

FIRE/NORC 2025 Idioms Survey

Topline Results

Below is a list of phrases that people may say. Which ones, if any, are you familiar with?

Idiom	No	Yes
"It's a free country."	15%	85%
"Everyone's entitled to their own opinion."	15%	85%
"To each their own."	16%	84%
"Who am I to judge."	17%	83%
"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me."	18%	82%
"Walk a mile in someone else's shoes."	19%	81%
"Different strokes for different folks."	24%	76%
"Address the argument, not the person."	70%	30%
None of the above.	95%	5%
Skipped.	>99%	<1%

How often, if at all, do you say...

"It's a free country."

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
Never	275	29
Rarely, once or twice	274	29
Occasionally, a handful of times	255	27
Fairly often, a couple times a week	93	10
Very often, nearly every day	49	5
SKIPPED ON WEB	5	1
(Missing)	171	NA

"Everyone's entitled to their own opinion."

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
Never	121	13
Rarely, once or twice	235	25
Occasionally, a handful of times	388	41
Fairly often, a couple times a week	130	14
Very often, nearly every day	69	7
SKIPPED ON WEB	7	1
(Missing)	171	NA

“To each their own.”

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
Never	136	15
Rarely, once or twice	254	27
Occasionally, a handful of times	347	37
Fairly often, a couple times a week	152	16
Very often, nearly every day	44	5
SKIPPED ON WEB	5	1
(Missing)	183	NA

“Who am I to judge?”

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
Never	166	18
Rarely, once or twice	264	28
Occasionally, a handful of times	323	35
Fairly often, a couple times a week	119	13
Very often, nearly every day	55	6
SKIPPED ON WEB	7	1
(Missing)	188	NA

“Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.”

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
Never	359	39
Rarely, once or twice	322	35
Occasionally, a handful of times	180	19
Fairly often, a couple times a week	36	4
Very often, nearly every day	23	2
SKIPPED ON WEB	6	1
(Missing)	197	NA

“Walk a mile in someone else’s shoes.”

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
Never	227	25
Rarely, once or twice	337	37
Occasionally, a handful of times	247	27
Fairly often, a couple times a week	60	7
Very often, nearly every day	26	3
SKIPPED ON WEB	11	1
(Missing)	214	NA

“Different strokes for different folks.”

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
Never	317	37
Rarely, once or twice	264	31
Occasionally, a handful of times	199	23
Fairly often, a couple times a week	46	5
Very often, nearly every day	23	3
SKIPPED ON WEB	6	1
(Missing)	267	NA

“Address the argument, not the person.”

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
Never	116	35
Rarely, once or twice	107	32
Occasionally, a handful of times	72	22
Fairly often, a couple times a week	20	6
Very often, nearly every day	14	4
DON'T KNOW	1	0
SKIPPED ON WEB	3	1
(Missing)	790	NA

How often, if at all, do you hear

“It’s a free country.”

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
Never	63	7
Rarely, once or twice	199	21
Occasionally, a handful of times	374	39
Fairly often, a couple times a week	196	21
Very often, nearly every day	103	11
DON'T KNOW	0	0
SKIPPED ON WEB	15	2
(Missing)	171	NA

“Everyone’s entitled to their own opinion.”

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
Never	32	3
Rarely, once or twice	207	22
Occasionally, a handful of times	436	46
Fairly often, a couple times a week	188	20
Very often, nearly every day	74	8
DON'T KNOW	0	0
SKIPPED ON WEB	13	1
(Missing)	171	NA

“To each their own.”

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
Never	56	6
Rarely, once or twice	263	28
Occasionally, a handful of times	375	40
Fairly often, a couple times a week	181	19
Very often, nearly every day	52	6
DON'T KNOW	1	0
SKIPPED ON WEB	12	1
(Missing)	183	NA

“Who am I to judge?”

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
Never	74	8
Rarely, once or twice	268	29
Occasionally, a handful of times	378	40
Fairly often, a couple times a week	146	16
Very often, nearly every day	57	6
DON'T KNOW	0	0
SKIPPED ON WEB	11	1
(Missing)	188	NA

“Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.”

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
Never	222	24
Rarely, once or twice	367	40
Occasionally, a handful of times	238	26
Fairly often, a couple times a week	54	6
Very often, nearly every day	34	4
SKIPPED ON WEB	11	1
(Missing)	197	NA

“Walk a mile in someone else’s shoes.”

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
Never	120	13
Rarely, once or twice	353	39
Occasionally, a handful of times	310	34
Fairly often, a couple times a week	83	9
Very often, nearly every day	29	3
SKIPPED ON WEB	13	1
(Missing)	214	NA

“Different strokes for different folks.”

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
Never	146	17
Rarely, once or twice	325	38
Occasionally, a handful of times	271	32
Fairly often, a couple times a week	71	8
Very often, nearly every day	30	4
DON'T KNOW	0	0
SKIPPED ON WEB	12	1
(Missing)	267	NA

“Address the argument, not the person.”

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
Never	73	22
Rarely, once or twice	151	45
Occasionally, a handful of times	69	21
Fairly often, a couple times a week	26	8
Very often, nearly every day	12	3
SKIPPED ON WEB	2	1
(Missing)	790	NA

How much, if at all, does the following statement describe your thoughts: “Words can be violence.”

Response	Frequency	Percent
Describes my thoughts completely	119	11
Mostly describes my thoughts	157	14
Somewhat describes my thoughts	266	24
Slightly describes my thoughts	172	15
Does not describe my thoughts at all	398	35
SKIPPED ON WEB	10	1