

ENGLISH IDIOMS
АНГЛИЙСКИЕ ИДИОМЫ

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It is common knowledge that knowing a language is knowing its idioms. The English language is full of them. There are 15,000 of them: colour idioms, animal idioms, food idioms, body expressions, idioms giving the idea of personality, comparisons. Native speakers of English use idioms all the time often without realizing that they are doing so. One can find a great number of expressions, proverbs, jokes and so called nursery rhymes which reflect the English culture and history, the English way of life and the English humour.

Why do we use idioms? We use them to express something that other words do not express as clearly or as cleverly as they do. We use them as an image or a symbol to describe something as clearly as possible and make our point of view as effective as possible. Idioms make the language beautiful and highly expressive.

No doubt, we, learners of English, want to understand the idioms we hear or read and we want to use them in our speech. And this is where it gets really difficult. Idioms are groups of words that must be learnt as a whole without analyzing the words themselves.

How is it best to learn idioms? We should select, learn and actively use them in our speech. It is very helpful to record idioms together with other words, explaining their origin. It is very important to compare English and Russian idioms. It can be an interesting exercise in itself and a means of remembering idioms more effectively.

That's why the aim of this work is to get acquainted with most popular English idioms, to understand them, to do our best to remember them and to use them correctly. We also want to know where they come from, what they are based on, how they are connected with real events in history. We find the problem important for improving our knowledge of English. The world of idioms is worth exploring.