



## What Is This Module About?

“He learned about the birds and the bees at an early age.”—the underlined phrase in the given sentence is called an **idiom**. An idiom is an expression with a meaning which cannot be guessed at or derived meanings of the individual words that form it. We often use idioms in our daily conversations and in written communications to make them more interesting.

“Your eyes are like stars.” “The ants talked to each other when they met.” “Her voice is music to my ears.” Have you ever encountered sentences like these before? These sentences mean something other than their literal meanings. They are examples of idioms. They are expressions of one’s ideas, feelings and wants in forms more pleasant to one’s ears as well as eyes. What about sentences like “A stitch in time saves nine”? Phrases and sentences like this one are called **proverbs**. These are well-known neatly-expressed sayings that give advice or express a supposed truth. Both idioms and proverbs are considered **figurative**, meaning “not literal.”

This module will familiarize you with types of figurative language commonly used in our daily lives. For the purposes of this module, you will need a cassette player since some of the readings are on tape.

This module is divided into two lessons:

Lesson 1 – *Idioms Should Do the Trick*

Lesson 2 – *Figure It Out for Yourself!*



## What Will You Learn From This Module?

After studying this module, you should be able to:

- ◆ identify the types of figurative language;
- ◆ give the meanings of commonly used idioms and other types of figurative language; and
- ◆ use idioms and other types of figurative language effectively orally or in writing.



## Let's See What You Already Know

Before you start studying this module, take this simple test to find out what you already know about the topics of this module..

- A. Choose the idiomatic expression that can best replace each underlined phrase. Encircle the letter of the correct answer.
- No one from their class was exempted from doing something to help their teacher decorate the room.
    - raising a hand
    - raising eyebrows
    - raking in the money
    - being in a rat race
  - A good leader is able to lead, persuade or influence other people.
    - has a word with
    - has a way with
    - has a loose screw
    - has had it
  - Lani went down on her hands and knees to look for her ring under the bed.
    - six feet under
    - on cloud nine
    - on forty winks
    - on all fours
  - His friends have difficulty understanding him because he is a person who doesn't act like everyone else.
    - an old hat
    - an open secret
    - an oddball
    - out of one's hair
  - The student copied her classmate's notes in exactly the same words.
    - word of mouth
    - water under the bridge
    - weed out
    - word for word

B. Identify whether the figurative expressions used in each number is a metaphor or a simile. Write **M** for metaphor and **S** for simile.

- \_\_\_\_ 1. Yes, this city is a pair of claws  
Crabbing, creeping with all its tragic flaws.  
—*Manila*, Federico Licsi Espino, Jr.
- \_\_\_\_ 2. She was so happy her face was beaming like the sun.
- \_\_\_\_ 3. The world is charged with the grandeur of God. It will flame out,  
like shining from shook foil;  
—Gerard Manley Hopkins, “God’s Grandeur”
- \_\_\_\_ 4. Love is a red, red rose.
- \_\_\_\_ 5. Sharp as lightning are the eyes of the guard:  
no one dares approach the padlocked door save him;  
—*An Armstretch of Sky*, Amado Hernandez

C. Choose from the proverbs in the box below which would fit each given situation.

Easy come, easy go. The early bird catches the worm. Two heads are better than one. The grass is always greener on the other side.
---

Situation 1:

Proverb: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Carina sat down with her boss so they can choose the right option to take with regard to hiring the employee for the new project. They conferred with each other about the qualifications that the applicants must have.

Situation 2:

Proverb: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I’m going to the market very early tomorrow morning so that I can buy fresh fish and vegetables.

Situation 3:

Proverb: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Pilar is always complaining about not having enough money. How could she? When she spends all her money as soon as she gets her allowance.

Well, how was it? Do you think you fared well? Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 35 to find out.

If all your answers are correct, very good! This shows that you already know much about the topic. You may still study the module to review what you already know. Who knows, you might learn a few more new things as well.

If you got a low score, don't feel bad. This means that this module is for you. It will help you understand important concepts that you can apply in your daily life. If you study this module carefully, you will learn the answers to all the items in the test and a lot more! Are you ready?

You may go now to the next page to begin Lesson 1.

## Idioms Should Do the Trick

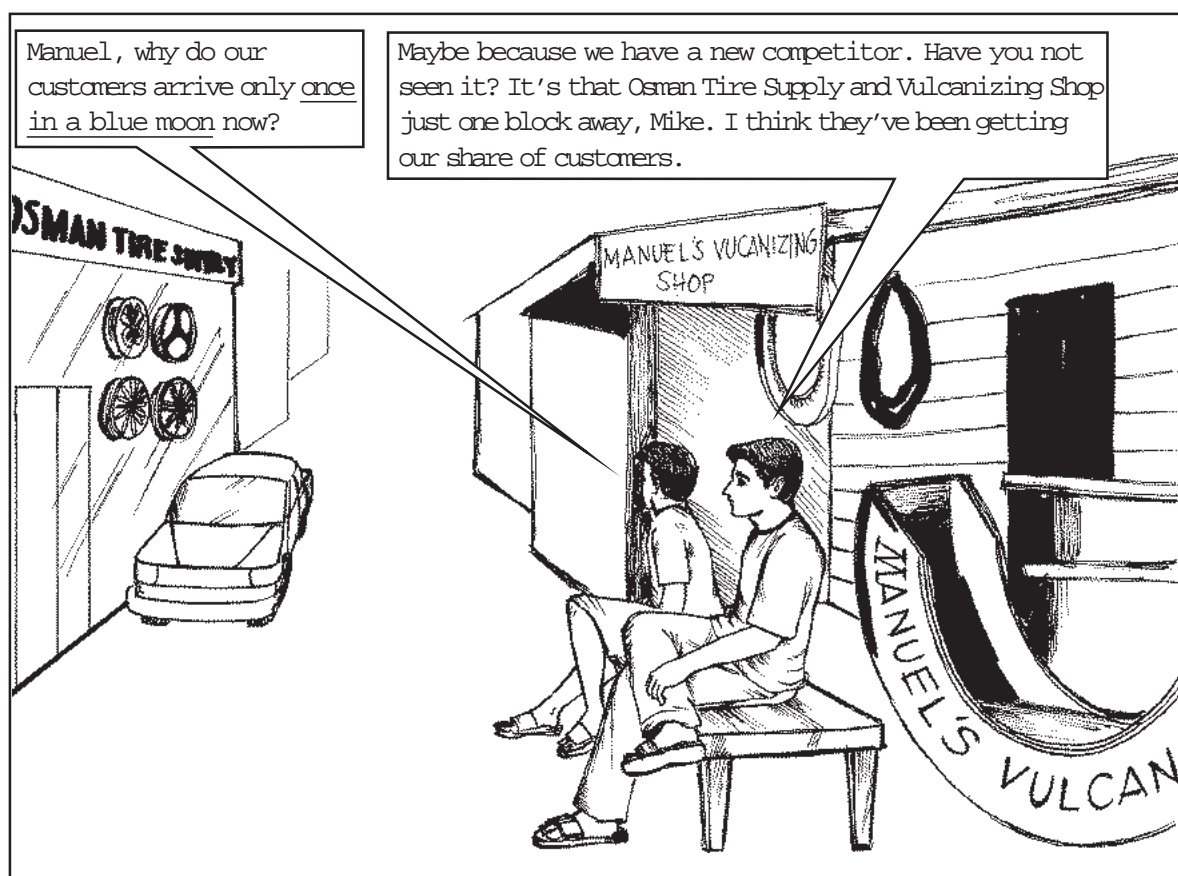
You heard your Instructional Manager say to a friend that one of her children is the apple of her eye. You wondered what that meant. Did she mean that the child looks like an apple? Did she mean that the child's eyes are shaped like apples? Or did she mean that the child is her favorite?

