

LIST OF IDIOMS WITH THE VERB GO

idiom	meaning	example
easy come, easy go	you aren't bothered about losing something (especially money)	My girlfriend dumped me, easy come, easy go.
go ape shit	become angry and violent	My mum is going to go ape shit when she finds out I spilt wine on the sofa.
go at something hammer and tongs	emphatically/energetically/violently	The cat and dog are going at it hammer and tongs, one of them will end up hurt.
go back a long way/go way back	have known each other/been friends for a long time	Chris and Chester go back a long way, they'll soon make friends again.
go bananas	become crazy	The dogs will go bananas when Rick comes home. They haven't seen him for 3 months.
go belly up	go spectacularly wrong	My new business venture went belly up in the first 6 months. I'm back working in a factory.
go berserk	go crazy	My little sister drew all over the freshly painted walls. My mum went absolutely berserk.
go bust	become bankrupt	So many shops on the high street are going bust. The rent is too high.
go cold turkey	completely stop taking a substance	I've quit smoking. It was easy, I just went cold turkey.
go down a storm	greatly received by the audience	That Malibu punch you made last night went down a storm.
go down the drain	fail, disappear, be destroyed	My marriage went down the drain a long time ago.
go downhill	deteriorate	Grandpa is rapidly going downhill. You had better go to the hospital straight away.
go Dutch	split the cost equally (usually a meal)	I insisted we go Dutch, but he paid in the end.
go for broke	put all your effort/resources into one thing in the hope of great success	Rangers are going for broke in the final 15 minutes. They desperately need a draw.
go for the jugular	attack someone where it will hurt them the most	Marie wanted full custody, so she went for the jugular and brought up Scott's drug addiction.
go full circle	return to the original situation/circumstance where you first started	Terry's career is going full circle. He's about to start managing his first ever club again.
go hard or go home	put in all your effort or don't bother	I've put all my savings into my new business. It's go hard or go home.
go in one ear and out the other	something is heard then forgotten	Teenagers are useless. Anything I tell my two goes in one ear and out the other.
go into overdrive	start working very quickly	We've got two books being released this week. Our printers have gone into overdrive.
go nuts	become crazy/angry	My aunt went nuts so the men in white coats took her away.
go off the rails	become crazy, wild, unhinged, uncontrollable	My son has started hanging around with older boys. I'm afraid he will go off the rails.

idiom	meaning	example
go out of business	a company stops trading and closes	If you continue to give away free products, I'll go out of business.
go out of fashion	become unfashionable, stop being popular	I wish skinny jeans would go out of fashion, they don't suit me.
go out on a limb	take a risk for something you believe in	The lawyer went out on a limb for the defendant as he knew he wasn't guilty.
go out the window	disappear	As soon as I've had a drink, my common sense goes out the window.
go out with someone	date/have a relationship with someone	I'm not going out with TJ anymore. I'm going out with Sam now.
go overboard	be too excessive/extreme	You've bought 16 bottles of wine for 5 people? You always go overboard.
go pear shaped	go wrong, fail	I should have been going to Italy tomorrow, but it's all gone pear shaped.
go red	your face turns red with embarrassment	Paul went red when he forgot his lines in front of the whole school.
go round in circles	do something for a long time without progressing	I can't find a solution, I'm just going round in circles.
go round the houses	a very long complicated way of reaching a conclusion	I hate Mr. Oxley's classes. He always goes round the houses and makes it difficult.
go separate ways	end a romantic/business/professional relationship	I think it's best if they go their separate ways. They don't gel as business partners.
go spare	get very angry	Leave your wet clothes in the porch. Mum will go spare if you get the new carpet dirty.
go steady with someone	date one person regularly	My son has grown up, he's going steady with a girl and has a job.
go the distance	persist until the end without quitting	He's a great tennis player. I think he'll go the distance.
go the extra mile	make an extra effort to achieve something	Lauren is a good nurse. She always goes the extra mile to make patients feel at ease.
go the whole hog	be thorough, complete, extravagant	I've been suspended from school. I may as well go the whole hog and get expelled.
go through a rough patch	experience difficulty in a business/relationship	We went through a rough patch but now our relationship is stronger than ever.
go through the roof	prices/figures get extremely high or suddenly get mad/angry/excited	Petrol prices have gone through the roof recently. I need a car with a smaller engine.
go tits-up	go wrong	We were winning until the final 10 minutes then it all went tits-up. They scored 3.
go to one's head	something makes you feel more important than others	Now Richard is in charge, I'm afraid the power will go to his head.
go to pot	deteriorate	My nan's garden is going to pot, she's too weak to cut the grass now.
go to seed	deteriorate, look unhealthy/unattractive/shabby	I'm too old to do the garden, it's gone to seed.
go to the dogs	deteriorate, turn bad	My town is going to the dogs. The crime rate has risen dramatically in recent years.
go to the mattresses	go to war using ruthless tactics	My aunt and uncle are going to the mattresses over custody of their kids.

idiom	meaning	example
go to town on	do something with enthusiasm/energy/speed/in excess	I went to town on the garden, it's now ready for summer.
go under the knife	have an operation/surgery (usually cosmetic)	My knee surgery is tomorrow. I'm a little scared about going under the knife.
go weak at the knees	emotion/exhaustion makes you lose strength and feel unstable	I went weak at the knees after having my belly button pierced. I nearly fainted.
go with the flow	not resist, follow the choice of most of the group, easy going	I don't mind which club we go to, I'm easy, I'll just go with the flow.
go without a hitch	happen without any problems	The CEO came today, luckily the whole day went without a hitch.
go-getter	an ambitious person who is determined to succeed	I don't think I stand a chance. All the other candidates were go-getters.
going places	a person who is likely to become successful	Henry has so many business ideas. He's going places.
happy-go-lucky	a happy/cheerful/carefree person	He was such a happy-go-lucky boy. Something changed since he started big school.
have a go at someone	start shouting at someone because they have done something wrong	The teacher had a go at me for throwing paper aeroplanes in class.
on the go	constantly moving/working	I had lunch on the go today, I was too busy to stop and relax.
watch the world go by	enjoy watching people pass by	I'm going to sit in a coffee shop and watch the world go by.

