



Expresiones idiomáticas.
Traducción de algunas expresiones
idiomáticas de los Estados Unidos

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Expresiones idiomáticas de los Estados Unidos

Dear Mr. Inocencio:

At this point in the negotiations we will have to either jump the gun or be prepared to bury the hatchet. In order to get the ball rolling, we will have to put ourselves on the line and force them to bite the bullet and fork over the dough. Whatever we do, they sold us a lemon and they should not get off scot-free. I think we can get that smart ass attorney, Juan A. Torrance, to throw his weight around the Argentine officials for a song. You know he owes us for the time when we got him out of the woods.

Without spreading ourselves too thin, pull some strings to get your people to grease someone's palm, but avoid selling them down the river or we will be in hot water.

As far as Incha, Bol & Cía. is concerned, that is a horse of a different color. I have heard from someone high in the corporate ladder that Mr. Testo Sterona tends to get hot under the collar. If what they say about his short fuse is true, we can rest assured that he will blow his top. I think by now he is tired of sitting pretty and will try to get us out on a limb or make us pay through the nose.

I suggest we play it by ear and hope he gets the ax or the slip before the cat gets out of the bag. If truth be told, he deserves to go to the dogs for using John as a red herring and for stringing us along. I could smell a rat early during our conversations, but I was not willing at that point to stick out my neck, so I just shot the breeze with him instead of seizing the bull by the horns.

When I spoke to Mr. M. Terio about León Cito he hit the ceiling and told me I should have left him high and dry right from the start. It was obvious that he could pull the wool over our eyes because he saw us as sitting ducks. He is riding the gravy train, but the day of the meeting he will have no choice but to face the music and cough up. That will certainly make me feel like on cloud nine and the news will make a splash, specially if it comes straight from the horse's mouth. After that, they better let sleeping dogs lie or it will be Katy bar the door.

Due to your lackluster performance in the past, Mr Inocencio, this is your golden opportunity to shape up or ship out. Give it your best shot, but whatever you do don't spill the beans, stick to your guns, mind your p's and q's and don't forget to dot your i's and cross your t's. I have seen you turn the tide a couple of times so I am hoping this will be duck soup for you.

This is the last time I will go to bat for you. Give them a ball park figure, but remember to toe the line. Bend over backwards. Shake and break a leg,

Sincerely,

Pepe A. Moral

Dear Mr. Inocencio:

At this point in the negotiations we will have to either jump the gun or be prepared to bury the hatchet.

A esta altura de las negociaciones, tenemos que anticiparnos a los acontecimientos o estar dispuestos a olvidar todo lo pasado.

jump the gun

- con un pie en el estribo
- arrancar antes de tiempo
- con un pie en la línea de partida
- empezar tan pronto como se pueda
- estar preparado
- adelantarse a los acontecimientos

jump the gun

- to be hasty

bury the hatchet

- enterrar el pasado
- borrón y cuenta nueva
- a lo pasado pisado
- hacer las paces

bury the hatchet

- make peace
- to end old resentments

In order to get the ball rolling, we will have to put ourselves on the line and force them to bite the bullet and fork over the dough.

Para empezar, tendremos que arriesgarnos y, aunque no lo quieran, forzarlos a que paguen lo que les corresponde.

get the ball rolling

- dar el puntapié inicial
- poner en marcha
- arrancar, iniciar

get the ball rolling

initiate action

on the line

- arriesgar el pellejo
- jugarse el todo por el todo
- sacar la cara

- tirarse al agua
- dar la cara (México)

on the line
in danger of being lost

- bite the bullet*
- hacer de tripas corazón
 - aguantárselas
 - a lo hecho pecho
 - tragárselas

bite the bullet
endure in a difficult situation

- fork over the dough*
- talón, planta, punta (Bolivia)
 - ponerse
 - caerse con la lana (México)
 - soltar la guita
 - aflojar la plata

fork over the dough
hand over, give the money
to pay, perhaps unwillingly, for something

Whatever we do, they sold us a lemon and they should not get off scot-free.
Sin importar las medidas que tomemos, vendieron un producto defectuoso y no pueden desligarse de sus responsabilidades.

