

Usages of “heart” (*leb*) in Hebrew and English

Hebrew	(English)	Used to Convey
hot		anger
lifted up		pride
hard	hard	stubbornness (Eng.- cruel, mean)
pure	pure	single-minded (Eng.- sincere, good)
turn heart / cause to turn heart		commit to / convince
(feel) good		intoxicated
sustain		physical recovery (from hunger/thirst)
smitten		guilty
to be upon one's heart		lonely for / thinking about
steal	steal	gain loyalty of (Eng.- make fall in love)
go after		be loyal to, follow

Note: in three cases the same idiom exists in Hebrew and English, but with different meanings. This is not a complete list. A fuller list (Hebrew idioms only) can be found in the PowerPoint titled “Heartlist.”

Hebrew	English	Used to Convey
astonish, faint, go out, melt (like wax)	freeze/stand still/stop / heart failure	fear/shock /panic
cast down, hinder, break, die	lose heart, sink, disheartened	discouragement, giving up
grieve	sick	relational sadness
set (to), ponder in heart	take to heart	consider, think about, reflect
strong, stout	brave, lion-hearted	bravery
sing	leap	joy
ravish	steal	infatuation
with all/whole	half/whole heartedly, a lot of heart, heart not in it	commitment /desire, lack of same
be upon, write on heart	by heart	memorize
after one's own heart (usually God's)	after one's own heart	in conformity to the desires or nature of
trembling, fearful of heart	faint-hearted	timid, cowardly, fearful

Here the idioms differ, but the meanings are the same.

(Hebrew-)	English-	Used to Convey
	hard, cold, of stone, no heart	lacking in compassion or pity
	pure	honest, sincere
	heavy	worry, sadness
	soft, tender	compassion, tenderness
	warm/kind/good-hearted	kind, sympathetic
	have a /have no heart	compassion/lack of compassion
	throb	romantic love
	break	relational love - sadness
	from bottom of heart	depth of feeling
	heart in hand	repentant, humble
	big heart, you're all heart	generous
	heartburn	specific physical pain (cf. Heb. "heart is hot"=anger)
	take heart	be encouraged, made brave
	heart to heart	candid, frank
	heart-struck	grief, dismay, remorse
	large/big-hearted	generous
	all heart	generous (usually sarcastic)
	false-hearted	deceitful, treacherous
	chicken-hearted	cowardly
	warm the (cockles of) heart	cheer, gladden
	heart-warming	causing gladness or pleasure
	pluck at heart-strings, make heart bleed	make sad
	eat one's heart out	long for, desire (unfulfilled)
	heart in one's mouth	excited anticipation
	heart rending	causing anguish or deep distress or sympathy
	bleeding heart	considered to be overly and impractically sympathetic
	lonely hearts	missing romantic companionship
	heart of hearts	innermost self
	at heart / get to the heart	core, important part (in Hebrew, done with bone)
	from the bottom of the heart	sincerely, with conviction and emotional force
	wearing one's heart on one's sleeve	oversensitive, thin-skinned
	heart in hand	repentant, humble
	set one's heart on	desire, emotionally focus
	full heart	overcome with emotion
	to one's heart's content	as much as desired
	cross one's heart	vow, solemn promise
	lives in one's heart	be ever-present in the mind/attention, commitment (context is often where the commitment cannot be expressed openly)

That I know of, there is no Hebrew equivalent to any of these English idioms.