

# Idiomatic expressions

## 1. Acid Test:

**Meaning** - Acid test proves the effectiveness of something.

**Example** - I practiced hard at the dance sessions but the acid test will come when the master will assess our solo performances.

## 2. Cut the ground from under feet :

**Meaning** - When you cut the ground from under someone's feet, you do something which weakens their position.

**Example** - When team India hit more than 350 runs in the ODI, they cut the ground from under the opponent's feet.

## 3. Chase your tail:

**Meaning** - Spending a lot of time and energy doing a lot of things but actually achieving too little.

**Example** - He's been chasing his tail all week collecting data but the report is still not ready

## 4. Whole bag of tricks -

**Meaning** - Means trying all the clever means to achieve something.

**Example** - It was really difficult to find the information even after applying the whole bag of tricks.

## 5. Deliver the goods -

**Meaning** - Do what is expected or promised.

**Example** - I have given my car to a new mechanic for repair, hope he delivers the goods.

## 6. Fine-tooth comb -

**Meaning** - Examining something carefully to not miss out any details.

**Example** - The boss examined my report with a fine tooth comb before submitting it to the senior management.

## 7. Explore all avenues

**Meaning** - Trying out every possibility to get a result.

**Example** - It is a difficult thing to do but if we really want it done, we must explore all avenues.

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## 8. Fast track something -

**Meaning** - Rating something higher on your priority list to achieve the desired result.

**Example** - In view of the seriousness of the crime, the civil society is pressing up on a fast track decision from the court.

## 9 . Get ducks in a row -

**Meaning** - Getting your things well organized.

**Example** - To ensure a successful product launch, we must get our ducks in a row.

## 10. Get the show on the road -

**Meaning** - Putting up a plan or idea into action.

**Example** - Now that we have completed all the legal formalities, let's get the show on the road.

## 11. Keep your fingers on the pulse -

**Meaning** - Being constantly aware of the most recent developments.

**Example** - An entrepreneur must keep his fingers on the pulse of the market to be successful.

## 12. Mean business -

**Meaning** - Being serious about what you announce.

**Example** - Now that all our policies about work are put up on intranet, we mean business.

## 13. Think on your feet -

**Meaning** - Adjusting quickly to changes and making fast decisions.

**Example** - A good sales man must be able to think on his feet to close the deal.

## 14. Sail through something -

**Meaning** - Being successful in doing something without difficulty.

**Example** - The presentation at the national conference was extremely important for the company. We sailed through it.

## 15. Tricks of the trade :

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**Meaning** - Clever or expert way of doing something.

**Example** - Being into the construction business for last 10 years, I know all tricks of the trade.

16. Not let grass grow under feet -

**Meaning** - Don't delay in getting something done.

**Example** - As soon as he finished all the registration formalities, he put the house on sale. He doesn't let the grass grow under his feet.

17. Work like a charm -

**Meaning** - Works very well or has the desired effect.

**Example** - I had cloves from my sore throat and they worked like a charm.

18. Back-room boys -

**Meaning** - People who perform important work but have no contact with the public.

**Example** - Our back room boys deserve an applause for the success of this advertisement.

19. Dead wood -

**Meaning** - People or things which are no longer useful or necessary.

**Example** - The company bought in a lot of new computers. They no longer want the dead woods.

20. Get the axe -

**Meaning** - lose the job.

**Example** - The projects team was undergoing a major restructuring, recruitment executives were the first to get the axe.

21. Plum job -

**Meaning** - Desirable position which is well-paid and considered relatively easy .

**Example** - This looks like a plum job but it has its own bunch of complications.

22. Shape up or ship out -

**Meaning** - This expression is used to warn someone that if they do not improve their ways, they will have to leave their job.

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**Example** - When Tom started neglecting the customers, he was told to shape up or ship out.

## 23. Golden handshake -

**Meaning** - Big sum of money given to a person when they leave a company or retire.

**Example** - The management of various PSUs wanted to cut down on the man power. They offered a golden hand shake to many of their aged employees.

## 24. Separate sheep from goats -

**Meaning** - Examining a group of people and deciding their suitability

**Example** - Audition test was conducted by the director to separate sheep from goats.

## 25. Waiting in the wings -

**Meaning** - Waiting for an opportunity to take action, mostly to replace someone else in their job.

**Example** - The senior manager is going to retire in next 2 months. Two of his juniors who are waiting in the wings will have a fierce competition.