

Talk a Lot

Hotel

20 Common English Idioms

1. to wine and dine sby	to take sby for a romantic meal	2. to cost an arm and a leg	to be very expensive
3. to welcome sby with open arms	to greet sby warmly	4. at [time] sharp	at this time precisely
5. to paint the town red	to celebrate by going to pubs/clubs	6. to be absolutely stuffed	to feel very full after eating
7. "There's no place like home!"	"I like to travel, but home is best!"	8. "The customer is always right."	"Good customer service is vital."
9. to be taken for a ride	to be exploited for money	10. to wait for an eternity	to wait for a long time
11. to be open twenty-four seven	to be open 24 hours per day	12. to take care of sth	to fix a problem
13. to have a lot on your plate	to be very busy	14. "It's a small world, isn't it?"	"I'm surprised to meet you here."
15. to phone in sick	to call to say you're too unwell to work	16. to bend over backwards for sby	to try very hard to help sby
17. to be starving	to be very hungry	18. to receive the VIP treatment	to get very good service
19. to be full of praise	to give lots of compliments	20. to be as sick as a dog	to vomit many times

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English Idioms – Matching Game

Match each sentence below with one of the idioms from this unit. Change forms where necessary:



Hi! Graham! Barbara! What a surprise! _____
Make me a sandwich – I _____!
The petrol station _____.
I _____ last night. I shouldn't've had that eighth pint...!
My boyfriend took me out last night and _____ me.
Oh, it was a lovely trip. We really _____. All the staff were brilliant.
I can't help you in the bar – I _____ today.
The owner charged twice the usual price and poor Bob _____.
When we arrived at the hotel we were _____.
I'll meet you in reception _____ six o'clock _____. Don't be late!
Alison and Mark _____ for the hotel staff.
These new trainers _____.
Tell the receptionist about your lost key – she'll _____ for you.
I like going on holiday, but _____, is there?
I _____ the Lewises, but they were still dissatisfied.
Kat _____ yesterday, so we were short-staffed in the restaurant.
We went out for Carol's birthday and _____.
We _____ for our lunch to arrive.
But you have to give me a refund! Don't forget, _____!
After that large pizza I _____.

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Hotel – English Idioms Activities

Meaning and Context

1. Check for new vocabulary. Are there any idioms that you know already? Explain each meaning and give an example sentence or situation in which you could use it. Find the meaning of the rest by using a dictionary, then match the meaning cards with the idiom cards.
2. Do any of the idioms exist in your first language? Translate each idiom.
3. Divide the idioms into four categories: **facilities**, **guests**, **staff**, and **food and drink**.
4. Take some cards. Describe the idiom on a card without saying it.
5. How many idioms can you remember when they are all turned over?

Practice Activities

Choose a random idiom (or one that particularly interests you) and...

1. think of a time or situation in your life when you... a) could have said this idiom (past), and b) might say this idiom (future).
2. say the name of a person you know who would be the most likely to say this. In what kind of situation?
3. others guess while you act it out without speaking, although you can make sounds!
4. others guess while you draw a picture to represent both forms – idiomatic and literal.
5. analyse the words. Is it at all possible to guess the meaning from the words – or completely impossible? Research the origin and background of this idiom.
6. replace the idiom in a sentence with the literal (boring) meaning. Compare the sentences. Which sounds better? Why?
7. think of another idiom or saying that has the same or a similar meaning.
8. tell a story or devise a dialogue/role play by linking one idiom to the next.

Topic Questions

Choose the correct idiom, and make a sentence about... a) yourself, b) a friend:

1. that describes feeling the consequences of over-indulgence, e.g. after a night out.
2. that you could use when talking about staff who tried extra hard to please you.
3. that suggests a romantic meal, perhaps on Valentine's Day.
4. that you could use to complain about not getting what you want *when* you want it.
5. that an irritable guest might use when speaking to a manager.
6. that you could say when you've eaten enough.
7. that you might see on a sign at an all-night supermarket.
8. that could be used when you meet a friend unexpectedly.
9. that is used by people who prefer to be in a familiar environment.
10. that you could use to tell people to be punctual.
11. that you could use to describe a hen night, stag night, or pub crawl.
12. that shows that you have lost money because of somebody's dishonest actions.