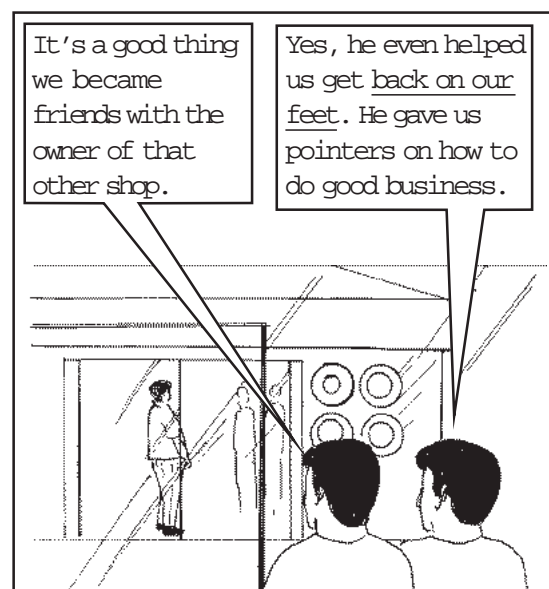
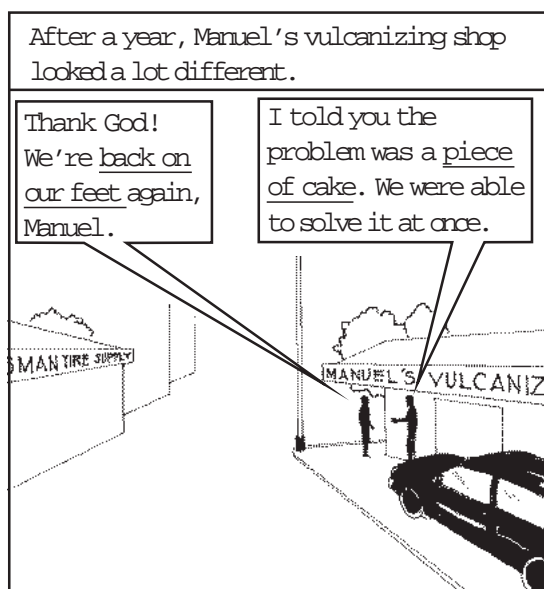
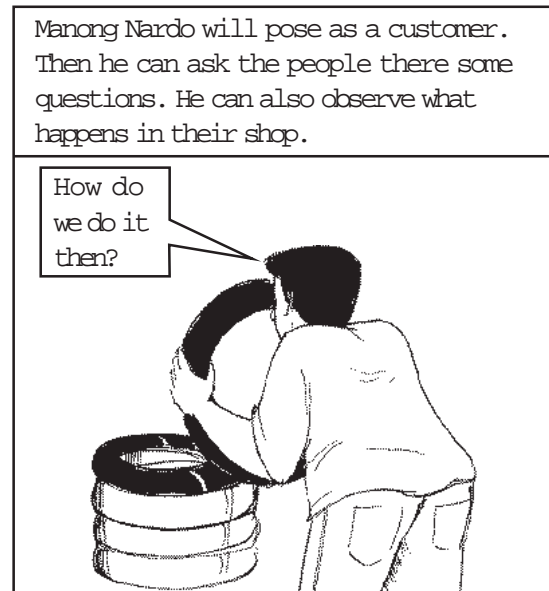
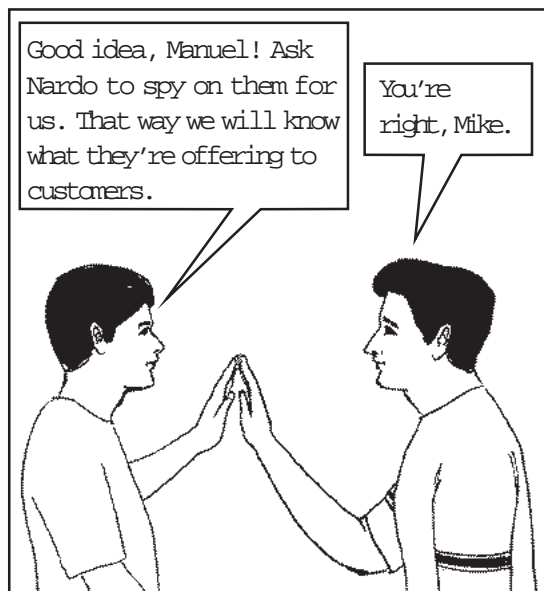
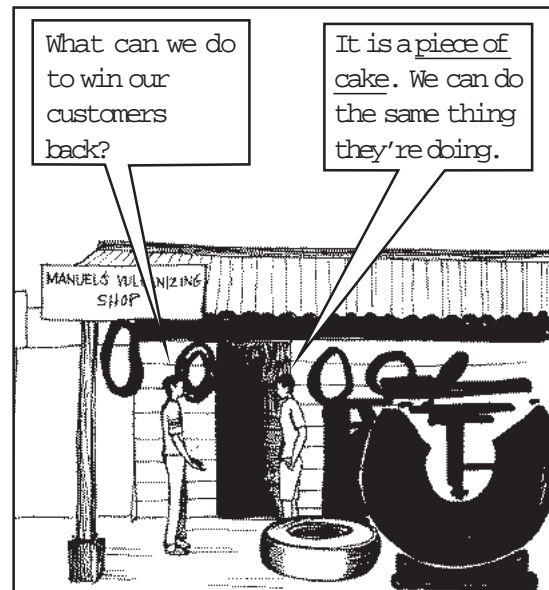
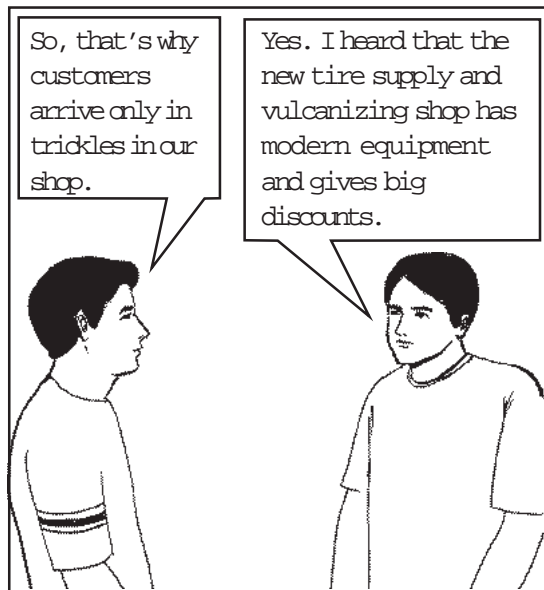
Certainly, your Instructional Manager meant something else rather than the literal meanings of the words used in the sentence. But why use the phrase "*apple of her eye*"? Why use an idiom instead of just saying that one of her children is her favorite?

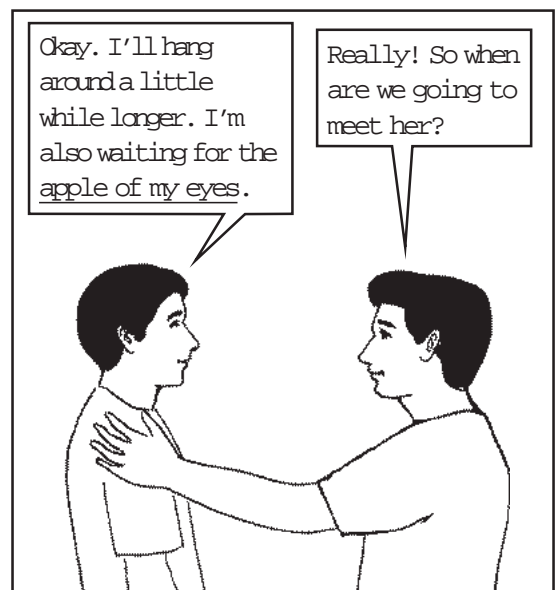
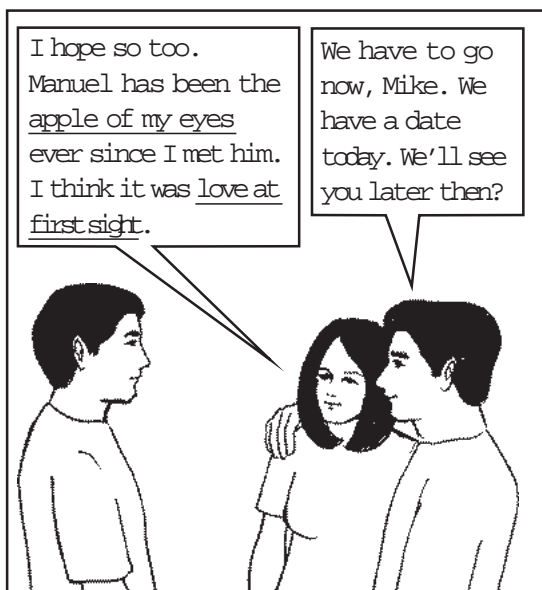
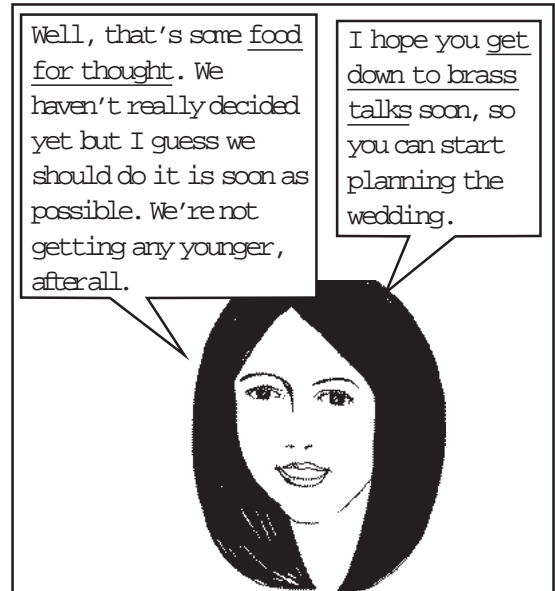
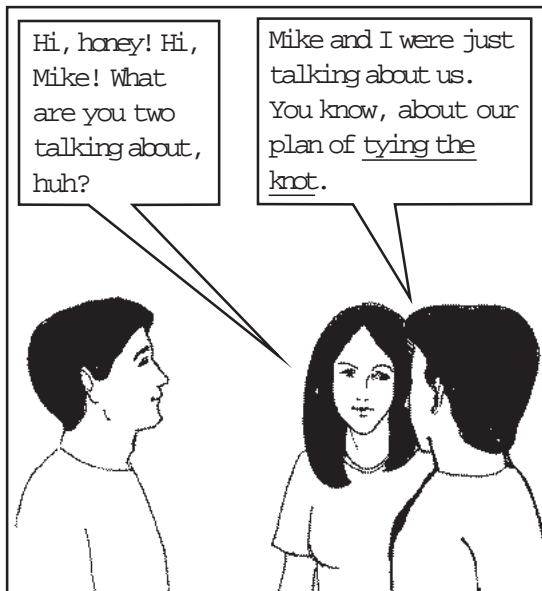
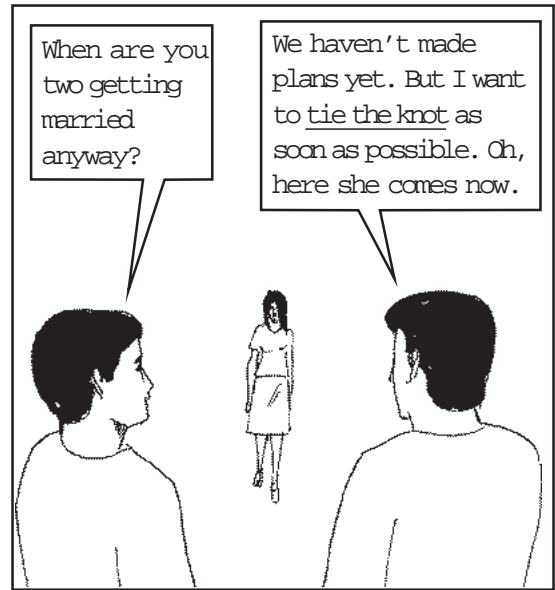
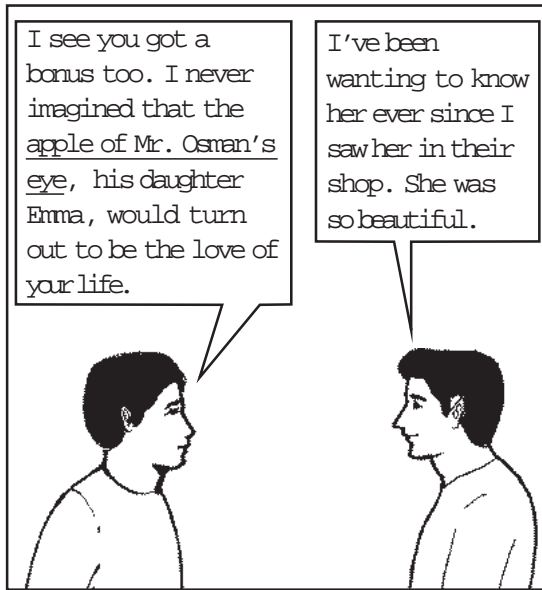


