



LIST OF IDIOMS WITH THE VERB GIVE

idiom	meaning	example
don't give a monkey's	you don't care	I don't give a monkey's if the whole school are going to the party. You're grounded!
don't give two hoots about	don't care about someone/something	He doesn't give two hoots about me, he's more interested in drinking with his mates.
give one's right arm	you would do anything to do/get something	Lucy would give her right arm to meet One Direction.
give someone a bollocking	severely reprimand someone	The teacher gave the whole class a bollocking for breaking the interactive whiteboard.
give someone a dressing down	reprimand someone	The coach gave the players a dressing down at half time.
give someone a hard time	annoy/criticise/shout at/make trouble for someone	My friends are giving me a hard time over my receding hairline.
give someone a heads up	warn someone of impending difficulty/danger	Can you give Leon a heads up if the fuel gets below 20%?
give someone a leg up	help someone achieve something	My parents gave me a leg up so I could buy my first house.
give someone a run for their money	almost as good as the opposition	My 3 year old twins are giving me a run for my money.
give someone a tinkle	call someone on the phone	Sasha gave me a tinkle last night and told me the bad news.
give someone the boot	fire/dismiss someone from their job	Someone has been stealing from me. When I find out who, I'll give them the boot.
give someone the cold shoulder	ignore someone/be unfriendly on purpose	The girlfriend is giving me the cold shoulder. I must have done something wrong.
give someone the elbow	reject or dismiss someone	Sammy only worked with us for 3 weeks before he was given the elbow.
give someone the shirt off one's back	a generous person	I can always count on my uncle. He'd give me the shirt off his back.
give someone the time of day	be nice/pleasant/pay attention to someone	He's a great bloke, I always give him the time of day.
give someone/something the once over	quickly examine/check something/someone	I have a doctor's appointment. I want him to give me the once over before I leave for Kenya.
give something one's best shot	try your best	He gave it his best shot, but unfortunately, he didn't get the job.
give the game away	reveal the secret	Who gave the game away when I begged you not to?
give the green light	permit/allow	The council have given the green light for a new school to be built.
give/lend someone a hand	help someone	I'm moving house at the weekend. Do you fancy lending me a hand?