

Eggs in English (Standard Version)

What a particular food symbolizes in a language is culturally specific. In English the figurative or metaphorical meaning of a particular food may have nothing to do with what that same food symbolizes in French or Chinese or Hindi. English has a large number of idiomatic expressions which contain names of food. This Daily Expressions' Study Guide was developed to help you learn some of the most common idioms with the word 'egg.' The expressions in Daily Expressions' Study Guide have been divided into several categories: the standard **blue** color in bold is for those expression which are standard, italic standard *blue* is for those expressions which are acceptable but, because they are informal, their use should be limited; **red** is for those expressions which are slang and, therefore, not acceptable in many situations and **purple** for those expressions which are considered vulgar.

goose egg

1. a zero score in a game
2. a lump raised by a blow, especially on the head

goose eggs on a scoreboard

a scoreboard full of zeros

Green Eggs and Ham

famous children book published in 1960 by the celebrated children's author, Dr. Seuss.

Green Eggs and Ham is the fourth best selling hardcover book.

hardboiled egg

1. (literal) to boil an egg until the white and yoke are firm

I don't like **hardboiled eggs**. I prefer soft-boiled ones.

2. to be stubborn, obstinate, inflexible

Because he is a **hardboiled egg**, he won't change his mind for anything in the world.

3. cynical, unfeeling, unsentimental, cold

He is a **hardboiled egg**. He doesn't care one way or the other.

4. (informal) hard-core, tough nut to crack, locked in, solid as a rock, buried or set in concrete, **hard nut to crack**, tough, ornery

(British English) **Like as two eggs**

1. (standard) to be exactly alike, identical twins, carbon copy, Xerox, look-alike, double
2. (informal) dead ringer, like two peas in a pod, spittin' image

(British English) **Like the curate's egg**

euphemism for saying that something is bad or not satisfactory

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roe

the mass of eggs contained in the ovaries of a female fish or shellfish, especially when ripe and used as food

rotten egg

to be bad, degenerate,, unprincipled, dissolute or shameless

He is a **rotten egg** who no one can help. So, please, stop trying.

2. (informal) low-down, worthy of contempt, low-down-dirty-rotten

to be as sure as eggs is eggs

1. to be certain, to have no doubt, to be absolutely sure

I'm **as sure as eggs is eggs** that he had nothing to do with the plot.

2. (standard synonyms) to be without a doubt, positive, confident, absolute or undoubting
3. (informal synonyms) to be free from doubt, cocksure, positive, sure enough, sure as I live and breathe, sure as death and taxes, **sure as God made little green apples**, for certain, for a fact, no ifs and or buts

I'm **as sure as God made little green apples**. Any more questions?

to be egg shell thin

to be very fragile, easily broken, wobbling, tottering, shaky, rickety, or weak

The truce **is egg shell thin**.

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to be very fragile, easily broken, wobbling, tottering, shaky, rickety, or weak

The truce **is egg shell thin**.

(British English) **to be like treading on egg shell**

1. to proceed with a great deal of caution and care

It's **like treading on eggs** working in a company which has been down-sized.

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- (informal) to pussyfoot, to watch one's step, to walk on eggs

(American English) *to be like walking on egg shell*

- to proceed with a great deal of caution and care

It's *like walking on eggs* working in a company which has been down-sized.

to egg on

- (standard) to urge, encourage, goad, prod or coax someone to do something foolish or risky

You are responsible for *egging on* your little brother. You were older and, therefore, should have known better.

- (more formal/ less frequently used) to induce, instigate, prick, actuate, inveigle, exhort, sway, lure, or entice someone to do something foolish or risky

He **lured her** to talk back.to herself.

- (informal) to push, get going, set on or spur someone to do something foolish or risky

The other children around *pushed the bully to* beat up his classmate.

