



The most common idioms



What is an idiom?

An idiom is **a fixed group of words** that has different meaning from the meanings of the individual words.

Why are they important?

- They share cultural and historical information.
- They help us express ideas in a more creative way.
- Idioms are commonly used in speaking

It's raining cats and dogs.

Meaning: It's raining heavily.

Ширүүн бороо орж байна.

It's raining very hard.

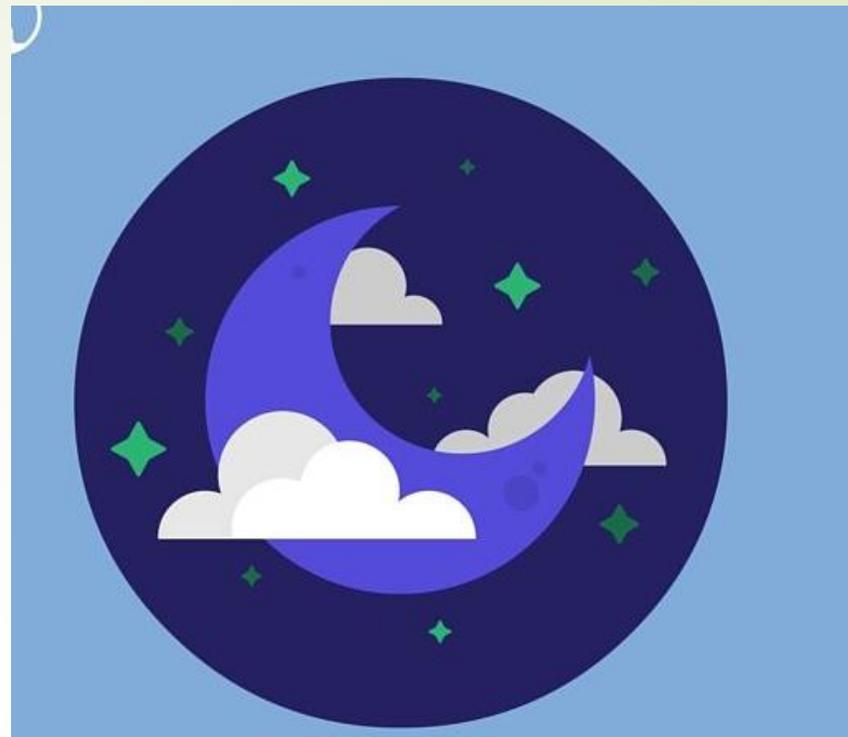
Бороо хувингаар цутгаж байна.



Once in a blue moon

Meaning: to do something very rarely

өдрийн од шиг ховор

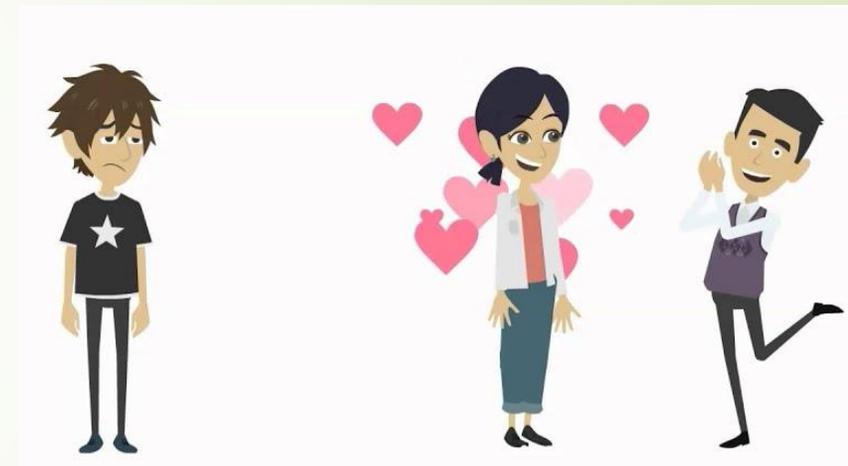


The earthquake hits **once in a blue moon** in this part of the earth, we never felt it.

Stab someone in the back

Meaning: to harm someone who trusts you
-deceive or betray someone

-араар нь муулах, дөнгөх



I cannot believe my friend **stabbed me in the back** by telling my teacher I wasn't really sick when I stayed home yesterday.

Cut the corner

Meaning: to do something in the easiest, cheapest, or fastest way

хялбарчлах, халтуурдах



We have had to **cut corners** to make a film on a such a small budget.

Call it a day

Meaning: stop a particular activity for the rest of the **day**

ажилаа өндөрлөх



We couldn't do any more work because of the rain, so we **called it a day** and went home.

It's not rocket science

Meaning: used to say that you do not think that something is very difficult to do or to understand

Тийм ч хэцүү биш



Designing a website may be a lot of work but it's **not rocket science**.

Miss the boat

Meaning: miss a chance
being too slow to take advantage of
an opportunity

боломжоо алдах



They offered you the job last week but you turned it down. Now they have employed someone else. You have missed the boat.

Under the weather

Meaning: to be ill or feel bad

өвдөх, бие тавгүй байх



I did not go to work today, as I was feeling a bit **under the weather**.

sit on the fence

Meaning: not able to decide something

-ямар сонголт хийхээ мэдэхгүй байх



You can't **sit on the fence** any longer-you must choose what do you want to buy.

beat around the bush

Meaning: to avoid the main topic or answering a question

гол зүйлээ ярилгүй тойруулаад байх



When I asked George whether he knew who had taken the files from my desk, he started **beating around the bush** and refused to give me a direct answer.

Cry over spilled milk

Meaning: complain about something that has already happened.

Өнгөрсөн юмны хойноос гомдоллох,
өгүүлэл тавих

Өнгөрсөн борооны хойноос цув нөмрөх.

Don't **cry over spilled milk**. Lots of people don't pass their driving test the first time.



Let's practice. Fill the missing idioms.

1. Will you please stop _____ and get to the point?
2. I have done everything for her, but she left me because of that guy, she _____.
3. The company is known to _____. This means that they import all of their products instead of making it.
4. I think we have done enough work today, I am feeling tired now, let's _____.
5. If you don't pay attention in class, you'll _____ and do badly in your exams.
6. Sheena was feeling a bit _____, so she decided not to go to the movie with her friends
7. My Dad is working in Scotland and he visits home _____, every couple of years.
8. Todd's still _____, trying to decide which school he wants to go to.
9. Sure, it took a little bit of time to figure out, but reinstalling the modern wasn't _____ or anything.
10. Mona was unable to accept the reality of her divorce. She was _____.

Let's check it.

1. Will you please stop **beating about the bush** and get to the point?
2. I have done everything for her, but she left me because of that guy, she **stabbed in my back**.
3. The company is known to **cut corners**. This means that they import all of their products instead of making it.
4. I think we have done enough work today, I am feeling tired now, let's **call it a day**.
5. If you don't pay attention in class, you'll **miss the boat** and do badly in your exams.
6. Sheena was feeling a bit **under the weather**, so she decided not to go to the movie with her friends
7. My Dad is working in Scotland and he visits home **once in a blue moon**, every couple of years.
8. *Todd's still **sitting on the fence**, trying to decide which school he wants to go to.*
9. *Sure, it took a little bit of time to figure out, but reinstalling the modern wasn't **rocket science** or anything.*
10. Mona was unable to accept the reality of her divorce. She was **crying over spilled milk**.

So, the next time you have a conversation with a native speaker try to surprise him/her using the right idiom for the occasion.

