

# Idioms

źródło: [www.ang.pl](http://www.ang.pl)

|                                     |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>a bad patch</b>                  | zła passa  | Last season we hit a bad patch of form and suddenly we were out of the Champions League.                                   |
| <b>a blue movie/film</b>            | film pornograficzny  | Blue movies are rated X, which means that only people of 18 and over can watch them.                                       |
| <b>a bone of contention</b>         | przedmiot sporu, kość niezgody   | The choice of place for holiday turned out to be a real bone of contention in their family this year.                      |
| <b>a cold fish</b>                  | ktoś niewrażliwy   | He's such a cold fish - you can never see any emotions on his face.  |
| <b>a day off (to have/take/get)</b> | mieć wolne   | I think I am overworked - I certainly need a day off!  |
| <b>a drop in the ocean</b>          | kropla w morzu   | We're grateful for your help although it's just a a drop in the ocean of our needs.  |
| <b>a gap year</b>                   | rok przerwy pomiędzy szkołą średnią a studiami podczas którego podróżuje się i zdobywa doświadczenie | I'm considering taking a gap year, to develop myself and increase my self-confidence                                       |
| <b>a ray of hope</b>                | promyk nadziei   | 1. There is a ray of hope for humanity after all.<br>2. Thank you so much for the ray of hope that shines in your message. |
| <b>a walk of life</b>               | sfera społeczna  | He has friends from many different walks of life.  |
| <b>after your own heart</b>         | bratnia dusza  | She loves books too - she's a woman after my own heart!  |
| <b>all of a sudden</b>              | nagle  | All of a sudden the lights went out.   |
| <b>all year round</b>               | przez cały rok   | Most of the hotels are open all year round.  |
| <b>as a matter of fact</b>          | prawdę mówiąc, w rzeczywistości  | As a matter of fact, I love him very much.   |
| <b>ask for trouble</b>              | prosić się o kłopoty   | Not wearing a seat belt is just asking for trouble.  |
| <b>at all costs</b>                 | za wszelką cenę  | We must win at all costs.  |
| <b>at first sight</b>               | na pierwszy rzut oka   | At first sight he seems to be a very competent person.   |
| <b>at heart</b>                     | w głębi duszy  | She said she trusted him but at heart she knew he was lying.   |
| <b>at large</b>                     | na wolności, na swobodzie  | There are fewer and fewer exotic species living at large.  |
| <b>at random</b>                    | losowo   | The burglar didn't have any plan - he just entered the shop and grabbed things at random.                                  |
| <b>at sb's expense</b>              | 1. na czyjś rachunek; 2. czyimś kosztem  | The trip is at company's expense. We are always making jokes at Mark's expense.  |
| <b>at short notice</b>              | w ostatniej chwili, bezzwłocznie   | I'm so sorry I ask you for help at such short notice but I didn't realize this project would be so demanding.              |
| <b>at the eleventh hour</b>         | w ostatniej chwili   | We were so nervous that he would miss the train but he, as usual, arrived to the railway station at the eleventh hour.     |
| <b>at the top of your voice</b>     | na całe gardło   | They are always discussing things at the top of their voices. It's so annoying.  |
| <b>be a wet blanket</b>             | psuć nastrój   | Please somebody make Jane change the subject! With her stories from her childhood, she can be a real wet blanket.          |
| <b>be at one's best</b>             | być w najlepszej formie  | There is no doubt he is to win this race - he is at his best now!  |
| <b>be in force</b>                  | obowiązywać  | Don't worry about that - that rule is no longer in force in our office.  |
| <b>be in the air</b>                | nierealne, niepewne  | The initial plans to publish this book in May are quite in the air.  |
| <b>be in the red</b>                | mieć debet (w banku)   | It has been announced that the company will still be in the red for the rest of this year.                                 |
| <b>be in two minds about sth</b>    | być w rozterce, wahać się  | Well, I don't know. I am still in two minds about buying this car. It's second-hand you know...                            |
| <b>be left stranded</b>             | być zostawionym samemu sobie (z kłopotami), utknąć   | That party was a disaster! Everybody was having fun and I was left stranded with that boring guy who sat next to me.       |
| <b>be on the air</b>                | być na antenie   | Quiet everybody! Three, two, one ... You are on the air!   |

