

LIST OF IDIOMS WITH THE VERB HAVE

idiom	meaning	example
don't have the foggiest	have no idea at all	Morgan is drunk, I don't have the foggiest idea what he is talking about.
have a bee in one's bonnet	be obsessed with something	Leah has a bee in her bonnet about starting her own business.
have a beer belly	a big stomach due to eating/drinking too much	We need to go on a diet after our holiday. We've got beer bellies.
have a big mouth	someone talks a lot and can't keep secrets	Corey has a big mouth, I hope a year 11 shuts him up one day.
have a change of heart	change your mind/opinion	My boss wants to transfer me to Italy. I hope he has a change of heart, I like it here.
have a chip on one's shoulder	a person with an angry attitude who feels they have been wronged by the world	Jamie has had a chip on his shoulder ever since he didn't get that promotion.
have a cow	become, angry, upset, frustrated etc.	Lisa's having a cow because she can't find her little black dress.
have a crush on someone	secretly in love/infatuated with someone	I've had a crush on Alfie for years, but he doesn't even know I exist.
have a face like the back end of a bus	ugly	Her baby has a face like the back end of a bus.
have a flutter	bet/gamble	I'm going to Las Vegas. I can't wait to have a flutter in the casinos.
have a frog in one's throat	someone can't speak as their mouth is dry and they need to cough	The presentation went badly. He had a frog in his throat so couldn't get the words out.
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.
have a good innings	had a long successful life/career	Albert had a good innings, he deserves his retirement.
have a head for heights	someone isn't afraid of heights	I have a head for heights so I'm starting my own window cleaning business.
have a heart	be kinder, more compassionate	Don't give him detention, his grandad died yesterday. Have a heart sir.
have a knees up	have a party	I'm thinking about having a knees up at the weekend. I want to have fun and dance.
have a lot on one's plate	have too much work/many things to deal with	We can't go on holiday this year, we've got too much on our plates.
have a nerve	someone is arrogant, brash, cheeky	My son has a nerve. He asked for lunch money. but my husband already gave him some.
have a paddy	be upset and have a tantrum (usually with children)	My best mate had a paddy because I didn't invite her for a coffee.

idiom	meaning	example
have a screw loose	crazy/insane/odd/weird	You can't leave a three-year-old at home alone. Does she have a screw loose?
have a soft spot for someone	like someone a lot	Leon has a soft spot for Claire. He brings her cake every day.
have a sweet tooth	someone who loves eating sweet foods	I had a sweet tooth when I was younger. Now, I prefer savoury foods.
have a thing for someone	be infatuated with someone (usually secretly)	I think Jane has a thing for Ollie, she is always staring at him.
have a whale of a time	have a really good time	The kids had a whale of a time at the water park yesterday.
have an ace up one's sleeve	have a secret advantage	I'll get the job. I have an ace up my sleeve; my dad is friends with the boss.
have an axe to grind	have a complaint/dispute	The boss has called an emergency meeting, I think he has an axe to grind.
have beef with	have a problem with someone	I'm not using that hotel chain. I have beef with them.
have bigger fish to fry	have more important/interesting things to do	I can't help you look for a new bike. I've got bigger fish to fry.
have blood on one's hands	be responsible for someone's death	The president sent the troops to war without proper weapons. He's got blood on his hands.
have butterflies in one's stomach	your stomach feels funny because you are scared, nervous, anxious etc.	I had butterflies this morning, but they went just before the exam.
have chemistry	a connection, mutual attraction, compatibility	There isn't any chemistry between Shaun and his new girl, they're better off as friends.
have egg on one's face	look stupid/be embarrassed/humiliated	If you accuse him and he is innocent, you'll end up with egg on your face.
have eyes in the back of one's head	someone who knows everything you are doing	I can't cheat in Miss Johnson's class, she has eyes in the back of her head.
have green fingers/green fingered	good at gardening	My nan was green fingered. I must get it from her.
have itchy feet	have a strong desire to move/travel	I've got itchy feet! I've outgrown my town and I need a new challenge.
have one too many	have too much alcohol	I had one too many last night, I can't remember getting home.
have one's back against the wall	you are in a difficult situation and have no other options	I'm in so much debt, my back is against the wall. The bailiffs are coming tomorrow.
have one's cake and eat it	enjoy two things that contradict each other	You can't have your cake and eat it. It's uni or travelling, not both.
have one's fingers in lots of pies	be involved in many different things	She does yoga, Pilates, running and karate. That woman has her fingers in lots of pies.
have one's foot in the door	start working for a company in a low position in the hope of getting promoted	I'd love to get my foot in the door at Google.

idiom	meaning	example
have one's head in the clouds	someone is unaware/living in a dream world	Leon's head is in the clouds, he won't be a millionaire by the time he's 25.
have one's head screwed on	be sensible, have common sense	My son has his head screwed on, but my daughter has a crazy side.
have one's heart in the right place	have good intentions	Her heart is in the right place, but I need a woman with more fire in her belly.
have one's moments	sometimes a person can be funny/clever/interesting/successful etc.	Robson has his moments, but he wasn't worth £2 million.
have one's nose in a book	people who love and always seem to be reading	I don't mind long journeys, I'll just have my nose in a good book.
have one's work cut out	a hard/difficult job/task	Our colleague is on holiday, so we have our work cut out this week.
have second thoughts	start to doubt a decision you have made	I'm having second thoughts about living in Mexico, it's too far from home.
have someone's guts for garters	severely punish someone	My boy has taken my Porsche without permission, I'll have his guts for garters.
have someone's number	realise someone's true intentions	The girl I'm dating only wants to see me if I buy her a present. I've got her number.
have something on	wear something	Can you give this to Steven? He has a bright orange shirt on and jet black hair.
have something to hand	nearby, easily accessible	I've got my details to hand. When the bank call, I'll tell them.
have the floor	the person speaking in a discussion/debate	I've got a few more points to go through then you can have the floor.
have the guts	be brave enough to do something	We haven't got the guts to tell mum we hate her cooking.
have the hots for	be sexually attracted to someone	I used to have the hots for him but not anymore, he disgusts me.
have the makings of something	a person has the necessary qualities to become that thing	Her drafts are good, she has the makings of a successful author.
have the time of one's life	have a lot of fun, thoroughly enjoy yourself	The dog is having the time of his life in the forest.
have the travel bug	have a strong desire/an urge to travel	I've had the travel bug for 10 years. I don't think I'll ever stop travelling.
have the upper hand	gain an advantage	My brother always has the upper hand when we fight. He is much bigger than me.
have thick skin	you don't easily get upset by criticism/insults	You need to be thick skinned if you want to become a politician.
have time on one's hands	have spare/extra time with nothing to do	I have no time on my hands since my son was born.
have time on one's side	have plenty of time to do something	Let's stop for a coffee, we've still got time on our side.
have two left feet	you can't dance	Jasper asked me to the prom. I turned him down as he has two left feet.
haven't got a leg to stand on	have no proof/evidence to justify your actions	The key witness has arrived, the suspect doesn't have a leg to stand on.

idiom	meaning	example
haven't got two pennies to rub together	very poor	My family didn't have two pennies to rub together when I was a child. Now, I'm a millionaire.
haven't got the stomach for something	not brave enough to do something unpleasant or daring	I couldn't be a surgeon, I haven't got the stomach for it.
only have eyes for	be interested in one particular person	Noah only has eyes for Letitia, but she's moving to Italy.

