

# A to Z English

## A to Z Idioms 007

In this episode, Kevin and Jack discuss talk about three more idioms about money 💰

to **be in the black/be in the red**

to **make ends meet**

to **have a Midas touch**

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We would love to hear your feedback and suggestions for future episodes.

Intro/Outro Music by Eaters: <https://freemusicarchive.org/music/eaters/the-astronomers-office/agents-in-coffee-shops/>

**Directions: Use each idiom in a sentence.**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Full Transcript:

Jack

You are listening to the A-Z English podcast.

Kevin

Welcome to an A-Z English idioms from A-Z or. Today we're going to talk about three different English idioms first, starting with a quick example.

Kevin

Then we'll explain them and try and define and tell you how you too can use these idioms in your conversations.

Kevin

Remember to check our website for study guides and more.

Kevin

We also have links to our WhatsApp, Facebook pages and all our other social media so you 2 can join the conversation.

Jack

So, Kev, how's business?

Kevin

Not so good, man.

Kevin

These days I'm always in the red.

Kevin

I can barely make ends meet.

Jack

Oh man, I'm sorry to hear that.

Jack

You know, mark, his coffee shop is doing really well.

Jack

That guys got the Midas touch.

Kevin

I wish I was so lucky.

발표자 1

Right.

Kevin

So we had three idioms in there, and if anyone was listening, can you hear what they are?

Kevin

I know they were.

Kevin

They come quick.

Kevin

First was to be in the red, or you can be in the black as well in.

Kevin

The black or.

Kevin

Red the next is to make ends meet and finally.

Kevin

To have a Midas touch.

Kevin

So let's talk about these color ones first.

Kevin

To be in the black or in the red.

Kevin

What do these mean?

Jack

Yeah, so these.

Jack

These come down to kind of the old style of accounting.

Jack

So when you we used to do accounting books, we would, if you were making a profit, you would use a black pen.

Jack

To write down the numbers of the money that you have made.

Kevin

So it's like money coming in, yeah.

Jack

Right, the money coming in or the elders?

Kevin

Yeah, I made 10 mixtures.

Jack

Or the money.

Jack

Leftover like the you know, after you pay all your expenses and everything, and then whatever is leftover, that's your profit.

Jack

But, and your profit is, it was written in black traditionally.

Jack

Now everything is done on computers, but back in the day you would put it, you'd write it in black.

Jack

And what about red?

Jack

If you wrote the number in red, what does that mean?

Kevin

Well, I mean, I think we can probably guess this one right.

Kevin

If you see a red light when you're driving, it means, you know, caution.

Kevin

Be careful, right?

Kevin

So red for money probably means that's bad.

Kevin

You're you're negative money, you don't have any money.

Jack

That's how much money you owe.

Jack

You have to still pay and.

Kevin

Right.

Jack

Yeah, and so if you're in the red, that means that you have you owe more money than you have.

Kevin

Yeah, that's no good.

Jack

You know, it's no good, but if you're in the black, you have more money than you.

Jack

Oh, and you can buy things.

Jack

And so that's a that's a good thing.

Kevin

So it's always better to be in the black if someone is in the red, that means they're struggling with their business or or whatever it is.

Jack

And yeah, oh, sorry.

Jack

I was just going to say during the during coronavirus you would hear this expression a lot because a lot of companies were in the red because of the pandemic.

Kevin

Because people aren't shopping and things.

Jack

So yeah, exactly.

Kevin

Yep, true.

Kevin

All right.

Kevin

So then, how about making ends meet?

Kevin

So what's an end?

Kevin

How do we what is an end and how?

Kevin

Does it meet?

Jack

Yeah, making an end pizza.

Kevin

Yeah, this is a tough one to get.

Jack

Yeah, this is a hard one.

Jack

This one is a very common expression that we use in English, though very common.

Kevin

Actually, yeah, this one.

Kevin

Yeah, one that I definitely would use more more regularly than some others.

Jack

Yeah, so making ends meet means earning enough money to pay your bills.

Jack

That's it, basically.

