

Economic Idioms

The definition of an idiom : a group of words in a fixed order that have a particular meaning that is different of each word on its own.

Examples:

- I feel blue. = I feel sad.
- It's Greek to me. = I don't understand.
- Hold your horses. = be patient.

Some economic idioms:

- **Cook the books** = illegally change information in accounting books in a company.
Eg: the accountant was cooking the books for over a year before he was caught.
- **In the black** = gaining profits.
Eg: Our company has been in the black since it was first started.
- **In the hole** = in debt.
Eg: I think that we are going in the hole.
- **Big wheel** = a leader and an important person.
Eg: The new director was a big wheel in his previous company.
- **Chicken feed** = a small amount of money.
Eg: His son always wants to borrow money and says that's only chicken feed.
- **Company man** = a person who always works hard and agrees with his employees.
Eg: My father was a true company man and was always putting in an extra effort for the company.
- **Back to the drawing board** = to start something again from the beginning because it's not working as planned.
Eg: This project is not going as planned, let's get back to the drawing board and see what's going wrong.

- **Up in the air** = when things are uncertain or decisions are not made yet.
Eg: we are hoping to sign the contract by the end of the month, but there are still too many things up in the air we need to deal with first.
- **By the book** = to do things strictly by the rules.
Eg: I don't want to take any risk, we have to do everything by the book.
- **From the ground up** = to built or start something from nothing (from zero).
Eg: building a company from the ground up can bring you great pride if you are successful.
- **It's not rocket science** = something not very complicated.
Eg: I don't understand why there are many mistakes in this report. It's really not rocket science.
- **Calculated risk** = an action that may fail but has a good chance to succeed.
Eg: They took a calculated risk when they introduced the new computer screen onto the market.
- **Budget squeeze/crunch** = a situation where there is not enough money in the budget.
Eg: we have been going through a severe budget squeeze at our company and must begin to stop spending money in a wasteful manner.