### Let's Listen to This

Manuel owns a vulcanizing shop in a barangay in Benguet province. One day, a wealthy elderly gentleman parked his brand-new car in front of the shop. He looked angry. Listen to **Tape Segment # 1: Manuel's Vulcanizing Shop** while reading the story below.









## Let's Study and Analyze

Notice the underlined phrases in Manuel's, Mike's and Emma's dialogues. Can you guess what they mean? Think about what they said carefully before answering the questions below. Encircle the letter of the correct answer.

1. When Mike asked Manuel why their customers only came once in a blue moon, what did he mean?. How often is once in a blue moon?
  - a. every day
  - b. very rarely
  - c. every week
  - d. once a year
2. When Manuel said that their problem was a piece of cake. What did he mean?
  - a. that their problem was hard to solve
  - b. that they should not worry about the problem
  - c. that their problem was easy to solve
  - d. that their problem will be solved on its own
3. When, Mike said they were back on their feet. What did he mean?
  - a. that they cannot stand on their own feet
  - b. that they have recovered from their financial difficulties
  - c. that they have matured
  - d. that they walked backwards
4. Emma, Manuel's girlfriend, is the apple of her father's eyes. What does this mean?
  - a. Emma was her father's favorite daughter.
  - b. Emma was constantly being observed by her father
  - c. Emma loved her father very much
  - d. Emma's father always gives her apples, her favorite fruit.
5. Manuel wants to tie the knot with Emma soon but, they still have not made plans. What does tie the knot mean?
  - a. join hands
  - b. strangle each other
  - c. get a rope to bind them
  - d. get married
6. Emma said that tying the knot would give her some food for thought. What did she mean?
  - a. She wanted something to eat
  - b. She wanted to eat peanuts, which are said to be "food for the brain"
  - c. Tying the knot is something that Emma has to think about.
  - d. They want to give a party.



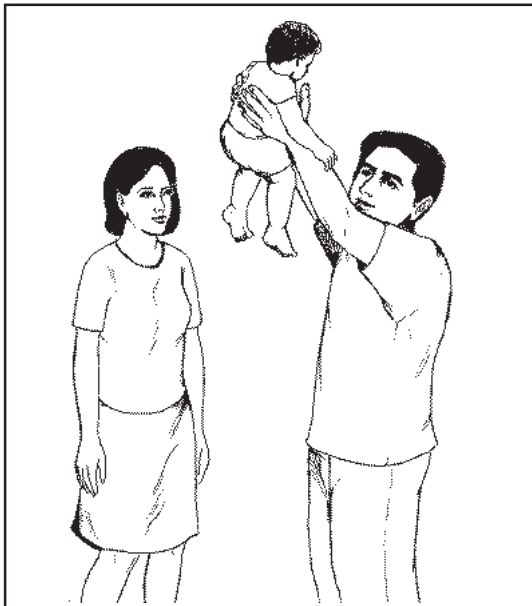
7. Emma and Manuel will get down to brass talks soon. What does this mean?
- a. That they will begin discussing their wedding plans
  - b. That they will buy some brass candle holders for their wedding
  - c. That they will postpone talks about wedding plans
  - d. That they will discuss more important things with other people.

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 36. How well did you do? Did you get all the correct answers?

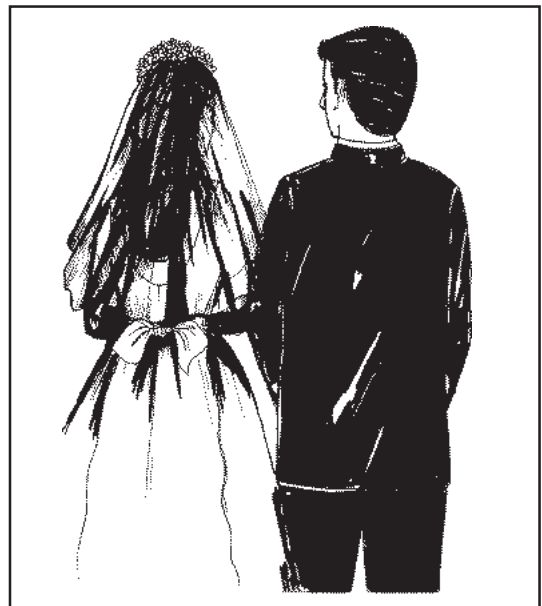


## Let's Review

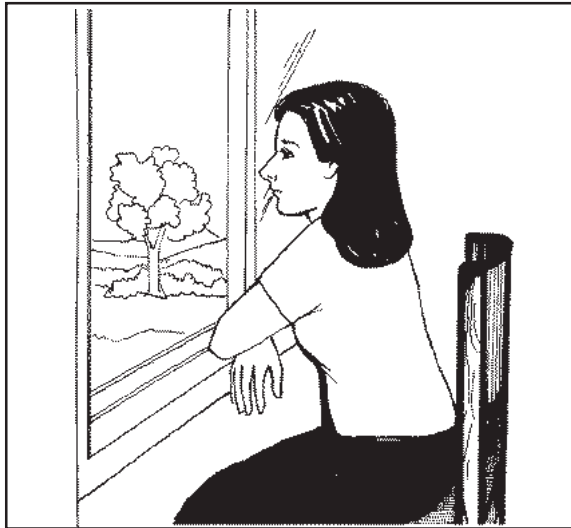
Look at the pictures below. Choose the idiom from the comic that best fits each picture. Write your answer in the space provided.



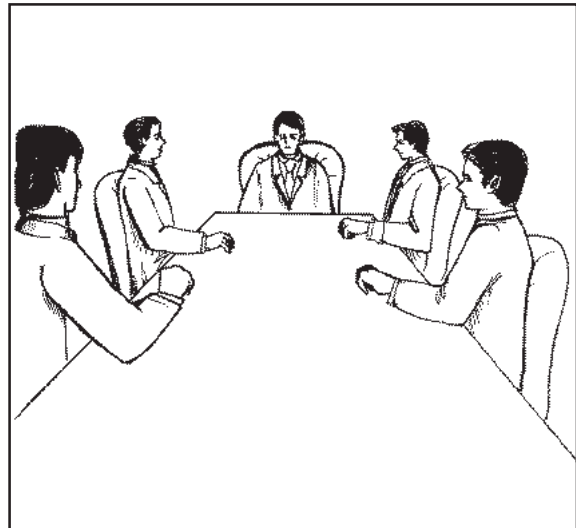
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



4. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 36. How well did you do? Did you get all the correct answers?

