

Food Idioms: Examples and Explanations

- Apple of his eye - A favorite
As busy as popcorn on a skillet - Very active
As easy as apple pie - Something simple
As flat as a pancake - Very flat
As hungry as a bear - Very hungry
As nutty as a fruitcake - Crazy
As slow as molasses in January - Very slow
As sour as vinegar - Disagreeable
As sweet as honey - Very sweet
As thick as pea soup - Very thick
As warm as toast - Very warm
Bad apple - Bad person
Bear fruit - Get results
Big cheese - Important person
Big enchilada - Important thing or person
Bite off more than you can chew - Try to do more than you can handle
Bite the hand that feeds you - Act badly to someone who helps you
Bitter pill to swallow - Hard to take
Bread and butter - Basic needs
Bring home the bacon - Earn a living
Butter up - Flatter someone to get something
Buy a lemon - Buy something worthless
Chew the fat - Talk
Coffee break - A break from work to eat or drink
Compare apples and oranges - Compare things that are very different
Cook his goose - Damage or affect negatively
Cook up a storm - Cook a large quantity
Cool as a cucumber - Doesn't get easily upset
Couch potato - Someone who watches a lot of TV
Cream of the crop - The best
Cut the mustard - Do what is necessary
Cry over spilt milk - Worry about something in the past
Drop like a hot potato - To immediately stop
Eat crow - Admit a mistake
Eat dirt - Be humble
Eat high on the hog - Eat fine food
Eat humble pie - To apologize
Eat like a bird - Eat a small amount
Eat like a horse - Eat a lot
Eat one's heart out - To be jealous
Eat out - Dine in a restaurant
Eat out of her hands - Do what she wants
Eat us out of house and home - Eat a lot
Eat your words - Take back words
Egg on - Urge someone
Either feast or famine - Either too much or not enough
Everything from soup to nuts - A wide variety of items
Fat is in the fire - Big problem
Fine kettle of fish - A mess
Finger in the pie - Participating
Food for thought - Something to think about
Forbidden fruit - Something banned
For peanuts - Inexpensive
Full of beans - Feel energetic
Go bananas - Excited or crazy
Goose is cooked - Finished or in trouble
Gravy train - Well-paying job
Greatest thing since sliced bread - Something that is excellent
Half a loaf is better than none - Something is better than nothing
Half-baked - Not thought through
Hand to someone on a silver platter - Cater to someone
Hard nut to crack - Difficult person
Have a lot on one's plate - Very busy
Have a sweet tooth - Like sweet foods
Have bigger fish to fry - Have more important things to do
Have egg on your face - Be embarrassed
Have one's cake and eat it too - Having something both ways
In a nutshell - In summary
In a pickle - In trouble
Life is a bowl of cherries - Life is good
Like taking candy from a baby - Easy to do
Like two peas in a pod - Very similar
Meat and potatoes - Basics, simple food
Melt in one's mouth - Delicious
Not for all the tea in China - Not for any price
Not know beans about - Unfamiliar or ignorant
Not worth a hill of beans - Not valuable
Nutty as a fruitcake - Crazy
Packed in like sardines - Crowded
Piece of cake - Easy
Pie in the sky - A dream
Rotten to the core - Very bad
Salt of the Earth - Ordinary people
Sell like hotcakes - Sell a lot
Slice of the pie - A share of something
Small potatoes - Unimportant
Spill the beans - Tell a secret
Stick to your ribs - Last a long time
Sugarcoat - Gloss over bad information
Take with a grain of salt - Don't take something seriously
That's the way the cookie crumbles - Things happen
There is no such thing as a free lunch - Can't get something for nothing
Top banana - Leader
Variety is the spice of life - Differences give life interest
Walk on eggshells - Be cautious
Whole enchilada - Entire thing
Worth your salt - Worthwhile