

## LIST OF IDIOMS WITH THE VERB PLAY

idiom	meaning	example
play away (from home)	cheat on your partner, be unfaithful	My boyfriend has been working late a lot recently. Do you think he's playing away?
play ball	cooperate	My ex isn't playing ball. I'm going to have to involve my lawyer.
play by the rules	follow the rules	No biting, scratching or hitting in the head. If you don't play by the rules, you'll be disqualified.
play cat and mouse	tease/pursue before turning violent	I've been playing cat and mouse with this hot guy, but I think he has got bored of my games.
play for time	delay something/someone to gain more time	The presentation isn't opening. You play for time whilst I sort it.
play gooseberry	the unwanted third person in the company of lovers	It's couples only. Don't invite Ricky, he'll only play gooseberry all night.
play hardball	be ruthless and do anything necessary to get what you want	Let's play hardball with the suspect. We need to find out where he dumped the body.
play it by ear	don't follow a plan, deal with things as they happen	I'm not sure who should run with the project, we'll just play it by ear.
play second fiddle	be less important than something else	I'm sick of playing second fiddle to Jeff. I'm way better at the job than he is.
play the field	have multiple partners	He's not marriage material. He likes to play the field.
play truant	absent from school without permission	If my son doesn't stop playing truant, I'll go to prison.
two can play at that game	you can copy another person's strategy	The enemy has started using cannons. Two can play at that game.

