

IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS

In the dictionary, there is a special section reserved for **idiomatic expressions**. This section is introduced by the symbol **◆**. An idiomatic expression is a phrase or a sentence that is generally fixed and semantically opaque or metaphorical, as its meaning is different from the usual meaning of the individual words in it. For this reason, it must be learnt as a whole unit. Idiomatic expressions are not a *separate* part of the language which one can choose either to use or omit; rather, they form an *essential* part of the vocabulary, and the general tendencies of present-day English are towards more and more idiomatic usage. Idiomatic expressions are especially used in informal situations, and they have a stronger meaning than ordinary words. For example, *to kick the bucket* has the same meaning of *to die*, but it is more emphatic and commonly used in a very informal, colloquial situation. Idiomatic expressions include collocations that break the conventional grammatical rules of English (*by and large*), sayings (*an eye for an eye*), similes (*as good as gold, like a lamb to the slaughter*) and proverbs (*there's no place like home*). Proverbs are preceded by the label PROV. If the proverb has an exact equivalent in the target language, the translation is given even though it might be very different in form (*when in Rome do as the Romans do paese che vai usanza che trovi*). In all other cases, a literal translation or an explanation preceded by the symbol = follows the proverb (*chi va con lo zoppo impara a zoppicare = bad company brings bad habit*).

Idiomatic expressions are usually listed under the first main word(s) in a phrase (that is, not under articles, prepositions, auxiliaries, etc.). In the dictionary, idiomatic expressions usually appear under more than one of the main components in order to help users find and identify them more easily. For example, the idiomatic expression *alzare il gomito* appears both at *alzare* and at *gomito*, and *spill the beans* is both under *2.spill* and *1.bean*.

▷ **sheep** /ʃi:p/ n. (pl. ~) ovino m.; (*ewe*) pecora f.; **black** ~ FIG. pecora nera; **lost** ~ FIG. pecorella smarrita ◆ **to count** ~ FIG. contare le pecore; **to follow sb., sth. like** ~ seguire qcn., qcs. come una pecora; **to make ~'s eyes at sb.** fare gli occhi dolci a qcn.; **may as well be hung for a ~ as for a lamb** = se le conseguenze sono ugualmente negative, tanto vale commettere la mancanza più grave; **to separate the ~ from the goats** = separare il grano dal loglio.

▷ **crudo** /'krudo/ agg. **1** (*non cotto*) [*carne, verdure, pesce*] raw, uncooked; (*poco cotto*) [*carne*] medium-rare, underdone, undercooked; (*non lavorato*) [*seta*] raw; [*metallo*] crude, raw; **mattoni** ~ unbaked brick, cob BE **2** (*diretto*) [*descrizione, realismo, rappresentazione*] raw **3** (*violento*) [*luce*] violent, stark ◆ **averne passate di cotte e di -e** to have been through a lot; **ne ha passate di cotte e di -e a causa sua** he went through fire and water for her; **la verità nuda e -a** the naked o plain truth; **la realtà nuda e -a** the hard facts, the bald o stark reality.

In the Italian-English section of the dictionary the symbol **◆◆** indicates Italian fixed expressions or **set noun phrases** that contain the headword. They are listed at the bottom of the entry in alphabetical order based on the second full component (adjective or noun, without considering the prepositions between them).

▶ **1.messa** /'messa/ f. **1** RELIG. mass, Mass; **andare a** ~ to attend mass, to go to mass; **ascoltare la** ~ to hear Mass FORM.; **celebrare, dire la** ~ to celebrate, say mass; **servire (la)** ~ to serve at mass **2** MUS. mass ◆◆ ~ **bassa** → ~ **piana**; ~ **cantata** sung Mass; ~ **di mezzanotte** midnight mass; ~ **nera** black mass; ~ **piana** Low Mass; ~ **da requiem** requiem mass; ~ **serale** → ~ **vespertina**; ~ **solenne** High Mass; ~ **di trigesima** trental; ~ **vespertina** evening service.

▷ **missile** /'missile/ m. missile; **lanciare un** ~ to launch o release o shoot a missile ◆◆ ~ **antiaereo** anticraft missile; ~ **anticarro** armour-piercing missile; ~ **antimissile** antimissile

missile; ~ **aria-acqua** air-to-water missile; ~ **aria-aria** air-to-air missile; ~ **aria-terra** air-to-ground missile, air-to-surface missile; ~ **balistico** ballistic missile; ~ **a corto raggio** short-range missile; ~ **da crociera** cruise missile; ~ **intercontinentale** intercontinental missile; ~ **a lunga gittata** long-range missile; ~ **a media gittata** intermediate range missile, medium-range missile; ~ **teleguidato** guided missile; ~ **termoguidato** heat-seeking missile; ~ **a testata multipla** multi-warhead missile; ~ **tattico** tactical missile; ~ **a testata nucleare** nuclear missile; ~ **terra-aria** ground-to-air missile, surface-to-air missile; ~ **terra-terra** surface-to-surface missile.