



## IDIOMS: THEIR MEANINGS AND USES

1. To one's fingers crossed (Hope for the best, that nothing will happen to upset one's plan) - अच्छी चीज की आशा करना।  
We kept our fingers crossed till the final results were declared.
2. Blue blood (an aristocrat) – उच्च कुलीन व्यक्ति।  
His habits reveal that blue blood is still flowing in his veins.
3. A snake in the grass ( an unrecognisable enemy) – आस्तीन का सांप  
Manohar proved to be a snake in the grass
4. To look blue ( sad or discontented) – उदास, असंतुष्ट।  
Mohan looked blue as he had failed.
5. To look blank (to look puzzled) – परेशान दिखना।  
Why are you looking blank these days?
6. At daggers drawn (In open enmity) – कटु शत्रुता होना।  
India and Pakistan are at daggers drawn these days.
7. At sixes and sevens ( in disorder) – अस्त-व्यस्त।  
The books were lying at sixes and sevens in the room.
8. Apple of discord ( cause of quarrel) – झगड़े की जड़।  
Kashmir is the apple of discord between India and Pakistan.
9. Bone of contention ( cause of quarrel) – झगड़े का कारण।  
Kashmir is the bone of contention between India and Pakistan.
10. At one's beck and call (at one's service) – सेवा में तत्पर।  
He is always at the beck and call of his father.
11. At a loss ( be perplexed, uncertain) – अनिश्चयी होना)  
He was at a loss for words.  
I am at a loss and don't know what to do.





12.A wet blanket (a kill joy) - निरुत्साहित करने वाला व्यक्ति)

Hari proved a wet blanket in the party as he talked about books there also.

13.A bolt from the blue (sudden calamity) – आकस्मिक विपदा ।

Arun's failure in the examination after his father's death came as a bolt from the blue

14.A burning question (an important question of the day) – ज्वलंत प्रश्न।

Cross border terrorism is a burning question of the day.

15.To burn one's boats (to decide finally) – अंतिम निर्णय करना ।

By joining BSNL he has burnt his boats to discontinue studies.

16.To look black ( become angry) – नाराज होना ।

He is looking black at his friend's conduct.

17.A dark horse ( A person whose chances of success are not known) छुपा  
रुस्तम।

France proved a dark horse in the 1998 World Cup Soccer.

18.To flog a dead horse (to do useless work) – व्यर्थ कार्य करना।

Spending too much money on the tuition of a dull student is like flogging a dead horse.

19.A closed fist man (miser) – कंजूस व्यक्ति।

Mukesh is a closed-fisted man as he never entertains his friends.

20.Make a quick buck of (cheat) – धोखा देना।

Everyone tries to make a quick buck of tourists in Rajasthan.

21.To put on airs (to look important) – महत्वपूर्ण होना।

His selection in R.A.S. has made him put on airs.

22.From pillar to post (from one place to another) – दर दर की ठोकर खाना।

He was driven from pillar to post in search of a job.

23.In doldrums (to be in trouble) – संकट में होना।



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The future of tourism in Rajasthan is in doldrums.

24. To smell a rat (to suspect a trick) – शक होना।

His neighbours plotted to cheat him but he smelt the rat.

25. To win laurels (to earn reputation/honour) – सम्मान अर्जित करना।

His success in R.A.S. won him laurels.

26. To keep one's head (keep calm/ remain cool) – धैर्य रखना ।

Vajpai keeps his head during the debates in Parliament.

27. Heads over heel ( completely or deeply ) – पूरी तरह से ।

He is heads over heel in debt

28. To cut a sorry figure (to turn out a bad performance) – अच्छा प्रदर्शन न करना।

The Indian cricket team cut a sorry figure in the World Cup.

29. To read between the lines (to understand the hidden meaning)- गूढ़ अर्थ समझना।

He was able to read between the lines when he studied the Geeta

30. Ins and outs ( all the secrets) – सारा भेद जानना।

Tendulkar knows the ins and outs of cricket.

31. Gift of the gab (talent for speech) – भाषण प्रतिभा।

Atal Bihari Vajpai has the gift of the gab.

32. To miss the boat (to miss an opportunity) – अवसर गंवाना।

If you do not appear in R.A.S. this year you may miss the boat.

33. Black sheep (an unworthy person) – कलंक/ अयोग्य व्यक्ति।

Madan is a black sheep in the village as he is involved in smuggling.

34. Above board ( fair/ decent) – ईमानदार , साफ – सुथरा।

Atal Bihari Vajpai is above board in politics.

