

IDIOMS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Idiom	Origin	Meaning
Ear-nectar	Indian	A sweet noise or sound
Don't put your clothes on your teeth.	Japanese	To tell it like it is
To go to the pineapple	Dominican	To fight
Grow like an onion with your head in the ground.	Yiddish	Go take a hike.
Like a crocodile in a wallet factory	Puerto Rican	To be very nervous
Like eyebrows on fire	Chinese	Urgent
Cleaner than a frog's armpit	Spanish	Flat broke
Stop climbing on my head.	Arabic	Stop annoying me.
I'm not hanging noodles on your ears.	Russian	I'm not pulling your leg; I'm serious.
There's no cow on the ice.	Swedish	There's no need to worry.
The carrots are cooked!	French	The situation can't be changed.
The thief has a burning hat.	Russian	To be betrayed by an uneasy conscience
He who doesn't have a dog hunts with a cat.	Portuguese	Make the most of what you have.
Dumplings over flowers	Japanese	Choose something useful over something pretty.
Ride an elephant to catch a grasshopper	Thai	Put in a lot of work for little return
You can't pluck feathers off a bald chicken.	Dutch	It's not going to happen.

Sources:

Batt, H. & May, K. T. (2015, Jan. 20). 40 brilliant idioms that simply can't be translated literally [Blog post]. TED Blog. <https://blog.ted.com/40-idioms-that-cant-be-translated-literally/>

Flanagan, J. (2015, May 19). The best idioms from around the world, ranked. Quartz. <https://qz.com/402739/the-best-idioms-from-around-the-world-ranked/>

Niels. (n.d.). 18 quirky idioms from diverse languages around the world [Blog post]. FluentU. <https://www.fluentu.com/blog/idioms-from-around-the-world/#>