



Vocabulary Progression

Idioms

	Idiom	Meaning
Reception	Easy peasy Under the weather	Very easy. Feel poorly/ill.
Year 1	Call names Can't believe your eyes/ears Have a sweet tooth Piece of cake Tall story	Insult someone. Very excited/surprised/annoyed by something Someone who likes sweet things. Something that is very easy. Something hard to believe.
Year 2	Bug eyed Butter someone up Cheap as chips Green fingers Eat like a horse/bird/rabbit In a tick In hot water Nosey parker Not hurt a fly Packed like sardines Spill the beans Tongue in cheek When pigs fly	Eyes bulging from amazement. To be friendly to someone so that they do what you want. Something very inexpensive. Someone who likes gardening. Someone who eats a lot/ only a little/ lots of vegetables. Do something very quickly. In trouble. Someone who is too inquisitive about someone/something Be caring to everything. Lots of people/things in a small space. Talk about something that should be a secret. Saying something in an insincere way. Something impossible



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Year 3	<p>All ears A storm is brewing Barking up the wrong tree Been in the wars Call time Clear as mud Every cloud has a silver lining Fine and dandy Food for thought For donkey's years From rags to riches Gone pear-shaped Go with the flow Hive of activity Hold out an olive branch Hold your hands up Keep your chin up On the blink On the ball Ring a bell Spin a yarn Up in the air Wishful thinking</p>	<p>Very excited to hear. Trouble is starting. Having the wrong idea about something. Having been injured or hurt. Announce the end of something. Something hard to understand. Difficult times always lead to better days. Everything is good. Something to think about. Something that has happened for a long time and never changed. Someone who rises from poverty to wealth. Something that has gone wrong. To do what other people are doing. Somewhere very busy with lots going on. Make peace with someone. Admit that you've made a mistake. Stay cheerful even if a difficult situation. A machine that's not working. Somebody who is alert/good at something. Remind you of something. Tell a long story with too much detail. Something that still needs to be finished. Something uncertain. A wish that is unlikely to come true.</p>



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Year 4	Bad mouth Beat around the bush Be up on Bob's your uncle Break the ice Come a cropper Couldn't give a monkey's Cut to the chase Face the music Find your feet A game of two halves Get the nod Give the nod Give it some stick Give someone stick Hit the books Keep your wig on Kill two birds with one stone Look like a million dollars Out in the sticks Out of the woods Stir up a hornet's nest Twist someone's arm To be loaded	Saying negative things about something/someone. Avoid talking about something important by talking about other things. Be well informed about something. Something that will be successful. Do or say something that relieves tension, e.g. when introducing new people. Someone whose actions will result in trouble. Don't care about something. Get to the point. Face the consequences of your actions. Starting to feel confident/be successful. It's possible for fortunes to change and the winner become the loser and vice-versa. You get approval to do something. You give approval to do something. You put a lot of effort into something. Criticising someone. To study. Calm down. To get two or more things done by only doing one thing. Looking great. Living away from others. Out of a dangerous situation – usually when someone is ill but is getting better. Get into serious trouble. Persuade someone to your way of thinking. To have a lot of money.



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Year 5	At a loose end	You have spare time and you don't know what to do with it.
	Box clever	You use your intelligence to get what you want.
	Break even	Not losing anything but not gaining anything either.
	Bury your head in the sand	Ignore a problem and hope it goes away.
	Calm before the storm	A calm period before there is lots of activity.
	Come up smelling of roses	Coming out of a bad situation looking good.
	Dull as ditchwater	Something very boring.
	Dunkirk spirit	When people pull together to get through a difficult time.
	Get it in the neck	When you're criticised or punished for something.
	Get over something	When you stop being bothered about something.
	Go down like a lead balloon	Something that fails or is received badly.
	Hit the sack	Go to bed.
	Kick your heels	When you're forced to wait for the result of something.
	Make a song and dance	Cause a fuss about something unnecessarily.
	Many moons ago	A long time ago.
	Once in a blue moon	Something that happens very rarely.
	On the cards	Something that is going to happen.
	Pay an arm and a leg	Paying a lot of money for something.
	Pitch in	Help out with a task.
	Pull your finger out	Telling someone to hurry up doing something.
	Rain or shine	In good times or bad times.
	Sit tight	Stay put and do what you were doing.
	Teething problems	Issues at the beginning of a new process.
	Ten a penny	Lots of something.
	The tip of the iceberg	A hint that's part of a bigger problem.
	Up sticks	Move away or leave somewhere.
	Walking on air	To feel extremely happy.



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Year 6	Argue the toss	You refuse to accept a decision.
	At the end of your tether	You've run out of patience.
	Backfoot	At a disadvantage.
	Between a rock and a hard place	Between two equally bad problems.
	Damp squib	Something that is expected to work well but doesn't.
	Death warmed up	Someone who looks very ill.
	Economical with the truth	Leave out important information to create a false picture.
	... for England	If you do something, e.g. talk, for England, you do it a lot/well.
	Get into deep water	Get into trouble or a difficult situation.
	Give a run for one's money	That they're almost as good as someone else at something.
	In spades	A lot of something.
	It's as broad as it is long	No real difference between two options.
	Let the dust settle	To wait for a situation to become calmer.
	Living hand to mouth	When you have hardly enough money/food to live on.
	Lose your touch	Stop being good at something.
	Make a mountain out of a molehill	Make a situation seem worse than it is.
	Make waves	Create an impression.
	Nip something in the bud	Stop something quickly before it develops.
	Quids in	Make a lot of money from something.
	Sail close to the wind	Behave in a way that is on the verge of being dangerous/improper.
	Slip through the cracks	Something that isn't noticed.
	Spanner in the works	Ruin a plan.
	Stab someone in the back	Betray someone.
	Take the biscuit	The absolute limit.
	Wipe the floor with	Defeat someone easily.
	Wood for the trees	Getting caught up by small details so you don't understand the big picture.