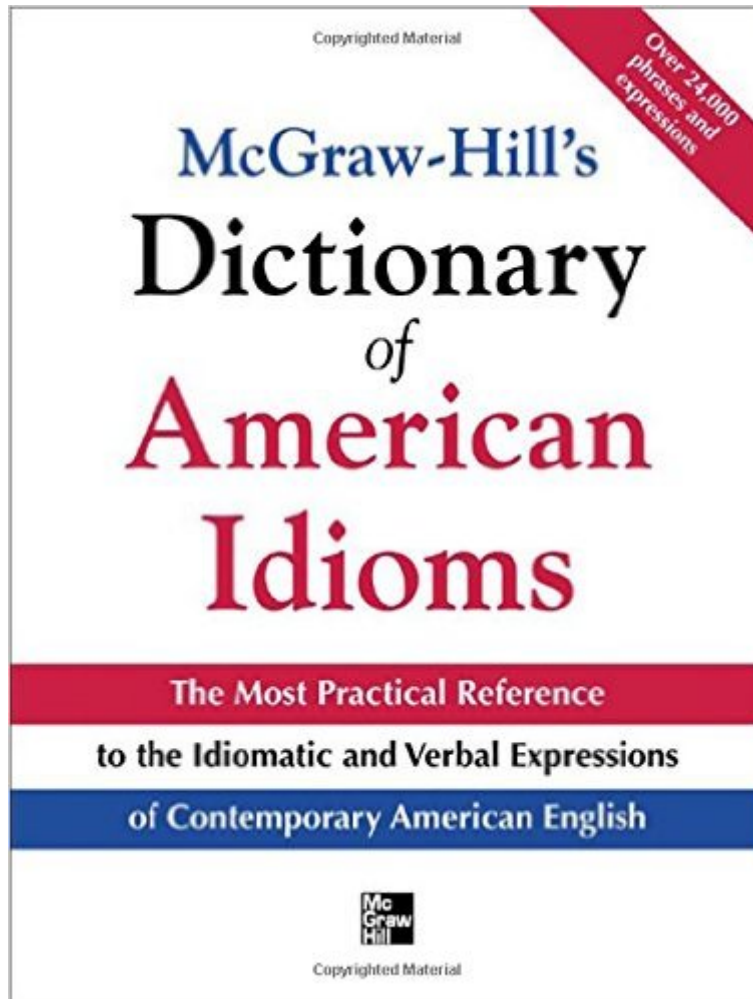


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# McGraw-Hill's Dictionary Of American Idioms And Phrasal Verbs



## Synopsis

The most in-depth, comprehensive book of common idioms and phraseology available From proverbial expressions ("the best things in life are free") to idiomatic expressions ("the best of both worlds") to the all-too-familiar clichés ("the best-case scenario"), idioms are not only embedded in our language, but they are also a colorful reflection of our American culture. McGraw-Hill's Dictionary of American Idioms embraces the fullest breadth of these idioms in one comprehensive reference that is a must-have for both ESL learners and native speakers. Providing the most comprehensive treatment of American phraseology available, particularly in the area of verbal expressions, McGraw-Hill's Dictionary of American Idioms features: More than 24,000 entries Concise definitions of each entry and sense, followed by one or two example sentences Idiomatic phrases, proverbial expressions, and clichés Guidance on the tone appropriate for a select phrase as well as its origin Thorough treatment of variation, of particular help to ESL learners A comprehensive Phrase-Finder Index

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Standard dictionaries are great for understanding words, but not for comprehending the perplexing kind of phrase known as the idiom. This specialized dictionary provides a generous list of American idioms in an accessible format, but sacrifices phrase origins and portability in the process. The dictionary's comprehensive nature suits students of English as a second language, as well as communications professionals. With over 24,000 entries, it offers over twice the number of listings in the popular "American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms" and four times the number of listings in the

"Cambridge Dictionary of American Idioms" and the "Oxford Dictionary of Idioms." ESL students can understand the language better and communicate more effectively. Writers and editors are more likely to be able to track down needed phrases. It's easy to use, too. Phrases are listed alphabetically by the first keyword, allowing the reader to look up the phrase by its familiar form. An explanation follows, and usage examples are provided for each entry to enhance understanding. If the exact phrase is not known, the handy index provides phrases grouped by an alphabetical listing of keywords. Unfortunately, phrase origins are mostly lacking, apparently by design. The editor's explanation for this is that reliable linguistic evidence for the origin of idioms is rare. The few origins that are offered are thoughtfully placed and seem to be well-researched, however. This hefty, textbook-size dictionary may be a drawback for those looking for a handy reference. Shorter idiom dictionaries have the advantage here.

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