Idiom

**What are idioms & phrases?**

Idioms and phrases are expressions whose meaning cannot be deduced directly from the individual words. They are fixed expressions with a specific meaning that is different from the literal meaning of the individual words.

An idiom is a group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words (examples: “kick the bucket,” “bend over backwards”).

A phrase is a small group of words that form a unit of meaning, even though they may not be a complete sentence: examples, “at the end of the day,” “in the pipeline.”

Here are some more examples of idioms and phrases:

* "Kick the bucket" means to die
* "Bend over backward" means to go out of one's way to help someone
* "At the end of the day" means finally, after everything has been considered
* "In the pipeline" means in process or coming soon

It's important to note that idioms and phrases can be culturally specific, and may not always make sense to people who are not familiar with them. They also add flavor and interest to language, making it more expressive and nuanced.

What is the difference between Idioms & Phrases?

Idioms and phrases are both groups of words that convey a specific meaning, but there are some differences between them:

* Meaning: Idioms typically have a figurative meaning that is different from the literal meaning of the individual words. For example, "kick the bucket" means to die, "bend over backwards" means to go out of one's way to help someone. Phrases, on the other hand, usually have a meaning that is similar to the literal meaning of the individual words. For example, "at the end of the day" means finally, after everything has been considered, "in the pipeline" means in process or coming soon.
* Length: Idioms are often shorter than phrases. They typically consist of a few words, while phrases can be longer and contain more words.
* Flexibility: Phrases are generally more flexible than idioms. They can often be used in different ways, such as "at the end of the day" can be used as a conclusion to a statement, whereas an idiom like "kick the bucket" is more rigid and is usually used as a standalone expression.
* Usage: Idioms are often used in informal contexts, such as in spoken language, while phrases can be used in both formal and informal contexts.
* Familiarity: Idioms can be culture-specific, and may not be immediately understandable to people who are not familiar with them. Phrases, on the other hand, tend to be more widely understood and used.

It's worth noting that these distinctions are not hard and fast rules, and there is some overlap between idioms and phrases. However, in general, idioms are more fixed and have a specific meaning that is different from the literal meaning of the individual words, while phrases are more flexible and have a meaning that is closer to the literal meaning of the individual words.

**Idioms/Phrases with Explanation & examples**

* "A drop in the bucket" - means a small contribution that won't make a significant difference.

Example: "The money we raised was a drop in the bucket compared to what we needed."

* "A piece of cake" - means something is very easy to do.

Example: "I thought the exam would be difficult, but it was a piece of cake."

* "A taste of his own medicine" - means receiving the same treatment that one gives to others.

Example: "He was rude to everyone, so it was satisfying to see him get a taste of his own medicine."

* "A wolf in sheep's clothing" - means someone who appears harmless but is actually dangerous or malicious.

Example: "I didn't trust him at first, he seemed like a wolf in sheep's clothing."

* "All bark and no bite" - means someone who talks tough but doesn't follow through with action.

Example: "He's all bark and no bite, he won't actually do anything to help us."

* "All fingers and thumbs" - means someone who is clumsy or awkward.

Example: "I'm all fingers and thumbs today, I keep dropping things."

* "Bite off more than you can chew" - means to take on more responsibilities or tasks than you can handle.

Example: "I think I've bitten off more than I can chew with this new project, it's a lot harder than I thought it would be."

* "Cost an arm and a leg" - means something is very expensive.

Example: "I love that new designer bag, but it costs an arm and a leg."

* "Cry over spilt milk" - means don't waste time feeling sorry for something that has already happened and can't be changed.

Example: "There's no use crying over spilt milk, let's just move on."

* "Burn the midnight oil" - means to work late into the night, often to meet a deadline.

Example: "I've been burning the midnight oil all week to finish this report."

* "Cut to the chase" - means to get to the point or main issue quickly.

Example: "Can you cut to the chase and tell me what you want?"

* "Easy peasy" - means something is very simple or effortless.

Example: "The test was easy peasy, I finished it in 10 minutes."

* "Get a kick out of something" - means to enjoy or find pleasure in something.

Example: "I love watching movies, I get a kick out of the excitement and drama."

* "In a nutshell" - means a summary or brief explanation.

Example: "The movie was about a man who travels back in time, in a nutshell."

* "Let sleeping dogs lie" - means to avoid talking about a controversial or sensitive topic that may cause trouble or conflict.

Example: "We shouldn't bring up the past, let sleeping dogs lie."

* "Make a mountain out of a molehill" - means to exaggerate or make a big deal out of something that's not that important.

Example: "Don't make a mountain out of a molehill, it's just a small problem."

* "On the same page" - means people are in agreement or have a shared understanding.

Example: "I'm glad we're all on the same page about the project, let's move forward."

* "Practice what you preach" - means to act in accordance with one's beliefs or values, rather than just talking about them.

Example: "If you're going to preach about honesty, you should practice what you preach."

* "Rain on someone's parade" - means to spoil or ruin someone's plans or event.

Example: "I didn't want to rain on her wedding day, so I didn't mention the weather forecast."

* "Take it with a grain of salt" - means to be sceptical or cautious about something, especially information or advice.

Example: "My neighbour told me that the new restaurant in town is amazing, but I'm taking it with a grain of salt since he's known to exaggerate."

* "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush" - means that it's better to have something certain and real than to take a risk and possibly lose everything.

Example: "I'd rather have a job that pays well now than quit and start my own business, a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush."

* "A fish out of water" - means someone who feels uncomfortable or out of place in a particular situation.

