

know on which side bread is buttered

know on which side one's bread is buttered, also, know what side one's bread is buttered on

Meaning

- know what is to one's advantage
- to be aware of where your interests lie and who you should support to achieve something greater
- to know who is helpful to you and how you should act to get what you want
- to also understand what benefits you and who you should put your energy behind to get those benefits or advantages

Example Sentences

1. She's far too clever to irritate her employer as she knows which side her bread is buttered on.
2. John gave his boss a gift last week because he knows which side his bread is buttered.
3. Jenny supported a different political candidate because she knows which side her bread is buttered.
4. Since Amy knows which side her bread is buttered on, she's always so nice to customers.
5. "The trouble with you, John, is you don't know on which side your bread is buttered."
6. My daddy is going to make sure I know what side my bread is buttered on.
7. I know which side my bread is buttered on, so I truly value my mom's support.

Origin

The origin of this idiom comes as early as the mid-1500s. And it was first recorded by John Heywood. He referenced the phrase in his glossary A Dialogue Conteynyng the Nombere in Effect of all the Prouerbes in the Englishe Tongue (published in 1546):

"I knowe on which side my breade is buttered."

The phrase's origin comes from a time when people depended on others to survive and needed to work as a whole to make sure their way of life wasn't harmed. Ultimately, because these people relied on someone else to live, there wasn't room to be independent and self-reliant.

Dialogue

"I knowe on weseihsyde my breæ is butt46): hn Heyw ih dere fect'de hto vactof's ouæg ro fect ng b

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better time to coin a phrase like 'I know which side my bread is buttered'.

See also: the List of Proverbs.

What does it mean when someone says you know where your bread is buttered? – Sage-Advices

Table of Contents

- 1 What does it mean when someone says you know where your bread is buttered?
- 2 What is the meaning of the idiom made his bed now he has to lie in it?
- 3 How your bread is buttered?
- 4 What does butter my bread mean?
- 5 How does bread get buttered?
- 6 How long is a long lie?

Definition of know which side one's bread is buttered on informal : to know how to act or how to treat others in order to get what one wants He pretends to be impartial, but believe me, he knows which side his bread is buttered on.

What is the meaning of the idiom made his bed now he has to lie in it?

You made a decision and now must accept its consequences.

How your bread is buttered?

If you say that someone knows what side their bread is buttered on, you mean that they know what to do or who to please in order to stay in a good situation or to avoid a bad one.

Which side of the bread do you butter?

Since the original position is usually butter-side up, the toast lands butter-side down. However, if the table is over 10 feet (3 meters) tall, the toast will rotate a full 360 degrees, and land butter-side up.

What does spill the beans mean idiom?

Disclose a secret or reveal something prematurely, as in You can count on little Carol to spill the beans about the surprise. In this colloquial expression, first recorded in 1919, spill means "divulge," a usage dating from the 1500s.

What does butter my bread mean?

1. To benefit or profit from two or more separate and often contradictory or incompatible things or sources. The CEO buttered her bread on both sides, secretly investing in oil companies while publicly backing green energy initiatives to gain popular support.

How does bread get buttered?

Be aware of where one's best interests lie, as in Jerry always helps out his boss; he knows which side of his bread is buttered. This expression alludes to the more favorable, or buttered, side of bread and has been used metaphorically since the early 1500s.

How long is a long lie?

One significant aspect of falls is a "long lie". A long lie is when a person who has fallen spends a prolonged period of time on the floor because they are unable to get up. Literature defines a long lie as being on the floor for an hour or more.

What does Foot in Mouth mean?

Say something foolish, embarrassing, or tactless. For example, Jane put her foot in her mouth when she called him by her first husband's name. This notion is sometimes put as having foot-in-mouth disease, as in He has a bad case of foot-in-mouth disease, always making some tactless remark.

Can't swing a cat meaning?

If you say 'There's no room to swing a cat' or 'You can't swing a cat', you mean that the place you are talking about is very small or crowded. It was described as a large, luxury mobile home, but there was barely room to swing a cat.

Know which side your bread is buttered on Idiom Definition

To know which side your bread is buttered on is an idiom that goes back at least to the mid-1500s. An idiom is a word, group of words or phrase that has a figurative meaning that is not easily deduced from its literal definition. We will examine the definition of the phrase know which side your bread is buttered on, where it came from and some examples of its use in sentences.

To know which side your bread is buttered on means to understand what is to your benefit, to understand where to put your energies in order to benefit yourself, to know which choice is to your advantage, to understand who will be helpful to you. This alludes to the fact that the part of the bread with the butter on it is more valuable. The idiom know which side your bread is buttered on was first recorded in John Heywood's Proverbs, published in 1546: "I knowe on whiche syde my breade is buttred." Related phrases are knows which side his bread is buttered on, knew which side his bread was buttered on, knowing which side your bread is buttered on.

Examples:

It's always important to know which side your bread is buttered on and the Liquid Mechanics Brewing Co. seems to know exactly where that is. (Boulder Weekly)

Democratic demographer Ruy Teixeira has a more prosaic explanation: "Not only are the police likely to vote Republican but the union is the mechanism to mobilize them. . . It's about knowing which side your bread is buttered on." (The Week Magazine)

"On average I'd say I win 25-30 of those matches," he says with a smile that indicates he knows which side his bread is buttered on. (The New Zealand Herald)

know which side bread is buttered

know which side (one's) bread is buttered (on)

To know how to best ensure one's success. I know which side my bread is buttered on, so I was very nice to the recruiter and promptly sent her a thank you card after our interview.