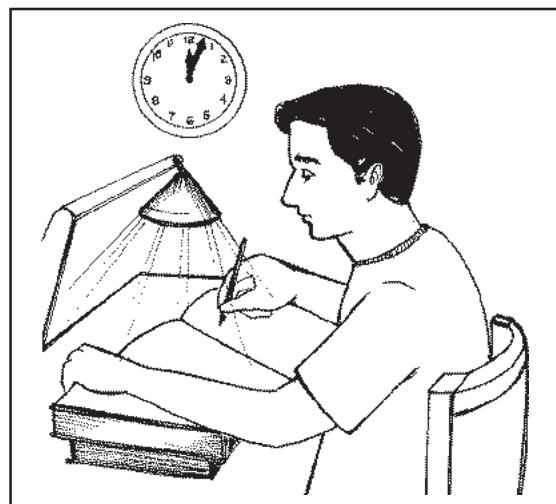


## Let's Learn

What do you call the underlined phrases in the comic strip discussed earlier?

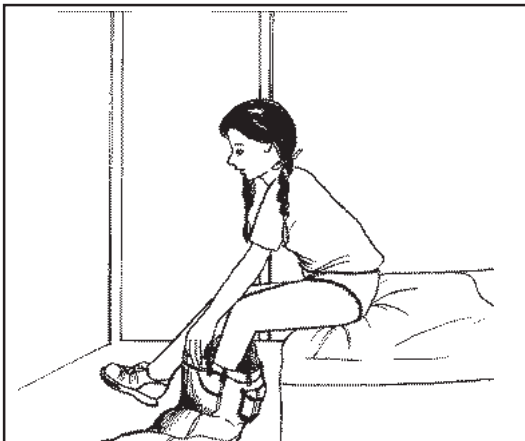
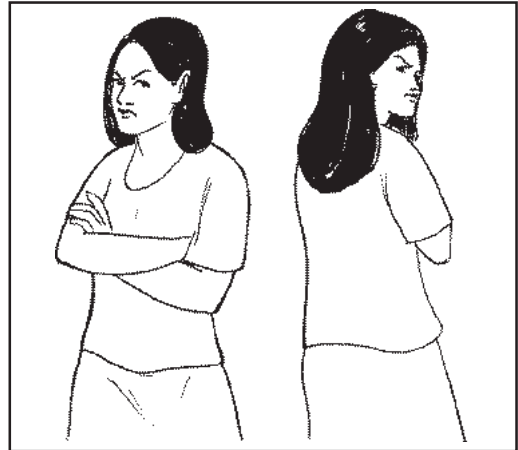
The expressions we have been talking about are called idiomatic expressions or idioms. What is an idiom? An **idiom** is an expression with a meaning which cannot be guessed at or derived from the meanings of the individual word which form it. Look at some examples on the following pages.

1. Pandoy burned the midnight oil because he wanted to be well prepared for their exam the following week.  
 (studied or worked long into the night)



2. First, they didn't talk to each other. Then they started hating each other. Their friendship jumped out of the frying pan into the fire.

(from a bad situation to a worse one)

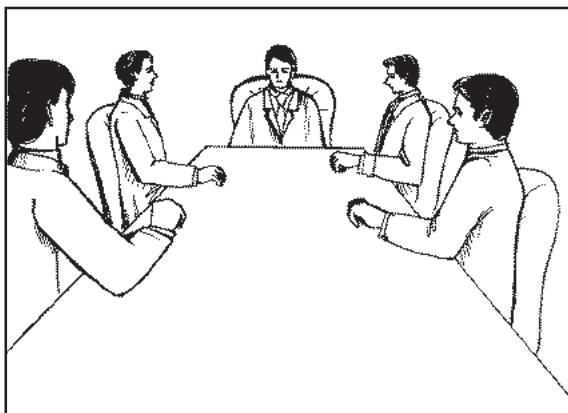
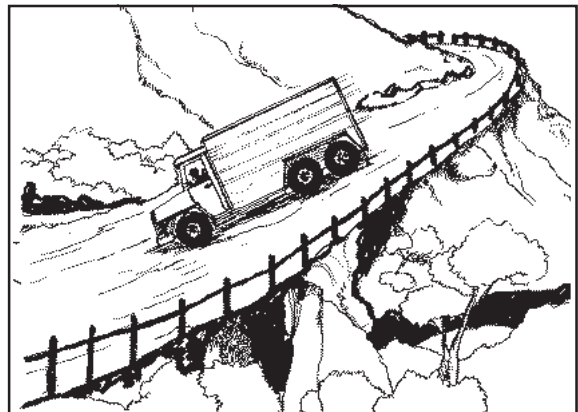


3. I told her that putting on her shoes before her pants was putting the cart before the horse.

(doing or saying things in the wrong order)

4. The truck picked up speed as it started to go downhill.

(increased in speed)



5. When their group failed to complete the project, they passed the buck to their subordinates.

(passed on responsibility to someone else)



## Let's Try This

Use the given idioms in sentences.

1. burn the midnight oil

---

---

2. put the cart before the horse

---

---

3. out of the frying pan into the fire

---

---

4. get down to brass talks

---

---

5. once in a blue moon

---

---

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 36. Did you get similar answers to mine? If you did, that's very good. If you didn't, don't worry. You just need a little more practice. So read on!



## Let's Learn

It is very important to remember that idioms should not be taken literally. Take, for example, the idiom "keep an eye on." If we analyze its meaning word for word, we would have the following: **keep** means not to part with something and **eye** refers to our organ of vision. Literally, therefore, the phrase would mean not to part with our organ of vision. But using the idiom, keep an eye on really means watching something keenly. Look at how it is used in a sentence below.

The food I was cooking got burned because I had to keep an eye on my little brother who was running all over the place.

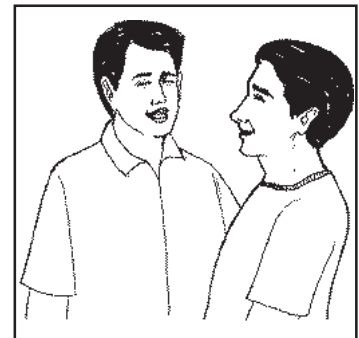
Here are other examples of idioms:

1. Idiom: hair standing on end  
Literal meaning: hair pointing upwards  
Figurative meaning: become frightened or afraid of something  
Sentence: Lina's hair stood on end after seeing the ghost of her dead husband.



2. Idiom: cut down on  
Literal meaning: chop into small pieces  
Figurative meaning: use less of something  
Sentence: He was advised by his doctor to cut down on fatty food.

3. Idiom: bring the house down  
Literal meaning: carry the house downstairs  
Figurative meaning: cause much laughter in the audience  
Sentence: Dolphy brought the house down with his funny jokes and antics.



4. Idiom: heads will roll  
Literal meaning: heads will roll like balls  
Figurative meaning: people will be punished.  
Sentence: Heads will roll when the boss learns about how big a mistake was done.
5. Idiom: count someone out  
Literal meaning: count people who are outside a place (for example, a house or a school)  
Figurative meaning: exclude or leave something or someone out of a plan  
Sentence: My classmates counted me out of the project they were doing.

The examples given beforehand are just some of the idioms you can use when talking with your friends or relatives. You can also use them when writing. Just remember not to overdo using them to the point when the listener or reader would not understand what you mean anymore.

Sometimes, not getting the meaning of an idiom is not that critical as long as you follow the meaning of the conversation. Most of the time though, idioms give an explanation to something being discussed. Take the following conversation, for example:

- Lyka: Dina bought a pair of pants at the mall that fit her like a glove last night. It was great.  
Henny: That's nice.

In the conversation, Henny got what Lyka meant because of her second sentence. So even if she didn't understand what the fact, the idiom meant, she was still able to follow the conversation.



## Let's Try This

Below are more examples of commonly used idiomatic expressions. Encircle the letter of the meaning that corresponds of each idiom.

1. A security guard is stationed 'round the clock in front of Ami's house .
  - a. around the house
  - b. all the time
  - c. near the clock
  - d. in a circular manner
2. Let's start the ball rolling so we can finish and go home early.
  - a. play ball
  - b. begin rolling the ball
  - c. begin doing something
  - d. make noise
3. Before Sandra left to compete in the singing contest, her friends told her to bring home the bacon.
  - a. succeed in doing something
  - b. bring home food
  - c. give them some bacon
  - d. feed the other contestants bacon
4. Nardo always tries to pass the buck every time he does something wrong.
  - a. pays somebody to take the blame
  - b. blame someone else for one's mistake
  - c. deny
  - d. give money to someone else
5. Helen will foot the bill for their dinner.
  - a. step on the bill
  - b. kick the bill under the table
  - c. be the one to pay
  - d. get the bill from the waiter/waitress

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 36. How well did you do? Did you get all the correct answers?



## Let's Think About This

Can the words in an idiomatic expression be rearranged and still mean the same? For example, can the idiom “foot the bill” be written as “the bill’s foot”? What happens if the words in an idiom are rearranged?

---

---

---

---

The words in an idiomatic expression cannot rearrange nor can they be changed. Once the arrangement of the words or the words themselves in an idiom are changed, the meaning of the idiom changes, too.

