

## 55 MOST IMPORTANT IDIOMS - Set-1<sup>ST</sup> BY

AJAY SIR

[www.accentconcept.com](http://www.accentconcept.com)

### 1. Cry for the moon:

**Meaning- Ask for the impossible (अप्राप्य की आकांक्षा रखना)**

**Sentence- Thinking of getting an officer's**

**job with so ordinary a qualification is to cry for the moon.**

### 2. Cock and bull story:

**Meaning- Made up story that one should not believe; a story or explanation which is obviously not true (मनगढ़त कहानी)**

**Sentence- She told me some cock-and-bull story about her car breaking down.**

### 3. Once in a blue moon:

**Meaning- Something that happens very rarely (कभी कभार)**

**Sentence- Once in a blue moon, the blue jay can be seen in these parts of the forest.**

### 4. To bell the cat:

**Meaning- To face the risk (कठिन कार्य में अगुआ; बड़ी आपत्तियों का सामना करना)**

**Sentence- Mohit has the courage to bell the cat.**

### 5. Beating around the bush:

**Meaning- Avoiding the main topic (घुमा फिराकर बात करना ; मुख्य विषय से बचना)**

**Sentence- The President was beating around the bush when the citizens demanded a reason for the forgery of legal documents.**

### 6. Chip on your shoulder:

**Meaning- When someone is upset about something that happened a while ago**

**Sentence- He has a chip on his shoulder for being abandoned by his parents in his childhood.**

### 7. Cry over spilt milk:

**Meaning- Complaining about a loss or failure from the past**

**Sentence- He was mad because he couldn't clear the cut off due to a silly mistake. But, then he realized there was no use crying over spilt milk and decided to become more careful.**

### 8. Spill the beans:

**Meaning- To disclose a secret**

**Sentence- The little one spilled the beans about the surprise vacation we had planned.**

### 9. Piece of cake:

**Meaning- Something that is easy to understand or do**

**Sentence- I thought that the problem would be tough, but it turned out to be a piece of cake!**

### 10. Blessing in disguise:

**Meaning-Something good and useful that did not initially seem that way**

**Sentence-**His accident was a blessing in disguise because it gave him a lot of time to think about his life while he was recovering, and as a result, he made some important decisions that improved his life.

**11. A close shave:**

**Meaning- A narrow escape**

**Sentence-**I had a close shave when a tree fell just where I had been standing.

**12. Taste of your own medicine:**

**Meaning-When someone receives the same treatment, usually negative, that he/she gives to others**

**Sentence-**She is always taunting others and hurting their sentiments. I just wish someone would give her a taste of her own medicine.

**13. Golden handshake:**

**Meaning-A big sum of money given to a person when he/she leaves a company or retires**

**Sentence-**The management of the company wanted to decrease their workforce. They offered a golden handshake to their aged employees.

**14. Mean business:**

**Meaning-Being serious/dedicated**

**Sentence-**The border is sealed by troops who mean business.

**15. Apple of one's eye:**

**Meaning-Being cherished more than others are**

**Sentence-**Sam is adored by his teacher for his childlike nature. He is the apple of her eye.

**16. The best of both worlds:**

**Meaning-The benefits of widely differing situations enjoyed at the same time.**

**Sentence-**I had the best of both worlds since I worked as an ordinary member of the team but got to learn from the leaders.

**17. Feeling a bit under the weather:**

**Meaning-Feeling slightly ill**

**Sentence-**I may not be able to jog today, as I am feeling a bit under the weather.

**18. Icing on the cake:**

**Meaning-Something that turns good into great**

**Sentence-**India's victory over England on India's Independence Day was like icing on the cake.

**19. Cost an arm and a leg:**

**Meaning-Be very expensive**

**Sentence-**His laziness made him miss his flight to Chandigarh. The next ticket cost him an arm and a leg.

**20. Jump the bandwagon:**

**Meaning-To join a popular activity or trend**

**Sentence-**When he was detected with diabetes, he quickly jumped on the bandwagon and joined the Zumba dance class.

**21. Ball is in your court:**

**Meaning-**When it is up to you to make the next decision or step.

**Sentence-**Now the ball is in your court; decide whether you want to reply or not.

**22. Bite off more than you can chew:**

**Meaning-**To take up a task which you may not be able to accomplish due to lack of ability.

**Sentence-**I bit off more than I could chew when I decided to take up the 300-page research project.

**23. Can't judge a book by its cover:**

**Meaning-**Cannot judge something primarily on appearance.

**Sentence-**The house looked impressive in the advertisement. Still I made a trip to the house to check everything. It is wise not to judge a book by its cover.

