

IDIOMS START WITH C

CALL OF NATURE

- **Meaning:** the need to go to the lavatory. (Humorous.)
- **Use in sentence:** Stop the car here! I have to answer the call of nature.



CARRY ALL BEFORE ONE

- **Meaning:** to be exceptionally successful.
- **Use in sentence:** He carried all before him on school prize day.



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CARTE BLANCHE

- **Meaning:** complete freedom to act or proceed as one pleases.
- **Use in sentence:** We were given carte blanche to choose the colour scheme.

CAST IN THE SAME MOULD

- **Meaning:** very similar.
- **Use in sentence:** The two sisters are cast in the same mould—equally mean.

CATCH SOMEONE ON THE HOP

- **Meaning:** to find someone unprepared or defenceless. (Informal.)
- **Use in sentence:** The police caught the suspect on the hop and without an alibi.

CATCH SOMEONE'S EYE

- **Meaning:** to establish eye contact with someone; to attract someone's attention.
- **Use in sentence:** Try and catch the barman's eye.

CATCH THE SUN

- **Meaning:** to become sunburnt. (Informal.)
- **Use in sentence:** The baby's face is red—she's caught the sun.



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CAUGHT OVER A BARREL



- **Meaning:** at the mercy of someone; under the control of someone.
- **Use in sentence:** I'm caught over a barrel, and I have to do what he says.

CAUSE TONGUES TO WAG



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- **Meaning:** to cause people to gossip; to give people something to gossip about.
- **Use in sentence:** The way Mary was dressed will also cause tongues to wag.

CHAMP AT THE BIT

- **Meaning:** to be ready and anxious to do something; to be impatient.
- **Use in sentence:** The hounds were champing at the bit to begin the hunt.

CHANCE ONE'S ARM

- **Meaning:** to do something risky or dangerous.
- **Use in sentence:** Don't chance your arm by asking for yet another day off.

CHAPTER AND VERSE

- **Meaning:** detailed sources of information.
- **Use in sentence:** The suspect gave chapter and verse of his associate's activities.

CHAPTER OF ACCIDENTS

- **Meaning:** a series of misfortunes.
- **Use in sentence:** Yesterday was just a chapter of accidents—nothing went right.

CHEEK BY JOWL



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- **Meaning:** side by side; close together.
- **Use in sentence:** The walkers had to walk cheek by jowl along the narrow streets.



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CHEESED OFF

- **Meaning:** bored; depressed; annoyed.
- **Use in sentence:** She was cheeased off when she missed the bus.

