

Idioms

(a language technique)



Introduction

The purpose of this PowerPoint is to introduce the use of idioms as a language technique.

By the end of this PowerPoint you will have the knowledge and understanding of how to identify the technique within a range of texts.

When completing any form of writing activity for functional skills, try to apply the technique you've learned.

Learning outcomes

- To define the term 'idiom'
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the language technique

What are idioms?

Write down a brief sentence stating what you understand by the term 'idiom'.

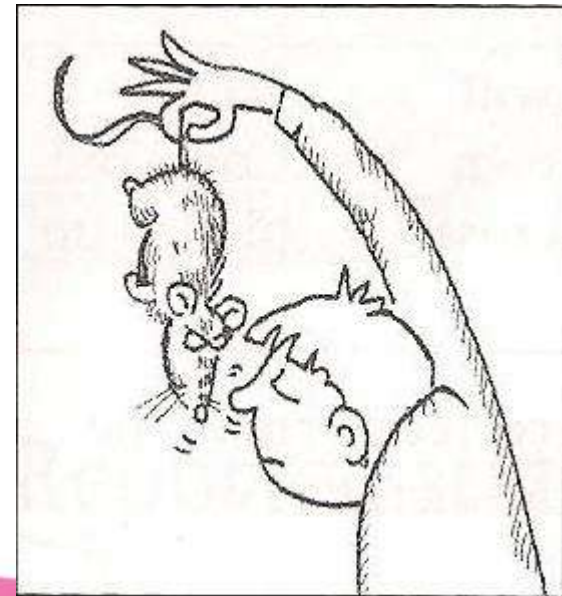
Give an example.

Definition

An idiom is a phrase or fixed expression that has a figurative, or sometimes literal, meaning.

Example

To smell a rat: means to sense that something is wrong; to have reason for suspicion.



Did you know?

An idiom is a manner of speaking that is natural to native speakers of a language.

Every language has its own collection of wise sayings.

There is no time like the present.

Times flies ...

Idioms are expressions that cannot be translated literally into another language, as they won't make sense.

Everyday examples

Idioms are often informal and are used in everyday speech.

If Idioms Were Literal...
Hold your horses.



www.English-Grammar-Revolution.com

English
Idioms

To sit on the fence

Woodward
ENGLISH



MEANING:

When a person does not take sides in an argument or is hesitant to choose between two sides in a dispute (in order to remain neutral).

EXAMPLE:

You can't *sit on the fence* any longer - you must choose whose side you are on.

www.grammar.cl

www.woodwardenglish.com

www.vocabulary.cl

Idiom examples

A penny for your thoughts.

A way of asking what someone is thinking.



You can't judge a book by its cover.

You can not judge something primarily on appearance.

Identify the idiom

Locate the idiom from within the three examples given below.

“Yes, I got the work done in time. I finished it at the eleventh hour, but I wasn’t late.”

“I’m trying to concentrate! Don’t bug me!”

“Don’t believe everything he tells you. He was probably pulling your leg.”

Other idioms you may recognise

- **Jump on the bandwagon** – to join a popular trend or activity
- **Once in a blue moon** – something that happens very rarely
- **Let the cat out of the bag** – to share information that was previously concealed



Activity

Explain the following idioms below in your own words. Then, put them into a suitable sentence to show your understanding.

- ***Fly off the handle***
- ***Make ends meet***
- ***Hold out an olive branch***

Activity

Examples in a work context

Complete the table below:

Idiom	Meaning
Let one's hair down	
Splitting hairs	
Get in someone's hair	

Activity

Examples in a work context

Complete the table below:

Idiom	Meaning
Apple of one's eye	
Bad egg	
Big cheese	
Couch potato	

Here are some American idioms
you may recognise



A word cloud of American idioms centered around the title "American Idioms". The title is in large red font. Other idioms are in various colors and orientations: "I smell a rat" (blue), "cat got your tongue?" (grey), "pull someone's leg" (green), "kick the bucket" (purple), "leave someone high and dry" (purple), "go to the dogs" (yellow), "he's all thumbs" (vertical green), "bite the dust" (vertical green), "drive someone up a wall" (vertical blue), "knock his socks off" (blue), "she's a wet blanket" (teal), "horse around" (green), "make ends meet" (yellow), "jump the gun" (red), "play it by ear" (grey), "string him along" (black), "stick out one's neck" (purple), "let the cat out of the bag" (brown), and "money talks" (green).

American Idioms

I smell a rat
cat got your tongue?
pull someone's leg
kick the bucket
leave someone high and dry
go to the dogs
he's all thumbs
bite the dust
drive someone up a wall
knock his socks off
she's a wet blanket
horse around
make ends meet
jump the gun
play it by ear
string him along
stick out one's neck
let the cat out of the bag
money talks

Useful websites

<http://idiomsite.com/>

A-Z examples

<http://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/>

Idiom of the Day

<http://www.smart-words.org/quotes-sayings/idioms-meaning.htm>

Commonly used idioms

Identify the idioms (**answers**)

“Yes, I got the work done in time. I finished it **at the eleventh hour**, but I wasn’t late.”

“I’m trying to concentrate! Don’t **bug me!**”

“Don’t believe everything he tells you. He was probably **pulling your leg.**”

(Examples taken from Dave’s ESL Café)

Idioms in context 'hair'

answers

Idiom	Meaning
Let one's hair down	To relax and do just what you want to do. (Accept similar wording)
Splitting hairs	To quibble over petty things. (Accept similar wording)
Get in someone's hair	To annoy or to bother someone. (Accept similar wording)

Idioms in context 'food'

answers

Idiom	Meaning
Apple of one's eye	The person who you adore or love the most. (Accept similar wording)
Bad egg	A person who is often in trouble. (Accept similar wording)
Big cheese	An important, powerful person; the boss. (Accept similar wording)
Couch potato	A person who spends a lot of time watching television with little or no physical exercise. (Accept similar wording)