

## Academic Idioms List: Spoken

Number	Idiom	Spoken frequency per million words (BASE)	Written frequency per million words (OCAE)	Number of texts in which the idiom occurs	Number of faculties in which the idiom occurs
1	<b>on the other hand</b>	64.11	88.12	30	4
2	<b>bear in mind</b>	46.73	10.17	42	4
3	<b>on the one hand</b>	37.74	31.87	30	4
4	the balance of power	10.78	6.20	8	2
5	at the end of the day	14.98	1.36	13	4
6	on the other [hand]	10.19	20.34	12	3
7	the bottom line	8.39	2.50	8	4
8	take on board	7.79	0.00	13	4
9	<b>by and large</b>	7.19	0.04	12	4
10	a step further/back	7.19	6.21	12	4
11	<b>take for granted</b>	7.19	0.01	9	3
12	in the hands of	6.59	12.54	10	3
13	along the lines of	6.59	9.24	9	3
14	<b>in its own right</b>	5.99	9.27	10	4
15	<b>across the board</b>	5.99	1.21	7	3
16	at the back of one's mind	5.99	0.30	4	2
17	sit on the fence	5.99	0.12	2	2
18	<b>in the long run</b>	5.39	7.84	9	4
19	bad news	5.39	2.75	8	4
20	<b>driving force</b>	5.39	6.21	8	4

21	<b>on the face of it</b>	5.39	2.57	8	4
22	in (the) light of	5.39	34.99	8	3
23	come into play	5.39	4.26	8	3
24	<b>gold standard</b>	5.39	6.66	6	1
25	what on earth	4.79	0.17	7	3
26	go without saying	4.79	1.85	6	2
27	<b>trial and error</b>	4.79	1.85	5	3
28	down the line	4.19	0.08	7	3
29	over the top	4.19	0.05	6	3
30	<b>state of the art</b>	4.19	1.36	4	2
31	the man/woman in the street	4.19	0.28	3	3
32	<b>stepping stone</b>	4.19	0.66	2	1
33	<b>from scratch</b>	3.59	1.86	6	3
34	bridge the gap	3.59	1.85	6	3
35	the big picture	3.59	1.30	6	3
36	in the early days	3.59	2.33	5	4
37	get one's head (a) round	3.59	0.02	5	4
38	go hand in hand with	3.59	2.68	5	3
39	<b>keep an eye on</b>	3.59	0.78	5	3
40	hang on a minute	3.59	0.04	5	2
41	<b>on the spot</b>	3.59	0.84	4	4
42	get to grips with	3.59	1.78	4	3
43	go through the roof	3.59	0.06	4	2
44	full circle	3.00	0.54	5	3
45	that's another story	3.00	0.27	5	3
46	how on earth	3.00	0.08	5	3
47	cast one's mind back	3.00	0.04	5	3

48	<b>last resort</b>	3.00	4.05	5	2
49	the other side of the coin	3.00	0.54	5	2
50	ring a bell	3.00	0.15	5	1
51	good old days	3.00	0.27	4	3
52	<b>grey area</b>	3.00	0.60	4	2
53	<b>out of the blue</b>	3.00	0.05	3	3
54	<b>golden age</b>	3.00	2.96	3	2
55	<b>touchy-feely</b>	3.00	0.05	3	1
56	in the short run	3.00	4.19	2	2
57	<b>spring to mind</b>	2.40	0.31	4	3
58	on the right track	2.40	0.28	4	3
59	have a stab at	2.40	0.25	4	3
60	<b>get the picture</b>	2.40	0.08	4	3
61	the high point	2.40	1.52	4	2
62	it's early days	2.40	0.01	4	2
63	the whole story	2.40	1.41	3	3
64	do the job	2.40	0.63	3	3
65	move the goalposts	2.40	0.08	3	3
66	behind the scenes	2.40	1.36	3	2
67	in the pipeline	2.40	0.31	3	2
68	on the back burner	2.40	0.11	3	2
69	bog standard	2.40	0.02	3	2
70	out of one's hands	2.40	0.00	3	2
71	call the cavalry	2.40	0.00	3	2
72	beg the question	2.40	2.18	2	2
73	get something straight	2.40	0.05	2	2
74	play ball	2.40	0.05	2	1