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35.To burn one's fingers (to get into unexpected trouble) – अनावश्यक खतरे में पड़ना।

He burnt his fingers by interfering in his neighbour's affairs.

36.To stir up a hornet's nest (create trouble / stir up enemies) – मुसीबत मोल लेना / शत्रुओं को छेड़ना।

If you criticise your enemy it will be stirring up a hornet's nest.

37.A fool's paradise (to live in illusion / in unthinking happiness) – काल्पनिक खुशी या भ्रम में रहना।

Those who think that they can pass the I.A.S. examination without hard work are living in a fool's paradise.

38.By fits and starts ( not regularly) – अनियमित रूप से कार्य करना।

One who works by fits and starts can't succeed.

39.In cold blood ( cruelly) – निर्दयतापूर्वक।

The merchant was murdered in cold blood.

40.The acid test (test that gives conclusive proof of the worth of something) – सही मूल्यांकन।

The Assembly elections will be the acid test of the popularity of the B.J.P.

41.Rainy day (critical time) – संकट का समय।

We should save something for the rainy day.

42.A wild goose chase ( a useless effort) - निरर्थक प्रयत्न।

To pass the I.A.S. examination without preparation is a wild goose chase.

43.Beyond one' means ( more than one's means allow) – साधनों से परे/ पहुंच से बाहर।

It is beyond my means to maintain a car.

He lives beyond his means.

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44. To break the ice ( start conversation after a long silence) – चुप्पी तोड़ना।  
No one dared to talk, at last I broke the ice.
45. Kith and kin (near and dear ones ) – सगे – संबंधी।  
All his kith and kin attended his marriage.
46. To keep the wolf away from the door ( not to starve) – भूखों न मरना।  
He had to accept a clerical job for keeping the wolf away from the door.
47. Bitter pill ( something humiliating) – अपमान का घूंट पीना।  
He had to swallow a bitter pill when he was caught copying.
48. Apple pie order ( in perfect order) – पूर्णरूप से व्यवस्थित।  
His office was in apple pie order
49. To sit on the fence ( remain neutral in a dispute) – निष्पक्ष रहना।  
America should not sit on the fence regarding cross border terrorism Kashmir.
50. A storm in a tea cup ( much excitement about something trivial ) – बात का बतंगड़ बनाना।  
Her intercaste marriage has raised a storm in a tea cup.
51. To take the bull by the horn ( to face the danger bravely) – खतरे का साहस – पूर्वक सामना करना।  
Take the bull by the horns and you will definitely succeed.
52. Fair and square (honest) – ईमानदार।  
He is fair and square in his dealings.
53. A cock and bull story ( a baseless story) – मनगढ़ंत कहानी।  
He has invented a cock and bull story about his failure.
54. The lion's share ( the largest share) – सबसे बड़ा हिस्सा।  
He got the lion's share in his father's property.

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55.To add fuel to the flames (fire) ( make passions stronger) – भावनाओं को भड़काना।

He was already sad and your unkind remarks only added fuel to the flames.

56.To burn the candle at both ends ( to spend more than one's means) – आय से अधिक खर्च करना।

If you burn the candle at both ends you will come to grief.

57.Go to the dogs ( be ruined) – बरबाद होना/ नष्ट होना।

A drunkard is sure to go to the dogs one day.

58.To the backbone ( devout) – पक्का या कट्टर।

He is a Congressman to the backbone.

59.Hue and cry ( general outcry of alarm) – शोर शराबा।

Seeing the dacoits the villagers raised a hue and cry.

60.Ups and downs ( alternations of good and bad fortune) – उतार चढ़ाव।

My grandfather has seen many ups and downs in life.

61.At the eleventh hour (At the last moment) – आखिरी समय पर।

I can't come to your help at the eleventh hour.

62.Turn one' head ( to become proud) – सिर फेर लेना / घमंड होना।

Riches have turned his head.

63.To carry tales ( speak ill of ) – चुगली करना/ बुराई करना।

He is in the habit of carrying tales.

64.To see eye to eye with ( agree entirely ) – पूर्णरूप से सहमत होना।

I see eye to eye with you on this matter.

65.To lead by the nose ( to have full control) – पूरी तरह काबू में रखना / नकेल डालना।

Mrs Sharma leads her husband by the nose.

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66. Hold one's breath / catch one's breath ( to stop breathing for a moment from fear or excitement) – भय से या उत्तेजना से सांस रुकना।

He held his breath when he saw a snake under his cot.

