

USEFUL IDIOMS FOR ANY TOPIC IN IELTS SPEAKING

*We
develop a passion
for Teaching!*



INFINITY PODCASTS TOP

Idioms are fun. And I want to show you a bunch of idioms that you can use for any topic in IELTS Speaking. Let's do it

So idioms. I know lots of students can find idioms to be a real challenge, right? Which

do I learn? How do I use

them? Well, there are

thousands of idioms in

English, and I suggest that

you just

Learn maybe one a day, right?

As a part of your daily

English diet if you like. I also

suggest that you don't go and

look for lists of lots of idioms

and try and learn them, right?

I don't think that's effective.

Much better is that when

You're watching a film or a
video
Or listening to a podcast and
you hear an interesting
expression, make a note,
check the
Meaning and then learn it,
because then you've got the
context, and you're getting
kind of
Just one or two idioms a day,
which is easier rather
Than learning a list of
20. Now I realise it's a bit
ironic, because I'm giving you
a list today, but I am gonna
try and
Give you the context that will
help you see how
To use it better, right? Now,

idioms are very important,
because they help you to
Understand natural spoken
English. But also they're very
important

In IELTS Speaking, right?'
Cause if you want a band
seven or above, the band
descriptors tell us over
Here that you must use some
less

Common and idiomatic
vocabulary. So it is important.

I also think idioms are fun,
and I think people forget why
we use idioms, right? We use
idioms to add

Colour, metaphor or humour
to the way that we speak. This
is why you hear

Newsreaders, journalists,
politicians use them a lot,
right? To make their speech
really

Attractive and colourful. Now

I'm a big fan of food,
I'm a real foodie and cooking,
and I think you can think of
idioms as being the salt and
pepper, or (speaking foreign
language) of your speaking,
right? So they add a bit of
flavour. They are not the main
dish, but they give spice to
your speaking. So also do not
overuse

Idioms. Don't use so many,
because

Like your food, right? If
you're putting in

Lots and lots of salt, you're going to ruin your food. It's the same. If you use lots of idioms,

You will ruin your speech, ruin your English. So just use them sparingly, pepper them into your speech to give a bit of spice and flavour. Now, in

this video, i'm

Gonna show you some idioms and idiomatic expressions that you can use for any

Topic in IELTS Speaking. We will look at how to express opinions, talk about likes and dislikes,

Expressing confusion, saying that things, places

And people are very good,or

even that things, places and
people are
Not very good, right? Lots of
flexible idioms. What's more,
I'm gonna help
You with the
pronunciation. Because idioms
are not literal,
They're often metaphorical, it's
really important you
Get the pronunciation, the
stress and the intonation spot
on so people understand
you. I'm gonna help you with
that, and also show you an
awesome
Mobile app called ELSA
Speak, which can help you
when I am not here. Right
now, let's get into it. Okay,

let's have a look
First at expressing
opinions. We can take maybe
just a

Typical question about
opinions. What do you think
about something? For
example,

Right? Many governments are
Investing in space travel. What
do you think about this? You
could say, "My take on
This is it's a good idea." "My
take is my opinion,
right? What's your
take? What's your
opinion?" "My take on this
is..." Right? If you can connect
the

Take on, my take on this and

stress the my, 'cause
It's emphasising your
opinion,"My take on
this..."Try it."My take on this
is it's a good idea."Great.Or
you could say, "To my way
Of thinking, it's a good
idea.""To my way of thinking,
it's a good idea."My way of
thinking is, again,it's not
literally a path or a way,it's
just a form of thinking.And
we would say to,
To my way of thinking.Notice
the
Of thinking.Of thinking."To
my way of thinking..."Nice.Or
if you're not sure if it's a good
idea,you could say, "I'm in
Two minds about this."Two

minds, boom, two different
opinions."I'm in two minds
about this."And then you
could go on to say,"Well, on
the one hand..."On the other
hand..."A similar expression
is, "i'm

On the fence about this."So
you might say, "I'm on the
fence."The meaning here is if
you imagine a walland you're
on the wall,

You're not over hereand
you're not over here,

You're in the middle.I'm on
the fence.A fence is a kind of
wooden wall.I'm on the fence,
the

Stress I'm ON the fence,'cause
you're emphasising

ON. You're not
Off, right?" I'm on the
fence." "I'm on the fence. On
the one hand, it's a good
idea, but on the other hand,
maybe it's not." "I think I'm on
the fence." Might be more
natural to say,
"I think I'm on the
fence." Okay. Now a nice
idiomatic expression, which is
also a phrasal verb,
Is to boil down to, right? And
this means that the most
Important thing is this. Boil
down comes from when
you have a sauce or a soup and
You're boiling the liquid so
that the liquid disappears, so
you're boiling it down

To the essential thing, the most important thing. So we can say, "It boils down to money. Can we afford to invest in space?" Right? It

Boils down to plus the noun. A simple way of using it is to say, "It boils down to one thing." And then you say what the

Most important thing is. For example, "It boils down to one thing, our planet is in danger,

