

# A to Z English

Episode: A to Z Idioms 12: Idioms with Food 4

Website: <http://atozenglishpodcast.com>

**Directions: Use the three idioms in sentences.**

to be a hard nut to crack 🥜

to be a bad apple 🍏

to spill the beans

## Full Transcript

**00:00:00** Jack

You're listening to the A-Z English podcast.

**00:00:09** Jack

Welcome to the A-Z English podcast. Today it is Jack and Xochitl here with you and we are doing it idioms A-Z episode. Our three idioms for today are.

**00:00:24** Jack

A hard nut to crack?

**00:00:27** Jack

That's a good one.

00:00:28 Jack

A bad app.

00:00:31 Jack

And spill the beans.

00:00:34 Jack

So social.

00:00:35 Jack

Those are three idioms.

00:00:37 Jack

UM, let's start with like a hard nut to crack.

00:00:40 Jack

How would you describe that to somebody who's like I I know literally what it means, like nuts, like a walnut is hard to open without like a Nutcracker.

00:00:40 Xochitl

OK.

00:00:51 Jack

But what does this mean as an idiom?

00:00:52 Xochitl

Right.

00:00:56 Xochitl

Well, a hard nut to crack.

00:00:58 Xochitl

I would say a lot of times if someone is like kind of dodgy and secretive and it's hard to get something out of them, then they're hard nut to crack.

00:01:08 Jack

Right.

00:01:08 Xochitl

She's like a confession from them, yeah.

00:01:11 Jack

Yeah, that's a great example.

00:01:13 Jack

I was thinking like, I listened to a lot of true crime podcasts and so, like in a police interrogation where.

00:01:20 Jack

They're trying to get the suspect to admit their guilt to of doing something bad.

00:01:29 Jack

If they don't talk.

00:01:31 Jack

Can we use this idiom to describe that person?

00:01:34 Xochitl

Yes, exactly how hard.

00:01:36 Xochitl

They're hard nut to crack.

00:01:38 Jack

So the the, the police officer might even say the detective would say this guy, he's a hard nut to crack.

00:01:45 Jack

He's it's hard to get information out of him.

00:01:45 Xochitl

Yeah, sure.

00:01:49 Jack

Is that right?

00:01:50 Xochitl

Yeah, perfect. I.

00:01:51 Jack

Yeah, yeah.

00:01:52 Jack

I like them.

00:01:52 Jack

Is there any other?

00:01:53 Jack

I'm trying to think if there are other situations where we use this.

00:01:59 Jack

Can it, would we would it, would it work as far as like people that are kind of quiet and they're it's hard to get them to share information about themselves is that would that work?

00:02:11 Xochitl

I think it could, but I think, I think that in that context we usually say it's hard to get them to come out of their shell.

00:02:21 Jack

Right, right.

00:02:22 Jack

That's a good, good point.

00:02:24 Xochitl

But I think with hard nut to crack it usually denotes some level of suspicion or some level of like something going on like you said true crime or.

00:02:35 Xochitl

Something dodgy.

00:02:37 Jack

Yeah, I like that.

00:02:38 Jack

I like that word dodgy.

00:02:40 Jack

Something is not right.

00:02:42 Jack

Something is off.

00:02:44 Jack

And so they're being.

00:02:46 Jack

Yeah, they're being suspicious.

00:02:48 Jack

Yeah, I I think I agree with you.

00:02:50 Jack

And to come out of your shell is where someone kind of like blossoms, like a flower, like they're starting to open up.

00:02:57 Jack

And show their personality.

00:02:59 Jack

That's a much better.

00:03:01 Jack

Idiom than a hard nut to crack, yeah.

00:03:04 Xochitl

I think of it.

00:03:05 Xochitl

As a like a hermit crab.

00:03:08 Xochitl

Or like hiding inside their shell and then they like peak out?

00:03:11 Jack

Right, right.

00:03:12 Xochitl

Is there like a turtle or something?

00:03:14 Jack

Yeah, I'm, I'm.

00:03:16 Jack

I was one of those people in school, like elementary school.

00:03:19 Jack

I was, you know, kind of in my shell a.

00:03:21 Jack

Little bit shy.

00:03:22 Jack

And and believe it or not, our other host Kevin said he was also like that, which I was hard to believe 'cause he's such an outgoing guy, but yeah, So what about you?

00:03:34 Jack

Were you kind of in your shell or were you more outgoing?

00:03:38 Xochitl

Yeah, especially when I was younger I would say.

00:03:41 Xochitl

I would say now it really depends on the context and the other people I am with.

00:03:45 Xochitl

If the other person is more nervous than me, I tend to like come out of my shell a lot quicker to make them more comfortable.

00:03:53 Jack

Ah, OK.

00:03:53 Xochitl

But if the other.

00:03:54 Xochitl

People are like really sociable then I can be.

00:03:56 Xochitl

More reserved.

00:03:58 Xochitl

But UM.

00:03:59 Xochitl

I would say when I was younger, yeah, I had a really hard.

00:04:01 Xochitl

Time and I mostly would.

