



Conversational Idioms

Idiom

Meaning

A brainwave

a sudden good idea

A close shave / call

a situation in which you only just manage to avoid an accident

A close-fisted man

a miserly man

A cock and bull story

a silly story or excuse

A dead letter

a law or idea which is no longer effective

A dog in the manger

selfish

A dog's life

disgraceful life

A fairy tale

a story for children



Conversational Idioms

Idiom

Meaning

A feather in one's cap

an achievement that makes you feel pleased and satisfied

A fish out of water

feeling uncomfortable

A Gala Day

A celebration day

A gaolbird

someone who has spent a lot of time in prison

A green room

a room where actors relax

A hard/bitter pill to swallow

something very unpleasant that you have to accept

A house of cards

something that is likely to fall down

A Jack of all trades

someone who can do many types of work, but who often is not often skilled at any of them



Conversational Idioms

Idiom

Meaning

A jailbird

a prisoner

A leap / shot in the dark

to do something without knowing its results

A man of his word

someone who keeps his promises

A man of iron will

strong will person

A man of letters

a learned man

A man of parts

a man who can do many things

A man of straw

a mere puppet, an unimportant man

A man/woman after one's own heart

a man with similar taste to mine



Conversational Idioms

Idiom

Meaning

A mare's nest

a discovery of no value

A narrow escape

just to be safe from danger

A near miss

a situation in which an accident is barely avoided

A necessary evil

something bad that you have to accept to get what you want

A passing fancy

one that does not last long

A rolling stone

the person who keeps changing his views

A rope of sand

illusory or deceptive security

A Sight for sore eyes

a pleasant and refreshing sight / a most welcome sight



Conversational Idioms

Idiom

Meaning

A stroke of luck

something lucky that happens to you by chance

A white elephant

something costly to maintain

A White lie

a harmless or small lie

A wild goose chase

an attempt to find something impossible

A wolf in sheep's clothing

a person who seems to be friendly or harmless but is really an enemy

Again every day / week/ year

for a long time

An open book

something clear

An order to

with the purpose of