

THE IELTS HUB

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NATURAL

Everyday

Idioms

(with Junaid Zafar)



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Once in a blue moon

Meaning: Something that happens very rarely.

Example: I go out for movies once in a blue moon because of my busy schedule.

A drop in the ocean

Meaning: A very small amount compared to what is needed.

Example: The donation was generous, but it was only a drop in the ocean compared to the total cost.

Out of the blue

Meaning: Suddenly and unexpectedly.

Example: He called me out of the blue after five years.

Under the weather

Meaning: Feeling slightly ill.

Example: I'm feeling under the weather, so I'll reschedule the meeting.

Hit the nail on the head

Meaning: To describe something exactly right.

Example: You hit the nail on the head when you identified the core issue.

The ball is in your court

Meaning: It is your responsibility to take action now.

Example: I've shared the proposal; now the ball is in your court.

Break the ice

Meaning: To start a conversation in a social situation.

Example: He told a light joke to break the ice at the meeting.

Burn the midnight oil

Meaning: To work late into the night.

Example: She burned the midnight oil to finish the presentation.

A blessing in disguise

Meaning: Something that seems bad but turns out good.

Example: Losing that client was a blessing in disguise because we found a better one.

Costs an arm and a leg

Meaning: Very expensive.

Example: That software costs an arm and a leg.

Cut corners

Meaning: To do something poorly to save time or money.

Example: We should not cut corners when dealing with international clients.

On cloud nine

Meaning: Extremely happy.

Example: She was on cloud nine after closing the deal.

Spill the beans

Meaning: To reveal a secret.

Example: He accidentally spilled the beans about the new project.

The tip of the iceberg

Meaning: A small visible part of a much larger problem.

Example: The complaints we received are just the tip of the iceberg.

Back to square one

Meaning: To start again from the beginning.

Example: The plan failed, so we're back to square one.

In the same boat

Meaning: In the same situation as others.

Example: Many small businesses are in the same boat during economic downturns.

Pull someone's leg

Meaning: To joke or tease someone.

Example: Relax, I'm just pulling your leg.

Miss the boat

Meaning: To lose an opportunity.

Example: Invest now, or you might miss the boat.

Call it a day

Meaning: To stop working for the day.

Example: We've done enough; let's call it a day.

Get out of hand

Meaning: Become difficult to control.

Example: The discussion got out of hand during the meeting.

Throw in the towel

Meaning: To give up.

Example: He refused to throw in the towel despite repeated failures.

Up in the air

Meaning: Not yet decided.

Example: The final decision is still up in the air.

Keep an eye on

Meaning: To monitor carefully.

Example: Please keep an eye on the client's response.

Go the extra mile

Meaning: To put in extra effort.

Example: We always go the extra mile for our students.

Bite off more than you can chew

Meaning: To take on more responsibility than you can handle.

Example: He bit off more than he could chew by managing multiple projects alone.