



IDIOMS



Here are 20 of the most common body idioms.

IDIOM	MEANING	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
all ears	fully listening	Give me a minute to finish my work and then I'll be all ears to hear about your project.
break a leg	good-luck	Today's the big game, eh? Break a leg!
cold feet	nervous just before a big event	My sister didn't get cold feet until she put her wedding gown on.
cost an arm and a leg	be very expensive	These cakes are delicious, but they cost an arm and a leg.
face the music	meet, stand up to unpleasant consequences, for example criticism or punishment	I stayed out all night. When I eventually got home I had to face the music from my wife.
get something off one's chest	tell someone your problems	Thanks for listening to me complain about my boss. I just needed to get this off my chest.
give a hand, lend a hand	help (someone) do something	I can give you a hand when you move if you like.
head start	an earlier start	The kids gave Anthony a head start in the bicycle race because he was the youngest.
keep an eye on	take care of, watch in order to protect	I'll keep an eye on the dinner while you're on the phone.
keep one's chin up	try to be cheerful	Keep your chin up. I'm sure you'll make some friends soon.
learn by heart, know by heart	memorise	I learned my multiplication tables by heart in the fourth grade.
let one's hair down	relax, have fun	Go to the cottage and let your hair down this weekend.
(my) lips are sealed	promise to keep a secret	Don't worry, I won't tell your mother how much you spent. My lips are sealed.
makes my blood boil	makes me very angry	It makes my blood boil when people don't tie up their dogs.
pat on the back	recognition or a thank-you	The party organisers deserve a pat on the back for a job well done.
play something by ear	do something without a plan	We don't know if the weather will be good enough for camping. We'll have to play it by ear.
pull one's leg	joke or tease someone	I was just pulling your leg. I'm not really a police officer.
see eye to eye	agree	The couple don't see eye to eye on how to train their pets.
(by the) skin of one's teeth	just barely	I passed my exam by the skin of my teeth.
sweet tooth	a love of sugar or sweet things	I need three spoonfuls of sugar in my tea. I have a sweet tooth.