

CAT IDIOMS AND EXPRESSIONS

idiom	meaning	example
cat got one's tongue	a comment you make to someone when they are quiet	I think the cat has got Harry's tongue; he hasn't said a word all morning.
cat nap	a short sleep	When we arrive, we should have a cat nap then go exploring.
cat's whiskers	someone/something that is excellent/superior	Leanne thinks she's the cat's whiskers. She's just an idiot.
copycat	a person who copies another person	There have been lots of copycat crimes recently.
curiosity killed the cat	being inquisitive can be dangerous	Don't ask where I got the money from. Curiosity killed the cat.
fat cat	a rich and powerful person who earns more than they deserve	A couple of fat cats want to invest in my business, they believe in my products.
fight like cat and dog	argue and fight continuously	Me and my brother fought like cat and dog when we were kids.
grin like a Cheshire cat	have a very big smile on your face	Luke asked me to marry him. I've been grinning like a Cheshire cat all week.
kitty	a pool of money contributions for shared use by everyone	Let's start a kitty for the house. We can use it for cleaning products and toilet roll.
let the cat out of the bag	reveal the secret	We're throwing a surprise party for my parents, don't let the cat out of the bag.
like a cat on a hot tin roof	be anxious, agitated, nervous	The kids are like cats on a hot tin roof. It's exam results day.
like the cat that got the cream	be very pleased with yourself	Seb is like the cat that got the cream now he is dating Sophie.

idiom	meaning	example
look what the cat dragged in	imply someone who has just arrived looks bad or you don't like them	Look what the cat dragged in. Do you remember her? It's that witch who lives on Southmead.
more than one way to skin a cat	there are many ways to accomplish a goal	I didn't get tickets to the concert, but there is more than one way to skin a cat.
no room to swing a cat	a very small, cramped space	They gave me a new office. It's nice but there is no room to swing a cat.
not a cat in hell's chance	no chance at all	There is not a cat in hell's chance Tina will take Larry back after he cheated on her.
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.
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.
rain cats and dogs	raining heavily	It rained cats and dogs all week, I couldn't hang out my washing.
scaredy cat	a wimpy person who is easily frightened	Lilly is such a scaredy cat. She won't come to the cemetery with us tonight for a séance.