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Wszystkie prawa zastrzeżone

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|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>be out of order</b>               | nie działać  | I am sorry but this telephone is out of order. You have to go round the corner.   |
| <b>be quits (with somebody)</b>      | być kwita  | You give me 10 zloty and we're quits.   |
| <b>be rolling in money</b>           | mieć mnóstwo pieniędzy, spać na pieniądzech        | They dream of the day when they'll be rolling in money.   |
| <b>be under no illusions</b>         | nie mieć żadnych złudzeń                           |   |
| <b>be under the illusion</b>         | łudzić się   | I think Mark's under the illusion that he will be the new director.   |
| <b>be worlds apart</b>               | bardzo się różnić                                  | I really like this book but I guess it is worlds apart from what the real situation is.   |
| <b>beat about/around the bush</b>    | owijać w bawełnę, unikać przejścia do sedna sprawy | Stop beating about the bush and tell me what the problem is!  |
| <b>beat somebody black and blue</b>  | zbić kogoś na kwaśne jabłko                        | Tommy always threatens his little sister that he will beat her black and blue if she tells their parents about his marks at school. |
| <b>blind date</b>                    | randka w ciemno                                    | Sheila is so desperate in her search for a husband - she's decided to have a blind date!  |
| <b>burst out laughing</b>            | wybuchać śmiechem                                  | The movie was so funny that finally even Susan burst out laughing.  |
| <b>by all means</b>                  | wszelkimi sposobami, za wszelką cenę               | By all means this guy should work for us - he is the best specialist I have ever seen!  |
| <b>by all means</b>                  | oczywiście   | By all means we will try to answer any questions, so feel free to ask.  |
| <b>by courtesy of</b>                | dzięki uprzejmości, za zgodą                       | These pictures are being shown by courtesy of CNN.  |
| <b>call it a day</b>                 | zakończyć coś, przerwać, fajrant                   | Why don't we call it a day and go home?   |
| <b>catch sb red-handed</b>           | złapać kogoś na gorącym uczynku                    | The trial won't take long as the defendant was caught red-handed.   |
| <b>change a fly into an elephant</b> | robić z igły widły                                 | Gee! She doesn't have an evening dress?! It's just friends' party - why does she have to change a fly into an elephant!             |
| <b>change hands</b>                  | przechodzić z rąk do rąk                           | The heavyweight title is about to change hands once again.  |
| <b>chew something over</b>           | przemyśleć coś                                     | I can't give you the answer today. I simply need to chew it over.   |
| <b>chicken out</b>                   | stchórzyć  | I wanted to ask Mary out but I chickened out at the last moment.  |
| <b>choose a soft option</b>          | pójść na łatwiznę                                  | He gets on my nerves! Whenever there is something challenging, he always chooses a soft option.                                     |
| <b>come in handy</b>                 | przydawać się                                      | Never throw away your notes - they may come in handy one day.   |
| <b>come to terms with sth</b>        | pogodzić się z czymś                               | She can't come to terms with the fact that she was fired for being late all the time.   |
| <b>come true</b>                     | spełniać się                                       | I wish my dreams would come true one day.   |
| <b>come what may</b>                 | niech się dzieje co chce                           | I don't care that he is going to be there with his new girlfriend! I will be at the party tonight come what may.                    |
| <b>commit a blunder</b>              | strzelić gafę                                      | He committed a blunder asking Sue about her husband, while everybody knows that she is divorced.                                    |
| <b>cry for the moon</b>              | chcieć gwiazdki z nieba                            | Oh, come on! Be realistic! It's like crying for the moon! We cannot afford it.  |
| <b>dead-end relationship</b>         | beznadziejny związek                               | Mary is not happy with her marriage - actually, it is a dead-end relationship.  |
| <b>ease sb's mind</b>                | uspokajać kogoś                                    | The doctor tried to ease his mind about his daughter's illness.   |
| <b>easier said than done</b>         | łatwiej powiedzieć, niż zrobić                     | I know it's easier said than done but in my opinion you should challenge it.  |
| <b>first and foremost</b>            | nade wszystko                                      | We need peace and stability first and foremost - these are the most important things.   |