- lemon*
- matraca
 - casajo
 - porquería
 - un buzón

lemon
something defective

- get off scot-free*
- nos tendrán que pagarla
 - salirse con la suya
 - quedar intacto
 - sacar algo barato
 - llevárselo de arriba

get off scot-free

go scot-free

- to go unpunished
- to be acquitted of a crime
- scot = old word meaning "tax" or "tax burden"

I think we can get that smart ass attorney, Juan A. Torrance, to throw his weight around the Argentine officials for a song.

Creo que podemos conseguir que ese abogado, el Dr. Juan A. Torrance, pueda hacer buen uso de sus contactos con las autoridades argentinas, siempre que no resulte demasiado caro.

smart ass

- ese que parece mosquita muerta
- chanta
- piola
- inteligentucho
- un vivo
- sabelotodo (Chile, México)
- sobradito (Perú)

smart ass

smart aleck

- obnoxious, conceited person

throw one's weight around

- hacer palanca
- mover los hilos
- tener muñeca, muñequear (Bolivia)
- enchufe (España)

throw one's weight around

- to attempt to boss people around
- to give orders

for a song

- por unos pocos mangos
- por una bicoca
- una ganga
- tirado de barato

for a song

- for very little money

You know he owes us for the time when we got him out of the woods.
Usted bien sabe que él nos debe un favor por aquella vez que lo ayudamos.

out of the woods

- sacar las papas del fuego
- sacar del atolladero
- rescatar
- poner fuera de peligro
- ver la luz (México)
- sacar del pozo o del brete
- salvar el pellejo

out of the woods

- out of danger

Without spreading ourselves too thin, pull some strings to get your people to either grease someone's palm or scratch someone's back, but avoid selling them down the river or we will be in hot water.

Sin tratar de abarcar demasiado, póngase en contacto con quien corresponda y "cómo corresponda", sin informarles de nuestros planes o nos veremos en una situación comprometedora.

spread oneself too thin

- estirarse demasiado
- sin dejar que la sangre llegue al río
- abarcar demasiado
- meterse en camisa de once varas
- no tirarse al agua sin saber nadar

spread oneself too thin

- become involved in too many activities

pull strings

- mover cielo y tierra
- no dejar piedra sin remover
- tocar todos los resortes
- hacer palanca
- mover los hilos

pull strings

- exert influence

grease someone's palm

- aceitar las manos
- coimear

- pasar plata por debajo de la mesa
- endulzarlo
- untar las manos (España)
- mordida (México)

grease someone's palm
to bribe someone

sell someone down the river

- traicionar
- tender la cama
- jugar una mala pasada
- acuchillar por la espalda
- venirle de costeleta
- hacerlo caer (Bolivia)

sell someone down the river

sell (someone or something) out

send someone up the river

- betray someone
- reveal damaging information about someone

in hot water

- en camisa de once varas
- navegando en aguas turbias
- en un callejón sin salida

in hot water

- in a difficult situation, in trouble

As far as Incha, Bol & Cía. is concerned, that is a horse of a different color.

La situación con Incha, Bol & Cía. es muy diferente.

horse of a different color

- harina de otro costal
- ganado de otro corral

horse of a different color

horse of another color

- quite a different matter

I have heard from someone high in the corporate ladder that Mr. Testo Sterona tends to get hot under the collar.

Uno de los ejecutivos me ha informado que el Sr. Testo Sterona tiende a irritarse fácilmente.

high in the corporate ladder

- el gran pescado
- alguien de arriba
- uno de los capos
- el mero mero
- el mandamás

high in the corporate ladder

- el que lleva la batuta
- el dueño del circo
- la copa del árbol
- el que reparte el guiso
- el que corta la torta

high in the corporate ladder

- *one of the executives*

hot under the collar

- con la vena
- con los pájaros volados
- caliente
- echar humo

hot under the collar

- *very angry*

If what they say about his short fuse is true, we can rest assured that he will blow his top.

Por lo que he escuchado, es de poca paciencia y con toda seguridad nos hará saber lo que piensa.

short fuse

- cascarrabias
- saltar por cualquier cosa
- fosforito
- polvorín
- es de mecha corta (México)
- es de pocas pulgas

short fuse

- *gets upset easily*

blow one's top

- poner el grito en el cielo
- saltar como leche hervida
- se va a pegar un tiro

- *blow one's top*
- *blow a gasket*
- blow one's cork*
- blow a fuse*
- blow one's stack*
- to lose one's temper
- to become very angry

I think by now he is tired of sitting pretty and will try to get us out on a limb or make us pay through the nose.

