

# When Everything Costs an Arm and a Leg: 4 Money Idioms

English learning resource · EN

## Key words & expressions · English

4 learning entries

**Study task:** Listen again and notice the expressions you studied.

1

### cost an arm and a leg

DEF

To be extremely expensive.

*An informal exaggeration; cost stays cost in the past tense.*

*That new phone costs an arm and a leg.*

*The repairs cost us an arm and a leg.*

2

### on a shoestring

DEF

Using a very small amount of money.

*Use on a shoestring after a verb, but a shoestring budget before a noun.*

*We travelled around Europe on a shoestring.*

*They started the business on a shoestring budget.*

3

### make ends meet

DEF

To have just enough money to pay essential living costs.

*Ends is always plural; it does not imply earning a lot.*

*Many families struggle to make ends meet.*

*She works two jobs to make ends meet.*

4

### save for a rainy day

DEF

To keep money for a future problem or unexpected need.

*Rainy day is figurative; rainy-day is hyphenated before a noun.*

*I put some money aside every month for a rainy day.*

*Their rainy-day savings paid for the repair.*

