

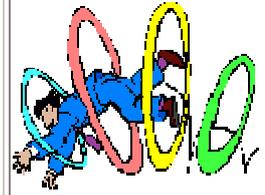
Illustrated Idioms



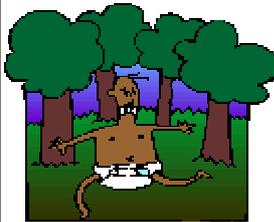
"She is as quiet as a mouse."
Extremely quiet--doesn't talk much.



It's raining cats and dogs!
It is raining very hard.



Jumping through hoops.
Going through a lot of unnecessary trouble to please someone.



He's just a **babe in the woods.**
An innocent. An inexperienced person in a difficult situation.



I **put my foot in my mouth** when I assured my wife that I never thought about my old girlfriends and then a few minutes later called her by the wrong name.

To say the wrong thing,



He is as **sharp as a tack.**
He is extremely smart.



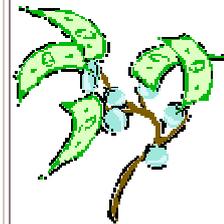
He had to turn in his paper which was due before 5 p.m. on Friday. He was **running against the clock.**

To have a tight deadline.

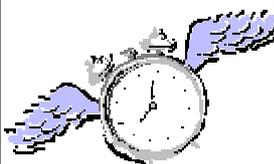


I wish that he would be more serious. He wants to just **monkey around.**

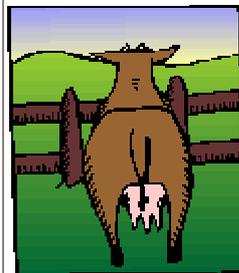
To handle something very casually; to do something without a real purpose; to play around.



Money doesn't **grow on trees.**
You have to work for something (like money) to get it. You can't just go out and accidentally find it.



Time flies when you're having fun.
To feel that very little time has passed when actually a lot of time has gone by.



The **grass is always greener** (on the other side of the fence). *What you don't have always looks better than what you have.*

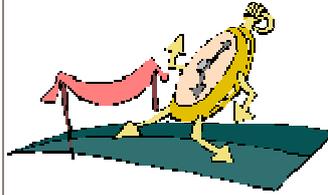


Susan was wondering what she was going to present at the meeting, and then **a lightbulb went off** and she knew what she would present.

To get an idea.



He cannot make up his mind whether or not to buy stocks right now. He is **straddling the fence**
To have trouble coming to a decision.



Time is running out to get the latest issue of *The English Teacher's Assistant* covering the teaching theme "Families."
It's almost too late.



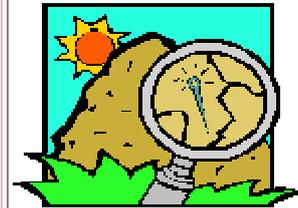
A penny saved is a penny earned Even small amounts of money are worth saving.



"I'll believe politicians **when fish fly**.
Something that will never happen.



"You **>hit the nail on the head** >when you said learning to speak English well would help me in my job--it has."
To describe something accurately or exactly.



"Sometimes trying to find something on the worldwide web is like trying to **find a needle in the haystack**."
Difficult to find or uncover.



"I went to the U.S.A. to study English. I met a new friend there who was from my hometown. **What a small world**
A coincidence in a distant place--usually in meeting someone who knows a friend or relative of yours or who is from the same place you are.



"I know you don't like it when your mother calls you lazy, but **if the shoe fits, wear it**.
If the description is correct, accept it.



Don't cry over spilt milk

Meaning:
Don't worry about things you have done that you can't change.



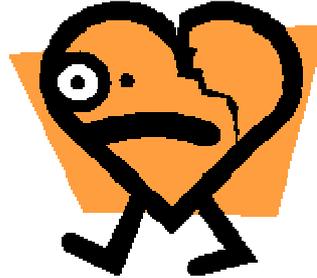
"He's going around in circles."

Meaning:
He is not accomplishing anything.



"He has his face in the sand".

Meaning:
He doesn't see the truth.



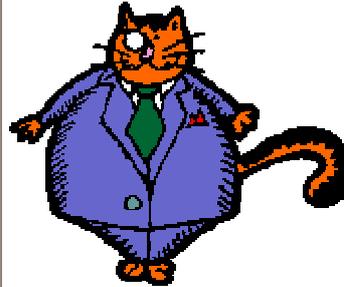
"She has a broken heart"

Meaning:
She is very sad.



"Don't put all your eggs in one basket".

Meaning:
Diversify. Try many types of things--not just one.



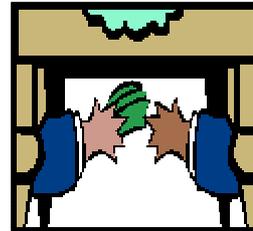
"He's a fat cat".

Meaning:
He's an important person.



"He's moving at a snail's pace."

Meaning:
to move very slowly



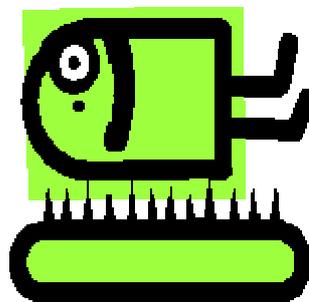
"They are exchanging money under the table."

Meaning:
illegal



"He's on pins and needles."

Meaning:
He's waiting anxiously or nervously.



"He's in the dog house."

Meaning:
He's in trouble.



"Their business is a money pit."

Meaning:
It is losing a lot of money with little hope for profit.

