

LIST OF IDIOMS WITH THE VERB PULL

idiom	meaning	example
pull a fast one	deceive/trick someone	The shopkeeper pulled a fast one. I paid for an expensive perfume, but he gave me a cheap one.
pull a rabbit out of the hat	suddenly do something clever	England will have to pull a rabbit out of the hat if they want to win the FIFA World Cup this year.
pull a sickie	pretend to be ill to get out of doing something (especially work)	Johnny isn't sick. I was him playing rugby earlier, he's pulling a sickie.
pull one's finger out	stop wasting time and start working/concentrating	Logan has pulled his finger out and is working to support his child.
pull one's socks up	start making an effort to improve	If Caitlyn doesn't pull her socks up, social services will take away her children.
pull one's weight	do one's fair share of the work	If Damien doesn't start pulling his weight, I'll evict him.
pull out all the stops	put in a great amount of effort	Angela will have to pull out all the stops if she wants to win the election.
pull punches	be less severe/violent	Give me your honest opinion, don't pull punches.
pull someone's leg	playfully joke/tease someone	You're pregnant? Please tell me you're pulling my leg.
pull the plug	stop something happening/continuing	My landlord pulled the plug on my poker nights. The neighbours started complaining.