00:04:03 Xochitl

Just hang out around like extremely extroverted people because they would bring me out of my shell a little bit and just kind of like invite me to things and I would tackle.

00:04:12 Jack

Well, that's the this is a great call back to a previous episode of Ambiverts, right.

00:04:18 Jack

So you you can play both sides of the fence depending on the temperature in the room, so to speak.

00:04:24 Xochitl

Yeah, true to life.

00:04:27 Jack

That's awesome.

00:04:28 Jack

Yeah, I think that's probably how I am as well, I think.

00:04:31 Jack

All right, so how about #2, #2 is?

00:04:36 Jack

A bad apple.

00:04:38 Jack

What is a bad apple?

00:04:40 Xochitl

Umm, bad apple.

00:04:44 Xochitl

I I remember being used a lot when I was in school, and it's usually like if you have a classroom full of good kids and one of them is a troublemaker.

00:04:52 Xochitl

Then you usually would call that person a bad apple 'cause the the whole phrase I think is like a bad apple spoils the bunch, something like that.

00:05:00 Jack

Yes. Yep.

00:05:02 Jack

Right, so there the the theory of that or the idea behind this idiom is like that one apple rots, but then the other apples next to it become rotten because that one wasn't removed from the the barrel.

00:05:18 Jack

This is definitely like kind of old school teaching style.

00:05:22 Jack

You know, before they actually try to understand what the kids emotionally feeling or whatever.

00:05:28 발표자

Right, right.

00:05:28 Jack

Uhm, yeah, but yeah, the bad apple spoils the bunch.

00:05:33 Jack

So I I've never have you ever been called a bad apple by a teacher?

00:05:39 Xochitl

No, I was always a good apple.

00:05:40 Jack

Yeah, me too.

00:05:42 Jack

I was pretty well behaved, yeah.

00:05:44 Jack

But I have heard it used to describe kids that were really naughty in our classrooms and.

00:05:52 Jack

I think I'd probably set it in my head a few times as a teacher, you know, like I wish I could remove that bad apple, but I would never say it out loud, you know, to a student or anything.

00:06:03 Xochitl

Yeah, yeah.

00:06:05 Xochitl

I think my dad told me that he was referred to as a bad apple.

00:06:10 Xochitl

He's really, he's a professor now, he's really smart and everything.

00:06:13 Xochitl

But of course this was back before, like you said before, come.

00:06:18 Xochitl

We really took like gentle teaching styles into consideration and I think he has like ADHD.

00:06:26 Jack

So he was bored and he was smart and board, which is probably like the worst combination.

00:06:31 Jack

Just yeah, like he he wanted to be challenged by the teacher and instead they were just giving him like.

00:06:38 Jack

Easy stuff to do and it was just, you know.

00:06:41 Jack

I think a lot of kids misbehave because of that reason.

00:06:44 Xochitl

Yeah, because they're bored.

00:06:46 Xochitl

He said he he would do his own assignments 'cause he found the ones that he was being given really boring and that that also the PE teacher would come and get him and a couple other kids and make them run laps outside for like hours.

00:06:59 Jack

Oh really?

00:06:59 발표자

Thank you.

00:07:00 Jack

Well, he was in great.

00:07:01 Jack

Shape then at least, but yeah.

00:07:05 Jack

Yeah, the old, old school teaching methods right there.

00:07:10 Jack

Corporal punishment.

00:07:10 Xochitl

Thank you.

00:07:11 Jack

And yeah, it's, it's, it's, it's tough.

00:07:15 Jack

It's tough.

00:07:15 Xochitl

Shut it off.

00:07:16 Jack

All right.

00:07:17 Jack

Well, let's move on to the last one here.

00:07:20 Jack

Actually, the last one, the first one could be connected if we're talking about true crime and stuff like that.

00:07:26 Jack

But this one is spill the beans.

00:07:29 Jack

So what does it mean to?

00:07:29 Xochitl

Right, right.

00:07:31 Jack

We know spill the beans means to like, spill food from your plate.

00:07:36 Jack

And the beans fall or or even beans from like.

00:07:39 Jack

It could be dry beans and spilling means falling out of the container.

00:07:44 Jack

So what does?

00:07:45 Jack



Spill the beans mean as an idiom.

00:07:49 Xochitl

So spilled the beans would be when you let a secret out or some kind of information you were supposed to be withholding and dumb.

00:07:58 Xochitl

Yeah, anytime.

00:07:59 Xochitl

So if it's a, if it's a tough nut to crack, call back to that.

00:08:02 Xochitl

Then eventually you make them.

00:08:04 Xochitl

You get them to spill the beans.

00:08:05 Xochitl

They eventually confess.

00:08:07 Jack

Right, exactly.

00:08:09 Jack

So this is a hard nut to crack, but I finally cracked this nut.

00:08:14 Jack

And I got him to spill the beans to tell me the truth, right?

00:08:19 Jack

Reveal the secret or something like that.

00:08:22 Jack

Right.

00:08:24 Jack

Yeah, we can use this in like, serious situations like that.

00:08:27 Jack

But it could also be in like fun situations, like if I tell you a kind of like funny secret and then I say, don't spill the beans.

