

# SPORTING IDIOMS

## CRICKET

He's had a long innings.  
I really hit him for six.

## TENNIS

The ball's in your court.  
Looks like game, set and match to me.

## FOOTBALL

All we ask for is a level playing field.  
The government is always moving the goalposts.  
Basically it's been game of two halves.  
I'm going to blow the whistle on him.  
That's an example of playing the man and not the ball.

## BOXING

I was saved by the bell.  
That was a bit below the belt.  
It's time to deliver the knock-out blow.  
He's out for the count.  
It's time to throw in the towel.  
I'm really on the ropes.  
He never saw it coming.  
He took it on the chin.  
We've got our backs to the wall.

## HORSE-RACING

Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.  
He's a bit of a dark horse.  
It looks as if you've backed the wrong horse.  
I was pipped at the post.  
She's got the whip hand.  
We've fallen at the first fence.  
We're in sight of the winning post.

## CARDS

It's on the cards.  
The boss has finally come up trumps.  
I'm going to put my cards on the table.  
He's playing it close to his chest.  
I'm sure he's got something up his sleeve.  
He's the joker in the pack.

## ATHLETICS

He was a bit slow off the mark.  
We're on the last lap.  
The tax man is hot on my heels.  
You'll have to be quick off the mark.  
You're jumping the gun.  
He's setting a fast pace.

## MISC

He's just playing for time.  
Let's take a time-out.  
That's another string to his bow.  
That joke was a bit off-target.  
We're completely snookered.