

10 Important Idioms for your IELTS Exam

Usage of idioms in IELTS speaking section can give you an edge over others if used accurately. Let us first understand what an idiom is. Idioms are phrases which have a symbolic or metaphorical meaning rather than a literal one. There are an array of idioms but a few described here would be beneficial for you while answering a question in IELTS speaking test. You can get 8+ band if you use idioms correctly while speaking especially for the non-native English speakers. Look at these idioms carefully and try to use them in a proper context.

1. **Once in a blue moon** means something that happens rarely.



She is diet conscious and eats junk food once in a blue moon.

2. **Over the moon** means to be extremely happy.



When I got my dream job, I was over the moon.

3. **Back to the drawing board** means when you have to start an already done assignment from the scratch.



She was back to the drawing board as she forgot to take back up of some important files.

4. **The real Mc Coy** refers to something really genuine.



Everybody looks for the real Mc Coy in today's era of technology.

5. **Run of the mill** means ordinary.



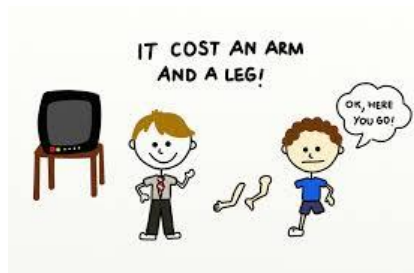
An iPhone is run of the mill these days.

6. **Down in the dumps** means to feel sad.



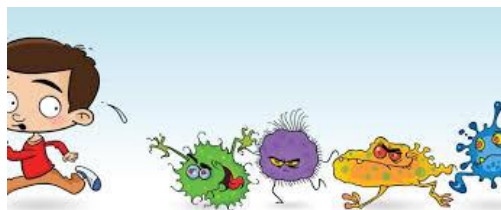
When he lost his best friend, he was down in dumps.

7. **Costs an arm and a leg** means really expensive.



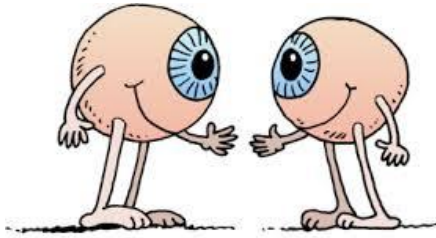
I started my own business but it cost an arm and a leg.

8. **Keep something at bay** means to keep something away.



Always keep negative thoughts at bay to live a peaceful life.

9. **See eye to eye** means that two people agree on something.



God wants to see eye to eye with us

My colleague and I see eye to eye on this presentation.

10. At the drop of a hat means something done instantly.



She does all her household chores at the drop of a hat.

The key is the correct usage of idioms while speaking. Don't overuse idioms. Use them in an appropriate dose and see amazing results. Go ahead and impress your IELTS examiner with these simple idioms.

All the very best!

About the author:

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