



Unit 3 Lesson 6: Exploring Idioms

An idiom is a group of words which mean one thing individually but when you put them together mean something entirely different.

1. What are they telling you?

Spanish: "go and fry asparagus" Vete a freir espárragos
French: "go cook an egg" Va te faire cuire un oeuf
German: "make a fly" Mach' eine Fliege
Chinese: "roll your bedding" Juǎn qǐ pūgaijuǎnr

2. What are these idioms talking about?

French: "hit by lightening" le coup de foudre
Italian: "hit by thunderbolts" colpo de fulmine
Spanish: "finding their half-orange" su media naranja

3. What is the English equivalent of these idiomatic phrases?

Italian: "an elephant in a crystal shop" un elefante in un negozio di cristalli
Turkish: "an elephant in a glassware store" züccaciye dükkânındaki fil gibi
French: "an elephant in a porcelain store" un éléphant dans un magasin de porcelaine

4. What do these idioms actually mean?

Dutch: "When the cows are dancing on the ice" Als de koeien op het ijs dansen
French: "When hens have teeth" Quand les poulets auront des dents
English: "Pigs might fly"
Thai: "One afternoon in your next reincarnation" ชาติหน้าตอนบ่าย ๆ

5. What's your favourite idiom from today's lesson? Why?
6. Why are the same idioms represented with different metaphors in different countries?
7. Over to you! Create a culturally relevant idiom in A) English B) In a language you are learning or a language you know.