacon during the war.

Take the cake/biscuit = Essere il massimo di...(in senso negativo), Peggio di così...

His refusal takes the biscuit.

Doesn't that just take the cake?!

To sugarcoat (something) = Rendere più 'palatevole'... spesso per convincere.

The company tried to sugarcoat closing the factory.

How can we sugarcoat the truth?

Pour oil on troubled waters = 'Gettare acqua sul fuoco', Tentare di risolvere per il meglio...

I tried to pour water on troubled waters, without success.

Did you manage to pour oil on troubled waters?

A rotten apple = Una 'mela marcia'.

He's the perfect example of 'a rotten apple'.

There are a few rotten apples in every class.

A pip (person or thing) = Una 'chicca', divertente o simpatico(-ne).

The film is a real pip.

Isn't he a pip!!!

To pip (someone) = Battere per poco o all'ultimo momento.

I pipped everyone in the race.

My offer was pipped at the auction.

(To be) Crabby = Essere di malumore, avere 'il broncio'.

Is she always so crabby?

Crabby people don't have many friends.

Elbow grease = 'Olio di gomito'.

If you use more elbow grease it will shine like new.

My success is the result of a lot of elbow grease.

As flat as a pancake = Assolutamente piatta, schiacciata.

My lawn is as flat as a pancake.

Unfortunately the soufflé was as flat as a pancake.

A fruit loop = Pazzo.

He's a total fruit loop.

Only a fruit loop would attempt to do that!

Do you cocoa? Capisci? / Comprendi?

I'm not sure you cocoa.

Did he cocoa?

(To be) Worth your (etc.) salt = Valere quanto sei pagato, valido.

You're not worth your salt if you can't do this!

He was not worth his salt, so I fired him.

A ham /To ham = Persona che finge di essere... o fa la parte (in modo poco convincente) / Improvvisare (male)...

That actor is just a ham.

Unfortunately I decided to ham it...

Road pizza. Animale schiacciato da un'automobile.

There was road pizza everywhere...

He made road pizza of the cat.

That's the way the cookie crumbles = Così va la vita.

I'm surprised: I didn't think you knew your onions so well!

A storm in a teacup = Un problema di poca importanza o passeggera.



Don't worry, it's just a storm in a teacup.

She's angry now, but it's only a storm in a teacup.

Upset the apple cart = Mandare tutto all'aria /rovesciare le previsioni.

The result really upset the apple cart.

Everyone is enjoying themselves, so why do you want to upset the apple cart?

An apple a day keeps the doctor away = Una mela al giorno leva il medico di turno.