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know which side one's bread is buttered on

Prov. to be aware of where your money comes from; to be loyal to the person or thing that will benefit you the most. Wife: Please be sure not to upset Grandma. You know we can't do without the money she sends us every month. Husband: Don't worry. I know which side my bread is buttered on.

McGraw-Hill Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs. © 2002 by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

know which side your bread is buttered

If you know which side your bread is buttered, you know what to do or who to please in order to put yourself in the best possible situation. Donald was a man who knew with utter clarity which side his bread was buttered. I'm in no doubt which side my bread is buttered for the present.

Collins COBUILD Idioms Dictionary, 3rd ed. © HarperCollins Publishers 2012

know on which side your bread is buttered

know where your advantage lies.

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know which side your ' bread is buttered

(informal) know what to do in order to gain advantages, stay in a favourable situation, etc: I'm sure Ray will make a special effort to please the new supervisor — after all, he knows which side his bread is buttered!

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know what/which side of the bread is buttered (on), to

To know where one's best interests lie. This metaphor appeared in John Heywood's Proverbs of 1546 ("I know on which syde my bread is buttered"), and was used so often over the centuries that it was a cliché by about 1800.

See also:

- as we know it
- (I) can't say that I do
- can't say that I do
- I know
- before you know where you are
- by any chance
- AFAIK
- closed book, a
- a closed book
- get (all) torn up

know what side of the bread is buttered

know what side (one's) bread is buttered (on)

To know how to best ensure one's success. I know what side my bread is buttered on, so I was very nice to the recruiter and promptly sent her a thank you card after our interview. A: "It was always so annoying the way Tom sucked up to the boss." B: "Yeah, but now he's a regional manager, so I guess he knew what side his bread was buttered."

know which side (one's) bread is buttered (on)

To know how to best ensure one's success. I know which side my bread is buttered on, so I was very nice to the recruiter and promptly sent her a thank you card after our interview.

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The Dictionary of Clichés by Christine Ammer Copyright © 2013 by Christine Ammer

See also:

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- (I) can't say that I do
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- I know
- before you know where you are
- by any chance
- AFAIK
- closed book, a
- a closed book
- get (all) torn up

Where bread is buttered? - Yevuo Homemaking & Food Partner

Where bread is buttered?

If you say that someone knows what side their bread is buttered on, you mean that they know what to do or who to please in order to stay in a good situation or to avoid a bad one.

What side your bread is buttered on origin?

The idiom know which side your bread is buttered on was first recorded in John Heywood's Proverbs, published in 1546: "I knowe on whiche syde my breade is buttred." Related phrases are knows which side his bread is buttered on, knew which side his bread was buttered on, knowing which side your bread is buttered on.

What does it mean to have your bread buttered on both sides?

(idiomatic) To profit from two things at the same time, especially when those things seem contradictory or incompatible.

Which phrase is bread and butter?

Your bread and butter

A job or activity that provides you with the money you need to live: Gardening is my bread and butter right now.

What does butter my bread mean in slang?

To benefit or profit from two or more separate and often contradictory or incompatible things or sources. The CEO buttered her bread on both sides, secretly investing in oil companies while publicly backing green energy initiatives to gain popular support. 2.

What does it mean to butter someone's bread?

It means Who gives you money. It can refer to your parents (putting a roof over your head and feeding you), your boss (giving you a paid job), your clients/customers (if you have a business), or your partner (if you are stay at home and they work).

Can i butter your toast meaning?

To please someone, so that that person will do what you want them to do. The metaphor is that putting butter on something makes it less dry and easier to eat. This is extended, as butter on toast becomes warm and soft.

What is the origin of the idiom bread and butter?

When the term bread and butter was first used in the 1700s, it referred to one's basic needs. It wasn't until the 1800s that the phrase came to mean one's income or livelihood. When used as an adjective before a noun, the term is hyphenated as in bread-and-butter.

Is bread and butter a metaphor?

"Bread and butter" is a superstitious blessing or charm, typically said by young couples or friends walking together when they are forced to separate by an obstacle, such as a pole or another person. By saying the phrase, the bad luck of letting something come between them is thought to be averted.

What is a queer fish?

Meaning. If someone's a queer fish, they are A bit strange and can sometimes behave in an unusual way.

What does butters mean slang?

(Britain, slang) Synonym of ugly.

What does it mean to butter someone's biscuit?

(slang) To interest or appeal to someone; to make someone happy.

How do you use bread and butter in a sentence?

It was a question of bread and butter. The bread and butter of these men is at stake. They work not merely for bread and butter. They are going to help us to earn our bread and butter and help our businesses in so doing.

Do you want your muffin buttered?

It was a question of bread and butter. The bread and butter of these men is at stake. They work not merely for bread and butter. They are going to help us to earn our bread and butter and help our businesses in so doing.

What shouldn't you do to your bread and butter?

It was a question of bread and butter. The bread and butter of these men is at stake. They work not merely for bread and butter. They are going to help us to earn our bread and butter and help our businesses in so doing.

What does it mean to keep your eye on the ball?

Keep your eye on the ball is An informal way of telling someone to pay attention to a situation. It is commonly used in (and originates from) the game of baseball, to imply that players need to watch where the ball is at all times.

What is the meaning of the idiom from pillar to post?

Idiom. If someone goes from pillar to post, They are forced to keep moving from one place to another: My parents were always on the move and

so my childhood was spent being dragged from pillar to post.

What does quick on the uptake mean?

Idiom informal. If someone is quick/slow on the uptake, They understand things easily/with difficulty: He's a little slow on the uptake, so you may have to repeat the instructions a few times.

What is the meaning of eke out?

To obtain or win something only with difficulty or great effort: The company expects to eke out a small profit this year.