Success Idioms:



1. Ace a test

- Meaning: Obtain a high score
- Example: "If you ace your English test you can go to the party," said her parents.

2. Be in the bag

- Meaning: Success is evident
- Example: Victory seems to be in the bag for the Conservatives.

3. Be on the up and up

- Meaning: Increasingly successful
- Example: The architect has been on the up and up since he designed a building in Dubai.

4. Have the world at your feet

- Meaning: Extremely successful and greatly admired
- Example: The talented young actress has the world at her feet.

5. With flying colours

- Meaning: Do something successful
- Example: My daughter passed the entrance exam with flying colours. I'm so proud of her.

6. Got it made

- Meaning: Be happy and successful
- Example: With happy family life, a new house and a super job, Sam's got it made.

7. Hit pay dirt

- Meaning: Be lucky and make money
- Example: Charlie finally hit pay dirt with his latest invention.

8. Make a killing

- Meaning: Have a great financial success
- Example: Jack made a killing on the stock market.

9. Alive and kicking

- Meaning: Continue to be well, healthy or successful
- Example: Classical music is still alive and kicking among youngsters.

10. Be dead in the water

- Meaning: Something is unsuccessful and it seems impossible that it will be successful in the future
- Example: The whole economy is dead in the water.

11. Bear fruit

- Meaning: Yield successful results
- Example: He thinks his new plan will undoubtedly bear fruit.

12. Count one's chickens before they hatch

- Meaning: Assume success too early, before it is certain
- Example: It's too soon to cry victory. Don't count your chicken before they hatch!

13. Make the cut

- Meaning: Succeed at something
- Example: She worked hard to make the cut in the competition.

14. Make headway

- Meaning: Achieve progress
- Example: Scientists made very little headway against cancer.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. Describe a time you aced a test.
- 2. When was the last time you thought you had something in the bag but failed?
- 3. Who is on the up and up in the entertainment industry in your country?
- 4. What would you do if you had the world at your feet?
- 5. What is something you could do with flying colours these days?
- 6. Describe someone you know who has got it made?
- 7. Describe a time you hit pay dirt or made a killing?
- 8. Why should you never count your chickens before they hatch?