

7 Hollywood Idioms | The Ultimate Compilation

Vocabulary Breakdown

Hollywood English Club

1) "How do you like them apples?" — Good Will Hunting

■ An expression used to show off or gloat after winning or proving someone wrong. Triumphant and a little cheeky.

✓ Use it when you have just done something impressive and want to rub it in slightly.

▶ *"I told you I could fix it, and I did. How do you like them apples?"*

▶ *"She passed every exam first time. How do you like them apples?"*

2) "Throw caution to the wind" — Groundhog Day

■ To stop worrying about risks and do something bold or reckless anyway.

✓ Phil Connors in Groundhog Day has nothing to lose, which makes this idiom both funny and liberating.

▶ *"She threw caution to the wind and quit her job to travel the world."*

▶ *"We threw caution to the wind and ordered every dessert on the menu."*

3) "The world is your oyster" — Dead Poets Society

■ You have every opportunity available to you. Everything is possible.

✓ Originally from Shakespeare. Used to inspire at a moment of new beginning. Captures the spirit of Carpe Diem perfectly.

▶ *"You are young, talented, and free. The world is your oyster."*

▶ *"After finishing university, she felt like the world was her oyster."*

4) "Fall off the wagon" — Seinfeld

■ To go back to a bad habit after you had stopped. Most commonly used about drinking, but works for any temptation.

✓ The wagon in the original expression referred to a water cart. Staying "on the wagon" meant choosing water over alcohol.

▶ *"He had given up sugar for a month, then fell off the wagon at the birthday party."*

▶ *"She fell off the wagon after three weeks and bought another pair of shoes."*

5) "Play hardball" — Pretty Woman

■ To be tough, aggressive, and uncompromising in a negotiation or dispute.

✓ Comes from baseball, where hardball is the serious adult game. The opposite of playing nice.

▶ *"The union decided to play hardball and refused any compromise."*

▶ *"If they won't lower the price, we play hardball and walk away."*

6) "Let the cat out of the bag" — Sherlock

■ To accidentally reveal a secret that was supposed to stay hidden.

✓ Comes from market traders who would try to pass off a cat as a piglet. If the cat escaped, the trick was revealed.

▶ *"She let the cat out of the bag about the surprise party."*

▶ *"He did not mean to say it, but he let the cat out of the bag completely."*

7) "Curry favour" — The Shawshank Redemption

■ To try to gain someone's approval or goodwill through flattery or helpful behaviour.

✓ "Curry" here comes from an Old French word meaning to groom. Nothing to do with food.

- ▶ *"He brought the manager coffee every morning, clearly trying to curry favour."*
 - ▶ *"Currying favour with the right people got her the promotion."*
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Student Worksheet

Hollywood English Club

Part 1: Match the Idiom

Draw a line to match each idiom on the left with its meaning on the right.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. How do you like them apples? | A. To accidentally reveal a secret |
| 2. Throw caution to the wind | B. To gloat or show off after a win |
| 3. The world is your oyster | C. To be tough and uncompromising |
| 4. Let the cat out of the bag | D. To ignore risks and act boldly |
| 5. Play hardball | E. Every opportunity is open to you |

Part 2: Fill in the Blanks

Choose the correct idiom to complete each sentence.

Word bank: curry favour | fall off the wagon | throw caution to the wind | play hardball | the world is your oyster

1. She had stopped eating chocolate for a month, but _____ at the wedding.
2. You just graduated with top marks. _____ — go make the most of it.
3. He decided to _____ and booked a last-minute flight to Tokyo.
4. "We are not accepting their first offer. We are going to _____."
5. She brought the boss homemade cake every Friday — everyone knew she was trying to _____.

Part 3: True or False

Read each sentence and write TRUE or FALSE on the line.

1. "Curry favour" has something to do with food. _____
2. "Let the cat out of the bag" usually refers to an accidental reveal. _____
3. "Play hardball" comes from tennis. _____
4. "The world is your oyster" was originally a phrase from Shakespeare. _____
5. "Fall off the wagon" can only be used about drinking alcohol. _____

Part 4: Which Film?

Match each idiom to the film or show it comes from in this lesson.

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|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. "How do you like them apples?" | A. The Shawshank Redemption |
| 2. "Curry favour" | B. Sherlock |
| 3. "Let the cat out of the bag" | C. Seinfeld |
| 4. "Fall off the wagon" | D. Good Will Hunting |
| 5. "The world is your oyster" | E. Dead Poets Society |

Part 5: Your Turn

Answer in your own words. Use the idioms from this lesson where you can.

1. Have you ever thrown caution to the wind? What happened?

2. Have you ever accidentally let the cat out of the bag? What was the secret?

3. Write your own sentence using "the world is your oyster."