Let's examine the idiom “black out.” This means “to lose consciousness” or “to prevent information or communication from taking place.” Look at the sentence below. Because of the heat the woman suddenly blackened out.

Now, if we change the given idiom into “in the black,” its meaning would change to “become successful or profitable.” Look at the sentence below.

Their corporation has been in the black since it merged with another company.



## Let's See What You Have Learned

- A. Choose the appropriate idiom to replace the phrase enclosed in parentheses. Encircle the letter of the correct answer to each. Look at the example below to guide you in answering.

Eliza (made known something that was a secret) when she felt that her life was in danger.

- a. once in a blue moon
- b. in the red
- ☒ c. let the cat out of the bag
- d. caught someone red-handed

(c) is the correct answer. “Let the cat out of the bag” means “to make a secret known to other people.” (a) is “once in a blue moon” means “rarely.” (b) is incorrect because “in the red” means “to lose money.” (d) is incorrect because “caught someone red-handed” means “caught while doing something wrong.”

1. He was about to tell her how much he loves her when he suddenly (lost his courage) and backed out.
    - a. jumped from the frying pan to the fire
    - b. burned the midnight oil
    - c. got cold feet
    - d. started the ball rolling
  2. I got the information about the bank's closure (directly from the person responsible).
    - a. by hitting the bull's eye
    - b. while horsing around
    - c. from a wolf in sheep's clothing
    - d. straight from the horse's mouth
  3. Ayra arrived at the party (wearing one of her best clothes).
    - a. wearing her birthday suit
    - b. dressed to kill
    - c. after tightening her belt
    - d. by flying by the seat of her pants
  4. Maria (stayed calm) when she felt the water in their boat reaching her ankles.
    - a. kept her head
    - b. made up her mind
    - c. held her tongue
    - d. landed on her feet
  5. Rene has never worked a day in his life because he was (born rich).
    - a. always in the groove
    - b. happy as a lark
    - c. a cheapskate
    - d. born with a silver spoon in his mouth
- B. Use each of the following idioms in a sentence. Write your answers in the space provided.

1. heads will roll

---

---

2. hair stand on end

---

---

3. let the cat out of the bag

---

---

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on pages 36–37. How well did you do? Did you get all the correct answers?





## Let's Remember

- ◆ An **idiom** is an expression with a meaning from the meanings of the individual words which cannot be guessed at or derived which form it..
- ◆ The words in an idiomatic expression can't be rearranged nor changed.

## Figure It Out for Yourself

The English language is full of mystery. It can fascinate you and enthrall you. Writers can describe things that make you imagine interesting images. Most of the time, you can easily understand what the writer is trying to say, especially if he/she expresses himself/herself literally. There are times though when writers use figurative language making it harder to understand what they are trying to say. In this lesson, you will learn more about figurative language and how to “read between the lines.”

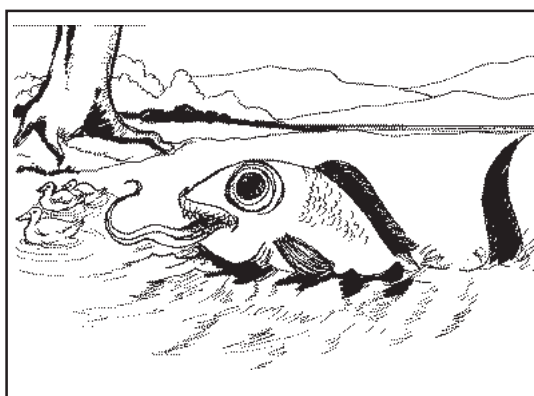


### Let's Listen to This

Listen to **Tape Segment # 2: Carps** by Ian Crichton Smith. While listening, close your eyes and try to imagine the scenes being described by the author.

#### Carps

There's carps in Boxer's Lake—they said,  
 With scales as gold as crowns,  
 With leathered lips,  
 And teeth like chips,  
 And gills as red as blood.  
 There's carps in Boxer's Lake—they say,  
 The big boys told us so—they're special ones  
 with eyes like plums  
 and tongues as long as lies.  
 They live deep in the middle,  
 They live in deepest mud,  
 And suck down passing cygnets . . .  
 and suck their cygnet blood.  
 They've been there for a thousand years  
 A snorting, bubbling brew  
 who snap the anglers' fibre rods  
 and eat the ducklings too.



1. What did you imagine while listening to the poem? Describe one of the scenes that came to your mind. Use the space provided below for your answer.

---



---



---

2. How did the author describe carps?

---

---

---

---



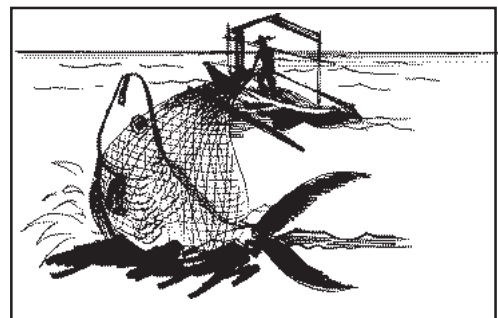
The author described carps as having scales like gold crowns, lips like leather, teeth like chips and gills as red as blood. He called them special because they had eyes like plums and tongues as long as lies. Plums are fruits as big as one-peso coins, so you can just imagine how big their eyes are. Lies, on the other hand, may be unending, especially if told by people who are good at doing so. Can you see in your mind's eye how long their tongues are? They prey on or drink the blood of young swans or cygnets. After discovering what carps are, would you still want to go to Boxer's Lake with lots of them?



## Let's Read

Did you know that . . .

1. **Figurative language** or **figures of speech** are devices such as metaphors, similes, etc. that enliven language. They are not taken literally and can create clear and vivid pictures for readers.



2. **Similes** are figures of speech in which a thing is described by being likened to something usually using **as** or **like**. Look at the following examples.

John growls like a tiger when he is mad.

Our math teacher is like a mother to us.

Her teeth are as big as Bugs Bunny's.

He is as handsome as Adonis.

Kyla's husband laughed a long and horrifying laugh like the devil himself.

Her hand is as big as a frying pan.

3. Similes can also be seen in works of literature such as poems as well as everyday conversations.



## Let's Listen To This

Listen to **Tape Segment # 3: Similes** while reading the text below. Underline phrases in the selections in which similes can be found.

### Lament for Ignacio Sanchez Mejias

#### 2. The Spilled Blood

Federico Garcia Lorca

And across the ranches,  
an air of secret voices rose,  
shouting to celestial bulls,  
herdsmen of pale mist.  
There was no prince in Sevilla  
who could compare to him,  
nor sword like his sword  
nor heart so true.  
Like a river of lions  
was his marvellous strength,  
and like a marble toroso  
his firm drawn moderation.

### The Fish

Elizabeth Bishop

I caught a tremendous fish  
and held him beside the boat  
half out of water, with my hook  
fast in a corner of his mouth.  
He didn't fight.  
He hadn't fought at all.  
He hung a grunting weight,  
battered and venerable  
and homely. Here and there  
his brown skin hung in strips  
like ancient wallpaper,  
and its pattern of darker brown  
was like wallpaper:  
shapes like full-blown roses  
stained and lost through age.

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on pages 37–38. How well did you do? Did you get all the correct answers?



## Let's Try This

Observe a friend, your mother, sister, brother or anyone close to you. Write a simple essay about him/her using as many similes as possible. Then show your composition to your *Instructional Manager* or *Facilitator*. You may also look at the sample composition in the *Answer Key* on page 43. How well did you do?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Let's Listen to This

Listen to **Tape Segment # 4: Comparison** and compare the underlined phrases with the examples of similes in the poems taken up earlier.

The following are excerpts from the story “Flight” by John Steinbeck.

“Yes, if you go quickly and return with no trouble, the silk green handkerchief will go. If you make sure to take off the handkerchief when you eat so no spot may fall on it. . . .”

“Si Mama. I will be careful. I am a man.”

“Thou? A man? Thou art a peanut.”

“It is not good to have no medicine, for who knows when the toothache will come, or the sadness of the stomach. These things are.”

“*Adios*, Mama,” Pepe cried. “I will come back soon. You may send me often alone. I am a man.”

“Thou art a foolish chicken.”

What do you notice about the underlined words and the other similes below?

John growls like a tiger when he is mad.

Our math teacher is like a mother to us.

Her teeth are as big as Bugs Bunny’s.

He is as handsome as Adonis.

Kyla’s husband laughed a long and horrifying laugh like he was the devil himself.

Her hand is as big as a frying pan.

Write down your observations below.

---

---

---

---

---

What did you observe? In the excerpt taken from the short story, “Flight” instead of comparing Pepe to a peanut or a foolish chicken using as or like as his mother calls him a peanut and a foolish chicken. This kind of comparison or figure of speech are said to be metaphorical.



## Let's Study and Analyze

Which of the following are metaphors? Put check marks in the appropriate boxes.

- ☐ 1. “Life’s but a walking shadow, a poor player  
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage.”

—Shakespeare, *Macbeth*

- ☐ 2. “Hope is when you believe  
That the earth is not a dream but living flesh,  
And that sight, touch, hearing do not lie.”

