



KS2 Unit 5 Lesson 5: Idiom

Crib Sheet

Slides 1 and 2: Introduce the aim of the lesson. We will be looking at what idiom is and we will introduce pupils to some of the more familiar idioms in English. We will think about why we use idioms, how they come about and what issues they pose when learning a foreign language.

Slide 3: Can pupils think of the three idioms depicted on the slide? **Slide 4** provides the answers. 1. Skating on thin ice; 2. Barking up the wrong tree. 3 It's raining cats and dogs. Can pupils work out what an idiom is from these three examples?

Slide 5: Here we explain what an idiom is and give the example of "It's raining cats and dogs". An idiom is a saying with a non-literal meaning. It is often rooted in culture and history.

Slide 6 asks questions for pupils to discuss.

To skate on thin ice = doing something risky that could have a bad ending.

Barking up the wrong tree = to follow a misguided line of thought or action

Idioms exist to add interest and dynamism to what you say or write. Tricky ideas are expressed in a simple way. "Word pictures" are created which can be funny and easy to remember.

If you wanted to translate them, you would have to work out the literal meaning. You may have to look into the culture of the other language to see if you can make a "word picture" that would work. Sometimes other languages have the same phrase using their own idiom. E.g. We say "pigs might fly". In French they say "when chicken grow teeth". In Portuguese they say "when cows cough".

Slide 7 and slide 8: Pupils read the idioms in the right tone. The odd ones out are:

He's making you march.

He's tugging your hair.

He's tying a bear to you.

They are not English idioms, the others are.

Slide 9: Can pupils guess the 4 idioms depicted here. (On cloud 9 and over the moon= being very happy; spill the beans = tell all; pigs might fly = it's never going to happen)

Slide 10 asks if they know any more or know any in their home language. They can think in pairs for two minutes.

Slide 11 has a link to an idiom quiz by Cambridge University Press.