So we must explore space." "It boils down to one thing." Nice. So what about you? Many governments are investing in space travel. What do you think about

this? Lovely, let's move
on next up, let's look at likes
and dislikes. So very often in
IELTS

Speaking, especially part
one, you might be asked if you
like something. Do you like
your job? Do you like
football? Do you like fast
food, for example? Now, if it's
a singular

Noun, like job or fast
food, there are
Certain expressions you can
use, and one of my favourite
ones

Is, "It's the bee's
knees." Right? Bee as in
bzzzzzzzz. Knee as in this, part
of your leg. It's the bees

knees.Pronunciation,
bees.Knees.It's that long
vowel sound.It's the bees
knees.Great.So we often use
this expressionfor a very
particular thing, right?If
you're talking about,
For example, fast
food.Sometimes, if the truth
be told,we go to mcdonald's
once in a blue moon,and I
love the Big Mac, right?For
me, the Big Mac, it's the bees
knees.Or for example, I watch
Football now and again,and I
was watching
England in the Euro
2021.Well done, Italy.And
one of my favourite
Players, Harry Kane,

right? For me, he's the bees
knees. So for very specific
things,

We can use this
expression. Notice if it's a
plural noun, we wouldn't use it
in the same way. So if, for
example, do you like
picnics? Speaking
generally. You can't say it's
the bee's knees, 'cause it's
picnics, right? So often we
would make a noun phrase. So
for example, yes, "Do you like
picnics? I love going to the
countryside. It's the bees
knees." It's referring to going
to the

Countryside, the noun
phrase. "I love going to the

countryside,
It's the bees knees." All
right? So just be careful that
we
Use it with singular nouns and
usually quite specific
ones. Now, if there's
something
That you don't like a lot and
you don't dislike, we can
say, "I can take it or leave
it." Right? Do you like your
job? I can take it or leave
it. Take it or leave it. It's I'm
indifferent, I don't really
mind. I can take it or leave
it. Notice there's a nice trick
there that when you've got a
sentence with or, you can
pause there. You can go, I can

take it or leave it. I can take it
or leave it. It can help with
your fluency, right? You can
just break up
Into two little chunks. I can
take it or leave it. And then
finally, if
You dislike something, you
can say, "It's not my cup of
tea." "It's not my cup of
tea." So that's usually used in
the negative, things that you
don't like. Do you like
rugby? Nah, it's not my cup of
tea. Great. Let's move on. Now
let's look at things that
Confuse you. So sometimes in
IELTS Speaking, right, there
are some topics or
subjects that can be confusing,

right? Maybe science or artificial intelligence. What else? Maybe museums or art, architecture. And maybe you don't know much about it or you find it confusing. There are a couple of Nice idioms you can use to express that confusion. For example, right, if somebody says, "What do you think of Artificial intelligence?" "Well, to be honest, I can't Make head or tail of it. It's just totally confusing for me." "I can't make head or tail of it, right? Means I don't understand it. It's a bit like when you look at an animal and if you can't say

well,"Which is the head of
which
Is the tail?I don't know, it's
too confusing."I can't make
head or tail of it.Often we
would link head or tail of it."I
can't make head or tail of
it."Nice.And I think in the
US, the
Americans tend to use the
plural."I can't make heads or
tails of it."Either one is
absolutely fine.Another
similar expression is,"I can't
get my head around it."If you
get your head round
Something is to understand
it.So if you can't get your
head around it,you don't
understand it.It's

confusing. You know, what do
you think of modern art?" I
can't get my head around it. It
just looks like nonsense to
me." For example,
okay. Great. Right, listen, let's
kick

Back and take a break from
idioms if we can. What would
you like? A

Cappuccino? All right, well,
listen,

While we're waiting, I want to
tell you about

An awesome mobile app that I
really, really like. It's it's
second to none. It's a cut
above the rest. ELSA

Speak. It's a pronunciation
mobile

App that I really like, not only
because of the really cutting
edge technology

It has, using AI, right? For
voice recognition. But also
because of its

Approach to learning. So
you're able to repeat
Phrases that you hear, words
or phrases, and then it
pinpoints your

Mistakes and gives you
feedback. And you can carry
on

Practising at your own
pace until you improve. It's
great. I think actually, it's

Not just a great tool for
Pronunciation, but actually
building up

Your vocabulary,
right? Picking up idioms day
by day

As a part of your English
diet. Let's go inside. Let me
show you the different
things you've got in here,
right? So you've got different

Features of
pronunciation. You can pick
out anyone that you want, or
you can go and look

