


## Vorwort

Das Lernen einer fremden Sprache wird mit dem Öffnen eines Fensters zur Welt verglichen. Denn man entdeckt beim Lernen auch vieles über die dieser Sprache eigene Kultur und Denkweise, die insbesondere in Redensarten zum Ausdruck kommt.

Idiomatische Redewendungen machen eine Sprache lebendig, aber sie können uns auch leicht in die Irre führen. Ähnlich lautende Idiome und Redensarten können in der Fremdsprache einen anderen Sinn haben. So ist beispielsweise „auf den Busch klopfen“ im Englischen keineswegs *to beat about the bush*, was „um den heißen Brei herumreden“ bedeutet. Meist kann man eine deutsche Wendung also nicht wörtlich ins Englische übersetzen, da sie im Englischen durch ein anderes Bild veranschaulicht wird oder dort keine idiomatische Entsprechung hat. Denn während die Deutschen „Eulen nach Athen tragen“, trägt man im Englischen Kohlen nach Newcastle (*to carry coals to Newcastle*).

**Let sleeping dogs lie** hilft Ihnen dabei, Missverständnisse im Sprachgebrauch zu vermeiden und sich treffend auszudrücken, damit Sie beim Englischsprechen keine „schlafenden Hunde wecken“. Beispielsätze zeigen, wie die Redewendungen angewendet werden. Sämtliche Redewendungen, Übersetzungen und Beispielsätze in diesem Buch sind als MP3-Dateien, die Sie kostenlos downloaden können, vertont. Das Symbol  zeigt an, wo ein neuer MP3-Track beginnt.

Im Anschluss an die Wendungen können Sie mithilfe der Übungen überprüfen, wie viel Sie beim Lesen und Hören behalten haben.

Die Redewendungen sind alphabetisch nach dem ersten Substantiv der deutschen Wendung bzw. einem Hauptstichwort geordnet. Während Sprichwörter (prov) auch im Deutschen gekennzeichnet sind, werden stilistische Einschränkungen nur für das Englische angegeben. Die Übersetzungen folgen dabei dem britischen Englisch.

### Folgende Abkürzungen werden verwendet:

(A. E.)	amerikanisches Englisch	(franz)	französisch
(coll)	umgangssprachlich	MIND FF	Vorsicht, falscher Freund!
(vulg)	vulgär	jmd	jemand
(dated)	veraltet	sb	<i>somebody</i>
(bibl)	biblischen Ursprungs	sth	<i>something</i>

Margret Beran

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VORSCHAU

# A

## A



1

### A • von A bis Z

from A to Z, from start to finish

- ▶ He will have no difficulty explaining what has happened because he knows the whole story from A to Z.

### A • das A und O

the be-all and end-all, the essence

- ▶ Flexibility and politeness are the be-all and end-all of my present job.

### aalglatt • aalglatt sein

to be as slippery as an eel (coll)

- ▶ He can't be pinned down on any of these crimes. He is as slippery as an eel.

### abgebrannt • abgebrannt sein

to be (flat) broke (coll), to be skint (coll), to be stony broke (dated) (coll), not to have a bean (dated) (coll)

- ▶ I can't lend you anything – I'm flat broke.

### abgebrüht • abgebrüht sein

to be a tough cookie (coll), to be thick-skinned (coll)

- ▶ He is a very tough cookie. When I told him about his sister's death, he didn't react at all.

### abnehmen • Das nehme ich dir nicht ab!

You're (You've got to be) kidding! (coll) / Pull the other one! (coll) / You're having me on! (coll)

### Abreibung • eine Abreibung bekommen

to get a good hiding (coll), to get a good thrashing (coll)

- ▶ The boy got a good hiding from his angry father.

**auswendig • Das kenne ich in- und auswendig.**

I know it backwards (and forwards), with one hand tied behind my back

- Bake a cherry pie? I can do that with one hand tied behind my back. I know pies backwards and forwards.

**Axt • sich wie die Axt im Walde benehmen**

to be a bull in a china shop

- It was a delicate job, and he went at it like a bull in a china shop. The results were catastrophic.



**Hühnchen • mit jmd noch ein Hühnchen zu rupfen haben**

to have a bone to pick with sb (coll)

► Hey, I've got a bone to pick with you! Why didn't you turn up last week? I waited for an hour and a half.

**Hund • ein krummer Hund sein**

to be a crook (coll), to be bent (coll)

► Don't trust him, he's a crook!

**Hungertuch • am Hungertuch nagen**

to be unable to keep the wolf from the door (coll)

► I have my income from my American investments and I earn a bit with my articles for the newspapers, and that is enough to keep the wolf from the door.

**Hut • den Hut vor jmd ziehen**

to take one's hat off to sb (coll)

► I take my hat off to those who died in the fight for freedom.



► **Karte • alles auf eine Karte setzen**

to put all one's eggs in one basket (coll), to stake everything on one card (coll)

- We have to succeed today because we have put all our eggs in one basket.
- Diversify, diversify ... don't put all your eggs in one basket!

**Käseblatt**

rag (coll), scandal sheet (coll)

- That newspaper once had pretensions to being a serious journal, but it's nothing but a scandal sheet now – sport and sex.

