

A Piece of Cake? 4 Food Idioms You Can Use Every Day

English learning resource · EN

Key words & expressions · English

4 learning entries

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

1

a piece of cake

DEF

Something that is very easy to do.

An informal idiom normally used after be: the task was a piece of cake. It refers to ease, not to actual food.

The online form looked complicated, but it was a piece of cake.

Once you know the steps, this recipe is a piece of cake.

2

bite off more than you can chew

DEF

To accept more work or responsibility than you can manage.

A conversational metaphor. The irregular past form is bit off more than you could chew, never bited off.

I bit off more than I could chew when I agreed to organise two events in one week.

Be careful not to bite off more than you can chew at work.

3

spill the beans

DEF

To reveal a secret, often earlier than intended.

A playful, informal idiom. Say spill the beans or spill the beans about something; avoid changing beans to a possessive form.

Who spilled the beans about the surprise party?

Do not spill the beans before Friday.

4

in a nutshell

DEF

In very few words; as a short summary.

Often placed at the beginning of a summary or used in requests such as explain it in a nutshell. It is neutral and common in conversation and work contexts.

In a nutshell, we need more time.

Can you explain the plan in a nutshell?

