

Spanish idioms and
Proverbs Translated
into English: Book two

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darle ánimo

to cheer up

presencia de ánimo

presence of mind

antes bien

rather

tragar el anzuelo

to swallow it hook,
line and sinker

estar por el aro

to fall into line, to
submit, to yield

tener que pasar

to toe the line, to
knuckle under

tener que pasar

to have no option

no tener arreglo

not to be able to be
helped

en las barbas

right in one's face

con colores
desplegadas

with flying colors

dar un beso a la
botella

to take a little nip

a pedir de boca

smoothly

andar en boca de
todos

to have everyone
talking about it

andar en boca de
todos

to be gossiped about

decir lo que se viene a
la boca

to say whatever comes
into one's mind

en boca cerrada no
entran moscas

mum's the word

se le llena la boca

to pay lip service to

meterse en la boca del
lobo

to put one's head in
the lion's mouth

a boca llena

without mincing
words or biting one's
tongue

meterse en el bolsillo

to wrap around one's
little finger

cruzarse de brazos

to do nothing

no dar el brazo a
torcer

to stick to one's gun,
to not cry uncle **or** to
not to give in

en breve

presently, soon or
shortly

de brocha gorda

poorly done

armar una bronca

to start a fight

en dos broncos o en
un brinco

in no time at all

Buenas se va a armar

There's trouble
brewing

de buenas a primeras

right off the bat

hacerla buena

to make a fine mess of
it

estar pendiente de un
cabello

to be hanging by a
hair

ponérsele los cabellos
de punta

to have one's hair
stand on end

levantar cabeza

to get on one's feet

cabos sueltos

loose ends

estar más loco que
una cabra

to be as crazy as a
loon **or** to be as nutty
as a fruit cake

a cada cual lo suyo

to each his own

cada poco

every so often

caber todo en

to expect anything of
or from

metérsele en la cabeza

to get into one's head

romperse la cabeza

to rack one's brain

subírsele a la cabeza

to go to one's head

asentir (afirmar) con
la cabeza

to nod (yes)

dar cabezadas

to nod (with
drowsiness)

el cabo

end

al cabo

at last

al cabo de un rato

after a while

atar cabos

to put two and two
together

llevar a cabo

to carry out

hacerle a uno una
caída de ojos

to make calf **or** goo-
goo eyes at

hacerle a uno una
caída de ojos

to flirt with

despedir con cajas
destempladas

to send packing

ser de cal y canto

to be as solid as a
rock

dar calabazas

to jilt

darle una calada

to haul somebody over
the coal

hacer el caldo gordo

to make things easier

allanar el camino

to smooth the way

una calma chica

a dead calm

estar en calzas prietas

to be in a fix **or** in a
tight spot

tomar las calzas de
Villadiego

to run away

llevar los calzones

to wear the pants

Quien calla, otorga

Silence gives consent

ser mejor para callado

to be better left unsaid

echar a la calle

to throw out on the
streets

poner en la calle

to turn out into the
street

dejar en la calle

to kick or throw out

quedar o quedarse en
la calle

to be left without a
penny to one's name

echar por la calle de
 en medio

to push on or to press
on regardless

traer por la calle de la
amargura

to make someone
suffer

apartarse del camino

to get off the track

camino de

on the way to

de camino

on the way

el camino trillado

the beaten path

ponerse en camino

to start out

dejar a uno sin
camisa

to clean someone out
or to leave someone
destitute

jugarse hasta la
camisa

to bet one's bottom
dollar

meterse en camisa de
once varas

to get into trouble

por quién doblan las
campanas

for whom the bells
tolls

faltar a las canas

to show a lack of
respect for one's
elders

estar en el candelero

to be in the limelight
or in the public eye

ser otro cantar

to be a horse of
another color **or** to be
another story

tener mala cara

to look bad

tener cara de palo

to have a wooden
expression **or** to have
a poker face

dar o poner la cara

to do one's own dirty
work

tener cara de pocos
amigos

to look cross or angry

lavar la cara a uno

to lick one's boots, to
slobber all over, to
flatter to the extreme

carecer de algo

to lack something

carecer de valor

to lack courage

de carne y hueso

of flesh and blood

no saber a qué carta
quedarse

not to be able to make
up one's mind **or** to be
at a loss

poner las cartas sobre
la mesa

to put one's cards on
the table

saber jugar a las
cartas

to know how to play
one's cards

quemar el último
cartucho

to play one's last card
or to play one's ace in
the hole

¡Cásate y versa!

Live and learn!

romperse los cascos

to rack one's brain

sacar a uno de sus
casillos

to shake somebody
up, to get somebody
worked up **or** to drive
somebody crazy

en caso contrario

otherwise

en el peor de los casos

if worst comes to
worst

en último caso

as a last resort

ir al caso

to get to the point

poner por caso

to assume

según el caso

as the case may be