**24. Hear it on grapevine:**

**Meaning-**To hear rumors about something or someone

**Sentence-**I heard it on grapevine that he had stiffed an old man asking for his pension.

**25. Last straw:**

**Meaning-**The final problem in a series of problems

**Sentence-**My body was already in bad shape. The accident was the last straw. I am now on complete bed rest.

**26. To be in the doldrums:**

**Meaning-**To be in low spirits

**Sentence-**Sam was in the doldrums after he was insulted by the boss in front of his colleagues.

**27. To sit on the fence:**

**Meaning-**To remain neutral

**Sentence-**Since I wasn't aware of the details, I decided to sit on the fence during the argument between my cousins.

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**28. Break the ice:**

**Meaning-**To initiate a social conversation or interaction

**Sentence-**At the start of the lecture, the new professor tried to break the ice by telling a joke.

**29. A bird's eye view:**

**Meaning-**A view from a very high place that allows you to see a very large area

**Sentence-**The Singapore Big Wheel offers a bird's eye view of the city.

**30. A litmus test:**

**Meaning-**A method that helps to know if something is correct

**Sentence-Taking up the job served as a litmus test for me to know how good I was at applying my knowledge.**

**31. At the drop of a hat:**

**Meaning-Willingness to do something instantly**

**Sentence-She expects me to make dinner at the drop of a hat even if I am very busy with office work.**

**32. Afraid of one's own shadow:**

**Meaning-To become easily frightened**

**Sentence-Her creepy encounter with the supernatural had a devastating effect on her. She is now afraid of her own shadow.**

**33. A house of cards:**

**Meaning-A poor plan**

**Sentence-The State's new scheme was initially welcomed but later turned out to be a house of cards when it was discovered how easy it was to perpetrate a scam.**

**34. Black and blue:**

**Meaning-Full of bruises**

**Sentence-The young lad was all black and blue after a tiff with a raging senior.**

**35. Be on cloud nine:**

**Meaning-Be very happy**

**Sentence-I will be on cloud nine when my first article gets published.**

**36. Bone of contention:**

**Meaning-A subject or issue over which there is continuing disagreement**

**Sentence-The examination system has long been a serious bone of contention in the HRD Ministry.**

**37. Eat humble pie:**

**Meaning-To apologize humbly**

**Sentence-He will have to eat humble pie for the disrespect shown to the Captain.**

**38. Fool's paradise:**

**Meaning-False sense of happiness or success**

**Sentence-They were living in a fool's paradise, refusing to accept that they were facing poverty.**

**39. Give cold shoulder:**

**Meaning-To ignore**

**Sentence-I sent her a message to apologize for my misbehavior, but she gave me the cold shoulder.**

**40. Get a raw deal:**

**Meaning-To not be treated as well as other people**

**Sentence-The fact is that students in government schools get a raw deal.**

**41. Hit the nail on the head:**

**Meaning-To do the correct thing**

**Sentence-She hit the nail on the head when she laid out a list of justifiable grievances she had with the company.**



#### **42. Hand to mouth:**

**Meaning-live on only basic necessities**

**Sentence-The severe drought led the farmers to live hand to mouth.**

#### **43. Hit the bull's eye:**

**Meaning-To be exactly right about something or achieve the best result possible.**

**Sentence-The detective hit the bull's eye when he figured out that nobody but the doctor could have had access to the poison.**

#### **44. Let the cat out of the bag:**

**Meaning-To reveal the secret carelessly or by mistake**

**Sentence-Now that she had let the cat out of the bag, she had no option but to confess.**

#### **45. Make a face:**

**Meaning-To show dislike or disappointment through facial expressions**

**Sentence-Little Stella made a face at the sight of bitter gourd in her food.**

#### **46. Open Pandora's Box:**

**Meaning-To find a source of great troubles and problems**

**Sentence-Finding the wallet on the road opened up a Pandora's box. I was arrested for stealing when I went to report it at the police station.**

#### **47. It's Greek to me**

**Meaning-Something that is not understandable**

**Sentence-I failed my commerce test; it was all Greek to me!**

#### **48. Don't put all your eggs in one basket:**

**Meaning-Do not put all your resources in one basket.**

**Sentence-The boy put all his money into his dream startup that eventually failed. I had told him not to put all his eggs in one basket.**

#### **49. To call a spade a spade:**

**Meaning-To be brutally frank, outspoken, blunt in speech.**

**Sentence- Let's call a spade a spade – popular he may be, but that man is a liar.**

#### **50. To be a Good Samaritan:**

**Meaning-To be kind and compassionate to someone in distress**

**Sentence-I was sure I would be stuck on the highway till the morning, but a Good Samaritan offered me a ride home.**

#### **51. To put in a nutshell:**

**Meaning-To say in a few words or to make something concise**

**Sentence-The Textbook Development Committee decided to put the 30-page chapter, in a nutshell, to help save time for students during revision.**

#### **52. To pour oil on troubled waters:**

**Meaning-To make peace**

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**Sentence-I am always stuck pouring oil on troubled waters when my mother and wife start their bickering.**

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**53. An apple of discord:**

**Meaning-A cause of quarrel**

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**Sentence- The right to host the Olympic Games is an apple of discord between the two countries.**

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**54. To move heaven and earth:**

**Meaning-To exert all efforts**

**Sentence-He moved heaven and earth to ensure that his family was taken care of in the foreign land in his absence.**

**55. To build castles in the air:**

**Meaning- Make imaginary schemes**

**Sentence- Ramesh always builds castles in the air and does nothing in reality.**



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