

# BBC Learning English

## The Teacher

### *Vegetable idioms*



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In this episode, **The Teacher** introduces you to three idiomatic phrases connected with vegetables.

1. **It's a hot potato**
  2. **A carrot and stick**
  3. **Like two peas in a pod**
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Hello, I'm a very interesting and intelligent man. And today, this carrot, these peas and this potato are going to be teaching you some idioms in English.

I bet you've never been taught by some vegetables before.

Ah, my boss.

He's not very happy with me at the moment.

He found out I'm giving you these secret video classes and he wants me to stop.

He thinks these lessons are just... silly.

#### **It's a hot potato.**

In English, if there's a delicate issue and people can't agree we call it a 'hot potato'.

It's a hot potato.

But he has offered me a carrot. Well, not a real one.

If I stop the classes he'll buy me a framed picture of Mr Bean.

But if I don't, he'll fire me and stop the classes!

#### **It's a carrot and stick.**

In English, if someone tries to persuade us to do something using an incentive and a threat, we call it a 'carrot and stick'.

A carrot and stick.

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Have you met my brother?

He's not very interesting or intelligent, but he does look very similar to me.

Yes, we're like two peas in a pod.

In English, if two people look very similar we can say they're like two peas in a pod.

**Like two peas in a pod.**