—Czeslaw Milosz, “Hope”

- ☐ 3. “Not-quite people, these masses  
hunker, look up to helicopter skies  
for the caramels of charity.”

—Emmanuel Torres, “What the Rich Think of the  
Masses”

Compare your answers with those the *Answer Key* on page 38. How well did you do?

Examples 1 to 3 are all metaphors. **Metaphors** are expressions in which the persons, actions or things referred to are described as if they really were what they merely resemble. They are used to make comparisons between essentially unlike things without using the words **like** or **as**. For example, instead of writing “Life is like a walking shadow” the author wrote “Life’s but a walking shadow.”

A metaphor makes use of a word or phrase to speak of another thing or object. In the second selection, “Hope,” the author said that “the earth is not a dream but living flesh.” Using this metaphor, the writer is saying that since the earth is living flesh, we can do all the things we want. Living flesh moves, it has life, it has a soul. We do not just imagine the things that do happen around us.

In the third example, the author said that “Not-quite people these masses hunker, look up to helicopter skies for the caramels of charity.” The masses or poor individuals are not considered people by the rich in this passage. This is because unlike the rich, they work very hard but still do not earn enough money for themselves. They look up to the rich who seem unreachable—this explains the metaphor “helicopter skies.” After all only the rich can afford to ride in helicopters. The poor too await aid from the rich and when charity comes, they find it a sweet blessing. This explains the metaphor “caramels of charity.”



## Let's Review

Indicate whether the selection contains a metaphor or simile on the space before the number. What two things are being compared in each excerpt?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. That's my last Duchess painted on the wall  
Looking as if she were alive. I call  
That piece a wonder, now: Fra Pandolf's hands  
Worked busily a day, and there she stands.

—Robert Browning, “My Last Duchess”

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Whose palms are bulls in china, ours in linen,  
And have no cunning with any soft thing

—John Frederick Nims, “Love Poem”

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. “You were like my brother . . . yet so much more  
I wish I would have seen what I see now before.”

—Valerie, “And Where Were You?”

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The river is a girl of pleasure  
Down from the hills to show her treasure:  
Thighs that she turns out at her leisure  
And swans that tread them to love's measure:

—Kedar Nath Agrawal, “The River”

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_5. The smiles and laughter I will remember  
and our fights have become painless scars.

—Judy Burnette, “Quiet Emotions”

---

---

---

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 37. How well did you do?



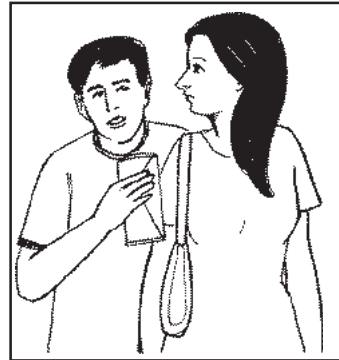
## Let's Read

Read the given phrases or sentences below.

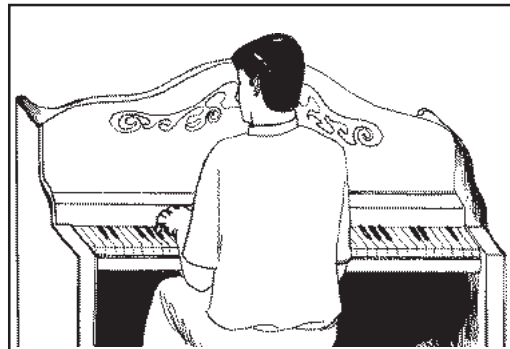
1. A stitch in time saves nine.



2. Honesty is the best policy.



3. Practice makes perfect.

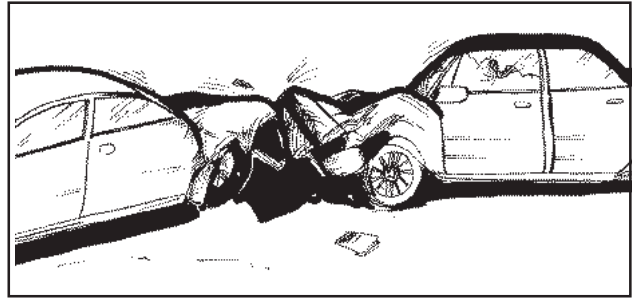




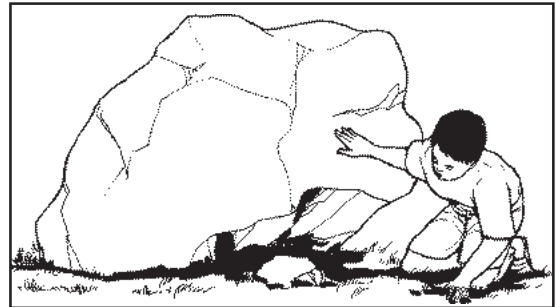
4. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.



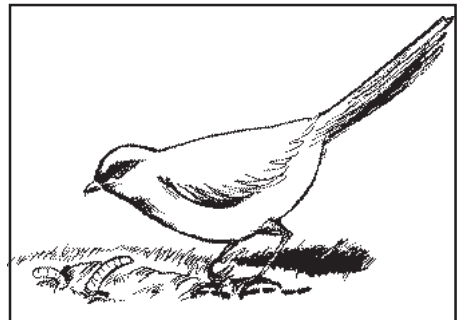
5. Haste makes waste.



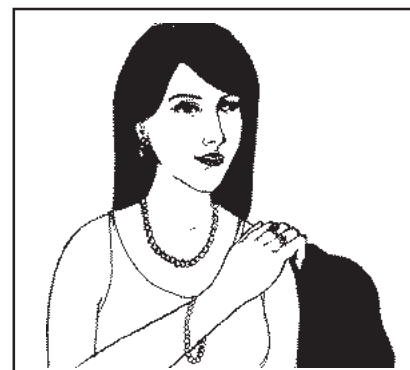
6. Let no stone go unturned.



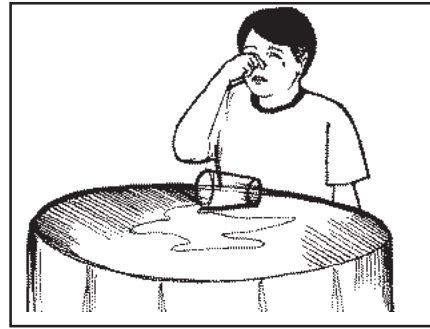
7. The early bird catches the worm.



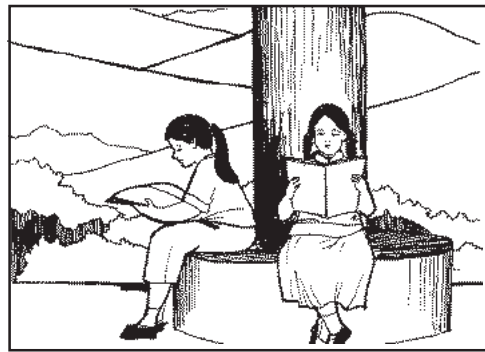
8. Not all that glitters is gold.



9. There's no use crying over spilled milk.



10. Two heads are better than one.



## Let's Study and Analyze

What do the sayings above mean?

Based on the paragraphs given below, get the meaning of each given proverb.  
Encircle the letter of the correct meaning.

1. Vhel saw that her daughter's teeth were starting to have cavities. So she said, "Dear, I think you should visit your dentist as soon as possible. Remember, a stitch in time saves nine."
  - a. It's better to take precautionary measures than to suffer worse consequences afterward.
  - b. It's better to save money.
  - c. It's better to drink lots of water.
  - d. Take care of your teeth.
2. You did something wrong and you fear that your parents will know about it. You ask your friend for advice and he tells you that, "Honesty is the best policy." What did he mean?
  - a. Do not tell your parents about what happened.
  - b. Be honest and tell your parents what really happened. Who knows, they may be even able to help you solve your problem.
  - c. Hide what you did from your parents.
  - d. Lie to your parents so you won't get scolded.

3. Your daughter wants to be a good pianist one day. So you always remind her that, "Practice makes perfect."
  - a. You become good at something if you do it repeatedly.
  - b. Practice allows you to correct your mistakes each time you do a particular task.
  - c. Pursue a profession actively.
  - d. Perform in front of a big audience.
4. You introduce a friend to your neighbor. After your friend leaves, your neighbor criticizes her because she isn't beautiful. Then you tell your neighbor that, "Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder."
  - a. You find your friend beautiful.
  - b. You want to hold her because she is beautiful.
  - c. Each person has his/her own perception of what beauty is.
  - d. You are mad at your neighbor because he doesn't find your friend beautiful.
5. When I was younger, my grandmother always said that, "Haste makes waste," especially if I am in a hurry in doing something or in going somewhere.
  - a. Undue eagerness to act may lead to damage or destruction.
  - b. Move quickly to save time and effort.
  - c. Act at once.
  - d. Be alert.
6. Mariel lost her daughter in the mall while they were shopping. She reported this incident to the administrators and said, "Let no stone go unturned to find my daughter."
  - a. Look for her daughter fast.
  - b. Look for her daughter even under the stones.
  - c. Page her daughter to come to her.
  - d. Exert all effort to find her daughter.
7. The alarm clock rang at six o'clock but Herman didn't get up at once. His mother woke him up again and reminded him that, "The early bird catches the worm."
  - a. The bird who goes hunting for worms early in the morning gets them.
  - b. If you wake up early, you will find worms.
  - c. A prompt person becomes more successful than one who isn't.
  - d. He has to feed their pet birds early in the morning.
8. Your sister met your new friend and she advised, "Beware, Ate. Don't be too trusting. Not all that glitters is gold."
  - a. Her new friend wears fake jewelry.
  - b. Her new friend does not wear yellow dresses.
  - c. Her new friend is not a true friend.
  - d. Lots of pretty things are not really valuable.