Example: "I felt like a fish out of water at the fancy dinner party, I didn't know anyone and didn't know what to say."

* "A slap on the wrist" - means a light punishment or criticism that doesn't have much effect.

Example: "The fine for speeding was just a slap on the wrist, it didn't deter me from driving too fast again."

* "A taste of his own medicine" - means getting treated the way one treats others.

Example: "After he yelled at me, I gave him a taste of his own medicine and yelled back at him."

* "A wolf in sheep's clothing" - means someone who appears friendly or harmless but is actually dangerous or malicious.

Example: "I thought my new colleague was nice, but he turned out to be a wolf in sheep's clothing, trying to sabotage my work."

* "Add insult to injury" - means to make a bad situation worse by saying or doing something that hurts or offends.

Example: "After breaking my phone, my friend made fun of me for being careless, adding insult to injury."

* "Barking up the wrong tree" - means pursuing a mistaken or misguided course of action.

Example: "I spent hours trying to fix the computer myself before realizing I was barking up the wrong tree and called a professional."

* "Bite off more than you can chew" - means to take on more responsibilities or tasks than one can handle.

Example: "I tried to juggle three jobs at once, but I bit off more than I could chew and had to quit one of them."

* "Beating around the bush" - means avoiding talking directly or clearly about something.

Example: "Stop beating around the bush and tell me what you really think about my idea."

* "Burning bridges" - means damaging relationships or opportunities so that they cannot be repaired or reversed.

Example: "By quitting my job without notice, I burned my bridges and lost any chance of returning to that company."

* "Catch 22" - means a situation where two conflicting factors make it impossible to escape or resolve a problem.

Example: "I can't get a loan because I don't have a job, but I can't get a job because I don't have a loan to pay for education."

* "Cut to the chase" - means getting to the point or most important part of a conversation, without wasting time on unnecessary details.

Example: "Can you cut to the chase and tell me what you want, I don't have time for small talk."

* "Easy as pie" - means something is very simple or effortless.

Example: "Learning to ride a bike is easy as pie, once you get the hang of it."

* "Give someone the cold shoulder" - means deliberately ignoring or showing indifference to someone.

Example: "After our argument, she gave me the cold shoulder and refused to speak to me for days."

* "Hit the nail on the head" - means finding the perfect solution or describing something exactly right.

Example: "Your suggestion hit the nail on the head, it solved our problem perfectly."

* "In a nutshell" - means summarizing or describing something briefly and concisely.

Example: "The movie was about a man who travels back in time to prevent a disaster, in a nutshell."

* "Let sleeping dogs lie" - means avoiding talking about a controversial or sensitive topic that may cause trouble or conflict.

Example: "We shouldn't bring up the past, let sleeping dogs lie and focus on the present."

* "A drop in the bucket" - means a small amount of money or resources that is insignificant compared to the overall need or problem.

Example: "The donation we received was just a drop in the bucket, we still need a lot more funds to complete the project."

* "A hard pill to swallow" - means something difficult to accept or understand.

Example: "The news of my father's passing was a hard pill to swallow, it took me a while to come to terms with it."

* "A slap on the wrist" - means a light punishment or criticism that doesn't have much effect.

Example: "The fine for littering was just a slap on the wrist, it didn't deter people from throwing trash on the ground."

* "A taste of his own medicine" - means getting treated the way one treats others.

Example: "After he yelled at me, I gave him a taste of his own medicine and yelled back at him."

* "A wolf in sheep's clothing" - means someone who appears friendly or harmless but is actually dangerous or malicious.

Example: "I thought my new colleague was nice, but he turned out to be a wolf in sheep's clothing, trying to sabotage my work."

* "Add fuel to the fire" - means to make a situation worse by doing or saying something that increases tension or conflict.

Example: "When I argued with my brother, he became defensive and added fuel to the fire by bringing up past grievances."

* "Barking up the wrong tree" - means pursuing a mistaken or misguided course of action.

Example: "I spent hours trying to fix the computer myself before realizing I was barking up the wrong tree and called a professional."

* "Bite off more than you can chew" - means to take on more responsibilities or tasks than one can handle.

Example: "I've got too many projects going on, I think I've bitten off more than I can chew."

* "Beat around the bush" - means avoiding talking directly or clearly about something.

Example: "Stop beating around the bush and tell me what you really think about my idea."

* "Burn the midnight oil" - means to work late into the night, often to meet a deadline.

Example: "I've been burning the midnight oil all week to finish this project on time."

* "Cut to the chase" - means getting to the point or most important part of a conversation, without wasting time on unnecessary details.

Example: "Can you cut to the chase and tell me what you want, I don't have time for small talk."

* "Easy as pie" - means something is very simple or effortless.

Example: "Learning to ride a bike is easy as pie, once you get the hang of it."

* "Get a kick out of something" - means to enjoy or find pleasure in something.

Example: "I love watching movies, I get a kick out of the excitement and drama."

* "In a nutshell" - means summarizing or describing something briefly and concisely.

Example: "The movie was about a man who travels back in time to prevent a disaster, in a nutshell."

* "Let sleeping dogs lie" - means avoiding talking about a controversial or sensitive topic that may cause trouble or conflict.

Example: "We shouldn't bring up the past, let sleeping dogs lie and focus on the present."

* "Make a mountain out of a molehill" - means to exaggerate or make a big deal out of something that's not that important.

Example: "Don't make a mountain out of a molehill, it's just a small problem."

* "On the same page" - means people are in agreement or have a shared understanding.

Example: "I'm glad we're all on the same page about the project, let's move forward."