00:08:36 Jack

Don't you know?

00:08:36 Xochitl

Right.

00:08:37 Jack

Don't tell anybody.

00:08:38 Jack

Don't share this information.

00:08:41 Xochitl

Or like back in school, if you were, if you had a crush on someone, if you liked someone.

00:08:46 Xochitl

And then they say, Oh well, I'm going to tell you, but don't tell anyone.

00:08:51 Xochitl

And then your friend goes and.

00:08:52 Xochitl

Tells, like everyone, how you build the beans.

00:08:53 Jack

Right.

00:08:55 Jack

You spilled the beans, right?

00:08:56 Jack

Why did you spill the beans right?

00:09:00 Jack

We haven't.

00:09:00 Jack

There's another idiom that has the exact same meaning, and that is to let the cat out of the bag.

00:09:06 Xochitl

I was just thinking of that, yeah.

00:09:07 Jack

Yeah, which I think it's.

00:09:09 Jack

It's another just bizarre idiom like why is there a cat in a bag and.

00:09:15 Jack

Why don't why don't you know?

00:09:16 Jack

Letting a cat out is good, right?

00:09:18 Jack

Of a bag.

00:09:19 발표자

Right.

00:09:19 Jack

But in the in the idiom idiomatic sense, to let the cat out of the bag is to spill the beans.

00:09:26 Jack

It's the same thing, yeah.

00:09:27 Xochitl

Right.

00:09:28 Xochitl

I think a lot of times two like an important factor of both of those idioms is that a lot of times it's not like the person intentionally wanted to confess or tell everyone.

00:09:38 Xochitl

It kind of like slipped out so.

00:09:39 Jack

Right.

00:09:41 Xochitl

You're like oof.

00:09:42 Xochitl

I spilled the beans, but I didn't like.

00:09:43 Jack

I spilled the beans.

00:09:44 Jack

Yes, I love that.

00:09:47 Jack

I spilled the beans.

00:09:48 Jack

Very good.

00:09:49 Jack

I think that's true.

00:09:50 Jack

I I mean, I think.

00:09:52 Jack

It's it's just a funny little.

00:09:54 Jack

It's just a cute little idiom, but I, you know, I I would say.

00:09:57 Jack

That understanding these is is important because people do use them.

00:10:03 Jack

I would say these idioms are still used, you know, instead of saying oops, I told the secret.

00:10:08 Jack

That would be kind of weird to just say it literally like that.

00:10:11 Jack

You'd say oops, I spilled the beans, you know, oops.

00:10:14 Jack

I let the cat out of the bag.

00:10:16 Jack

Yeah, so yeah.

00:10:16 Xochitl

Yeah, or like.

00:10:19 Xochitl

When you're talking and someone.

00:10:22 Xochitl

Let's say like.

00:10:23 Xochitl

Two of you know a secret the other person you think the other person doesn't, but actually person.

00:10:27 Xochitl

Two told them right.

00:10:29 Xochitl

Yeah, the person will.

00:10:31 Xochitl

The third person there would probably say the cats out of the bag.

00:10:34 Xochitl

Like you don't have to hide the secret empire.

00:10:36 Jack

Oh, right.

00:10:37 Jack

It's already.

00:10:38 Jack

Everybody knows already.

00:10:39 Jack

The cats out of the bag.

00:10:41 Jack

Like it's too late.

00:10:42 Jack

You can't put the cat back in.

00:10:45 Xochitl

Yeah, like when I was in Korea, I remember that we had this big friend group and two of the people were dating, but I didn't want everyone to know.

00:10:45 발표자

Right.

00:10:54 Xochitl

And then I remember that one of the.

00:10:58 Xochitl

One of my friends said cats out of the bag to them like this.

**00:11:02**Xochitl

You know, it's obvious.

**00:11:03**Jack

You're not fooling anybody.

**00:11:05**Jack

The cats out of the bag, right?

**00:11:08**Jack

Yeah, yeah.

**00:11:10**Jack

The beans have been spilled, but we don't say that.

**00:11:12**Jack

That's a little weird, but yeah.

**00:11:15**Xochitl

Yeah, but cats out of the bag.

**00:11:16**Xochitl

Is A is a common one.

**00:11:17**Jack

The cats out the bag is very common.

**00:11:19**Jack

Alright, well thank you so much so, so for helping me with these idioms.

**00:11:25**Jack

And so our three idioms today were a hard nut to crack.

**00:11:30**Jack

A bad apple and spill the beans.

**00:11:34**Jack

So three food idioms that have totally different meanings than their literal meanings.

**00:11:39**Jack

But we hope that this helped you today and feel free to give some examples in our WhatsApp chat group and you can also visit our website.

**00:11:51**Jack

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AT8OZ English podcast com you can listen to all of our older episodes and if you could do us a favor and give us a positive review on Apple Podcasts, that would really help us out.

**00:12:03**Jack

And with that, we'll see you next time.

**00:12:05**Jack

Thanks, everybody.

00:12:07 Xochitl

Thank you. Bye.