9. Marie was crying again. She just remembered her recent breakup with her boyfriend. Her brother said, “Sis, there’s no use crying over spilled milk.” What did her brother mean?
  - a. There’s no point in regretting something that’s already in the past.
  - b. Wipe the milk that you spilled on the table.
  - c. Do not cry or be upset just because you spilled milk on the table.
  - d. Always look to the future.
10. “I’m having difficulty with our assignment,” said Billy. “Me, too,” answered Joey. “Why don’t we study together so we can help each other?” Billy replied. Then Joey said, “You’re right. Two heads are always better than one.”
  - a. Help one another.
  - b. Any task is always easier to do when you have someone to help you.
  - c. Do your assignment with other people.
  - d. Difficult work should be done with other people.

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 38. How well did you do?



## Let’s Learn

What do you call the expressions that were used on the previous exercises? They are called proverbs. **Proverbs** are well-known neatly-expressed sayings that give advice or express supposed truths. They are also known as **adages** and can be passed on from one generation to another by word of mouth (orally) or in written form.

Proverbs can come from different sources. We often hear proverbs when our elders want to drive home a point or teach us a lesson or two about life. We can also read about proverbs in folktales, fables and bible stories.

Like idioms and figurative language, proverbs should not also be taken literally. They really don’t make sense when translated literally. You have to get their meanings through context.

Aside from those already mentioned in preceeding pages, below are more proverbs and their meanings. They may be useful to you in the future.

Proverb	Meaning
1. The grass is always greener on the other side.	What other people have always looks better than what we have.
2. Curiosity killed the cat.	People, like cats, get hurt sometimes because they can’t resist getting too close to something dangerous or asking questions about things that do not concern them.

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 3. Choose the lesser of two evils.    | If you have to choose between two things that are bad, choose the thing that is less bad.  |
| 4. Love is easier lost than found.    | It is hard to find a real friend from among the many friends you have.   |
| 5. Actions speak louder than words.   | It's not what you say but what you do that shows how much you care.  |
| 6. Easy come, easy go.                | Things that are easy to get are just as easy to lose.  |
| 7. Better safe than sorry.            | It's better to take the safe way than to risk danger or failure.   |
| 8. Look before you leap.              | Shop or look around first before investing your time and/or money into something.  |
| 9. Birds of a feather flock together. | People like to be around those who have the same interests and backgrounds as they do. For example, rich people go with rich people. |
| 10. Practice what you preach.         | If you tell others how to live, you should follow those rules too. Lead by example.  |



## Let's Review

Honesty is the best policy.  
 Birds of a feather flock together.  
 Haste makes waste.  
 Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.  
 Practice what you preach.

Listen to the following situations on **Tape Segment # 5: Proverbs**. Choose the proverb which best fits each situation from the box above. Write your answer on the space provided.

### Situation 1

Proverb: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### Situation 2

Proverb: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### Situation 3

Proverb: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Situation 4

Proverb: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 39. How well did you do? Did you get all the correct answers?



## Let's See What You Have Learned

A. Write **M** if the statement is a metaphor and **S** if it is a simile.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The rope coiled around his leg was like a snake.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Because she was afraid, her knees turned into jelly.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 3. The dog curled up like a worm.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 4. When Ben opened his mouth to yawn, he looked like an alligator.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 5. The tears fell in rivers down Lucy's beautiful face.

B. Give a short situation to explain each of the following proverbs.

1. choose the lesser of two evils

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. look before you leap

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. love is easier lost than found

---

---

---

---

---

4. better safe than sorry

---

---

---

---

---

5. practice what you preach

---

---

---

---

---

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 38. How well did you do? Did you get all the correct answers? If you did, that's very good. If you didn't, don't worry. Just review the parts of the lesson you didn't understand very well before going to the next part of the module.



## Let's Remember

- ◆ **Figurative language** or **figures of speech** are devices such as metaphors, similes, etc. that enliven language.
- ◆ **Similes** are figures of speech in which a thing is described by being likened to something usually using **like** or **as**.
- ◆ **Metaphors** are expressions in which the persons, actions or things referred to are described as if they really were what they merely resemble.
- ◆ **Proverbs** are well-known neatly-expressed sayings that give advice or express supposed truths.

Well, this is the end of the module. Congratulations for finishing it. Did you like it? Did you learn anything useful from it? A summary of its main points is given below to help you remember them better.



## Let's Sum Up

- ◆ An **idiom** is an expression with a meaning from the meanings of the individual words which cannot be guessed at or derived from the meanings of the individual words that form it.
- ◆ The words in an idiomatic expression can't be rearranged nor changed.
- ◆ **Figurative language** or **figures of speech** are devices such as metaphors, similes, etc. that enliven language.
- ◆ **Similes** are figures of speech in which a thing is described by being likened to something usually **like** or **as**.
- ◆ **Metaphors** are expressions in which the persons, actions or things referred to are described as if they really were what they merely resemble.
- ◆ **Proverbs** are well-known neatly-expressed sayings that gives advice or express supposed truths.



## What Have You Learned?

- A. Encircle the idiomatic expression that best fits the given meaning inside the parentheses.
1. The rollercoaster (increased in speed) as it went down the slope.
    - a. picked up speed
    - b. picked up
    - c. was a piece of cake
    - d. picked up the tab
  2. The speakers (began the activity) on time.
    - a. started up
    - b. started in
    - c. started the ball rolling
    - d. stood up to someone
  3. Nadia asked that she (be the one to pay for the food she and her friends ate) since it was her birthday.
    - a. serve as food for thought
    - b. foot the bill
    - c. fool around
    - d. put her foot in the door



4. Before Miss Philippines Miriam Quiambao went to compete in the Miss Universe Pageant, her friends wished her luck in (winning the title).
  - a. bringing someone into line
  - b. bringing some new facts into light
  - c. bringing up
  - d. bringing home the bacon
5. He (revealed a secret) that shocked all his friends.
  - a. let up a secret
  - b. let a cat out of the bag
  - c. let sleeping dogs lie
  - d. let out a secret

B. Identify the type of figure of speech used in each passage below. Then write **M** for metaphor and **S** for simile in the blank before each number.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. When the evening is spread out against the sky  
Like a patient etherised upon a table;
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. My mother is a fox.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Gone, gone is Gordon, tall and brilliant lad  
Whose mind was science. Now hollow his skull,
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. With hungry mouth open like a wicked monster,
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. During the storm, the ship was a chariot of doom.

C. Encircle the letter of the proverb that best fits each given situation.

1. Aling Maria earns her living by sewing clothes. During the past two days, she felt that something was wrong with her sewing machine though it still worked. She immediately called for the technician to repair it. She wouldn't be able to afford if it breaks down.
  - a. Easy come, easy go.
  - b. A stitch in time saves nine.
  - c. Better safe than sorry.
  - d. There's no use crying over spilled milk.
2. Elvira is a lovely woman. She is very rich too. She looks as if she couldn't harm anybody. But all those close to her do not like her attitude. She is mean and looks down on others.
  - a. There's no use crying over spilled milk.
  - b. The grass is always greener on the other side.
  - c. Not all that glitters is gold.
  - d. Practice what you preach.

3. Mr. Aquino is a politician in a town in Tuguegarao. Unlike other politicians, he did not make a lot of promises to the people. But his constituents could see that he has many projects lined up for them. He is also doing his best in attracting many investors to do business in their town.
  - a. Look before you leap.
  - b. Practice makes perfect.
  - c. Birds of a feather flock together.
  - d. Actions speak louder than words.
4. Delia has to meet her friend, Espie, in an hour at the town plaza to finalize their plans for their latest barangay project. But her mother asked her to wash the dishes and clean up after lunch first. She still has to take a bath and dress up too. Because she was in such a hurry, she broke a glass which made her mother very angry.
  - a. Let no stone go unturned.
  - b. Haste makes waste.
  - c. Curiosity killed the cat.
  - d. Honesty is the best policy.
5. It's election time once again. There are only two candidates running for barangay captain in San Rafael. But both of them are not that good as evidenced by their past records. Who should the people of San Rafael choose?
  - a. Love is easier lost than found.
  - b. Actions speak louder than words.
  - c. Choose the lesser of two evils.
  - d. The early bird catches the worm.

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 39. How did you do? Did you get a perfect score? If you did, that's very good. That means you learned a lot from this module. If you didn't, don't worry. Just go over the items you missed before studying another module.



