

# All Eyes and Ears

**ENGLISH IDIOMS WITH “EYE”  
and “EAR”**

## turn a blind **eye** to something

If you turn a blind eye to something, you ignore it intentionally.

## the apple of your **eye**

If somebody is the apple of your eye, this means that you like them very much.

*My granddaughter is the apple of my eye.*



## blink of an eye

If something happens in the blink of an eye, it happens nearly instantaneously, with hardly enough time to notice it.

*The pickpocket disappeared in the blink of an eye.*

## catch somebody's eye

If someone catches your eye, you find them attractive.

*The pretty girl near the door caught his eye.*

## the **eye** of the storm

A person or organization who is in the eye of the storm is deeply involved in a difficult situation which affects a lot of people.

*The minister was often in the eye of the storm during the debate on the war in Iraq.*



## in the twinkling of an **eye**

This expression means 'very fast' or 'instantaneously'.

*Public opinion can change in the twinkling of an eye.*

## **more than meets the eye**

When something (or someone) is more complicated, difficult or interesting than it appears, it is said that there is more than meets the eye.

*He said he simply sold his shares, but I think there's more to it than meets the eye.*

## **see eye to eye with someone**

To see eye to eye with somebody means to agree with them.

## eagle eyes

Someone who has eagle eyes sees or notices things more easily than others.

*Tony will help us find it – he's got eagle eyes!*



## eyes wide open

If you do something with your eyes open, you are fully aware of what you are doing.

*I took on the job with my eyes wide open, so I'm not complaining.*

## **eyes in the back of one's head**

To say that someone has eyes in the back of their head means that they are very observant and notice everything happening around them.

*You need eyes in the back of your head to look after young children.*

## **feast one's eyes on something**

If you feast your eyes on something, you are delighted and gratified by what you see.

*As he drove along the coast, he feasted his eyes on the beautiful scenery.*

## in one's mind's eye

If you can visualise something, or see an image of it in your mind, you see it in your mind's eye.

*I can see the village in my mind's eye but I can't remember the name.*

## a sight for sore eyes

This expression refers to a person or thing you are happy to see.

*Sam! You're a sight for sore eyes! Haven't seen you in a long time.*





## be all ears

to be listening attentively or eagerly  
*Tell your story – we're all ears!*

## bend someone's ear

*Fig.* to talk to someone, perhaps annoyingly. (As if talking so much that the other person's ear is moved back.)

*Tom is over there, bending Jane's ear about something. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to bend your ear for an hour.*

## have nothing between the ears

*Informal to be stupid*

*He's very good-looking but has absolutely nothing between the ears, I'm afraid.*

## give ear or lend ear

to give attention, esp. favorable attention;  
listen; heed

## in one ear and out the other

heard but without effect

*His mind was made up, so my arguments went in one ear and out the other.*



## **be wet behind the ears**

to be young and not very experienced

*He's fresh out of college, still wet behind the ears.*

## **can do something on their ear**

*Australian informal* if someone can do something on their ear, they can do it very easily.

*Ask Jane to make it, she can bake a soufflé on her ear.*

## **fall on deaf ears**

to be ignored or unheeded

## assault the ear

*Fig. [for sound or speech] to be very loud or persistent.*

*That loud music assaults the ears! I can't hear you with all that traffic noise assaulting my ears.*



## be easy on the ear

if music is easy on the ear, it has a pleasant and relaxing sound

*When I'm driving, I like to listen to music that's easy on the ear and not too demanding.*

## **(somebody's) ears are flapping**

*Informal* something that you say when you think that someone is listening to your private conversation.

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## music to someone's ears

*Fig.* a welcome sound to someone; news that someone is pleased to hear.

## on someone's ear

in a state of amazement, excitement, or uproar  
*a controversial movie that set the film industry on its ear.*

## set on its ear

*Informal* to cause excitement, upheaval, etc.