

## **Poker: Poker Idioms**

In [According to Hoyle](#), a book of game rules, the author says that “poker has been called the national card game of the United States.” I don't think that there *is* an official card game of the U.S., but I know that poker is a popular game in the U.S. (And a lot of other places, too.) Poker's popularity means that it has added a lot to American English. And, if you're learning English idioms, it's a good idea to know a few of the more common idioms that come from poker.

Today, we're going to talk about only some of the idioms that came from poker into American English. (And possibly—but I don't know—into British English as well.) Do you know what it means to:

- Play your cards well? Or poorly?
- Have a poker face?
- Stack the deck?
- Hold your cards close to your chest?

Start the recording and learn the meaning of these idioms. When you've heard and understood the idioms, try to think of a non-poker occasion when you could use each of these idioms.