



Idioms for IELTS Speaking

This list contains top 30 Idioms for IELTS Speaking

1. To have a whale of a time

Meaning - To have a gala and exciting time.

IELTS part 1 question - Tell me about your hometown.?

Sample answer(including idiom)- Well, I was born in the hinterland part of India. The best part of staying at such places is that you spend your life in profound solitude. Moreover, you remain away from the hustle and bustle of the cities. Here you have numerous adorable things to do. In a nutshell, you are guaranteed **to have a whale of a time** if you visit.

2. To be On cloud nine

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Meaning - very happy and joyful

IELTS part 1 question - Do you like your job?

Sample answer with idiom - There is no denying this [conviction](#) that my job seem [enticing](#) to me. All my coworkers are helpful, and they always provide me with [unabated support](#). Whenever I sit at my desk, I get into a flow. After getting the job promotion, I am on cloud nine.

3. To be On top of the world

Meaning - feeling stunning, astonishing

IELTS part 1 question - is art popular in your country?

Sample answer with idiom - Yes, there is no denying this belief that art enjoys [enormous](#) popularity in my country. Art has the potential to integrate us and exhibit emotions that we fail to express with words alone. When I take a cursory glance at my favourite pieces of art, I feel motivated and **on top of the world**.

4. To be Over the moon

Meaning - joyful and happy

IELTS part 1 question - What did you do on your last birthday?

Sample answer(including idiom) - I invited all of my friends for a treat. We went to a fine dining restaurant to pamper our appetite. There we tasted mouth-watering delicacies and exercised our taste buds. After the party, when my friends gifted me an iPhone, **I was over the moon**.

5. It makes my blood boil

Meaning - Turning angry

IELTS part 1 question - Do you share a good relationship with your neighbours?

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Sample answer(including idiom): Being an [altruist](#), I have this habit of helping others during challenging times. Due to this, I share a harmonious relationship with people in my neighbourhood. However, one of my neighbours has this uncanny knack for cracking vulgar jokes. Due to this reason, I am always at loggerheads with him. His indecent behaviour **makes my blood boil**.

6. It drives me up the wall

Meaning - it irritates you a lot

IELTS part 1 question - How do you feel while waiting for someone?

Sample answer(including idiom) - Being a patient person, I generally do not feel annoyed while waiting for someone. However, when the other person makes me wait for no reason, **it drives me up the wall**.

Simliar idioms for IELTS speaking

It drives me crazy / it drives me nuts

7. An arm and a leg

Meaning: *Too much expensive*

IELTS part 1 question: What is your main goal for this year?

Sample answer(including idiom): My main goal is to pass my 12th standard with flying colours. As it would cost me **an arm and a leg** to study overseas, I would apply for a scholarship by attaining a good academic score.

8. Works like a charm

Meaning: to bring out the desired outcome with tremendous ease and effectiveness

IELTS part 1 question: How do you keep yourself fit?

Sample answer(including idiom): I follow an unorthodox approach. Numerous health experts express solidarity with the view that exercise is an effective medium to lose weight.

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However, I have maintained good health by focussing on the diet. I do [intermittent fasting](#). I do not eat anything between 7 pm to 9 am. This is my strategy to maintain an ideal weight, and it **works like a charm** for me.

9. Eager-beaver

Meaning: A hard-working and enthusiastic person.

IELTS part 1 question: Do you like to meet new people?

Sample answer(including idiom): Whenever I communicate with someone for the first time, I get into the flow and ask numerous questions. This quality has helped me immensely to widen my friend circle. People have started calling me an **eager-beaver**.

10. Couch potato

Meaning: A person who spends much time watching Tv or surfing the internet.

IELTS part 1 question: What goal have you achieved recently?

Sample answer(including idiom): During Corona Pandemic, my nation was in a state of lockdown. Since I couldn't go out due to covid restrictions, I became a **couch potato**. Every day, I would spend eight to no hours while watching television. Due to this, I had gained weight, and I started looking obese. When people had started teasing me, I set a goal to reduce weight in three months. To achieve my target, I worked on my diet and physical workout. Within 8 weeks, I managed to lose 10 kgs weight.

11. Social butterfly

Meaning: A person who is socially active, good at networking, charming, and personally gregarious.

IELTS part 1 question: What kind of people do you like to meet?

Sample answer(including idiom): Being a **social butterfly**, I love to befriend extrovert people. For me, it is monotonous to spend time with introverts.

Note: It is one of the most used idioms for IELTS speaking

12. Happy go lucky

Meaning: A person who is socially active, good at networking, charming, and personally companionable.

IELTS part 1 question: Do you like to do planning?

Sample answer(including idiom): As I am a **happy go lucky person**, planning ahead is a big no for me. Rather than spending my time planning the future, I put my efforts into the tasks at my disposal.

13. Good things come to those who wait

Meaning: To have patience

IELTS part 1 question: How do you achieve your goals?

Sample answer(including idiom): Rather than putting my central focus on planning and outcome, I choose to draw my attention to the process. This strategy helps me achieve my goals because **good things come to those who wait** with determination, dedication and discipline.

14. Keep an ear to the ground

Meaning: Remaining informed and updated about everything

IELTS part 1 question: How do you keep yourself updated?

Sample answer(including idiom): In this [contemporary epoch](#), [fierce competition](#) has become an integral part of our lives, and awareness is the key to success. To acquire, knowledge it is [worthwhile](#) to **keep an ear to the ground**.

