



Common Spanish Idioms and Expressions

Prompt:

Generate a list of common idioms and expressions in Spanish. Include their meanings and usage examples to help me understand and incorporate them into my conversations in English.

Please note: the list is generated by AI. AI can make mistakes.

1. Estar en las nubes

- **Meaning:** To be daydreaming or lost in thought.
- **Usage Example:** "No sé cómo hacer esa tarea. Estoy completamente en las nubes hoy." (I don't know how to do that assignment. I'm completely daydreaming today.)

2. No hay mal que por bien no venga

- **Meaning:** Every cloud has a silver lining.
- **Usage Example:** "Perdí el trabajo, pero no hay mal que por bien no venga; ahora tengo tiempo para explorar nuevas oportunidades." (I lost my job, but every cloud has a silver lining; now I have time to explore new opportunities.)

3. Caerle bien/mal a alguien

- **Meaning:** To make a good/bad impression on someone.
- **Usage Example:** "A Mario le caes bien, así que no te preocupes por esa presentación." (Mario likes you, so don't worry about that presentation.)

4. Tener la sartén por el mango

- **Meaning:** To have the upper hand.
- **Usage Example:** "En la negociación, la empresa tiene la sartén por el mango porque es el único comprador." (In the negotiation, the company has the upper hand because it's the only buyer.)

5. Estar a dos velas

- **Meaning:** To be broke.
- **Usage Example:** "No tengo dinero para salir, estoy a dos velas." (I have no money to go out, I'm broke.)

6. Echar un cable

- **Meaning:** To give someone a hand, help someone out.
- **Usage Example:** "No sé cómo montar este mueble, ¿me echas un cable?" (I don't know how to assemble this piece of furniture, can you give me a hand?)

7. Estar como un niño con zapatos nuevos

- **Meaning:** To be extremely happy, thrilled.
- **Usage Example:** "Cuando me compré mi primera guitarra, estaba como un niño con zapatos nuevos." (When I bought my first guitar, I was thrilled.)

8. Dar la lata

- **Meaning:** To be a nuisance, to pester.
- **Usage Example:** "Deja de darme la lata con esa canción. Ya la he oído mil veces." (Stop pestering me with that song. I've heard it a thousand times.)

9. Tirar la casa por la ventana

- **Meaning:** To go all out, to splurge.
- **Usage Example:** "Para su cumpleaños, decidieron tirar la casa por la ventana y organizar una fiesta increíble." (For his birthday, they decided to go all out and organize an incredible party.)

10. Estar hecho un lío

- **Meaning:** To be in a mess, to be disorganized.
- **Usage Example:** "La oficina está hecha un lío después de la mudanza." (The office is a mess after the move.)

11. No tener pelos en la lengua

- **Meaning:** To speak one's mind freely, not to mince words.
- **Usage Example:** "Mi abuelo no tiene pelos en la lengua, siempre dice lo que piensa." (My grandfather doesn't mince words, he always says what he thinks.)

12. Tener mala leche

- **Meaning:** To be bad-tempered, to be mean-spirited.
- **Usage Example:** "Pedro siempre tiene mala leche, no se lleva bien con nadie." (Pedro is always bad-tempered, he doesn't get along with anyone.)

13. Más vale tarde que nunca

- **Meaning:** Better late than never.
- **Usage Example:** "No pude llegar a tiempo para el inicio, pero más vale tarde que nunca." (I couldn't arrive on time, but better late than never.)

14. Ponerse las pilas

- **Meaning:** To get moving, to pull oneself together.
- **Usage Example:** "Debes ponerte las pilas si quieres aprobar este examen." (You need to pull yourself together if you want to pass this exam.)

15. No tener ni pies ni cabeza

- **Meaning:** To make no sense, to be absurd.
- **Usage Example:** "Esa explicación no tiene ni pies ni cabeza, no entiendo nada." (That explanation makes no sense, I don't understand anything.)

16. Estar como un tren

- **Meaning:** To be very attractive or good-looking.
- **Usage Example:** "Lidia ha estado haciendo ejercicio y ahora está como un tren." (Lidia has been exercising and now she's very attractive.)

17. Estar en la luna

- **Meaning:** To be spaced out, absent-minded.
- **Usage Example:** "Perdona, estaba en la luna. ¿Qué me has preguntado?" (Sorry, I was spaced out. What did you ask me?)

18. Darle la vuelta a la tortilla

- **Meaning:** To turn the tables, to change the situation.
- **Usage Example:** "La empresa ha logrado darle la vuelta a la tortilla y ahora lidera el mercado." (The company has managed to turn the tables and now leads the market.)

19. Hacer la vista gorda

- **Meaning:** To turn a blind eye.
- **Usage Example:** "El jefe siempre hace la vista gorda cuando alguien llega tarde." (The boss always turns a blind eye when someone arrives late.)