Creo que a estas alturas, le incomoda no arriesgar nada y va a tratar de ponernos en una situación comprometedora o nos va a hacer pagar un monto exagerado.

- sitting pretty*
- vivir a todo trapo
- vivir como un bacán

- sitting pretty*
- *living in comfort or luxury*
- *in a good situation*

- out on a limb*
- colgados
- plantados
- quedarse con los crespos hechos (Bolivia)
- dejar flotando (México)

- out on a limb*
- *in a risky position*

- pay through the nose*
- dejar hasta las medias
- dejar en la calle
- costar un ojo de la cara

- pay through the nose*
- pay an arm and a leg*
- *pay too much*

I suggest we play it by ear and hope he gets the ax or the slip before the cat gets out of the bag.

Sugiero que decidamos sobre la marcha. Nos queda la esperanza de que lo reemplacen o que se escape antes de que se den a conocer los planes.

play it by ear

- tocar de oído
- darle tiempo al tiempo
- ver qué pasa
- acomodarse a las circunstancias

play it by ear

- to improvise
- to decide what to do after one is already involved in a situation

get the ax

- poner de patitas en la calle
- darle las de Villa Diego
- darle el olivo
- mandarlo a la villa (México)

get the ax

- be dismissed, fired

give someone the slip

- escaparse de los dedos
- piantarse
- rajarse
- escabullirse

give someone the slip

- to scape from or elude someone

let the cat out of the bag

- destapar la olla
- saltar la perdiz
- salir a relucir

let the cat out of the bag

spill the beans

- to reveal a secret or a surprise by accident

If truth be told, he deserves to go to the dogs for using John as a red herring and for stringing us along.

A decir verdad, merece perder lo invertido. Lo usó a John para distraernos y engañarnos.

go to the dogs

- perder hasta los calzoncillos
- perder lo que no se tiene

- perder la camisa
 - quedar con una mano atrás y otra adelante
- go to the dogs*
- lose a great deal of money

red herring

- sacar de la huella
- despistar
- engañar
- dejar más mareado que calesita

red herring

- piece of information or suggestion introduced to divert the attention from the real facts of a situation.
- strong smelling smoked fish, once drawn across the trail of a scent to mislead hunting dogs.

string someone along

- embaucar
- arrastrar a alguien
- hacer caer en la redada

string someone along

lead someone in dishonesty

I could smell a rat early during our conversations, but I was not willing at that point to stick out my neck, so I just shot the breeze with him instead of seizing the bull by the horns.

Desde el principio de nuestras negociaciones, sentí que algo no estaba bien, fue por eso que no quise ponerme en una situación comprometedora y preferí hablar con él en términos generales en vez de enfrentarlo con la realidad.

smell a rat

- oler mal
- oler a gato encerrado
- oler fiero (muy vulgar en Ecuador)

smell a rat

- to suspect that something is wrong

stick out one's neck

- arriesgar el pellejo
- ponerse en la línea de fuego
- sacar la cara

stick out one's neck

- to take a risk
- to support someone or something
- to speak in favor of someone or something

shoot the breeze

- hablar al cuete
- hablar de los peces de colores

shoot the breeze

- to spend time chatting

seize the bull by the horns

- tomar riendas
- tomar al toro por las astas
- agarrar al buey por las astas (Bolivia)

seize the bull by the horns

take the bull by the horns

- take decisive action in a difficult situation
- to meet a challenge directly

When I spoke to Mr. M. Terio about León Cito he hit the ceiling and told me I should have left him high and dry right from the start.

La reacción del Sr. M. Terio, cuando le comenté sobre León Cito, no fue muy favorable y ése hubiese sido el momento para apartarnos de él.

hit the ceiling

- saltar como leche hervida
- como agua para chocolate (México)

hit the ceiling

- become very angry

leave someone high and dry

- dejar colgado
- dejar varado

leave someone high and dry

- abandon someone

It was obvious that he could pull the wool over our eyes because he saw us as sitting ducks.

Es obvio que nos engañó y que se aprovechó de nosotros.

pull the wool over someone's eyes
- hacer caer como chorlito
- engañar como a un chino (México)

pull the wool over someone's eyes
pull a stunt
pull a trick
- deceive someone

be a sitting duck
- papita pa'l loro
- pan comido

be a sitting duck
- be vulnerable to attack, physical or verbal

He is riding the gravy train, but the day of the meeting he will have no choice but to face the music and cough up.