At different topics. There are
the common topics you get in
IELTS or everyday life. In
fact, there are specific IELTS
topics, topics for part one,
Part two, and part three. Even
like conversations like this that
you can practise. Brilliant,

right, for your IELTS
Speaking. And there are also
study sets
Where students and
teachers are
Sharing different phrases or
words that they want to
practise. I've got some study
sets here. I'm gonna show you
my study set for idioms for
IELTS Speaking. So let's have
a look at this one here. Here is
my idioms for IELTS
Speaking. I'm gonna take this
expression. - [App] It's the
bees knees. - So I hear the
model. I then try. I'm gonna do
it wrong. It's the
business. Almost correct, well,
57% is not great, but what's

the feedback? Bees, pronounce
the E with the vowel E. Yeah,
it said /ɪ/, should be /i:/ Bee's
knees. Try again. It's the bees
knees. Excellent, much
better. Brilliant. So listen, you
can go and download the
app and you can start
Practising my study
set. Brilliant. Also, ELSA, for
my

Students, that's you if you're
watching this, they have some
great discounts, right? If you
go for the one year
membership, you can get 30%
discount. If you go for the
lifetime

Membership, you get
80%, eight, zero. 80%

discount, and then you've
Got ELSA in your pocket for
the rest of your life. Day by
day, improving your
Pronunciation with
ELSA. Fantastic. And you can
check out the links below. Go
and download the app, check
them out and start practising
with ELSA
Speaking. Excellent. Now you
can have your cappuccino to
go, because we're going back
to find out more about those
idioms. Let's go now in IELTS
Speaking Part Two, sometimes
you
Have to talk about a
person, maybe a person you
know

Or a famous person,
right? And very often you may
say, "I'm going to talk
about..." Or, "The person I'm
going

To talk about is my
father." Well, there's a nice

Little idiomatic
expression you can use here,
which is, "The person I'm
going to talk about is none
other than my father." None
other than is just, it's used
usually when

The person you introduce is
gonna be a surprise

For the listener, right? "The
person I'm going to talk
about is none other than
Donald Trump." Ooh, what a

surprise. Now the thing is,
because

Whoever you talk about is
gonna be a surprise for the
examiner, because they don't
know you. So in fact, you

Can use

This for anybody, right? The
person I'm going to

Talk about is none other than
my English teacher at primary
school. Absolutely fine. Just
notice the pronunciation, none
other than. We normally link
none other than. None other
than. Try it. "The person I'm
going to talk

About is none other
than..." Brilliant. Let's move
on. Now we talked about

IELTS Speaking Part
Two, you may have to talk
about a person. But you may
also have to talk
About a thing or a place. Now,
if you want to describe a
person, a thing or a place as
being very good, there are a
number of
Different idiomatic
expressions you
Can use. Let me take an
example. I'm gonna talk about
a celebrity, a famous football
player, Harry Kane. Who
else? None other than Harry
Kane. I could say, "Harry
Kane is hands down the best
football player in the
world." "Harry Kane is second

to none.""He is a cut above
the rest.""I think the world of
Harry Kane."So all of these
Expressions mean, you
know,he's very good or he's
the best.You could also use
these

For places or for
things.Maybe your favourite
restaurant, right?What's your
favourite restaurant?"Oh,
mcdonald's is second to
none."Really?No, I'm
joking.What about
you?Which is your favourite
Restaurant in your city?Now,
if you want to talk about
things,places or
People that
Are just normal,

right? Nothing special. A really nice idiom is to say, "Run-of-the-mill." "Run-of-the-mill." "Can you say that?" "Run-of-the-mill." "Run-of-the-mill just means ordinary, nothing special, right?" "I went to a restaurant last Night in my neighbourhood. It was okay, but it's a Run-of-the-mill restaurant." "i've got this new game on my phone. Yeah, it's okay. It's a run-of-the-mill game, Like all of them, really." "Nice expression to use. So we've looked at Something that's very good, something that's

normal. What about if
something is not so
good? Again, we might want
to say, for example, "It's not a
patch

On..." "It's not a patch
on..." "It's not a patch on." "Can
you say it?" "It's not a patch
on." And here we're
comparing

Two things, right? So for
example, "I saw the latest
Marvel

Film the other day, right?" "The
Black widow." "Have you seen
it?" "Right, it's good, but it's not
as good as the previous film,
right?" "It's not a patch on the
previous film." Or, "I saw a
film and

I've also read the book. I mean, the film is okay, but It's not a patch on the book. The book is much better. "It's not a patch on, nice expression. Similarly, another expression is, "It can't hold a candle to this one." Again, meaning it's not as good as. So the latest Marvel film was okay, but it can't hold a Candle to

The very first Marvel film. Right? "I mean, Spider-Man is good, but he can't hold a candle to Batman." So you can use it with

Things, with people, with places as well. Yeah? "I mean, Manchester is a nice city, but

it can't hold a candle to
London."I shouldn't say that,
because

Manchester's my
hometown,but it's
true.London I think is a nicer
City than Manchester,but
don't tell anybody I said
that.Great.So we've talked
about

People, places and things that
are very good,
Normal and not so good.Let's
move on.So remember, just
pick out

One or two idioms from
these,start practising them and
Slowly build up your
base,maybe

One idiom a day,so that over

time, you'll
Have a larger and larger
base of idioms that you can
Use more confidently and will
help you move from being an
English student to an English
speaker.

GLOBAL ENGLISH
PODCASTS