



Cat Idioms



(Like) Herding Cats	Curiosity Killed The Cat
(There's) More Than One Way To Skin A Cat	Fat Cat
(To Put The) Cat Among(St) The Pigeons	Fight Like Cats And Dogs
A Cat Has Nine Lives	Grinning Like A Cheshire Cat
A Cat In Gloves Catches No Mice	Let The Cat Out Of The Bag
A Cat Nap	Like A Cat On A Hot Tin Roof
A Cat's Paw	Look What The Cat Dragged In
A Copycat	Not Enough Room To Swing A Cat
A Scaredy-Cat/Fraidy-Cat	Play Cat And Mouse With
Bell The Cat	Rain Cats And Dogs
Can't Swing A Dead Cat	The Cat's Meow/The Cat's Pajamas
Cat Fight	The Cat's Out Of The Bag
Cat Got Your Tongue?	When The Cat's Away, The Mice Will Play

Whether you're a cat lover or just interested in the quirks of language, this PDF is sure to have you purring with delight.

Common Cat Idioms

(Like) Herding Cats - Trying to control or organize a group of people or things that are very difficult to manage or unify.

- Managing this project is **like herding cats**, everyone has their own ideas and they don't seem interested in anyone else's ideas. It's giving me a lot of stress.

(There's) More Than One Way to Skin A Cat - There are multiple methods or approaches to achieving a goal or solving a problem.

- I was too worried about how to control the project team, but my colleague suggested that I have them work in small pairs where they must work together. He reminded me that **there's more than one way to skin a cat**.

- I need a few groceries but I don't have time to stop at the store today because I have to work late. I can always order them online and have them delivered, **there's more than one way to skin a cat**.

(To Put the) Cat Among(st) the Pigeons - To create a disturbance or stir things up, often by revealing previously unknown information.

- The CEO's unexpected announcement **put the cat among the pigeons** in the boardroom meeting.

A Cat Has Nine Lives - The idea that cats are resilient and can survive dangerous situations. It is also used to describe a person who seems to be able to survive difficult situations.

• After surviving a serious car accident, he's beginning to believe that he has **a cat's nine lives**. Now he has eight left.

A Cat In Gloves Catches No Mice - Being too cautious or overly prepared can prevent one from achieving their goals.

• If you keep overthinking it, you'll never get started. Remember, **a cat in gloves catches no mice**.

A Cat Nap - A short sleep, typically during the day.

• After working hard from the early morning, I like to take **a cat nap** after lunch.

• After a long day at work, Scott took a quick **cat nap** on the couch before starting dinner.

A Cat's Paw - someone who is used by others to achieve their own goals

• Jack felt like **a cat's paw** when his boss asked him to do something unethical to close a business deal.

A Copycat - Someone who copies or imitates another person or thing.

• My sister's always checking to see what I'm wearing to school in the morning. Then she puts together the same outfit. She's such **a copycat**.

A Scaredy-cat/Fraidy-cat - A person who is easily frightened or timid.

• Don't be a **fraidy-cat**! It's just a little spider.

• No one has lived in this old house for years. Let's go inside and have a look around unless you're a **scaredy-cat**.

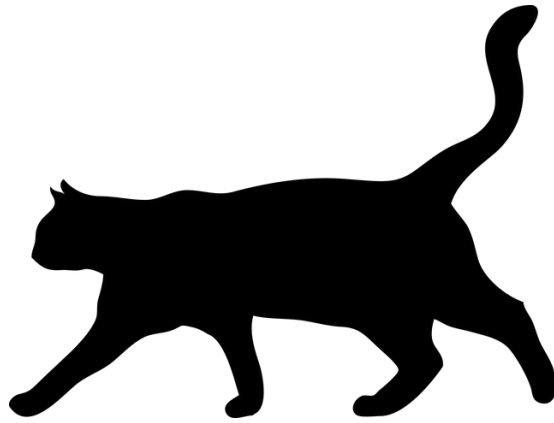
• Don't be such a **scaredy-cat**! It's just a little thunderstorm,

Bell the Cat - To undertake a dangerous or difficult task.

* In this idiom the word **bell** is being used as a verb meaning: to provide with a bell.

If mice can put a bell on a cat they can easily hear the cat's movements and stay safe in the future. Actually putting a bell on a cat without the cat knowing is quite dangerous, that's where the meaning of this idiom comes from.

• Everyone was talking about the problem, but no one wanted to **bell the cat** and confront the boss.



Did you know?

