

being STUPID

idioms



Be a few cards short of a full deck

To be rather stupid or mentally deficient.

- I don't think he's got all his marbles—he's a few cards short of a full deck.
- Anyone who would do something that dangerous must be a few cards short of a full deck.

Be a bit thick — mildly stupid or slow to understand, especially British English.

- He's a nice guy, but he's a bit thick.

Be as thick as two short planks

To be extremely stupid. (British English)

- He's as thick as two short planks and never understands what I'm saying.
- I can't believe she did that—she's as thick as two short planks.

Be a few fries short of a Happy Meal

To be slightly crazy or stupid.

- He's a few fries short of a Happy Meal if he thinks that's a good idea.
- You have to be a few fries short of a Happy Meal to drive that fast.

Be a few sandwiches short of a picnic

To be foolish, confused or mentally deficient.

- I think he's a few sandwiches short of a picnic—he just tried to put his phone in the fridge instead of his lunch.
- His daughter confirmed that her father was definitely one sandwich short of a picnic.

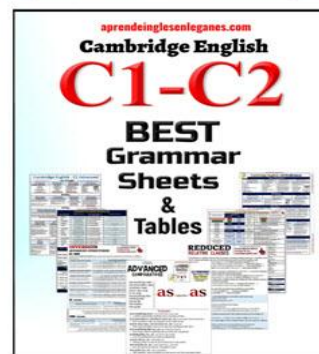
Not be the brightest bulb in the box — not very clever.

- He couldn't work out how to turn the computer on—he's not the brightest bulb in the box!

C1-C2

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Not be the sharpest tool in the shed

To not be particularly intelligent.

- He's a nice guy, but he's not the sharpest tool in the shed.
- She isn't the sharpest tool in the shed, but she works hard.

Not have the brains you were born with

To be extremely stupid or incapable of making sensible decisions.

- He hasn't got the brains he was born with.
- She clearly hasn't got the brains she was born with if she thinks that's safe.

Have rocks in your head

To be stupid or make very foolish decisions.

- You've got rocks in your head if you think I'll lend you that much money.
- He must have rocks in his head to drive without insurance.

The lights are on but nobody is home.

Used to say that someone is not thinking clearly, is not paying attention, or seems unintelligent.

- I explained the instructions three times, but the lights are on but nobody's home.
- He just stood there staring at the computer screen—the lights were on, but nobody was home.