

LIST OF IDIOMS WITH THE VERB CALL

idiom	meaning	example
call a spade a spade	talk about something truthfully even if it's not polite	Mickey calls a spade a spade. He's a bit blunt but at least he's honest.
call it a day	stop working on a job/task/relationship because you're tired or it's not working	Let's work for another 15 minutes then we'll call it a day.
call of nature	you need to go to the toilet	I need to answer a call of nature then I'll be with you.
call off the dogs	stop someone behaving aggressively towards another person	Call off the dogs Harry. He's apologised, let that be the end of it.
call/take the register	read out loud an official list of names	When the teacher calls the register, can you say 'yes' when he says my name?
call the shots	be in charge, make the decisions	Luke is in charge of the project. He'll be calling the shots.
call the tune	be in control and make all the important decisions	Don't ask me, I don't call the tune around here.
call time on	end something	Barker has called time on his footballing career, he'll retire at the end of the season.
pot calling the kettle black	a person criticizes someone for doing something they also do	Pot calling the kettle black Lisa. You can't tell me to stop smoking, you smoke.
too close to call	you can't predict the outcome, it will be by a small margin	The election is too close to call, either of the 3 could win.

