

Italian Idioms And Their Meanings

1. Hai volute la bicicletta

Translation: You wanted the bicycle

Meaning: Live with the consequences of your choices

2. In bocca al lupo

Translation: In the mouth of the wolf

Meaning: How to wish a performer luck

3. Crepi il lupo

Translation: May the wolf die

Meaning: What to say in response to “in bocca al lupo”

4. A mali estremi, estremi rimedi

Translation: To extreme evils, extreme remedies

Meaning: Do what is needed

5. Braccia rubate all’agricoltura

Translation: Arms stolen from agricultural work

Meaning: Unqualified

6. Avere le braccine corte

Translation: To have short arms

Meaning: Cheapskate

7. Non mi rompere le scatole

Translation: Don’t break my boxes

Meaning: Stop annoying me

8. Tirare il pacco

Translation: To throw the package

Meaning: Didn’t show up

9. Qualcosa bolle in pentola

Translation: Something is boiling in the pot

Meaning: Planning or plotting

10. Affogare in un bicchier d’acqua

Meaning: To drown in a glass of water

Translation: Overwhelmed

11. Avere un cervello di gallina

Translation: To have a hen’s brain

Meaning: Dumb

12. Fare le corna a qualcuno

Translation: To have the horns put on you

Meaning: Cuckold

13. Buono come il pane

Translation: Good as bread

Meaning: Good-hearted person

14. Diciamo pane al pane e vino al vino

Translation: Let's say bread for bread and wine for wine

Meaning: Honest and direct

16. Cane non mangia cane

Translation: Dog does not eat dog

Meaning: Everyone has a code of honor

17. Stare con le mani ni mano

Translation: To hold your hands with your own hand

Meaning: Do nothing

18. Prendi lucciole per lanterne

Translation: Mistaken fireflies for lanterns

Meaning: Wrong

19. Calare le brache

Translation: To pull down one's pants

Meaning: Give up

20. Non ci piove

Translation: It doesn't rain on it

Meaning: I don't doubt it

21. Trovarsi fra l'incudine e il martello

Translation: To be between the anvil and the hammer

Meaning: Faced with two difficult choices

22. Un pezzo grosso

Translation: A big piece

Meaning: Important person

23. Acqua in bocca!

Translation: Keep water in your mouth

Meaning: Keep a secret

24. Non sei capace di tenerti un cece in bocca

Translation: You're not able to keep a chickpea in your mouth

Meaning: You can't keep a secret

25. Non ho peli sulla lingua

Translation: I have no hair on my tongue

Meaning: I'm speaking frankly

26. Minestra riscaldata

Translation: Reheated soup

Meaning: Rekindled love

27. Tutto fa brood

Translation: Everything makes soup

Meaning: Everyone has something to contribute

28. L'amore domina senza regole

Translation: Love rules without rules

Meaning: Do anything for love

29. Farsene un baffo

Translation: To make a mustache of it

Meaning: Don't fuss

30. All come viene, viene

Translation: It comes out as it comes out

Meaning: What will be will be

31. Conosco I miei polli

Translation: I know my chickens

Meaning: I know what I'm doing

32. Morto un papa, se ne fa un altro

Translation: One pope dies, another will be made

Meaning: Life goes on

33. L'erba del vicino è sempre più

Translation: Neighbor's grass is always greener

Meaning: Envious

34. Fare troppi atti in commedia

Translation: To make too many acts in a comedy

Meaning: Doing too much

35. Ti sta a pennello!

Translation: Fits you like a paintbrush

Meaning: A piece of clothing is the proper size

36. I frutti proibiti sono i più dolci

Translation: Forbidden fruit is sweetest

Meaning: Making something forbidden makes it more interesting

37. È tutto pepe!

Translation: He is all pepper

Meaning: Lively

38. Cercare I peli nell'uovo

Translation: To look for hairs in the egg

Meaning: To nitpick

39. Un cane in chiesa

Translation: A dog in church

Meaning: An unwelcome guest