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Idioms and sayings in the English and Russian languages

«Idioms are a colourful and fascinating aspect of English». [2, с.7] There are many capacious idioms and sayings that describe the character and propensities of a person. And sometimes no adjectives can describe a person's character as fully as idioms. Let's take a look at the most commonly used ones.

All sugar and honey. Sugar and honey are delicious, but only in moderation. In large quantities, they are sickly sweet. This expression can be used when you describe people who are sugary to disgust. In the Russian language there is no special phrase for this character feature. E.g. I don't want to invite him on my birthday! He annoys me, he is all sugar and honey!

To wear one's heart upon one's sleeve. In the Russian language there is an expression which is very close in meaning: «Душа на распашку». It is believed that the author of «wearing a heart on his sleeve» is Shakespeare, who first used this expression in one of his plays.

As slippery as an eel. This expression means that someone is cunning and he manages to get out of the water dry. In the Russian language there is similar idiom: «скользкий тип» or «не лыком шит». E.g. They suppose that I'll fail. But they don't know me, I'm slippery as an eel.

As true as steel. This means that the person is reliable, faithful and purposeful. In Russian literature there is such a work as «Как закалялась сталь» and it is not about metal but about a strong-willed person. E.g. I am really proud of my dad. He suffered much privations, but always was noble and honest. He is as true as steel.

Man of his word. It is said about people who know how to keep their word. People who are respected and honored in any society are called this way. E.g. She claimed that she gets married only to man of his words.

Tied to your mother's apron strings. This expression does not mean anything good. People say «a man is tied to his mother's apron» if they think that he is a mattress, a mama's son, a sucker or a slob. This idiom applies to men.

A wet blanket. **Someone who does or says something that stops other people from enjoying themselves. E.g. I don't want to be a wet blanket, but you really must play your music more quietly or you'll disturb the people next door.**

An eager beaver. If a person works very hard, he is likely to be called an eager beaver. This means that someone is hardworking, diligent and persistent in his business. E.g. Who is the eager beaver who came in at the weekend to finish this work off? [2, с.110]

Be a nasty piece of work. It is frequently said about somebody very unkind and unpleasant. E.g. He's a nasty piece of work, is Carl. I'd avoid him if I were you. [2, с.266]

Not be all there. This expression is used predominately in informal speech. A person is called this way if he is slightly crazy or insane. E.g. Some of the things she said made me think she's not quite all there.

A couch potato. A person who lives a sedentary lifestyle may colloquially be known as a «couch potato». **In special cases, it is someone who watches a lot of television, lies on the sofa and takes little or no physical exercise. E.g. We have heard a great deal about the ascendancy of the «couch potato» society in recent years.**

A jack of all trades. Someone who has many skills and abilities or who does many different jobs. E.g. Bill can do plumbing, carpentry, or a bit of gardening – he's a jack of all trades, really. [2, с.207]

Thus, there is a great amount of astonishing various idioms which contain their own special meanings that reveal some details of the personality's character and are used in certain situations to emphasize one thought or opinion during communication.

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