

Spanish Idioms



Idioms are a type of figurative language that most of us use everyday. It describes a situation, feeling or experience indirectly e.g. to be under the weather = to be unwell. Idioms are used in Spanish language to describe colourfully simple feelings or experiences. They are often tied to specific Spanish cultural references or experiences.

Global Links

Idioms are used all over the world as fun and colourful sayings to describe everyday feelings, actions and events. Their descriptive language means they make describing these things interesting for both the speaker and listener. If we directly translate them, it might not be clear what the meaning is so we often have to learn the meaning behind each one. Idioms are often strongly linked to specific cultures and countries so can be an interesting way to learn more about different cultures!



Vocabulary

to say (v)



Decir

to write (v)



Escribir

to describe (v)



Describir

Upper
Primary/Secondary

Curriculum Links

English

Find out more about idioms!



[Idioms for kids: What is an idiom and what do they mean?](#)



Explore!

Idioms exist in many different cultures and we can find a lot of similarities in them.

Check out the Idioms or four character (word) idioms in Chinese culture here:

[Chinese Idioms and Chengyus Global Learning Activity Card](#)

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Method

- 1 Read the Spanish idioms below and explore how they are similar or different to English idioms.
- 2 Discuss why we might find similar idioms in different cultures and languages e.g. languages have crossed over over time with people travelling and influencing other cultures.
- 3 Discuss how idioms use descriptive language to describe basic feelings or experiences. Examples:
I'm happy = I'm over the rainbow
I'm sad = I'm feeling blue
I'm sick = I'm under the weather
- 4 Write your own idioms, with their meaning underneath on a large speech bubble shape. For example: I'm happy = I'm dancing on rainbows:
Topics:
 1. It's expensive
 2. It's cheap
 3. I'm tired
 4. I'm excited
 5. That was fun
- 5 Share your idioms with others and see if they can guess the meanings.



Spanish Idioms

<u>Spanish</u>	<u>Translation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>English version</u>
Tener vista de lince	To have the eyesight of a lynx	To have excellent vision	Have an eagle eye
Ser un gallina	To be a hen	To be a coward	To 'be chicken'
Ponerse como un tomate	To turn into a tomato	To blush	To be as red as beetroot
Dar la vuelta a la tortilla	To turn the omelette around	To turn the situation around	To turn the tables
Meter la pata	To put the leg on it	To make a mistake	To put your foot in it

