

LIST OF IDIOMS WITH THE VERB PUT

idiom	meaning	example
put a sock in it	shut up, stop talking	I think we need to put a sock in it. Grandma is trying to sleep upstairs.
put down roots	settle/become established	I've been offered a job in Hawaii. The company I work for want to put down roots there.
put hairs on one's chest	something is very strong	My mum said if I eat spinach soup everyday it will put hairs on my chest.
put money on someone/something	bet, predict to be true	I've put a lot of money on the blues to win today.
put on a brave face	pretend you're not upset, afraid, in pain etc. when you really are	Carlos is putting on a brave face, but I know he is still upset about losing Katie.
put on hold	pause, postpone something until a later date	We've put the project on hold until we get more funding.
put on the map	a person/company/brand/country etc. becomes well-know/famous	A food critic gave my restaurant rave reviews, he's put me on the map.
put one's back into it	use a lot of effort/force	The jar is a bit tight, put your back into it.
put one's best foot forward	attempt to make a good impression/try your best	The boss is coming to the office today, I'll put my best foot forward.
put one's cards on the table	be honest and open about one's feelings/ideas/intentions	He put his cards on the table and told me he didn't love me anymore.
put one's feet up	stop working, sit and relax	You put your feet up and relax, I'll make the dinner.
put one's finger on something	identify something	I can't put my finger on which employee is stealing from me. I've narrowed to down to 3.
put one's foot down	use authority to stop something from happening or accelerate in a vehicle	We are going to be late for the funeral! Put your foot down.
put one's foot in it	say or do something tactless	I'm afraid I'm going to put my foot in it and let slip about her surprise party.
put one's heart and soul into something	apply maximum effort, energy, enthusiasm, passion etc.	Lexi put her heart and soul into that assignment, but the teacher only gave her a C.
put one's mind to it	give something your complete attention, concentration, determination, effort etc.	I want to be an astronaut. If I put my mind to it, I can do anything.
put one's money where one's mouth is	make a bet or do something instead of just talking about it	The kitchen will be finished by summer. I'll put my money where my mouth is.
put one's two cents in	say your opinion even when it's not wanted	Larry always puts his two cents in even though he doesn't know what he's talking about.
put oneself in someone's shoes	imagine yourself in someone else's situation/circumstances, empathise	Put yourself in his shoes. You wouldn't come to work if your dog has just died.
put something on ice	delay/postpone	I've put my house move on ice. I need to save more money so I can buy my dream home.
put the brakes on	slow down/stop a vehicle/an idea/progress/an activity	We need to put the brakes on our spending if we want a bigger house.

idiom	meaning	example
put the cart before the horse	do things in the wrong order	They are spending money before they've earned it. They're putting the cart before the horse.
put the cat among the pigeons	do something that will cause trouble/a disturbance	I won't tell Sarah I saw Tim with another woman, I don't want to put the cat among the pigeons.
put two and two together	study the evidence and figure out the correct conclusion	He didn't come home again last night, I've put two and two together and decided he is cheating.
put words into someone's mouth	inaccurately report what someone has said	The journalist put words in my mouth. I didn't say any of those horrible things.
put/get one's thinking cap on	start thinking about something especially how to solve a problem	I need to think of a birthday present for my girlfriend. I'd better get my thinking cap on.

