

LEVEL
Intermediate

**NUMBER
EN BE 3615X**

LANGUAGE
English





Goals

- Can understand and recall a range of more advanced idioms and phrases.
- Can accurately use these idioms in my own sentences and in an appropriate context.







Preview and warm-up

- The previous slide uses three examples of **idioms**.
- **Idioms** are **sayings** or **phrases** that have a **specific meaning** in a culture.



Idioms cannot usually be translated word for word.
That's why **learning** and **practising** these phrases is essential.



Advanced idioms and phrases

- We've divided the idioms from today's lesson into **three groups**:
 - **positive outcomes**;
 - **sadness and anger**;
 - **wisdom and advice**.
- Let's now look at each one in more detail!

Positive outcomes	Sadness and anger	Wisdom and advice
<i>a blessing in disguise</i>	<i>under the weather</i>	<i>don't put all your eggs in one basket</i>
<i>let someone off the hook</i>	<i>down in the dumps</i>	<i>don't judge a book by its cover</i>
<i>speak of the devil</i>	<i>at the end of my tether</i>	<i>pull yourself together</i>
<i>on the ball</i>	<i>drive up the wall</i>	<i>bite the bullet</i>

a blessing in disguise

A blessing in disguise is a **bit of good fortune** that **appears negative**, but is **actually positive**.

Why do we use the word **disguise** in this context?



Losing my phone was a **blessing in disguise**. I am now spending more time reading and visiting friends.

let (someone) off the hook

Imagine a friend has asked you to come over to their house to help them with a home renovation project, but you don't want to do it. He then calls you and says you don't need to come after all. He's **let you off the hook**.

What do you think
this phrase has to
do with **fishing**?



I'll **let you off the hook** today, but we really need to start working on it tomorrow.

Speak of the devil

We use this phrase when we **were just talking about someone** shortly before they **join the conversation**.

Do you have a phrase that means something **similar** in your native language?



Speak of the devil! We were just talking about you. Your presentation today was excellent.

on the ball

Feeling sharp, clever, and with it? If so, you might say you are *on the ball*. This means you are **doing things well** and **to plan**.

What does this phrase have to do with **sport**?



She's totally **on the ball** at work right now, which is impressive because she is managing two big projects.



How might you respond to each of these four texts?

A

You are the captain of a basketball team. Your best player contacts you to tell you that they are unable to come to training this week.

B

You are having coffee with friends in a café. You are waiting for one of your friends to arrive. One of your friends starts to complain about how the friend who is still to arrive is always late.

C

Your colleague tells you that one of your clients is unhappy with how your company has been performing recently. They inform you that they have been thinking about working with one of your competitors if things do not improve.

D

Your sister calls you up to tell you that she has lost her job. She is upset, but she has been talking about wanting to change careers recently. She regularly tells you that her job makes her unhappy. She wants to pursue what she is passionate about.

1. **'It might turn out to be a blessing in disguise.'**

2. **'It's ok. We'll let you off the hook this time.'**

3. **'Speak of the devil! Here he is!'**

4. **'We really need to be on the ball these next few weeks.'**



Can you think of a time when...

Discuss as a group and share your thoughts!

Take turns to
answer each
question



...you let someone off the hook?



...you were really on the ball?



...something turned out to be a blessing in disguise?



...you used the phrase in your language that means *speaking of the devil*?

under the weather

When you are **under the weather**, you feel **physically ill**.

Why do you think
this idiom refers to
the **weather**?



This week I am feeling **under the weather**. I've got a bad cold.

down in the dumps

When you are ***down in the dumps***, you feel **sad**.

What do you think
dumps mean in
this context?



Last week I was **down in the dumps** because my girlfriend broke up with me.

at the end of my tether

This means to be **angry** or **irritated** and you can **no longer cope**. It is often associated with **stress** and **burnout**.

Do you know what a **tether** is? Why does it make sense in this context?



I'm **at the end of my tether** at work. My colleagues are impossible to work with.

to drive (someone) up the wall

This also means to be **angry** or **irritated** at someone or something.

Do you have a **similar** phrase in your native language? Can you explain it?



My boss is **driving me up the wall** at the moment.



How might you respond to each of these four texts?

1. 'I'm sorry I am finding it hard to cope. I'm at the end of my tether.'

2. 'I'm sorry to hear you've been so down in the dumps.'

3. 'You do sound a little under the weather.'

4. 'It's been driving you up the wall for months.'

A

'It's been a tough week, and I'm just feeling really sad. I did not get a job I applied for and my best friend moved away last month, so I'm just feeling lonely.'

B

You meet your friend and you tell them that you have been struggling with your childcare and work responsibilities.

C

Your brother emails you to tell you that he still hasn't fixed his leaky shower. He often complains about it to you but he hasn't done anything about it.

D

'I travelled this weekend and did not get a lot of sleep. As a result, I'm exhausted and run down. I think I caught a cold as well.'



Discuss

Look at the following questions and use examples from your own life to illustrate your point.



What do you do
when you feel
**under the
weather?**

When was the
last time you felt
really **down in
the dumps?**

What's
something that
**drives you up
the wall?**

How often do
you feel **at the
end of your
tether?**

don't judge a book by its cover

This idiom is a **piece of advice**. It reminds us that sometimes we need to **find out more about someone or something** before we make our minds up.

Why is this an **effective** idiom?
Why is it relevant to **books**?