67. Heart and soul ( full energy) – जी- जान से कार्य करना।

He put his heart and soul into his work.

68. Out of tune ( not in harmony / not at the right pitch ) – बेसुरा होना।

The piano is out of tune.

69. To grease the palm ( to bribe or give a tip ) – रिश्वत देना।

You can get your work done by greasing the palm of the clerk.

70. Make both ends meet ( live within one's income ) – अपनी आय में गुजारा करना।

A poor man finds it difficult to make both ends meet these days.

71. Bag and baggage ( with all belongings) – पूरे सामान सहित।

The English left India bag and baggage.

72. Red letter day ( a memorable day ) – यादगार दिन।

The 15<sup>th</sup> of August is a red letter day in the history of India.

73. To save for a rainy day ( for circumstances in the future when money saved may be needed) – भविष्य के लिए बचाना।

We must save something for a rainy day.

74. Once in a blue moon ( extremely seldom ) – ईद का चांद / बहुत कम।

He visits us once in a blue moon.

75. Maiden appearance ( first appearance) –

Our captain scored a century on his maiden appearance.

76. A rope of sand ( weak bondage ) – कमजोर बंधन।

The Arab nations are bound with a rope of sand.

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77. Between the cup and lip ( before plan is fully carried out ) – अभी दिल्ली दूर है / संभावित खतरा।

There is many a slip between the cup and the lip.

78. To turn a deaf ear to ( not to listen to ) – कान पर जूं न रेंगना।

He turned a deaf ear to his father's advice.

79. Cut the Gordian knot (solve a complicated difficulty by quick action) – कठिन समस्या का तुरंत समाधान करना।

The Prime Minister cut the Gordian knot by removing the dishonest minister.

80. Hobson's choice ( no choice at all because there is only one thing to take ) – दूसरा विकल्प न होना।

There is only one shirt left in the shop. You will have to make Hobson's choice.

81. Put all one's eggs in one basket ( risk everything in one venture; stake all one's hopes on one means ) – एक ही स्रोत पर निर्भर रहना।

A wise man does not put all his eggs in one basket.

82. To have an axe to grind ( to have a selfish motive ) – अपना उल्लू सीधा करना।

He often flatters his boss as he has his own axe to grind.

83. Nip in the bud ( to become proud ) – आरंभ में ही रोकना।

We should nip evil in the bud.

84. On the verge of ( on the point of ) – किनारे पर / निकट

He is on the verge of retirement.

85. Teething troubles ( troubles which may occur at the beginning of an enterprise ) – प्रारंभिक परेशानियां।

A newly established factory has to face teething troubles.

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86. To look sharp ( to hurry up ) – जल्दी करना।

Look sharp otherwise we may miss the train.

87. Let the cat out of the bag ( to disclose a secret ) – भेद खोलना।

He wanted to keep his failure a secret but his friends let the cat out of the bag.

88. Cry over spilt milk ( to repent over a loss or error for which there is no remedy ) – अब पछताए होत क्या जब चिड़ियां चुग गई खेत।

There is no use crying over spilt milk.

89. To throw cold water upon ( to discourage ) – हतोत्साहित करना।

The lack of finance has thrown cold water upon the whole scheme.

90. In the nick of time ( only just in time ) – ठीक समय पर।

He reached the party in the nick of time.

91. To end in smoke ( to prove useless ) – व्यर्थ जाना।

His efforts to pass the R.A.S. examination ended in smoke.

92. By leaps and bounds ( very rapidly ) – दिन दुगुनी, रात चौगुनी।

India is progressing by leaps and bounds.

93. Life and soul ( an important member ) – मुख्य सदस्य।

Tendulkar is the life and soul of our cricket team.

94. A narrow escape ( escape with a small margin ) – बाल बाल बचना।

He had a narrow escape in the car accident.

95. By hook or by crook ( by fair means or by unfair means ) – ईमानदारी या छल से।

He got through the examination by hook and crook.

96. At one's finger's end ( remember by heart ) – पूरी तरह याद होना।

I have my lesson at my finger's end.

97. To make one's mark ( to do commendable work ) – उल्लेखनीय कार्य करना।

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He is intelligent so he is sure to make his mark in the college.

98. For good ( permanently) – हमेशा के लिए।

The English left India for good.

99. Fretting and fuming ( to be angry) – नाराज होना।

He was fretting and fuming at his brother's behavior.

100. At home in ( expert) – निपुण।

He is at home in English.



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