CHEESE-PARING

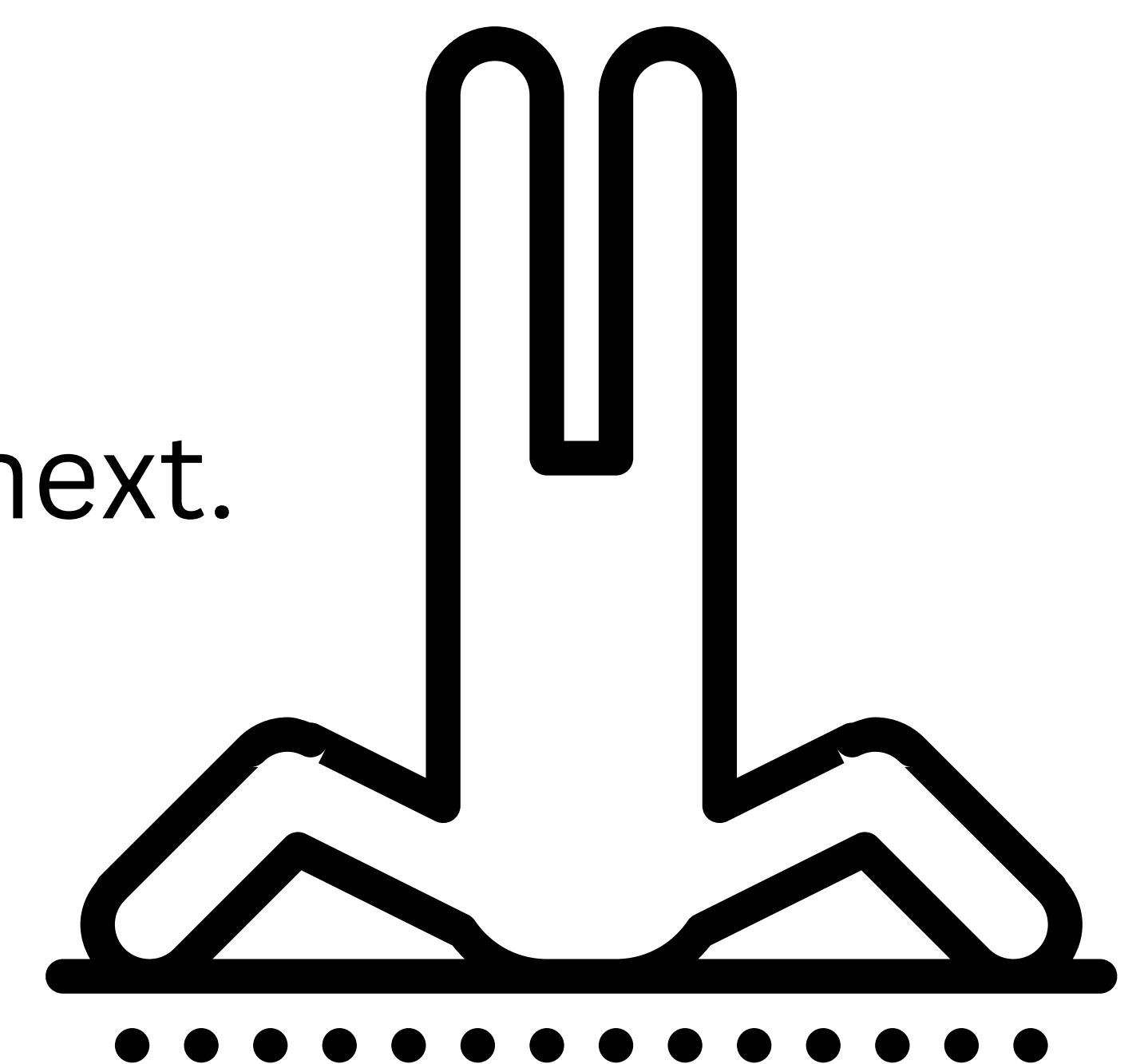


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- **Meaning:** mean; niggardly.
- **Use in sentence:** The cheese-paring old woman will not give to the poor.

CHEW THE CUD

- **Meaning:** to think deeply.
- **Use in sentence:** He's chewing the cud about what to do next.



CHILLED TO THE MARROW

- **Meaning:** very cold.
- **Use in sentence:** I was chilled to the marrow in that snowstorm.

CHOP AND CHANGE

- **Meaning:** to keep changing or altering something.
- **Use in sentence:** The shop is always chopping and changing staff.

CLEAR THE AIR

- **Meaning:** to get rid of doubts or hostile feelings.
- **Use in sentence:** All right, let's discuss this frankly. It'll be better if we clear the air.

CLIMB DOWN



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- **Meaning:** to admit that one is wrong; to admit defeat.
- **Use in sentence:** The teacher was forced to climb down and admit she had made a mistake.

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CLOAK-AND-DAGGER

- **Meaning:** involving secrecy and plotting.
- **Use in sentence:** A great deal of cloak-and-dagger stuff goes on in political circles.

CLOUD-CUCKOO-LAND



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- **Meaning:** an imaginary, perfect world.
- **Use in sentence:** She hopes to get a job travelling abroad—she must believe in cloud-cuckoo-land.

COCK-AND-BULL STORY

- **Meaning:** a silly, made-up story; a story that is untrue.
- **Use in sentence:** Don't give me that cock-and-bull story.



COCK A SNOOK AT SOMEONE

- **Meaning:** someone who acts in a more important manner than others in a group.
- **Use in sentence:** He loved acting cock of the walk and ordering everyone about.

COLD COMFORT

- **Meaning:** no comfort or consolation at all.
- **Use in sentence:** She knows there are others worse off than her, but that's cold comfort.

COME A CROPPER

- **Meaning:** to have a misfortune; to fail. (Literally, to fall off one's horse.)
- **Use in sentence:** Jane was out all night before she took her exams. She really came a cropper.

COME DOWN WITH SOMETHING



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- **Meaning:** to become ill with some disease.
- **Use in sentence:** I'm afraid I'm coming down with a cold.