

Dog Idioms List with Meanings and Examples

Idiom / Phrase	Meaning	Example Sentence
a barking dog never bites	a person who constantly threatens never acts	Don't worry about his vocal threats. He won't hurt you physically.
bark up the wrong tree	pursue misguided action	Stop accusing me. I'm innocent. You're barking up the wrong tree!
call your dogs off	stop criticizing or attacking	I paid you all of the money. I don't owe you anything. Call your dogs off!
dog and bone	a telephone	She is speaking with her boyfriend on the dog and bone.
dog and pony show	elaborate presentation	The designer bag showcase was such a dog and pony show.
dog days	very hot days	The dog days of summer are really humid and uncomfortable.
dog-eared	folded corners of pages in a book	He dog-eared the pages of the book instead of using a bookmark.
dog-eat-dog world	competitive	American political debates are a dog-eat-dog world.
dog-tired	very tired	She was dog-tired after running the marathon.
dog's bollocks	the best	That new Tesla is the dog's bollocks.
dog's breakfast	very messy	Her mother was upset because her son's room was like a dog's breakfast.
doggy bag	food taken home after a restaurant meal	My girlfriend barely ate her dinner so she asked the waiter for a doggy bag.
dogs of war	destruction caused by war	Famine and poverty are unfortunately common dogs of war.
dogsbody	someone who does all the work	The chef was the dogsbody in the kitchen. Everyone else broke dishes.
double dog dare	challenge defiantly	She double dog dared me to go hang gliding so I had to do it!
every dog has its day	everyone has success eventually	Keep shooting and you will score. Every dog has its day.
glory hound	someone looking for fortune or fame	He's such a glory hound. He loves the attention from the press.

hair of the dog	drinking alcohol to cure a hangover	The hair of the dog is the best remedy for a hangover.
hot dog	show off	What a hot dog! He's stickhandling the puck around every player!
in the dog house	in trouble	The coach won't let me play. I'm in the dog house.
lazy as a dog	very lazy	I was lazy as a dog last weekend. I stayed in bed on Saturday and Sunday.
lead a dog's life	unhappy life	Her father lead a dog's life trying to raise her and she never appreciated him.
let sleeping dogs lie	avoid interfering in something that may create trouble	Don't bring up old arguments. It's best to let sleeping dogs lie.
let the dog see the rabbit	remove unnecessary obstructions	It's time to let the dog see the rabbit. Bring the batter up to the big leagues!
puppy dog eyes	innocent facial expression	His daughter showed him puppy dog eyes after dropping his ice cream cone.
puppy love	intense but shallow romantic attachment	People usually feel puppy love when they are teenagers.
raining cats and dogs	raining heavily	It's raining cats and dogs. Remember your umbrella.
rock hound	a geologist	The gold miner is such a rock hound. He is going to be very wealthy.
run with the big dogs	compete with the top performers	It's time to run with the big dogs when you play in the Premier League.
see a man about his dog	go to the bathroom	I left the dinner table to see a man about his dog.
sick as a dog	very sick	I was sick as a dog on Monday, so I couldn't go to work.
three dog night	very cold	Looks like it's going to be a three dog night. It's going to minus 40 degrees.
throw to the dogs	allow someone to be attacked	Why did you throw me to the dogs yesterday? I couldn't defend myself.
wag the dog	distract attention from	The politician wags the dog to prevent people from discovering his scandal.
work like a dog	work very hard	My boss has me working like a dog.