75	boil down to	1.80	1.13	3	3
76	<b>in store</b>	1.80	0.34	3	3
77	make up one's own mind	1.80	0.20	3	3
78	have up one's sleeve	1.80	0.12	3	3
79	go down that route	1.80	0.09	3	3
80	get one's act together	1.80	0.08	3	3
81	<b>on one hand</b>	1.80	2.58	3	2
82	overall picture	1.80	1.14	3	2
83	<b>golden rule</b>	1.80	1.05	3	2
84	have a life of its own	1.80	0.89	3	2
85	turn something on its head	1.80	0.76	3	2
86	<b>fall into place</b>	1.80	0.30	3	2
87	so far so good	1.80	0.23	3	2
88	on one's hands	1.80	0.11	3	2
89	in the same boat	1.80	0.09	3	2
90	take home message	1.80	0.11	3	1
91	joe public	1.80	0.04	3	1
92	kicking and screaming	1.80	0.02	3	1
93	<b>rule of thumb</b>	1.20	2.98	2	2
94	hot spots	1.80	0.94	2	2
95	ring true	1.80	0.30	2	2
96	put your finger on	1.80	0.24	2	2
97	get a handle on	1.80	0.21	2	2
98	shut up shop	1.80	0.01	2	2
99	set something in stone	1.80	0.12	2	1
100	swings and roundabouts	1.80	0.02	2	1
101	go in one ear and out the other	1.80	0.00	2	1

102	<b>in a nutshell</b>	1.20	1.17	2	2
103	fall foul of	1.20	1.15	2	2
104	set the scene	1.20	1.15	2	2
105	have the upper hand	1.20	0.88	2	2
106	<b>on the side</b>	1.20	0.84	2	2
107	make up one's mind	1.20	0.76	2	2
108	<b>fly in the face of</b>	1.20	0.71	2	2
109	get carried away	1.20	0.65	2	2
110	moot point	1.20	0.47	2	2
111	someone's bread and butter	1.20	0.38	2	2
112	stand to reason	1.20	0.38	2	2
113	devil's advocate	1.20	0.37	2	2
114	get one's message across	1.20	0.30	2	2
115	<b>deliver the goods</b>	1.20	0.23	2	2
116	a bad press	1.20	0.19	2	2
117	the powers that be	1.20	0.18	2	2
118	set foot in	1.20	0.14	2	2
119	happily ever after	1.20	0.11	2	2
120	shift gears	1.20	0.11	2	2
121	get down to the nitty gritty	1.20	0.09	2	2
122	in one's sights	1.20	0.08	2	2
123	brain power	1.20	0.07	2	2
124	not to mince one's words	1.20	0.06	2	2
125	throw somebody in at the deep end	1.20	0.06	2	2
126	cover one's bases	1.20	0.06	2	2
127	weird and wonderful	1.20	0.06	2	2
128	cast an eye over	1.20	0.06	2	2

129	above one's station	1.20	0.05	2	2
130	<b>have a go</b>	1.20	0.02	2	2
131	in the same ballpark	1.20	0.02	2	2
132	pat on the back	1.20	0.02	2	2
133	sit on one's hands	1.20	0.02	2	2
134	throw up one's hands	1.20	0.02	2	2
135	watch this space	1.20	0.02	2	2
136	go down the road of	1.20	0.01	2	2
137	this that and the other	1.20	0.01	2	2
138	<b>get cracking</b>	1.20	0.01	2	2
139	give someone a shout	1.20	0.01	2	2
140	have a crack at	1.20	0.01	2	2
141	not to put too fine a point on it	1.20	0.01	2	2
142	give the game away	1.20	0.01	2	2
143	beat/get the hell out of something	1.20	0.00	2	2
144	get a move on	1.20	0.00	2	2
145	get one's thoughts together	1.20	0.00	2	2
146	hand on heart	1.20	0.00	2	2
147	quote somebody on something	1.20	0.00	2	2
148	put one's head above the parapet	1.20	0.00	2	2
149	a fair share	1.20	1.55	2	1
150	to say the least	1.20	1.10	2	1
151	grass roots movement	1.20	0.65	2	1
152	pick and choose	1.20	0.47	2	1
153	sow seeds of thought	1.20	0.37	2	1
154	<b>at loggerheads</b>	1.20	0.24	2	1
155	drag one's feet	1.20	0.21	2	1

156	in the driving seat	1.20	0.17	2	1
157	go back to square one	1.20	0.08	2	1
158	set in tablets of stone	1.20	0.07	2	1
159	dear to one's heart	1.20	0.06	2	1
160	off the top of one's head	1.20	0.05	2	1
161	end of story	1.20	0.05	2	1
162	in a rut	1.20	0.04	2	1
163	tick the boxes	1.20	0.04	2	1
164	<b>round robin</b>	1.20	0.02	2	1
165	dig one's heels in	1.20	0.02	2	1
166	stretch one's legs	1.20	0.02	2	1
167	get someone on board	1.20	0.00	2	1
168	on that note	1.20	0.00	2	1
169	tail end Charlie	1.20	0.00	2	1
170	jump up and down	1.20	0.00	2	1

## Academic Idioms List: Written

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