(British English) *to get eggs for one money*

to give something of value and, to receive in return, something worthless

to have eggs for brains

to be confused, muddled, not able to think straight

(British English) *to have eggs on the spit*

to be very busy and therefore not available to do anything else.

to have scrambled eggs for brains

to be a person is not organized or disorganized

to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs

to destroy one's source of wealth or income

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If he destroys his country's relationship with the company, he will be ***killing the goose that lays the golden eggs***.

to kill the goose to get the eggs

1. to grasp more than what is one's due and, as a result, lose everything

The man who **kills the goose to get the eggs**, ends up with nothing.

2. (informal synonyms) to have one's plans boomerang, to be caught in one's own trap, to defeat one's own purpose, to bite off more than one can chew, to have one's plans backfire, to be hoisted by one's own petard, to have too many irons in the fire, to have too many balls in the air

to lay an egg

1. to fail, to be unsuccessful in one's pursuit, to not be successful, to flounder

I'm going to keep my mouth shut she that I don't **lay an egg**.

2. (informal) to slip up, to put one's foot in one's mouth, to fumble, to bungle, to botch up, to louse up, to drop the ball, to dub, to make a blooper

nest egg

1. (literal) an artificial egg left in a nest to induce hens to lay eggs

2. money saved up for the future

I have quite a bit of money in my **nest egg**. I hope to do a lot of traveling once I retire.

to not put all one's eggs in one basket

to have a back up or contingency plan, to always have a plan B, to never risk everything on one venture

This business scares me because I have done a no-no. I know that I should not have **put all my eggs in one basket**.

(British English) **to over-egg the cake**

1. to exaggerate, to overstate, overstress

Saying thank you was enough. All the compliments and clapping were all unnecessary. She did not need to **over-egg the cake**.

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(British English) **to over-egg the cake**

2. (standard) to overdraw, to stretch the point, to carry too far, to make a mountain out of a molehill
3. (informal) to overcolor, to overdo, to paint, to oversell, to much ado about nothing, to go to extremes, to go overboard, to lay it on thick, to fall all over oneself, to kill with kindness, to make a big production

(British English) **to over-egg the pudding**

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to teach one's grandmother to suck eggs

to try to teach someone who is already an expert in that area, to attempt to teach your elders and superiors, to act above oneself

Telling an experienced teacher how to teach this to children is ridiculous. It is like **teaching your grandmother to suck eggs**.

There is reason in roasting eggs

even the most trivial thing has a reason for being done in one way rather than in some other

(British English) **to tread upon eggs**

to broach or approach a subject very carefully

To talk about the war, you'll have to **tread upon eggs**. People, in general, are very sensitive on that matter.

to walk on eggs

to treat someone or something very carefully, meticulously or cautiously

She is so sensitive. You must **walk on eggs** if you want to have a relationship.

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to want egg in your beer

to feel that one is entitled to special treatment, to want to have a special advantage over others in the same situation or condition

with egg on one's face

1. to appear foolish, laughable or ridiculous, to lose face, to be made red-faced

After opening my big mouth, I had to leave *with egg on my face*.
with egg on one's face

2. (informal) to appear daffy, crackbrained, moronic, asinine, idiotic

you can't make an omelet without breaking eggs

1. you can not achieve or accomplish anything without causing somebody somewhere pain

I think that it was very cold that his only response to the deaths was the old sayings - *you can't make an omelet without breaking eggs*.
People lives are worth something.

2. (informal) no pain no gain

to unscramble (eggs)

1. to undo, to change back
2. (informal) to not be able to unring the bell or put the toothpaste bring into the tube

Egg Quotes

A hen is only an **egg's** way of making another egg. (Samuel Butler)

All goodness of a good **egg** cannot make up for the badness of a bad one. (Charles A Dana)

It is very hard to shave an **egg**. (George Herbers)

Put all your **eggs** in one basket, and watch the basket. (Mark Twain)

Omelettes are not made without breaking **eggs**. (Robespierre)

There is always a best way of doing everything if it be to boil an **egg**. (Ralph Emerson)