20. Estar a la última

- **Meaning:** To be up-to-date, to be in the latest trend.
- **Usage Example:** "Siempre está a la última con la moda." (She's always up-to-date with the latest fashion.)

21. Ser uña y carne

- **Meaning:** To be very close friends, like inseparable.
- **Usage Example:** "Los hermanos son uña y carne, siempre están juntos." (The brothers are inseparable, they're always together.)

22. Meter la pata

- **Meaning:** To make a mistake.
- **Usage Example:** "Metí la pata al decir eso. No quería ofenderte." (I made a mistake by saying that. I didn't mean to offend you.)

23. No dar pie con bola

- **Meaning:** To not understand anything, to be confused.
- **Usage Example:** "No doy pie con bola con este trabajo. Es muy complicado." (I don't understand anything about this job. It's very complicated.)

24. Estar como un clavo

- **Meaning:** To be anxious, restless.
- **Usage Example:** "No me puedo concentrar hoy, estoy como un clavo." (I can't concentrate today, I'm very restless.)

25. Echar pestes

- **Meaning:** To speak ill of someone, to badmouth.
- **Usage Example:** "No te fíes de Marta, porque siempre echa pestes de todos." (Don't trust Marta, because she always speaks ill of everyone.)

26. No tener ni una pizca de vergüenza

- **Meaning:** To be shameless.
- **Usage Example:** "No tiene ni una pizca de vergüenza al pedir ese favor." (He has no shame asking for that favor.)

27. Dar la talla

- **Meaning:** To meet expectations.
- **Usage Example:** "El nuevo empleado ha dado la talla en su primer mes de trabajo." (The new employee has met expectations in his first month of work.)

28. Dormirse en los laureles

- **Meaning:** To rest on one's laurels.
- **Usage Example:** "No puedes dormirte en los laureles si quieres avanzar en tu carrera." (You can't rest on your laurels if you want to advance in your career.)

29. Hacer la vista gorda

- **Meaning:** To ignore something, to look the other way.
- **Usage Example:** "El gobierno ha hecho la vista gorda ante la corrupción." (The government has ignored the corruption.)

30. No dar ni golpe

- **Meaning:** To be lazy, to not do anything.
- **Usage Example:** "Pedro no ha hecho nada en todo el día, no ha dado ni golpe." (Pedro hasn't done anything all day, he's been lazy.)

31. Ser la oveja negra

- **Meaning:** To be the odd one out, the black sheep.
- **Usage Example:** "En la familia, siempre fui la oveja negra." (In the family, I was always the odd one out.)

32. No tener donde caerse muerto

- **Meaning:** To be very poor, to have nothing.
- **Usage Example:** "Vivía en la calle, no tenía donde caerse muerto." (He lived on the street, he was very poor.)

33. Estar en su salsa

- **Meaning:** To be in one's element, to be comfortable.
- **Usage Example:** "Carlos está en su salsa tocando la guitarra." (Carlos is in his element playing the guitar.)

34. Ser pan comido

- **Meaning:** To be a piece of cake, very easy.
- **Usage Example:** "El examen fue pan comido, no me costó nada." (The exam was a piece of cake, it was very easy.)

35. No dar el brazo a torcer

- **Meaning:** To not give in, to stand one's ground.
- **Usage Example:** "Juan no da el brazo a torcer, siempre mantiene su posición." (Juan doesn't give in, he always maintains his position.)

36. Estar hasta las narices

- **Meaning:** To be fed up, tired of something.
- **Usage Example:** "Estoy hasta las narices de escuchar

siempre lo mismo." (I'm fed up of hearing the same thing all the time.)

37. Pasar olímpicamente

- **Meaning:** To completely ignore or disregard.
- **Usage Example:** "No le importa nada, pasa olímpicamente de todo." (He doesn't care about anything, he completely ignores everything.)

38. Hacer una montaña de un grano de arena

- **Meaning:** To make a big deal out of nothing.
- **Usage Example:** "No era para tanto, hiciste una montaña de un grano de arena." (It wasn't that big of a deal, you made a mountain out of a molehill.)

39. Meterse en la boca del lobo

- **Meaning:** To get oneself into trouble.
- **Usage Example:** "Se metió en la boca del lobo cuando aceptó el trabajo en esa empresa." (He got himself into trouble when he accepted the job at that company.)

40. Ser pan para hoy y hambre para mañana

- **Meaning:** To have a temporary solution, to deal with a problem in the short term.
- **Usage Example:** "Tomar ese crédito es como ser pan para hoy y hambre para mañana." (Taking that loan is like dealing with a short-term problem with no long-term solution.)

These idioms and expressions add color and depth to conversations in Spanish, helping convey nuanced meanings and attitudes. Practice incorporating them into your everyday English to enrich your language use and connect more meaningfully with native speakers!



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