

NOSE IDIOMS AND EXPRESSIONS

idiom	meaning	example
cut off one's nose to spite one's face	perform a vengeful act that hurts oneself more than another person	Lisa stopped me seeing the kids, she cut off her nose to spite her face. Now she has no free time to spend with her new boyfriend.
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.
keep one's nose clean	stay out of trouble, behave	Lewis has kept his nose clean since becoming a father.
keep one's nose to the grindstone	continuously work hard	You've kept your nose to the grindstone all year. You deserve a juicy bonus.
no skin off one's nose	you don't care if something happens or not	It's no skin off my nose if you don't pass your finals.
nosedive	rapidly begin to fail/decrease	Our profits have nosedived in the last quarter. We're in trouble.
pay through the nose	pay way too much	We paid through the nose for our house renovation.
poke/stick one's nose in	interfere in someone else's business	My parents have poked their noses in once too often. I'm moving far away from them.
powder one's nose	go to the toilet (usually for women)	Are you going to powder your nose again? What's wrong with you!

idiom	meaning	example
turn one's nose up at something	refuse something	I want to buy my nan a ticket to the opera, but I think she will turn her nose up at it.
under one's nose	directly in front of you	The thief stole the jumper from right under the security guard's nose.
win by a nose	win by a very narrow margin	I demand a recount, he won by a nose, it's not fair.

