

agarrar/pillar a alguien con las manos en la masa

to be caught red-handed

ahogarse en un vaso de agua

to make a mountain out of a molehill

andar(se) con ojo

to keep an eye out

andar pisando huevos

to walk on eggshells, to drag one's feet, to dawdle

cada loco con su tema

to each their own

caerse la cara de vergüenza

to be very ashamed

caérsele la baba

to drool

comerse el coco

to worry about something

como Pedro por su casa

as though one were in one's own house

costar un ojo de la cara

to cost an arm and a leg

creerse el ombligo del mundo

to think that one is the center of the universe, to think the world revolves around one

cruzarse de brazos

to twiddle one's thumbs, to sit on one's hands

dar gato por liebre

to pull the wool over somebody's eyes, to swindle, to cheat

dar la cara

to face the consequences, to accept responsibility, to face the music

decir algo con la boca pequeña

to say something without really meaning it

del año de la pera

from before the flood

dormir como un tronco

to sleep like a log

echar/dar una mano

to lend a hand

echar en cara

to reproach, to throw something in someone's face

echarle un ojo a

to keep an eye on

echar una cabezada

to take a nap

encogerse de hombros

to shrug one's shoulders

entrar/empezar con buen pie/con el pie derecho

to be off on the right foot, to be off to a good start, to start off on the right track

entrar con mal pie/con el pie izquierdo

to be off to a bad start

en un abrir y cerrar de ojos

in the blink of an eye

estar/sentirse como pez en el agua

to be in one's element, to feel at home doing something

estar de un humor de perros

to be in a foul mood

estar encima de alguien/algo

to keep an eye on someone or something

estar en la luna

to have one's head in the clouds, to be on another planet

estar en las nubes

to daydream, to have one's head in the clouds, to be distracted

estar hasta las narices

to be fed up, to be sick and tired

estar hecho polvo

to be exhausted, to be wiped out

hablar por los codos

to talk one's head off, to talk excessively

hacer borrón y cuenta nueva

to start over with a clean slate

hacerse la boca agua

to start drooling at the thought of eating something

ir de punta en blanco

to dress well, to be well-dressed

irse por las ramas

to go off on a tangent

la gota que colmó el vaso

the straw that broke the camel's back

levantarse con el pie izquierdo

to get up on the wrong side of the bed

más bueno que el pan

to be kindness itself, to be as good as gold

media naranja

better half

meter la pata

to stick one's foot in one's mouth

no dar el brazo a torcer

to not budge an inch, to stand one's ground, to not give in

no estar el horno para bollos

to not be a good moment, to not be the right time, to have bad timing

no pegar ojo

to not be able to catch a wink

no tener pelos en la lengua

to not mince one's words

poner la mano en el fuego

to stick one's neck out for somebody, to take a bullet for somebody

ponerse como un tomate

to get red in the face

quedarse de brazos cruzados

to sit back and do nothing

sacar las uñas/garras

to bare one's teeth, to show one's claws

ser cuatro gatos

to be a handful of people, to be hardly a soul

ser el brazo derecho de alguien

to be the right hand to

ser el ojo derecho de alguien

to be the apple of somebody's eye

ser la oveja negra

to be the black sheep

ser mano de santo

to be a sure remedy, to work wonders, to be a miracle cure

ser más lento que una tortuga

to be as slow as a snail, to be slower than molasses in January

ser pan comido

to be a piece of cake

ser una gallina

to be (a) chicken

ser uña y carne

to be joined at the hip, to be two peas in a pod

ser un bocazas

to have a big mouth

tener algo en la punta de la lengua

to have something on the tip of one's tongue

tener caradura/ser (un) caradura

to be sassy, to be cheeky

tener dos dedos de frente

to have half a brain

tener la cabeza en su sitio

to have a good head on one's shoulders

tener los pies en la tierra

to have one's feet on the ground

tener mala leche/uva

to be in a bad mood, to have a temper, to be mean, to have bad intentions

tener ojo

to have a good eye for something

tener pájaros en la cabeza

to daydream, to be away with the fairies

tirar la casa por la ventana

to spare no expense, to go all out

tirar la toalla

to throw in the towel

tomar el pelo

to make fun of, to pull somebody's leg

tomarse algo a pecho

to take something to heart

Common Sayings

A buenas horas, mangas verdes.

Too little, too late.

A buen entendedor, pocas palabras bastan.

No explanations needed.

A caballo regalado, no le mires el dentado.

Don't look at a gift horse in the mouth.

A donde fueres, haz como vieres.

When in Rome, do as the Romans do.

A falta de pan, buenas son tortas.

Beggars can't be choosers.

A la tercera va la vencida.

Third time's the charm.

Al mal tiempo, buena cara

If life gives you lemons, make lemonade.

A lo hecho, pecho.

What's done is done.

Al pan, pan, y al vino, vino.

Tell it like it is.

A nadie le amarga un dulce.

Sweets never made anyone bitter. I.e., You shouldn't waste a gift/advantage offered to you.

A palabras necias, oídos sordos.

Harsh words fall on deaf ears.

A quien buen árbol se arrima, buena sombra le cobija.

It helps to have friends in high places.

A quien madruga, Dios le ayuda.

The early bird gets the worm.

Camarón que se duerme, se lo lleva la corriente.

You snooze, you lose.

Cree el ladrón que todos son de su condición.

A thief believes everyone steals.

Cuando el río suena, agua lleva.

Where there's smoke, there's fire.

Del dicho al hecho hay mucho/un trecho.

Easier said than done.

De tal palo, tal astilla.

The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

Dime con quién andas y te diré quién eres.

A man is known by the company he keeps.

Donde hubo fuego, cenizas quedan.

Old flames die hard.

Donde manda capitán, no gobierna marinero.

Where a captain rules, a sailor has no sway.

El buen juez por su casa empieza.

Practice what you preach.

El que la sigue la consigue.

Where there's a will, there's a way.

El que mucho abarca, poco aprieta.

Jack of all trades, master of none.

El que nada debe, nada teme.

He who has nothing to hide has nothing to fear.

En boca cerrada no entran moscas.

The less said, the better.

Más sabe el diablo por viejo que por diablo.

With age comes wisdom.

Más vale pájaro en mano que ciento volando.

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

Más vale tarde que nunca.

Better late than never.

No dejes para mañana lo que puedas hacer hoy.

Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today.

No hay mal que (por) cien años dure.

Even the longest night comes to an end.

No hay peor ciego que el que no quiere ver.

None are more blind than those who refuse to see.

Ojo por ojo, diente por diente.

An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.

Ojos que no ven, corazón que no siente.

Out of sight, out of mind.

Perro ladrador poco mordedor.

His bark is worse than his bite.