**Kasse • getrennte Kasse machen**

to go Dutch

- I can't afford to take you all out to dinner – we shall have to go Dutch.

**Katze • die Katze aus dem Sack lassen**

to let the cat out of the bag, to spill the beans (coll), to give the game away (coll)

- He gave the game away about our Christmas surprise for the children.



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**Katze • die Katze im Sack kaufen**

to buy a pig in a poke (coll)

- ▶ We have to show the people what we're offering because nobody is buying a pig in a poke nowadays.

**Katze • wie die Katze um den heißen Brei herumschleichen**

to pussyfoot, to beat about the bush

- ▶ Stop pussyfooting around and say what you want.
- ▶ Stop beating about the bush and tell me if I've won the prize.

**Katzensprung • Das ist ein Katzensprung von hier.**

That is a stone's throw from here.

- ▶ We'll get there in no time, it's just a stone's throw away.

**Kieker • jmd auf dem Kieker haben**

to be in sb's bad books (coll), to have got one's eye on sb

- ▶ He's got his eye on me. I daren't go near him.
- ▶ I am really in his bad books and I have to watch my step.

**Kind • das Kind beim Namen nennen**

to call a spade a spade, to be perfectly frank

- ▶ To call a spade a spade, what you are doing is dishonest.

**Kind • mit Kind und Kegel**

everything but the kitchen sink (coll), me and mine / you and yours / he and his / she and hers / they and theirs

- ▶ We set off on holiday with everything but the kitchen sink.
- ▶ I am giving you notice to quit: you and yours must be out of this flat by the end of next month.





### Weg • jmd nicht über den Weg trauen

not to trust sb an inch (coll), not to trust sb as far as one can throw them (coll), not to trust sb across the street (coll), not to trust sb out of one's sight (coll)

- ▶ The head of my school seems pleasant enough, but I don't trust her an inch. She has tricked me too often.

### Weihnachtsgans • jmd ausnehmen wie eine Weihnachtsgans

to fleece sb (coll), to take sb to the cleaners (coll)

- ▶ The greedy young girl fleeced her wealthy boyfriend for as much as she could get and then left him.

### Wein • jmd reinen Wein einschenken

to tell sb the truth, to come clean with sb (coll), to talk turkey (A. E.)

- ▶ After prevaricating for a few minutes, he told the boss the truth – that he had lost the vital papers.
- ▶ Let's talk turkey. Have you lost those important papers? Yes or no?

### Wein • heimlich Wein trinken und öffentlich Wasser predigen

not to practise what one preaches

- ▶ He liked his subordinates to have tidy desks, but he did not practise what he preached and never bothered to tidy his own.
- ▶ Practise what you preach and tidy your desk!



### 49 Wellen • hohe Wellen schlagen

to create a stir (coll)

- ▶ He created quite a stir among the political journalists with his announcement that he intended to challenge the Prime Minister for the party leadership.





# Übungen

## 1 Verbinden Sie die Redewendungen mit den Erklärungen.

- |                              |                                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. to have a sweet tooth     | a. to help sb                       |
| 2. to earn a bit on the side | b. to be very tired                 |
| 3. to be worn out            | c. to like sugary things            |
| 4. to give sb a hand         | d. to get sth for very little money |
| 5. to buy sth for a song     | e. to have a second job             |

## 2 Übersetzen Sie die Redewendungen.

- not for all the tea in China \_\_\_\_\_
- every Tom, Dick and Harry \_\_\_\_\_
- I'm fed up with it. \_\_\_\_\_
- to call a spade a spade \_\_\_\_\_
- It's not my cup of tea. \_\_\_\_\_

## 3 Food idioms. Wählen Sie das richtige Essenswort.

- €25 for a bicycle is really not much money –  
it's  walnuts /  peanuts.
- The sisters are as alike as two  beans /  peas in a pod.
- There are no mountains in Holland – it's as flat  
as a  pancake /  crêpe.
- Look! Everyone's buying our jam! It's selling like hot  
 bread /  cakes!
- Don't put all your  eggs /  buns in one basket – find more  
clients!



## Übungen

### 19 Übersetzen Sie die Redewendungen.

1. He's always on the move. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Beggars can't be choosers. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The coast is clear! \_\_\_\_\_
4. We had to learn the hard way. \_\_\_\_\_
5. My knees turned to jelly. \_\_\_\_\_

### 20 Clothes. Ergänzen Sie die Wendungen mit den angegebenen Kleidungsstücken.

gloves sleeve hat glove knickers

1. Don't get your \_\_\_\_\_ in a twist! There's no need to panic!
2. My new jacket is perfect! It fits like a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. He's planning something. I'm sure he's got something up his \_\_\_\_\_.
4. She's very sensitive – you need to handle her with kid \_\_\_\_\_.
5. I highly respect what she's done here – I take my \_\_\_\_\_ off to her!

### 21 Wählen Sie die richtige Alternative.

1. You've got it wrong – you're  barking /  shouting up the wrong tree.
2. I'm afraid I don't understand a thing – it's all  Greek /  Dutch to me.
3. I caught him  red-fingered /  red-handed – holding the money.
4. I have a  branch /  bone to pick with you – your bill's much too high.
5. I've settled all my debts, so now I have a clean  slate. /  plate.



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