

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

Idiom (Example 1)

"I have a skeleton in the closet."

Literal meaning:



Idiomatic meaning:



a secret that would cause embarrassment

Idiom (Example 2)

"You've got egg on your face."

Literal meaning:



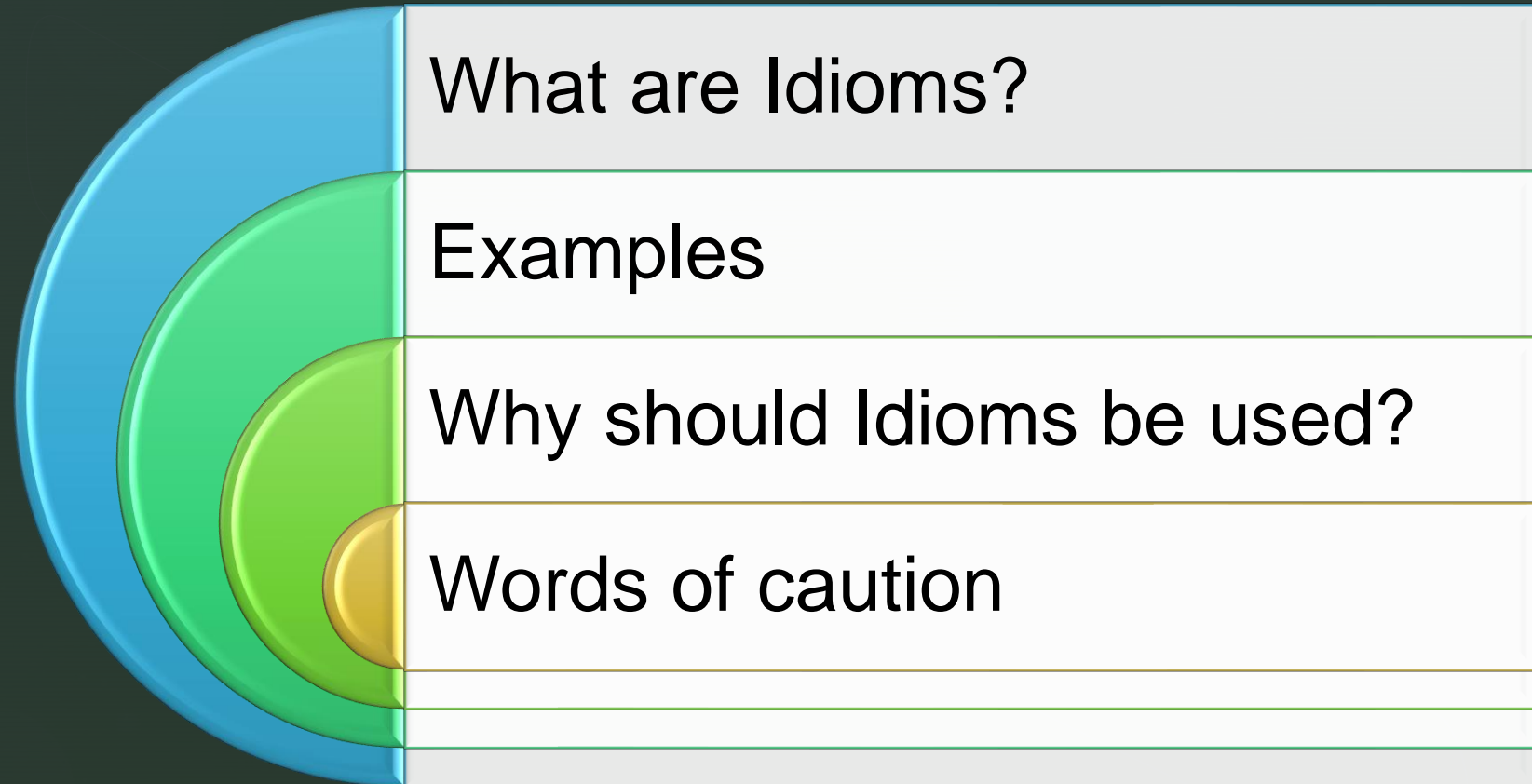
Idiomatic meaning:



to look foolish or to be embarrassed




ORGANIZATION



WHAT ARE IDIOMS?

An expression whose meaning is different from the meanings of the individual words in it



An idiom is a commonly used expression whose meaning does not relate to the literal meaning of its words.



Examples:

He's been pushing up the daisies for a year.
(He's been dead for a year.)

Let's paint the town red.
(Let's have a good time in town.)

She has a bun in the oven.
(She is pregnant.)



IDIOMS

He was just a
**flash in the
pan.**

(The idiom a flash in the pan means something that shows potential at the start but fails thereafter.)

He is trying to
be a **good
Samaritan.**

("A good Samaritan" is a person who helps someone in need with no thought of a reward.)

Does he **have
an axe to
grind?**

("To have an axe to grind" means to have a dispute with someone.)

We should **let
sleeping
dogs lie.**

("To let sleeping dogs lie" means to avoid restarting a conflict.)



WHY USE IDIOMS?

Idioms make the writing more engaging	They add dynamism and character to otherwise stale writing	They make the conversation less monotonous and more funny	Idioms ensure that the writing is less stuffy. (give a sense of informality and familiarity)	They also ensure that the writing is more succinct. (less wordy - ECONOMY OF WORDS, REMEMBER!)	They allow us to think out of the box.
		Rather than telling someone that he is not smart – or at least not thinking straight – you could say “ the lights are on, but nobody’s home ” or he’s “ not playing with a full deck .” These idioms tend to be softer and somewhat less insulting.	Bite off more than you can chew Using this phrase in a sentence you essentially tell a person that he has taken on a bigger task than he can handle	Example: Saving money by not going for regular check-ups, but having to pay a large amount in an emergency is <i>Penny wise, pound foolish!</i>	



WORDS OF CAUTION!

English-speaking Environment	Option for a Non-native-speaking Environment
I went off the roof when I found my son under the bed playing a mobile game.	I was very angry when I found my son under the bed playing a mobile game.
I was bouncing off the walls to take my first physical class after the lockdown	I was feeling very excited and full of energy to take my first physical class after the lockdown

Avoid idioms
when writing to
a multi-national
audience.

Non-natives
may not
understand
what you speak



Thank you!