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Wszystkie prawa zastrzeżone

# Idiomy

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|  |                                       |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>for all the tea in China</b>            | za nic na świecie                     | Oh, come on! I am not going to ask him such question! Not for all the tea in China!   |
| <b>for short</b>                           | w zdrobnieniu                         | Her name's Diana or Di for short.   |
| <b>for the sake of</b>                     | dla czegoś/kogoś                      | I know that this treatment is unpleasant but you should try it for the sake of your health.                                     |
| <b>for the time being</b>                  | na razie                              | That is all what we can offer for the time being but the service is still developing.   |
| <b>get on sb's nerves</b>                  | działać (komuś) na nerwy              | Turn that music down! It's getting on my nerves.  |
| <b>get the message</b>                     | załapać, zrozumieć coś                | He finally got the message and left Mary and John alone together.   |
| <b>get up on the wrong side of the bed</b> | wstać lewą nogą                       | You'd better avoid Mark today - he got up on the wrong side of the bed this morning.  |
| <b>give somebody a ring</b>                | zadzwonić do kogoś                    | I'll give you a ring in the evening.  |
| <b>gnash your teeth</b>                    | zgrzytać zębami                       | 1. Hell is so terrible that those who go there will weep and gnash their teeth. 2. Mary gnashes her teeth in frustration.       |
| <b>go for a song</b>                       | sprzedać bardzo tanio                 | This car went for a song - the owner was leaving the country and wanted a quick sale.   |
| <b>go off the air</b>                      | zejść z anteny                        | This program was very popular so the information that it went off the air caused a wave of protest.                             |
| <b>go to somebody's head</b>               | uderzyć do głowy                      | Power and success went to his head - he no longer comes to our parties.   |
| <b>go to waste</b>                         | marnować się                          | I can't bear to see good food going to waste!   |
| <b>have a finger in every pie</b>          | wtrącać się we wszystko               | I can't stand her any longer! She has to have a finger in every pie! Can't she just mind her own business?                      |
| <b>have a narrow escape</b>                | cudem uniknąć czegoś, o mały włos     | He had a narrow escape when he slipped on the stairs.   |
| <b>have something on the brain</b>         | chodzić komuś po głowie               | Do you know this song? I've had it on my brain all day.   |
| <b>have sth at one's fingertips</b>        | mieć coś w małym palcu                | You can always go and ask Tom of anything concerned with maths, he just has it at his fingertips.                               |
| <b>heave a sigh</b>                        | wzdychać (głęboko)                    | She heaved a sigh of relief when she heard the good news.   |
| <b>high and low</b>                        | wszędzie                              | We've searched high and low for this book.  |
| <b>hit the nail on the head</b>            | trafić w sedno                        | Right! Nothing to add! You've just hit the nail on the head!  |
| <b>if you like</b>                         | jeśli masz na to ochotę               | - Shall we stop for a rest? - Yes, if you like.   |
| <b>in a month of Sundays</b>               | na "święty nigdy", nigdy w życiu      | He will never bring you these CDs, not even in a month of Sundays - just forget it.   |
| <b>in bad taste</b>                        | w złym guście                         | Their house is decorated in such bad taste - where did they get the idea of buying these mock rococo chairs to the living room? |
| <b>in black and white</b>                  | na piśmie                             | This agreement is invalid, unless you bring it in black and white.  |
| <b>in bulk</b>                             | hurtowo                               | If you buy in bulk, it's 20% cheaper.   |
| <b>in haste</b>                            | w pośpiechu                           | I'm writing in haste to let you know that I won't come on Friday.   |
| <b>in vain</b>                             | na próżno                             | 1. The doctors tried to save the dying man but in vain.<br>2. How can you say that our soldiers died in vain?!                  |
| <b>in writing</b>                          | na piśmie                             | Please confirm the offer in writing next week.  |
| <b>inside out</b>                          | 1. na lewą stronę, 2. (znać) na wylot | He's a real computer freak - he knows them inside out.  |
| <b>it goes without saying</b>              | to oczywiste, nie ma dwóch zdań       | Oh, Amy you should marry him! It goes without saying.   |
| <b>just in case</b>                        | na wszelki wypadek                    | We still have plenty of time but let's take a taxi just in case.  |
| <b>keep sth under one's hat</b>            | trzymać coś w tajemnicy               | They tried to keep it under their hat but it soon became obvious that she is pregnant.  |