## Answer Key

### A. Let's See What You Already Know (*pages 2–3*)

- A. 1. (a) is correct. The idiom “raising a hand” means “doing something to help.” (b) is incorrect because it means causing surprise or disapproval. (c) is incorrect because it means making a lot of money. (d) is incorrect because it means “being in a hurry.”
  2. (b) is correct because it means “being able to lead, persuade or influence other people.” (a) is incorrect because it means “speaking with someone briefly.” (c) is incorrect because it means “acting foolishly or strangely.” (d) is incorrect because it means “being through with something or someone.”
  3. (d) is correct because it means “down on both hands and feet.” (a) is incorrect because it means “be dead and buried.” (b) is incorrect because it means “be very happy.” (c) is incorrect because it means “take a short nap during the day.”
  4. (c) is correct because it means “a person who does not act like everyone else.” (a) is incorrect because it means “old fashioned.” (b) is incorrect because it means “a secret that many people already know.” (d) is incorrect because it means “to get rid of someone who is a nuisance.”
  5. (d) is correct because it means “exactly the same words.” (a) is incorrect because it means “information that is passed on to someone orally.” (b) is incorrect because it means “something that’s been done in the past that should already be forgotten.” (c) is incorrect because it means “remove something that is unwanted.”
- B. 1. M
2. S
3. S
4. M
5. S
- C. Situation 1: Two heads are better than one.
- Situation 2: The early bird catches the worm.
- Situation 3: Easy come, easy go.

## B. Lesson 1

*Let's Study and Analyze (pages 8–9)*

1. b
2. c
3. b
4. a
5. d
6. c
7. a

*Let's Review (pages 9–10)*

1. apple of one's eyes
2. tying the knot
3. food for thought
4. get down to brass talks

*Let's Try This (page 12)*

1. Bec used to burn the midnight oil studying during her college days.
2. She put her dress on before putting make-up—that was like putting the cart before the horse.
3. Her stated jumped out of the frying pan and into the fire.
4. They got down to brass talks to sort out things for their new company.
5. They only saw each other once in a blue moon when they were together.

*Let's Try This (page 14)*

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. b
5. c

*Let's See What You Have Learned (pages 15–16)*

- A. 1. (c) is correct because it means “to lose courage.” (a) is incorrect because it means “form bad to worse.” (b) is incorrect because it means “to do something well into the night.” (d) is incorrect because it means “to begin an activity.”
2. (d) is correct because ti means “hearing about something straight first-hand.” (a) is incorrect because it means “to come to the main point.” (b) is incorrect because it means “rough or noisy play.” (c) is incorrect because it means “pretending to be good when one is really bad.”

3. (b) is correct because it means “to wear one’s best clothes.” (a) is incorrect because it means “to wear nothing at all.” (c) is incorrect because it means “to spend less money than usual.” (d) is incorrect because it means “to something by instinct instead of relying on one’s knowledge or logic.”
4. (a) is correct because it means “to stay calm.” (b) is correct because it means “to finalize one’s decision.” (c) is incorrect because it means “refusing to say anything at all.” (d) is incorrect because it means “to recover from a problem.”
5. (d) is correct because it means “born rich.” (a) is incorrect because it means “doing something very well.” (b) is incorrect because it means “being very happy.” (c) is incorrect because it means “being a cheap person.”
- B. 1. If we do not meet the deadline our boss set, our heads will roll.  
2. I was standing by the window when I felt my hair stand on end.  
3. His friend let the cat out of the bag and surprised all of us.

## C. Lesson 2

*Let’s Listen to This (page 20)*

### Lament for Ignacio Sanchez Mejias

2. The Spilled Blood  
Federico Garcia Lorca

And across the ranches,  
an air of secret voices rose,  
shouting to celestial bulls,  
herdsmen of pale mist..  
There was no prince in Sevilla  
who could compare to him,  
nor sword like his sword  
nor heart so true.  
Like a river of lions  
was his marvelous strength,  
and like a marble torso  
his firm drawn moderation.

## **The Fish**

Elizabeth Bishop

I caught a tremendous fish  
and held him beside the boat  
half out of water, with my hook  
fast in a corner of his mouth.

He didn't fight.

He hadn't fought at all.  
He hung a grunting weight,  
battered and venerable  
and homely. Here and there  
his brown skin hung in strips  
like ancient wallpaper,  
and its pattern of darker brown  
was like wallpaper:  
shapes like full-blown roses  
stained and lost through age.

*Let's Study and Analyze (page 22)*

1. 4
2. 4
3. 4

*Let's Review (pages 23–24)*

1. simile—painting of the Duchees on the wall and herself when she was still alive
2. metaphor—palms and bulls in china
3. simile—you and the speaker's brother
4. metaphor—river and a girl of pleasure
5. metaphor—fights and painless scars

*Let's Study and Analyze (pages 26–28)*

1. a
2. b
3. a
4. c
5. a
6. d
7. c
8. c
9. a
10. b

*Let's Review (pages 29–30)*

Situation 1 Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder.

Situation 2 Honesty is the best policy.

Situation 3 Birds of a feather flock together.

Situation 4 Haste makes waste.

*Let's See What You Have Learned (page 30)*

- A. 1. S  
2. M  
3. S  
4. S  
5. M

- B. 1. You were made to choose between two people you disliked as your partner in a school project. You then chose the person you disliked less.
2. Your friend asked you to accompany her to a party. You eagerly accepted her offer without even knowing who will be there. You then find out you disliked most of the people who were there and had a very bad time.
3. Larry just meet a girl he thought would be perfect for him. It turns out though that after a few weeks into their relationship, they weren't even compatible.
4. Diwa decided to drive herself to their province for the fiesta. She then had her car checked to make sure she wouldn't have any trouble with it while on the road.
5. Henry always tells his children not to eat in front of the TV but he does the same thing himself. This is why his children never learn.

**D. What Have You Learned** *(pages 32–34)*

- A. 1. a  
2. c  
3. b  
4. d  
5. b

- B. 1. S  
2. M  
3. M  
4. S  
5. M

- C. 1. b  
2. c  
3. d  
4. b  
5. c



## References

- BBC Education. *The Simile Poem Library*. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/listenandwrite/similes/carps1.htm>. February 3, 2001, date accessed.
- Brie, Pat. *Idioms and Vocabulary in the Workplace*. <http://www.linguatec.com/languagehints.html>. February 2, 2001, date accessed.
- Comptons Encyclopedia. *Figures of Speech*. [http://www.comptons.com/encyclopedia/ARTICLES/0050/00653568\\_A.html](http://www.comptons.com/encyclopedia/ARTICLES/0050/00653568_A.html). February 8, 2001, date accessed.
- DiYanni, Robert. *Literature: Reading Fiction, Poetry, Drama and the Essay*. New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc., 1994.
- Egmond, J. *Proverbs and Sayings*. <http://www.spreekwoord.net/sw/uk/intro.html>. February 13, 2001, date accessed.
- Famous Quotations Network. <http://www.famous-quotations.com/asp/categories.asp>. February 13, 2001, date accessed.
- Figurative Language: Review. <http://www.netcore.ca/~gibsonjs/figlang.html>. January 29, 2001, date accessed.
- Hackworth, Allen. (1999). *Figurative Language*. [http://www.srv.net/~allen/leave/figurative\\_language.html](http://www.srv.net/~allen/leave/figurative_language.html). January 29, 2001, date accessed.
- Knickerbocker, K. L., et al. *Interpreting Literature*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1985.
- Pagewise. (2000). *What Is the Definition of Figurative Language?* [http://wiwi.essortment.com/figurativelangu\\_rgpp.html](http://wiwi.essortment.com/figurativelangu_rgpp.html). January 29, 2001, date accessed.
- Poetry Gallery. <http://www.aop.net/aop/gallery/Poetry/Alliteration.html>. February 8, 2001, date accessed.
- President and Fellows of Harvard College. (2000). *Figurative Language*. <http://www.pz.harvard.edu/Research/Figlang.htm>. January 31, 2001, date accessed.
- Reed College. [http://web.reed.edu/academic/departments/writing/figurative\\_language.html](http://web.reed.edu/academic/departments/writing/figurative_language.html). January 31, 2001, date accessed.
- Sullivan, Allan and Murphy, Timoty. *Beowulf: Grappling With Grendel*. <http://www.jps.net/pdeane/fgr/beoIndex.htm>. February 08, 2001, date accessed.
- The Idiom Connection: English Idioms and Quizzes. <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Aegean/6720/IQuiz.html>. January 11, 2001, date accessed.
- The Utah Card. *Playful Proverbs*. [http://www.utahcard.com/crosswords/game\\_articles/proverbs.html](http://www.utahcard.com/crosswords/game_articles/proverbs.html). February 16, 2001, date accessed.



Tomeldan, Yolanda V., Arambulo, Thelma E., Rivera, Naida U., Alaras, Consolacion R., Legasto, Priscelina P., Mariño, Pilar E and Peña, Lydia S. *Prism: An Introduction to Literature*. Mandaluyong City: National Book Store, 1986.

University of Maribor, Faculty of Education, Department of English and American Studies. *English Poetry*. <http://www.pfmb.uni-mb.si/eng/dept/eng/text/figlang.htm>. January 31, 2001, date accessed.

University of Victoria, Department of English. 1995. *Rhetoric and Figurative Language*. <http://www.clearcf.uvic.ca/writersguide/Pages/RhetFigurativeLang.html>. January 31, 2001, date accessed.