



American Expression E0543 Like stealing candy from a baby

IOTS Publishing Team  
International Online Teachers Society  
Since 2011

"Like stealing candy from a baby" is a widely used idiom that describes a task or action that is exceptionally easy to accomplish due to the vulnerability or naivety of the target. The phrase invokes the image of a defenseless baby holding a piece of candy, suggesting that taking it away would be effortless and morally objectionable due to the lack of challenge and unfairness involved.

The idiom is often used to convey the idea of achieving success or gaining an advantage with minimal effort or skill, akin to exploiting a situation where the odds are heavily in one's favor. It implies that the task is so straightforward that anyone could accomplish it, and the outcome is practically certain due to the lack of resistance or opposition.

The phrase "like stealing candy from a baby" is typically employed in a negative or critical context, highlighting the lack of fairness or morality in taking advantage of vulnerable individuals or situations. It can describe actions that exploit others' weaknesses, trust, or lack of awareness.

Metaphorically, the idiom is used to depict situations where individuals or entities act in a manner that is exploitative, deceitful, or manipulative, often achieving their objectives without facing any significant obstacles or consequences.

Moreover, the idiom can also be applied humorously to describe tasks that are indeed easy but not necessarily morally objectionable. For instance, if someone effortlessly solves a straightforward puzzle or completes a simple task, they might jokingly say it was "like stealing candy from a baby."

It is crucial to recognize that while the phrase conveys a sense of ease and advantage, it also raises questions about ethics, fairness, and the treatment of vulnerable individuals. Exploiting vulnerabilities or taking advantage of defenseless individuals can be morally objectionable and reflects poorly on the character of those who engage in such actions.

In conclusion, "like stealing candy from a baby" is an idiom that describes a task or action that is exceptionally easy to accomplish due to the vulnerability or naivety of the target. The phrase emphasizes the lack of challenge and the unfairness involved in exploiting situations where the odds are heavily in one's favor. It is commonly used to criticize actions that exploit others' weaknesses, trust, or lack of awareness. While the idiom can be used humorously in certain contexts, it also raises important considerations about ethics and the treatment of vulnerable individuals. It serves as a reminder of the importance of fairness, integrity, and empathy in our interactions and decision-making processes.

#### Questions for Discussion

1. In what real-life situations have you encountered actions or behaviors that can be likened to "stealing candy from a baby"? How do you feel about individuals who take advantage of vulnerable situations for personal gain?
  2. Discuss the potential consequences, both short-term and long-term, of engaging in actions that exploit vulnerabilities or weaknesses in others, similar to "stealing candy from a baby." How can such behaviors impact trust, relationships, and the overall moral fabric of a community or society?
  3. Share examples from history, literature, or current events where individuals or organizations have been criticized for behaving in a manner akin to "stealing candy from a baby." What were the circumstances surrounding these actions, and how were they perceived by others?
  4. Explore the ethical considerations and decision-making processes involved when faced with opportunities that feel like "stealing candy from a baby." What factors should individuals or businesses take into account when determining the fairness and morality of their actions?
  5. The idiom "like stealing candy from a baby" can be used humorously to describe easy tasks or achievements. How can humor be a way of acknowledging the simplicity of certain challenges without undermining the seriousness of exploitative actions in other contexts?
-