

66 Vocabulary

66.1 COMMON ENGLISH IDIOMS

She had agreed to make a speech, but at the last minute she **got cold feet**.

get cold feet

[have a sudden loss of confidence]



I was **feeling under the weather** for a few days, but I'm better now.

feel under the weather

[feel unwell]



It's obvious that they're **head over heels** in love with each other.

be head over heels

[be completely and utterly in love with someone]



You're exactly right about Dad. He's so lazy! You've **hit the nail on the head**.

hit the nail on the head

[to describe exactly what is causing a situation or problem]



I've got so much to do. Do you think you can **lend a hand**?

lend a hand

[help someone]



I slept terribly last night! I'm really not **on the ball** today.

be on the ball

[be alert, knowledgeable, or competent]



I **heard on the grapevine** that Marina got the job.

hear something on the grapevine

[hear information or news via gossip or rumor]



I'm really working **against the clock** to submit my essay on time.

be against the clock

[be under time pressure to get something done]



The children won't behave today. They are **a pain in the neck**!

be a pain in the neck

[be a nuisance]



Aziz told his aunt that he'd **keep an eye on** her house while she was away.

keep an eye on

[look after or watch carefully]



Peter always helps his grandma with her bags. He **has a heart of gold**.

have a heart of gold
[to be kind and good-natured]



I have no idea who to vote for. I'm **sitting on the fence**.

sit on the fence
[be unwilling to commit or make a decision]



Sandra is a **teacher's pet**. She always arrives early and stays late.

teacher's pet
[someone who seeks and gets approval from a person in a position of authority]



They **cut corners** to get the project finished, and the quality really suffered.

cut corners
[to do something the easiest or shortest way, at the expense of high standards]



As usual, Paola's reaction to her team losing was **over the top**.

over the top
[an overreaction or a lack of restraint]



I think I'm going to get into trouble for this, but I'm ready to **face the music**.

face the music
[confront the consequences of your actions]



My aunt tells great stories, but we **take** what she says **with a pinch of salt**.

take something with a pinch of salt
[not completely believe something or someone]



It's time you **let your hair down**. You have worked so hard!

let your hair down
[let yourself go or relax]



I wouldn't take what Derek said seriously. He was just **pulling your leg**.

pull someone's leg
[tease or fool someone]



I've done all I can. **The ball is in your court** now.

the ball is in your court
[you are responsible for the next move]

