

## Idioms in IELTS Speaking

### What is idiom?

- 관용구 / 속어
- Learning to use common idioms and expressions will make your English sound more native
- idioms don't always make sense literally, you'll need to familiarize yourself with the meaning and usage of each idiom

IELTS Speaking 7점 이상을 목표로 한다면 idiom 사용 필수

### Common idioms

1. **Call it a day** – stop working on something
  - It was 9 in the evening so my colleague and I called it a day.
2. **Make a long story short** – tell something briefly
  - I put a lot effort on making a long story short. It was really hard.
3. **Miss the boat** – too late
  - My friend left just a minute ago, I just missed the boat!
4. **To make matters worse** – make a problem worse
  - I shouldn't have said it, I just made matters worse.
5. **Under the weather** – sick
  - I feel under the weather, I might have to call in sick.

6. **Over the moon** – feel very happy

- When I got my IELTS score, I was utterly over the moon.

7. **As fit as a fiddle** – very healthy

- My grandfather is 90 years old, but he is still as fit as a fiddle.

8. **Recharge one's batteries** – rest or relax for a period of time to feel energetic

- I really want to take some days off to recharge my batteries.

9. **Costs an arm and a leg** – very expensive

- It took me a while to save money for buying a laptop as it costed an arm and a leg.

10. **Once in a blue moon** – rarely

- I take a picture with my camera once in a blue moon.

11. **Saving for a rainy day** – saving money for later

- I won't use all my money, I'd like to save it for a rainy day.

12. **Think outside of the box** – think differently, unconventionally

- Steve Jobs is considered as the most accomplished businessman, as he always thought outside of the box.

13. **It's a piece of cake** – it's easy

- Learning how to play the musical instruments is a piece of cake for me.

14. **It's raining cats and dogs** – it's raining hard

- It rained cats and dogs on last Friday so my schools was closed for a day.

**Some natural English expressions**

1. **Take the biscuit** – what you have done is really surprising, annoying or silly
  - My friend wants me to wait until she finishes her work. It really takes the biscuit.
  
2. **A necessary evil** – something bad that can't be avoided, and must accept it in order to achieve a good result
  - I hate studying English, but it's a necessary evil if I want to work in foreign countries.
  
3. **Bone idle** – very lazy
  - My friend is bone idle. He stays in bed for the whole day.
  
4. **Just the ticket** – wanted something and got exactly what I wanted or needed
  - I've wanted to have a new bag and my cousin gave me one, it was just the ticket.
  
5. **Put on the map** – something or someone will become famous or become more prominent
  - This great tasting food has really put this new restaurant on the map.

## ◆ 쉽게 적용할 수 있는 idioms

1. **Over the moon** – feel very happy

예시 문제:**Describe a happy experience you had before**

You should say;

Where and when it happened

Who you were with

What you did

**and explain why you felt happy**

- In my university graduation ceremony / few months ago
- Friends, family, and all graduates
- Listened to dean's speech, took a lot of pictures
- Worked really hard, had good time with friends on that day

**→ and explain why you felt happy**

I was definitely **over the moon** on the day because during university attendance, I worked really hard on every project. As I majored in Business studies, I had a lot of team projects and individual assignments. Although I struggled a lot, I managed to pass all subjects. So on the day, I was really happy. Also I had good time with my friends. My friends and I took loads of pictures together, and we laughed a lot during the day. It was very memorable and happy moment.

## 2. Once in a blue moon – rarely

→ 빈도를 물어보는 문제에 사용 가능

### 예시 문제:

#### ● How often do you buy others gifts?

→ 빈도 부사 자리에 배치

Actually **once in a blue moon**. I really don't buy gifts for others unless it's for my parents. In fact, when it's my friends' special occasions, I tend to buy dinner or something rather than buying gifts.

## 3. Saving for a rainy day – saving money for later

### 예시 문제:

#### ● Did you save money when you were young?

Yeah, I used to. Whenever I received pocket money from my parents or relatives, I always **saved for a rainy day**. So when I managed to save a certain amount of money, I bought some toys for myself.

4. **It's raining cats and dogs** – it's raining hard

예시 문제:

- **Can you remember any time when it rained particularly heavily in your hometown?**

It was about a year ago, in August. It **rained cats and dogs** so my school was closed for a day. It was really rare occasion.

5. **Put on the map** – something or someone will become famous or become more prominent

예시 문제:

- **Is it popular to learn English in your country?**

Yes, it is really popular. There are lots of private English institutions in Korea, and most people think learning English is very important. I don't think this trend will be changed and learning English will be **put on the map**.