100 Important Phrases & Idioms (English Grammar)

- Cry for the moon - Ask for the impossible
- Be in a tight corner - In a very difficult situation
- Cock and bull story - Made up story that one should not believe
- Cat and dog life - Life full of quarrels
- Like a cat on hot bricks - Very nervous
- Have a card up one's sleeve - Have a secret plan in reserve
- Tell against - To prove adverse to; to go against
- Run through - to squander or waste
- Run over - to drive over
- Alive and kicking - Active and healthy
- To burn one’s fingers - To lose on account of foolish behaviour
- At sea - Confused or lost
- Behind one’s back - In the absence of
- To call a spade a spade - To be frank and truthful
- To break the ice - To break the silence
• To bell the cat - To face the risk
• A cat and dog life - To lead a life full of quarrels
• A cold fish - A person devoid of emotions
• To cross the Rubicon - To take a decisive step
• Double-dealing - Deceiving
• To die hard - Change with great difficulty
• To eat humble pie - To apologise in a humble manner
• To fight a losing battle - Struggle without hope of success
• A deadlock - A position when no progress can be made
• A daredevil - A person who does not care for any consequences
• Once in a blue moon - Very rarely
• At a premium - Difficult to get or obtain
• To play the game - To act honestly
• To die in harness - To work till the last day of one’s life
• To plough a lonely furrow - To work without help or support
• Lock, stock and barrel - Completely
• The long and the short - The main point
• Bring to light - Disclose
• The bottom line - The final criteria
• A cock and bull story - An improbable excuse
• To kick one’s heels - To wait with nothing to do
• Rain cats and dogs - Rain heavily
• A hard nut to crack - A difficult problem
• In high spirits - Very happy
• Like a fish out of water - In a strange situation
• Smell a rat - Suspect something foul
• Read between the lines - Understand the hidden meaning
• Tooth and nail ---With all one’s power
• Spread like wild fire - Spread quickly
• Hit the nail on the head - Do or say the exact thing
• Burn the midnight oil - Work or study hard
• Under his thumb - Under his control
• With a high hand - Oppressively
• Gain ground - Become popular
• By leaps and bounds - Rapidly
• Make off with - to run away with
• Pass away - to die
• To cry for the moon - Ask for the impossible
• To make a pig of oneself - To over-eat
• Donkey’s years - A very long time
• To pull one’s leg - to joke; tease someone
• To keep one’s fingers crossed - To hope fervently
• To call in question - To disprove or doubt
• To talk through one’s hat - To talk ignorantly
• To make up one’s mind - To decide
• Hard and fast rules - Rigid rules
• To make one’s mouth water - To stimulate one’s appetite
• By word of mouth - By spoken message
• To get the better of someone - To take advantage of someone
• To rub shoulders - To come into close contact
• A snake in the grass - A hidden enemy
• Between the devil and the deep blue sea - Between two dangers
• Chew the cud - To discuss matters in a ponderous manner, especially reminiscing
• To kill two birds with one stone - To achieve two results with one effort
• A close shave - A narrow escape
• Chip off the old block - As good as one’s father
• To pull a long face - To look sad
• Above board - Open and honest
• To turn a deaf ear - To ignore
• To turn the tables - To reverse the situation
• To call someone names - To abuse someone
• Above board - Honest and open
• At arms length - To keep at a distance
• At the eleventh hour - At the last moment
• An apple of discord - A cause of quarrel
• To burn one’s boats - Go back on a decision
• To build castles in the air - Make imaginary schemes
• A burning question -
  • An important topic
• A brown study - Dreaming
• Sitting on the fence - Hesitate between two decisions
• Smell a rat - Suspect something foul
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