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| <b>keep sth/sb at bay</b>               | trzymać na dystans, nie dopuszczać do siebie         | He always tries to keep his troubles at bay when he is on holiday.   |
| <b>learn sth by heart</b>               | nauczyć się na pamięć                                | There is no rule why these words collocate, you just need to learn them by heart.                              |
| <b>leave no stone unturned</b>          | poruszyć niebo i ziemię, zastosować wszystkie środki | I may need to leave no stone unturned but I will find this book!   |
| <b>let something slip</b>               | wygadać się  | He let slip that he had been in prison.  |
| <b>little by little</b>                 | stopniowo  | After the accident her strength returned little by little.   |
| <b>make a fool of somebody/yourself</b> | robić z kogoś/siebie głupka                          | Stop that before you make a fool of yourself!  |
| <b>make a fuss about sth</b>            | robić zamieszanie z jakiegoś powodu                  | Gosh! It is just a broken glass. Don't make a fuss about it.   |
| <b>make amends</b>                      | wynagradzać szkodę/szkody                            | He went to him and begged his forgiveness, saying he would do anything he could to make amends.                |
| <b>make up one's mind</b>               | postanowić, zdecydować się                           | He finally made up his mind!   |
| <b>nagging headache</b>                 | uporczywy ból głowy                                  | Jonathan is overworked. That's why he suffers from these nagging headaches so often.                           |
| <b>nagging husband/wife</b>             | zręczliwy mąż/zona                                   | I have no idea how she can stand living with such a nagging husband as hers.                                   |
| <b>not be sb's cup of tea</b>           | nie być w czyimś guście                              | In fact, horror films aren't my cup of tea.  |
| <b>not have a clue</b>                  | nie mieć pojęcia                                     | I haven't a clue where she left her book.  |
| <b>noughts and crosses</b>              | kółko i krzyżyk                                      | Noughts and Crosses is a very popular game among students sitting on lectures.                                 |
| <b>on cloud nine</b>                    | bardzo szczęśliwy, w siódmym niebie                  | She has been on cloud nine since she was promoted.   |
| <b>on impulse</b>                       | spontanicznie  | When the weather is nice it's fun to go away on impulse.   |
| <b>on location</b>                      | (o programie, filmie) w plenerze                     | The series was filmed on location in Sweden.   |
| <b>on one's own account</b>             | na własne ryzyko                                     | Well, you can try to run your own business, but remember that it will be on your own account.                  |
| <b>on the market</b>                    | w sprzedaży, na rynku                                | At the moment this is the best camera on the market.   |
| <b>on thin ice</b>                      | na niepewnym gruncie                                 | His rude answer put him on thin ice in the company.  |
| <b>on your own initiative</b>           | z własnej inicjatywy                                 | She realized that she had never done anything on her own initiative without the motivation of someone else.    |
| <b>once and for all</b>                 | raz na zawsze  | I tell you once and for all - I am tired of your complaining about your job! There is nothing else you can do. |
| <b>out of date</b>                      | przestarzały, staroświecki                           | I don't like this design - it is absolutely out of date to me.   |
| <b>out of print</b>                     | wyczerpany nakład książki                            | I'm sorry but the book you've ordered is out of print.   |
| <b>out of stock</b>                     | nie być dostępnym w sprzedaży                        | I'm so sorry but this camera is out of stock now. Can I propose a different model within the same price?       |
| <b>pay tribute to sb/sth</b>            | wyrażać (komuś) swoje uznanie, oddawać hołd          | In 1992, a concert was held at Wembley Stadium to pay tribute to Freddie Mercury from Queen.                   |
| <b>plead guilty</b>                     | przyznać się do winy                                 | Having seen his face on security video-tape he couldn't use his alibi any longer and finally pleaded guilty.   |
| <b>pop the question</b>                 | oświadczyć się                                       | After seven years of dating, I finally popped the question to my girlfriend.                                   |
| <b>promise wonders</b>                  | obiecywać złote góry                                 | She was very disappointed with the job. They promised wonders when they hired her but nothing came true...     |
| <b>pull somebody's leg</b>              | nabierać, drażnić się                                | Mary had me fooled for a while, but finally I realized she was just pulling my leg.                            |
| <b>put in jeopardy</b>                  | narazić na niebezpieczeństwo                         | As the Ambassador didn't want to put the staff in jeopardy, they were all dismissed and sent home.             |

