 Learn English Vocabulary

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Learn English Idioms

Idioms and Sayings About Money

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| **Idiom/Saying** | **Explanation** |
| A hole in the wallFor example:1) "We went for a drink at a little hole in the wall near the university last night."2) "I went to the hole in the wall to get some cash." | 1) A small place to live, stay or work in.2) A cash machine. |
| Break the bank.For example:He broke the bank at the casino and walked away with a lot of money. | Win all the money at a casino gambling table. |
| To laugh all the way to the bank.For example:-If we don't take this opportunity, you can be sure our competitors will and they'll be laughing all the way to the bank. | To make lot of money very easily, often because someone else has been stupid.  |
| To not break the bank.For example:Going out for a drink in the pub won't break the bank. | Not be too expensive |
| To bank on something/someoneFor example:"You can always bank on friends to help you." | Something or someone you can be sure of. |
| Go for broke.For example:"She really wanted to pass her English exam, so she went for broke and revised every day." | To risk everything in order to achieve the result you want. |
| To be brokeFor example:I can't go out tonight, I'm broke. | To have no money. |
| A cash cowFor example:The British newspapers are the group's biggest cash cow, earning nearly 40% of group profits. | A business or a part of a business that always makes a lot of profit. |
| Hard cashFor example:They don't accept credit cards, we will need hard cash. | Money in the form of coins or notes paper money |
| Cash in your chipsFor example:He cashed his chips in shortly after his ninetieth birthday. | To die. |
| Ready cashFor example:We have a lot of investments but we need ready cash to pay the bills. | Money that is available to spend. |
| To be strapped [for cash]For example:Could you lend me a fiver? I seem to be a bit strapped. | To be short of money. |
| A blank chequeFor example:The project manager seems to think he has a blank cheque. | As much money to spend as is wanted or needed. |
| The other side of the coinFor example:Running a web site is fun, but the other side of the coin is that it costs a lot of money. | The opposite view of something. |
| A bad debtFor example:The bank expects to lose millions of last year's profits as a result of bad debts. | Money owed that is not likely to be paid. |
| doughFor example:-I need to go to the cash point, I've run out of dough. | Slang for money. |
| e-cashFor example:It is easier to pay on the net with e-cash. | Money from a special bank account which is used to buy goods and services over the Internet by sending information from your computer |
| A fool and his money are soon parted.For example:Andrew is always buying the latest gizmos, a fool and his money are soon parted. | Something we say which means that stupid people spend money without thinking about it enough. |
| Blood moneyFor example:The assassin was paid his blood money. | Money that has been gained from the death of another person. |
| Easy moneyFor example:A lot of people think running a web site is easy money. | Money earnt with very little work or effort. |
| Funny moneyFor example:She was caught trying to pay with funny money, | Counterfeit money, or money from dishonest activities. |
| A licence to print moneyFor example:Some people think the TV licence fee is just a licence to print money. | Activity that allows people to become very rich without having to make any effort. |
| Money doesn't grow on trees.For example:We can't afford to buy a house, money doesn't grow on trees. | Money isn't that easy to come by. |
| Money for old ropeFor example:A lot of people think being a professional footballer is money for for old rope. | A job that is an easy way of earning money. |
| Money talksFor example:He seems to get away with murder I guess money talks. | People who are rich have a lot of power and influence. |
| Money to burnFor example:They buy a new car every year. They must have money to burn. | To have a lot of money to spend on things that are not necessary |
| Put your money where your mouth isFor example:If people are really interested in helping the homeless they should put their money where their mouth is | To follow up on words with action. |
| Monopoly moneyFor example:Whether he sells the house or not, it's all monopoly money to him. | Monopoly is the trademark for a game in which you buy property with pretend money, so monopoly money has little or no value. |
| More money than sense.For example:-Alex Hope spent £125,000 on a 30-litre Midas bottle of champagne. He has got more money than sense. | When someone seems to spend what money they have foolishly. |
| Pin moneyFor example:She teaches English for pin money for extra treats for herself and the family. | A small amount of money that you earn and spend on things for yourself. |
| Pots of moneyFor example:Bill Gates has pots of money. | A lot of money. |
| Throw money aroundFor example:They don't work but they have plenty of money to throw around. | To spend money, especially in an obvious and careless way, on things that are not necessary. |
| Hit pay dirtFor example:If a salesperson does not quickly hit pay dirt with a customer they will usually move straight on to someone else. | To discover something very valuable or very useful. |
| Pay through the noseFor example:I paid through the nose to get the bathroom done. | To pay too much money for something. |
| Pay top dollarFor example:If you want the best, you have to pay to dollar. | To pay a lot of money for something |
| Pay your wayFor example:I teach English so that I can pay my way. | To pay for yourself rather than allowing someone else to pay |
| The devil to payFor example:If the company catches you making personal calls there'll be the devil to pay! | To get into a lot of trouble. |
| A penny for your thoughtsFor example:'You're very quiet. A penny for your thoughts.' | To ask someone what they are thinking about. |
| A pretty pennyFor example:That car must have cost you a pretty penny. | To be very expensive |
| The penny dropsFor example:She looked confused for a while, but then the penny dropped. | To finally understand something. |
| Turn up like a bad pennyFor example:Whenever he wants money he turns up like a bad penny. | To arrive at a place or event where you are not wanted. |
| A penny pincher / To penny pinchFor example:He left the pub before it was his round. He is such a penny pincher. | A miser /To be a miser. |
| In for a penny, in for a poundFor example:He spends hours on his English every day. In for a penny, in for a pound. | To put a lot of money or effort into something. |
| Dirt poorMost of the population in this undeveloped area were dirt-poor and jobless. | Extremely poor |
| As poor as church miceFor example:When we first got married, we were as poor as church mice. | Very poor |
| The pink poundFor example:Brighton is a lively, prosperous city, courtesy of the pink pound. | Money spent by people who are homosexual, especially on entertainment. |
| To hold the purse stringsFor example:The Financial Director holds the purse strings here. | To control the spending of a family's or an organization's money |
| To loosen the purse stringsFor example:We shouldn't expect the Chancellor to loosen the purse strings too much in this year's Budget. | To allow more money to be spent. |
| To tighten the purse stringsFor example:If we want to go on holiday this year we need to tighten the purse strings a bit. | To reduce the amount of money that can be spent |
| You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's earFor example:I new it wouldn't last, you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. | If something is poor quality you can't do much to improve it. |
| Filthy richFor example:Bill Gates is filthy rich. | Extremely rich |
| Rob Peter to pay PaulFor example:If you keep robbing Peter to pay Paul, you'll never be out of debt. | To borrow money from one person to pay back money you borrowed from someone else. |
| Strike it richFor example:He struck it rich in the computer business. | To suddenly become rich |
| Spend money like waterFor example:If you spend money like water, you'll always be broke. | To spend too much. |
| Spend a pennyFor example:Excuse me, I must go and spend a penny. | To go to the toilet. |
| Have your fingers in the tillFor example:She had her fingers in the till, that's why she lost her job. | To steal money from the place where you work. |
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