Su situación económica es muy holgada pero el día de la reunión deberá enfrentarse con la realidad y pagar lo que adeuda.

ride the gravy train
- vivir a todo trapo
- vivir a cuerpo de rey

ride the gravy train
- living in luxury

face the music
- pagar las consecuencias
- enfrentarse con la realidad

face the music
- to receive punishment
- to accept the unpleasant results of one's actions

cough up
- desembolsar
- soltar la lana (México)
- largar la plata, la guita
- ponerse

cough up
- to produce something that someone has requested

That will certainly make me feel like on cloud nine and the news will make a splash, specially if it comes straight from the horse's mouth.

Esto no hará más que levantar nuestro espíritu y la noticia causará sensación, especialmente si la anuncia él mismo.

on cloud nine

- sentirse diez puntos
- sentirse como un rey
- sentirse de lo mejor

on cloud nine

- *very happy*

make a splash

- tener resonancia
- figurar en primera plana

make a splash

- *attract attention*
- *be successful*

straight from the horse's mouth

- de buena fuente

straight from the horse's mouth

- *from a reliable source*

After that, they better let sleeping dogs lie or it will be Katy bar the door.

En adelante, será mejor dejar las cosas tranquilas o tendremos que estar alertas a posibles dificultades.

let sleeping dogs lie

- no patear el hormiguero
- no remover el avispero
- no levantar la perdiz

et sleeping dogs lie

do not agitate a potential source of trouble

Katy bar the door

- atrincherarse
- protegerse
- estar preparado
- guardarse las espaldas

Katy bar the door

- to leave a place while it is still possible to do so

Due to your lackluster performance in the past, Mr. Inocencio, this is your golden opportunity to shape up or ship out.

Sr. Inocencio, hasta ahora su desempeño ha sido mediocre, por lo que creo que ésta es una buena oportunidad para sobresalir o retirarse.

shape up or ship out

- se pone en onda o se borra

- se pone las pilas o se hace humo

shape up or ship out

- either to improve one's performance (or behavior) or leave or quit

- Fixed order

Give it your best shot, but whatever you do don't spill the beans, stick to your guns, mind your p's and q's and don't forget to dot your i's and cross your t's.

Le ruego que haga todo lo posible y no les dé a conocer nuestro cometido. Mantenga su posición, compórtese y tenga cuidado.

spill the beans

let the cat out of the bag

stick to one's guns

- mantenerse firme

stick to one's guns

- to remain firm for one's convictions

- to stand up for one's rights

mind one's p's and q's

- comportarse como un señor

- comportarse como una dama

mind one's p's and q's

- to mind one's manners

dot one's i's and cross one's t's

- hacer buena letra

- caminar con pie de plomo

dot one's i's and cross one's t's

- to be very carefull

I have seen you turn the tide a couple of times so I am hoping this will be duck soup for you.

Lo he visto lograr lo imposible varias veces, espero que esta vez le sea más fácil que en las anteriores.

turn the tide

- dar vuelta la tortilla
- sacarle peras del olmo

turn the tide

- to cause a reversal in the direction of events
- to cause a reversal in public opinion

duck soup

- más fácil que andar a pie
- pan comido
- papita pa'l loro

duck soup

- easy, effortless

This is the last time I will go to bat for you.

Es la última vez que lo protejo.

go to bat for someone

- sacar las papas del fuego
- ponerse del mismo lado
- romperse el lomo por alguien

go to bat for someone

- to support or help someone

Give them a ball park figure, but remember to toe the line.

Presénteles un presupuesto aproximado, pero actúe con cautela.

ball park figure

- por aproximación

ball park figure

- approximate amount

toe the line

- caminar con pie de plomo
- andar con cuidado

toe the line

toe the mark

- to do what one is expected to do

- to follow the rules

Bend over backwards.

- Haga todo lo posible.

bend over backwards

- romperse el lomo

- desvivirse por alguien

- hacer hasta lo imposible

bend over backwards

fall over backwards

lean over backwards

- to do everything possible to please someone

Shake and break a leg,

Proceda rápidamente y buena suerte.

shake a leg

- mover la cola

- apurarse

shake a leg

- hurry

break a leg

- que la suerte lo acompañe

- romperse todo

break a leg

- good luck

- theatrical jargon

Sincerely,

Pepe A. Moral