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| <b>put one's foot down</b>               | sprzeciwić się                                  | My boss wanted me to work on weekends but I was brave enough to put my foot down.  |
| <b>put pressure</b>                      | wywierać presję                                 | The press are putting pressure on the minister to resign.  |
| <b>put sb/be at a disadvantage</b>       | stawiać kogoś/być w niekorzystnej sytuacji      | The fact that the company's office was moved to the different part of the town has put me at a disadvantage. Now I have to commute almost one hour to get there. |
| <b>rat race</b>                          | wyścig szczurów                                 | After years in the rat race she's finally decided to quit and spend more time with her family.   |
| <b>read sb's hand</b>                    | wróżyc z ręki                                   | She wanted the Gypsy woman to read her hand and find out about her future.   |
| <b>red tape</b>                          | biurokracja                                     | Because of all the red tape she didn't get her visa on time and had to cancel her holidays in Mexico.  |
| <b>red-letter day</b>                    | szczególny dzień                                | Tomorrow is my red-letter day - I am getting promoted.   |
| <b>ring the bell</b>                     | brzmieć znajomo, kojarzyć się z czymś           | I don't know where I might have met him, but the name rings the bell.  |
| <b>safe and sound</b>                    | cały i zdrowy                                   | To everybody's relief, he returned safe and sound from the storm.  |
| <b>see pink elephants</b>                | widzieć białe myszki                            | Tim has a drinking problem. He drinks till he sees pink elephants.   |
| <b>self-made man</b>                     | człowiek, który sam się dorobił, zrobił karierę | The idea of self-made man is one of the most important concepts in America.  |
| <b>sell like hot cakes</b>               | sprzedawac sie bardzo szybko                    | The album of this new Irish rock group sells like hot cakes - people ask for it everyday.  |
| <b>shed blood</b>                        | przelewać krew                                  | Much blood was shed during the war.  |
| <b>shoot the breeze</b>                  | paplać  | She can sit with her friend for hours doing nothing but shooting the breeze!   |
| <b>snap one's fingers</b>                | pstrykać palcami                                | Music often inspires people to clap or snap their fingers.   |
| <b>take a shortcut</b>                   | pojść na skróty                                 | I wouldn't rely on him - he always thinks how to take shortcuts in everything he does.   |
| <b>take sth for granted</b>              | przyjmować coś za rzecz oczywistą, naturalną    | Never take love for granted. It has to be cherished to last.   |
| <b>the lesser of two evils</b>           | mniejsze zło                                    | Sometimes we have to choose between the lesser of two evils.   |
| <b>the naked eye</b>                     | gołym okiem                                     | Bacteria are too small to be seen with the naked eye.  |
| <b>the other side of the coin</b>        | druga strona medalu                             | Fame has the other side of the coin as well.   |
| <b>the tip of the iceberg</b>            | wierzchołek góry lodowej                        | The problems we've already experienced are just the tip of the iceberg, I'm afraid.  |
| <b>throw somebody in at the deep end</b> | rzucić kogoś na głęboką wodę                    | You want to learn Spanish? There's no better way than to throw yourself in at the deep end - go to Spain.  |
| <b>trial and error</b>                   | metoda prób i błędów                            | I found the answer by trial and error, which obviously took little more time.  |
| <b>ups and downs</b>                     | radości i smutki, zmienne koleje losu           | Their relationship was full of ups and downs.  |
| <b>whistle in the dark</b>               | dodawać sobie odwagi                            | Totally alone in this big house we joked about nightmares, whistling in the dark perhaps.  |
| <b>with a vengeance</b>                  | z podwójną siłą                                 | After a week of good weather winter has returned with a vengeance today.   |
| <b>without fail</b>                      | niezawodnie                                     | The postman always comes at 10 o'clock without fail.   |

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