

Money Idioms List with Meanings and Examples

Idiom / Phrase	Meaning	Example Sentence
a dime a dozen	common and available anywhere	Corrupt cops are a dime a dozen in this city.
a penny for your thoughts	ask for advice	Could I have a penny for your thoughts? I don't know how to solve this problem.
an arm and a leg	very expensive	That new car costs an arm and a leg.
born with a silver spoon	from a rich family	Sara was born with a silver spoon, but she became a drug addict.
bread and butter	source of income	Designing websites is his bread and butter.
break the bank	go bankrupt	She broke the bank after buying the Ferrari.
bring home the bacon	earn money	Louie brings home the bacon while his wife takes care of the kids.
burn a hole in my pocket	spend too much money	I burned a hole in my pocket overpaying on insurance.
cash in the chips	selling something	He cashed in the chips and went on a world tour.
cheapskate	a frugal person	He's such a cheapskate. He never buys anything for his girlfriend.
chip in	donate money or time	Why don't you chip in and support the refugees?
cook the books	dishonest accounting	Let's cook the books so we can avoid paying higher taxes.
cut corners	reduce spending	The family had to cut corners in order to put food on the table.
foot the bill	pay for something	I'll foot the bill and pay for everyone's meal at the restaurant.
give no quarter (none asked)	give no mercy	The student asked to take the test again, but the teacher gave no quarter.
give someone a run for their money	try hard to defeat another person	Connor is going to give Floyd a run for his money.

go Dutch	split the bill	The couple always likes to go Dutch and share their living expenses.
gravy train	high pay for minimal work	Government workers ride the gravy train while sitting at their desks doing nothing.
I bet	I think so	I bet she's going to arrive late to work again.
lion's share	the majority of something	You took the lion's share of the money. All I got was a couple pennies.
live from hand to mouth	live on very little money	During the depression, we had to live from hand to mouth.
nest egg	saved money	She has a huge nest egg, so she doesn't have to work anymore.
pay a king's ransom	pay a lot of money	The team had to pay a king's ransom for the superstar.
penny pincher	a frugal person	Victor is such a penny pincher. He never buys anything for anyone.
pour money down the drain	waste money	Betting on an injured horse is like pouring money down the drain.
put in my two cents	give my opinion	Can I put in my two cents? I have something important to say.
put your money where your mouth is	stop talking and start acting upon something	You should put your money where your mouth is and start your new business idea.
rags to riches	going from being poor to wealthy	Jake went from rags to riches after he won the lottery.
save for a rainy day	save money in case something unfortunate happens	You should save for a rainy day. You could get injured or become unemployed.
time is money	time is valuable	We can't wait here all day. Time is money!