Black cats are often a symbol of Halloween or witchcraft. In most Western cultures, black cats have typically been looked upon as a symbol of evil omens, specifically being suspected of being the familiars of witches, or actually shape-shifting witches themselves.

Can't Swing A Dead Cat In (Place) Without Hitting A (Thing)/Not enough room to swing a cat - a very small or cramped space

- The apartment was so small that there **wasn't enough room to swing a cat**.
- The apartment is so small that you **can't swing a dead cat in there without hitting a piece of furniture**.

Cat Fight - A physical or verbal altercation between two or more women.

- The argument between the two actresses turned into **a cat fight** on the set.

Cat Got Your Tongue? - A question asked when someone is unusually quiet or not speaking.

- When the teacher called on him unexpectedly, John froze and couldn't answer, prompting her to ask "**Cat got your tongue?**"

Curiosity Killed The Cat - being too curious can be dangerous

- "I'm not sure if we should go inside that old, abandoned house," said Tom. "Remember, **curiosity killed the cat**."
- There are many rooms in this building that are off-limits. Don't enter any rooms you're not supposed to, **curiosity killed the cat**.

Fat Cat - a wealthy and powerful person or organization

- We can thank the **fat cats** on Wall Street for the economic crisis.
- The CEO was seen as a **fat cat** who made millions while the company was struggling to make a profit.

Fight Like Cats And Dogs - To fight or argue fiercely.

- Every time I see Glenn and Samantha, they're **fighting like cats and dogs**. I worry about that relationship.

Grinning like a Cheshire cat - to be smiling in a way that seems mysterious or suspicious

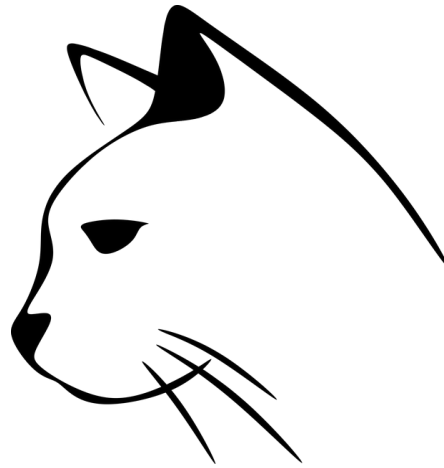
- "Why are you **grinning like a Cheshire cat?**" asked Kyle suspiciously.

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Like A Cat On A Hot Tin Roof - to be restless or anxious

•When the politician was asked by the reporters about the Scandal he started getting very nervous **like a cat on a hot tin roof**.

•As soon as the thunderstorm started, the dog was **like a cat on a hot tin roof**, jumping and whining with anxiety.



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Look What The Cat Dragged In - used to express disdain or disgust at someone who has arrived (Sometimes playful)

•"Oh, **look what the cat dragged in**." said Sarah as her ex-boyfriend walked into the party.

Play cat and mouse (with) - This idiom is used when someone, (the cat), is using his or her position, power, or influence to control another person, (the mouse), in a way that is unfair or abusive.

•I have liked Jennifer for months. She knows this but she keeps her feelings to herself. I'm getting tired of [playing cat and mouse](#). I'll ask her out one last time before I move on.

Rain Cats And Dogs - to rain very heavily

•When I woke up this morning it was **raining cats and dogs**. I'm glad I have the day off.

You can find more Weather idioms at my blog post: [Common Weather Idioms \(29 Real examples + Video\)](#)

The Cat's Meow/The Cat's Pajamas - something that is excellent or impressive

• Your new car is **the cat's meow!** I love the color, was it expensive?

•Our new accounting software is **the cat's pajamas**. It's so easy to use and it will save me lots of time.

The Cat's Out Of The Bag - the secret has been revealed/**Let The Cat Out Of The Bag** - to reveal a secret

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- **The cat's out of the bag** now that the company's financial reports have been leaked to the press.
- I accidentally **let the cat out of the bag** when I told my sister about the surprise party.
- Wendy **let the cat out of the bag**, again!

When The Cat's Away, The Mice Will Play - people will misbehave when they think they won't be caught

- "Let's have a party while our parents are out of town!" said Sarah. **"When the cat's away, the mice will play!"**
 - Chris: It's 8:30! You're going to be late for work!
- Derrick: My boss is on vacation this week so I can go into work late.
Chris: I get it, **when the cat's away the mice will play**.

You can find more idioms with Rats and Mice at my blog post: [10 Common Idioms with Rats and Mice \(Real example sentences\)](#)



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