

# Contents

Foreword	v
Section 1	1
<b>It's Up to You: <i>Idioms for taking action</i></b>	
the Ball's in Your Court • to Roll • to Get With It	
to Get the Lead Out • to Stay On One's Toes	
to Be Up to Something • to Have Something Up One's Sleeve	
to Be Game • You're On • to Take a Crack at Something	
to Head Out • Let's Blow This Joint • to Knock It Off	
to Stick Up for Someone • Wrap It Up	
Section 2	19
<b>Keep Your Pants On: <i>Idioms for a hectic life</i></b>	
to Take a Rain Check • to Be Tied Up • to Be Over One's Head	
to Not Have a Clue • Beats Me • to Be Stumped • to Be Done	
to Be Beat • Cannot Hack It • to Be Burned Out	
to Be On Edge • to Get Carried Away • to Get Out of Hand	
to Fly Off the Handle • to Freak Out • to Be Pissed Off	
to Blow Up • to Go Bananas • to Go Off the Deep End	
to Hit the Ceiling • to Be Trippin' • to Be Out of Whack	
to Get a Grip • to Hang In There • to Lay Off	
to Lighten Up • to Give Someone a Break	
Section 3	49
<b>Taking Care of Business: <i>Idioms for assuming responsibility</i></b>	
to Call the Shots • to Get the Ball Rolling • to Start From Scratch	
to Pull Something Off • to Give It a Go/Shot/Whirl	
to Take the Heat • to Go to Bat for Someone • to Come Clean	
to Fill Someone In • to Be No Big Deal • to Be a Piece of Cake	
to Get the Hang of (It) • to Nail Something (Down)	
to Put (Something) On the Back Burner • to Cough up	

Section 4

67

**Let the Good Times Roll: *Idioms for good fortune***

Way to Go • to Have It Made • to Have a Blast/Ball  
to Be Up One's Alley • to Be On a Roll • to Be Sweet  
to Be Tight • to Be Hot • to Be Hooked (On)  
to Hook Someone Up • to Hit On Someone  
to Dig (Someone or Something) • to Knock Someone Dead  
Knock Yourself Out • to Die For • to Rock

Section 5

85

**What Happened? *Idioms for delivering bad news***

to Blow It/Something • to Do a Number On Someone/Something  
to Be Wasted • to Be Busted • to Be Caught Red-Handed  
to Get Ripped Off/to Be a Rip Off • to Get the Short End of the Stick  
to Have a Falling Out • to Have a Bone to Pick with Someone  
to Have It In for Someone • to Let Someone Have It  
to Give Someone a Hard Time • to Throw In the Towel  
to Shake Up Someone • to Give It to Someone Straight  
to Be a Bum • to Be Bummed Out • to Let Someone Down  
to Be a Drag • to Suck • to Mess/Screw Up • to Be Screwed  
to Be/Skate On Thin Ice • In Your Face • to Chicken Out (On)

Section 6

113

**That's Life: *Idioms for everything else***

What's Up (with Somebody)? • to Chill Out • to Tag Along  
to Go Dutch • to Crash (Someplace) • to Mess/Screw Around  
to Keep In Touch • to Stick to One's Guns • No Way (José)  
Screw That • Go Figure • to Butt In • to Rub It In  
That Cracks Me Up

**Idioms Index**

129