Year 8 Term 2 Idioms – All Terms Revision List

Week 1

**“A chip on your shoulder”** – to be angry, upset, or ready to fight, especially over being treated unfairly

**“A dime a dozen”** – very common and not very valuable

**“Pass the buck”** – to pass the responsibility or blame to someone else

**“Beat a dead horse”** – to keep fighting a battle that has been lost or arguing about something that has been already decided. An effort that is futile or a waste of time.

**“Skeleton in the closet”** – a dark, shameful secret in someone’s past that will ruin their reputation if discovered

Week 2

**“Tied to someone's apron strings”** – to be dependent on someone or under their influence (particularly a wife or mother)

**“An old wives' tale”** – a superstition, belief or practice that is not based on fact

**“A stick-in-the-mud”** – a person who likes old-fashioned ideas and avoids change

**“March to the beat of a different drum”** – to be an individual and have unique ideas. Not being like everyone else

**“In the doghouse”** – in disgrace or facing punishment

Week 3

**“Bury the hatchet”** – to settle an argument

**“Dutch treat or go Dutch”** – each person pays for their own food or entertainment

**“Fair-weather friend”** – someone who is only friends with you when things are going well and deserts you when things get difficult

**“Hot under the collar”** – to be angry or embarrassed

**“The Midas touch”** – the ability to make a lot of money at whatever you do

Week 4

**“Ace up the sleeve”** – to have a secret advantage you keep hidden until needed

**“Achilles' heel”** – the one weakness in someone's character

**“Ballpark figure”** – a rough estimate

**“Crocodile tears”** – fake tears

**“Scarce as hen's teeth”** – very rare

Week 5

**“Wrong side of the tracks”** – from a poor background or a lower-class area, from a less wealthy family or social class

**“When the cat's away, the mice will play”** – when the person in charge is gone, people will take advantage of the freedom and do whatever they want

**“With flying colours”** – with ease and great success

**“Wet blanket”** – a person who spoils the fun because they are depressing and negative

**“Water under the bridge”** – something in the past that can't be changed

Week 6

**“Beat around the bush”** – to avoid answering a question, to approach something in a roundabout way

**“Chew the fat”** – chatting in a relaxed way

**“A dog-eat-dog world”** – a way of life marked by fierce competition

**“Eleventh hour”** – at the last possible minute before the deadline

**“In the limelight”** – at the centre of attention

Week 7

**“As the crow flies”** – the shortest and most direct route; a straight line between two places

**“Play it by ear”** – to figure out what you're going to do as you go along, rather than planning beforehand

**“Out of the left field”** – unusual, crazy, or totally wrong

**“Rub elbows”** – to be in the same place or associate with certain people

**“Come out smelling like a rose”** – to come out of a bad situation with an even better reputation than before; to emerge from a scandal seeming innocent

Week 8

**“Birds of a feather flock together”** – people who have things in common usually hang out together

**“Wheel and deal”** – to skilfully make big plans in business, usually to earn lots of money

**“Tongue in cheek”** – intended as a joke, not serious

**“Upper crust”** – high society; important people

**“Touch and go”** – very risky; uncertain

Week 9

**“Show your true colours”** – to reveal what you're really like

**“Wear your heart on your sleeve”** – to show your emotions openly

**“Straight from the horse's mouth”** – directly from the person who is the best source of information on that topic

**“Toe the line”** – do what you're supposed to do

**“Up the creek”** – in serious trouble

Week 10

**“Bells and whistles”** – impressive accessories; flashy features

**“Out of the woods”** – safe from trouble or danger

**“Shoot from the hip”** – to talk or act without thinking of the consequences first

**“No spring chicken”** – not young anymore

**“On the fritz”** – broken, faulty or not working