



Idioms 20

Vocabulary > Advanced 7



Exercise 1 – Vocabulary

eat one's words	To admit that something one said was wrong.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: Okay, you were right; I'll have to eat my words.</i>

off the top of one's head	Without careful thought or preparation.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: I'd say there are 100 members, off the top of my head.</i>

more than meets the eye	Something that is more complex, interesting, or important than it may seem at first.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: There is more to him than meets the eye. Did you know he writes poetry?</i>

by the book	Strictly following the rules.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: He always did everything by the book, and look where it got him.</i>

go overboard	To do something too much or to be too enthusiastic about something.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: Everything she's wearing is pink; she went a little bit overboard, didn't she?</i>



Exercise 2 – Reading

Read the text aloud with your tutor.

A Missing Man

Ryan was a man who used to do everything **by the book**. Whatever he would do, he would always follow the rules. Even when he had presentations, he would never give examples just **off the top of his head**. Every single thing he said had been planned ahead. People would frequently say that he was **going overboard**, planning everything like this. Well, they all had to **eat their words**. One Monday morning, Ryan wasn't at his office desk. There had been no call from him to inform us that he was sick. When the boss arrived from a company meeting, he said that Ryan suddenly flew to the Alps without warning anybody, not even the boss himself. That was not like Ryan. I guess there is **more** to him **than meets the eye**!



Exercise 3 – Fill in the Blanks

Fill in the blanks with the correct idioms.

1. I will make you _____ when I win the contest!
2. I gave you an example _____.
3. The restaurant Mia suggested doesn't look very appealing, but maybe there's _____. Let's give it a shot!
4. I dislike going _____ when it comes to cooking; I like to experiment!
5. They said I could never be successful. I made them _____ when I became the CEO of the company.
6. Megan _____ with black eye shadow; now she looks like a panda.
7. This fairy tale is not that bad, actually, there's _____; it has a much deeper meaning.
8. I think I _____ with the tea party; I baked 300 cupcakes...



Exercise 4 – Sentence Construction

Create sentences using the following idioms.

Example: eat one's words → I may eat my words, but I really don't think you can eat the whole cake.

Content:

1. eat one's words
2. off the top of one's head
3. more than meets the eye
4. by the book
5. go overboard