



Idioms 11

Vocabulary > Advanced 7



Exercise 1 – Vocabulary

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| let the cat out of the bag | To reveal a secret, often by mistake. |
| [phrase] | <i>Ex: The gift was supposed to be a surprise, but Dan let the cat out of the bag.</i> |

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| speak of the devil | Used when a person that was just mentioned suddenly appears. |
| [phrase] | <i>Ex: Joan lost a lot of weight this year. Oh, speak of the devil! Here she comes.</i> |

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| under the weather | To feel slightly ill; not feel completely well. |
| [phrase] | <i>Ex: She was a bit under the weather yesterday, but seems to be recovering nicely.</i> |

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| beat around the bush | To avoid talking about an important or embarrassing topic. |
| [phrase] | <i>Ex: None of my friends beat around the bush. If they have something to say, they say it.</i> |

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| fit as a fiddle | Very healthy; physically fit. |
| [phrase] | <i>Ex: Although Mr. Sanders is 75 years old, he is still fit as a fiddle.</i> |



Exercise 2 – Reading

Read the text aloud with your tutor.

A Surprise Party

Sam Johnson is a salesman who lives in London. He likes sports, so he often goes jogging or swimming. He is indeed **fit as a fiddle**. However, this spring he caught a cold. It was the worst time to catch a cold, as Sam was planning to organize a party for his girlfriend's birthday. Knowing that he couldn't do it himself as long as he was **under the weather**, he called his friend over to talk to him about it. After **beating around the bush** for a while, he finally found the courage to ask his friend for help. They started planning and discussing things that Sam's girlfriend liked. Suddenly, the doorbell rang. "**Speak of the devil!**" Sam's friend said looking through the peephole, "It's your girlfriend!" Before opening the door, Sam made his friend promise that he wouldn't **let the cat out of the bag**.



Exercise 3 – Fill in the Blanks

Fill in the blanks with the correct idioms.

1. I always get sick in winter, but my sister never does – she's as _____.
2. I really didn't want Sally to know, but Chris _____.
3. I feel _____ today. I think I'm getting a cold.
4. If you eat healthily and exercise you'll be _____.
5. I hate it when Jack _____ instead of just asking me what he wants.
6. Well, _____, here's Carrie now!
7. Stop _____ and tell me what you're thinking about!
8. Mia was _____ yesterday, so Mark brought her some medicine.



Exercise 4 – Sentence Construction

Create sentences using the following idioms.

Example: let the cat out of the bag → Mia let the cat out of the bag and told Jenny about the party.

Content:

1. let the cat out of the bag
2. speak of the devil
3. under the weather
4. beat around the bush
5. fit as a fiddle