15. Do not cry over spilled milk

Meaning: Do not be in tears over what has occurred as it can not be fixed.

IELTS part 1 question: How do you handle defeats?

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Sample answer(including idiom): However, hard we try, non-success could occur. To handle them [adroitly](#), I follow the policy of going ahead in life by learning from my past mistakes. So failure is a lesson for me, and **I do not cry over spilt milk**.

16. Idle brain is the devil's workshop

Meaning: When one has no task to do, there are more chances to get into trouble.

IELTS part 1 question: How do you spend your free time?

Sample answer(including idiom): I try my best to make productive use of my free time. I do so by watching motivational videos or by cleaning my room. I try my best to not sit idle because I have [immense](#) belief in the proverb "**Idle brain is the devil's workshop**."

17. Under the weather

Meaning: To feel unwell.

IELTS part 1 question: Do you always reach your workplace on time?

Sample answer(including idiom): Being an organised person, I always give my best to reach on time. However, in case of any unforeseen contingency, I get late. Apart from this, I have a tendency to get late when I am **under the weather**.

Note: It is one of the most used idioms for IELTS speaking

18. Through thick and thin

Meaning: To be loyal irrespective of the circumstances

IELTS part 1 question: Who is your best friend?

Sample answer(including idiom): Andrew is my best friend. He always supports me **through thick and thin**. I vividly remember when I was going through a lean patch in my life, he left no stone unturned to provide me with unabated support.

19. Come rain or shine

Meaning: No matter what

IELTS part 1 question: What is the best way to get success?

Sample answer(including idiom): There is no denying this [conviction](#) that when we do our work with determination, dedication, and discipline, we increase our chances for success. Therefore **come rain or shine**, we must continue our work.

20. Jump on the bandwagon

Meaning: Following a trend

IELTS part 1 question: Are you a fashionable person?

Sample answer(including idiom): I have this uncanny knack to go beyond the conventional domain to jump on the bandwagon to follow the latest vogue. Due to this habit, my friends call me a fashionista.

21. Apple of my eye

Meaning: Someone whom you cherish above all others

IELTS part 1 question: Who is your favourite family member?

Sample answer(including idiom): Although I like all family members, my little niece is **the apple of my eye**.

Note: It is one of the most used idioms for IELTS speaking

22. Learning the ropes

Meaning: You are acquiring knowledge of how a specific job or work is done

IELTS part 1 question: Are you good at your job?

Sample answer(including idiom): I am a newbie at work and **learning the ropes**. And, I

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need to work with determination, dedication and discipline to become an expert.

Note: It is one of the most used idioms for IELTS speaking

23. Odds and ends

Meaning: Insignificant and insubstantial matters, things, or articles

IELTS part 1 question: How do you manage your time?

Sample answer(including idiom): There is no denying this conviction that effective time management is of utmost importance to lead our lives towards an impressive growth [trajectory](#).

I follow a timetable to avoid **odds and ends**".

24. Fit the bill

Meaning: Be worthy for a specific purpose.

IELTS part 1 question: What sort of physical workout do you do?

Sample answer(including idiom): For me, yoga is the workout that **fits the bill**. Because first of all, it is easy to do, secondly it provides flexibility to my body. Apart from this, it improves concentration.

25. In the pink of health

Meaning: Very healthy, health is in good state

IELTS part 1 question: What do you do to stay healthy?

Sample answer(including idiom): To keep me **in the pink of health**, I eat a healthy and balanced diet which comprises green leafy vegetables. Apart from this, I do a regular physical workout.

26. Rake in big bucks

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Meaning: Earn a substantial amount of money

IELTS part 1 question: Why do you wish to go overseas for further studies?

Sample answer(including idiom): I wish to go overseas for further studies because my dream from childhood is to live an [opulent lifestyle](#). To fulfil my dream, I would pursue my education in Canada. After finishing my studies, I will join a plum job with a multinational company to **rake in big bucks**.

27. Down in the dumps

Meaning: Depressed or Unhappy

IELTS part 1 question: Describe a low point in your life

Sample answer(including idiom): I faced turbulent times during the corona pandemic. The local administration imposed a stringent lockdown in the city. Being confined to my house, I was **down in the dumps**. When the administration lifted the lockdown, I had a sigh of relief.

28. It's not rocket science

Meaning: It's not complicated

IELTS part 1 question: Is it easy to learn a foreign language?

Sample answer(including idiom): There is no denying this conviction that it's not rocket science to learn a foreign language. The most [prudent](#) approach is to work on vocabulary instead of grammar.

Note: It is one of the most used idioms for IELTS speaking

29. Call a spade a spade

Meaning: Speak frankly and directly

IELTS part 1 question: Who is your best friend?

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Sample answer(including idiom): Andrew is my best friend because he never exaggerates the facts, and he tends to call a spade a spade. Due to this reason, I have [implicit](#) faith in him.

30. To move heaven and earth

Meaning: To make remarkable efforts

IELTS part 1 question: What is your ambition, and how will you achieve that?

Sample answer(including idiom): My ambition is to become a multi-millionaire because I wish to have an opulent lifestyle in future. To achieve my aim, I need to move heaven and earth, as success thrives primarily on hard work, and without putting earnest efforts, I cannot think of colossal gains.

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