Jack

And so you might you might hear the expression it's difficult to make ends meet means it's hard to earn enough money to pay.

Jack

All of my bills, right?

Jack

My rent, my car payment, food, insurance, my children school fees, all these things are expenses that I have.

Kevin

Right, all your bills.

Jack

And so that means I have to.

Jack

Earn that much money in order to pay for all these things, and if I can pay for all of them, I make ends meet.

Jack

That's a good thing.

Jack

Make ends meet.

Jack

Everything is paid for in full.

Jack

But if I can't make ends meet, that means I'm not able to pay all of my bills.

Jack

For all of my expenses.

Kevin

Right, yeah.

Kevin

And if you if you make ends meet, it means that you're in the black like we just talked about, but usually not by a lot.

Kevin

You're not making a ton of money.

Kevin

You're not rich, right?

Kevin

If you're rich, you're not going to be talking about making ends meet.

Kevin

Making ends meet is like I can pay all my bills, I've got my food, I'm OK, but I'm not saving a ton or I don't have a lot of extra money, but I can make ends meet.

Kevin

I'm OK right here. close.

Jack

Yeah, exactly.

Jack

You're just making ends meet.

Jack

But that's if something bad happens.

Jack

You know, if your car breaks down or.

Kevin

Yeah, you're going to be in the.

Kevin

Red very quick.

Jack

You might be in the red.

Jack

So you had.

Jack

So making ends meet is not exactly being super successful.

Jack

It's just surviving.

Kevin

Right.

Jack

You know?

Kevin

Right, exactly, exactly.

Jack

You're surviving.

Kevin

And then last, and this is more the opposite of that, is to have a Midas touch.

Kevin

And so someone has this, you have the Midas touch.

Kevin

And this is from a really old story.

Kevin

I don't know if our listeners would know.

Kevin

The story of King Midas.

Kevin

And we don't need to say the whole story, but basically the story.

Kevin

King Midas was a king way back in the day, or at least in this story.

Kevin

And everything that he would touch would turn to gold, right?

Kevin

So if he touched his desk, boom, gold desk, you know, if he, if he touched his glass, boom, gold glass and and there were problems and everything with the story.

Kevin

But we don't need to get into that.

Kevin

I think you can guess then what uh, Midas touch means, right?

Kevin

If everything you touch.

Kevin

Turns into gold.

Kevin

That's probably a good thing.

Kevin

Right, you've got a lot of gold.

Kevin

That's very lucky.

Jack

Yeah, and have you ever had a friend who no matter what kind of business that they start, it always ends up successful?

Jack

You know, so this person starts a business or starts a job and they make a lot of money and everything is just works out perfectly.

발표자 1

Right.

Jack

They have the Midas touch, you know?

Jack

It's just like everything you touch turns to gold and so.

Kevin

Everything just works out.

Kevin

It succeeds.

Kevin

Successful, yeah.

Jack

Yeah, we're often, oftentimes we become jealous of these people because are they lucky?

Jack

Are they just very talented?

Jack

Are they super smart?

Jack

What is their secret?

Jack

Why is why does everything?

Jack

When I try, I'm in the red.

Jack

When they try, they got the Midas touch, you know?

Jack

They're always in the black.

Kevin

Right.

Jack

So yeah, it's a funny thing.

Jack

Some people are just really good at business, you know, just good at making money.

Jack

So they have the Midas touch.

Kevin

Yeah, so I I wish I had a Midas touch, that's for sure.

Jack

Yeah, right.

Kevin

All right, so everybody that the three idioms there were, again to be in the black or in the red, to make ends meet and to have a Midas.

Kevin

Touch and these are some great idioms that we use from time to time in English.

Kevin

So come and join us in our WhatsApp or Facebook groups and try and use these idioms for for yourself.

Kevin

Give us an example of where or when you might use them.

Kevin

And remember, if you're on Apple Podcasts, if you can give us a good review, that would be.

Kevin

Really helpful for other people to get some more idioms from A-Z. We'll see you next.

Kevin

Time. Bye bye.