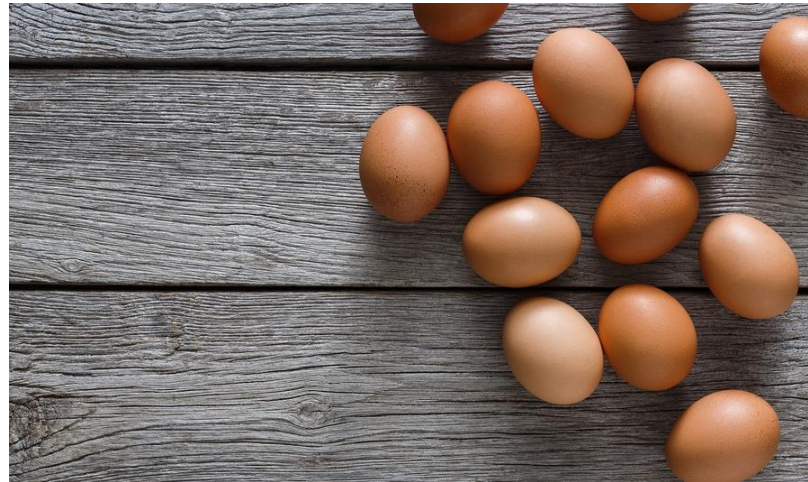


I know the restaurant looks shabby, but it does the best pizza in town. **Don't judge a book by its cover!**

don't put all your eggs in one basket

This means to have one or several **back-up plans**. It tells us to not **rely** on just **one thing**.

What is the **risk** of **literally** putting all your eggs in one basket?

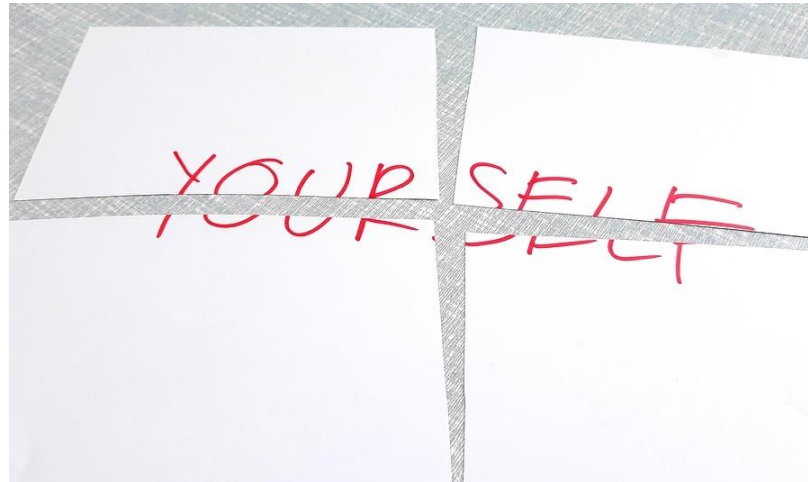


You should probably apply to several universities. **Don't put all your eggs in one basket**, otherwise you might be disappointed!

to pull yourself together

When you are **upset, disorganised**, or generally **not good**, *pulling yourself together* means to **recover** and be **strong**.

Can you explain
the **meaning** of
this idiom?



We are losing by 23 points at half time.
We need to **pull ourselves together** if we want to win!

to bite the bullet

Biting the bullet means doing something that is **tough** or **unpleasant**.

Do you have a
similar idiom in
your own
language?



I finally **bit the bullet** and paid off my car loan. It was tough, but I feel better.



Using advanced idioms

**Fill in the gap with the idiom that fits best.
Change the verb form and pronouns, if necessary.**

1. My neighbours absolutely _____. They play loud music late at night and have huge parties at the weekends, which they never invite me to!
2. After another late night of loud music and loads of guests, I am _____. I can't handle another night of bad sleep.
3. I felt _____ last weekend, so I mostly stayed at home, slept, and drank tea. I must have been a bit sick after a long week at work.
4. She was _____ after her breakup. All her friends tried to cheer her up.
5. Getting locked out of my flat was _____, because I met my lovely neighbours who became good friends.
6. My little sister isn't studying at all. She needs to _____ if she wants to pass her exams.
7. I _____ and finally quit my job. I am little worried about the future, but I am much happier.
8. Save a copy of your presentation on a USB and the cloud. _____.

a. drive up the wall

b. at the end of my tether

c. a blessing in disguise

d. bite the bullet

e. pull herself together

f. don't put all your eggs in one basket

g. down in the dumps

h. under the weather



Mediation with idioms: describe the meaning of the following sentences for someone who is unfamiliar with English idioms

1. She is driving me up the wall!



Her behaviour is **frustrating** and making me very **angry**.

2. We need to bite the bullet and face up to our responsibilities.



3. It turns out working in the office was a blessing in disguise. I don't like working from home.



4. You should call Andy. He has been down in the dumps recently.



5. Don't put all your eggs in one basket. You might not get the flat you want.





Mediation with idioms: describe the meaning of the following sentences for someone who is unfamiliar with English idioms

6. I'll let you off the hook today, but next time you'll need to bring an ID card and cash.



Next time, we must bring money and identification. Today it is not a problem though.

7. Speak of the devil! We were just talking about you.



8. We're really proud of Kelly, she's been on the ball at school lately.



9. Don't judge a book by its cover! It might look simple, but it's a wonderful hotel.



10. You have to go into that meeting, even though you're upset. Pull yourself together!





Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no





Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over
the most difficult slides again



Answer key

- Activity p. 10**
A=2; B=3; C=4; D=1
- Activity p. 17**
A=2; B=1; C=4; D=3
- Activity p. 22**
1. a
2. b
3. h
4. g
5. c
6. e
7. d
8. f





Idioms in use

You receive the following email. Your friend has received a note from her neighbours and doesn't understand it at all. Help her figure out what the idioms mean, and most importantly, what her neighbour is saying.

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□

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To: languagebuddy@mail.co.uk

Subject: Do you understand this?

Hi there,

I got a note from my neighbours last night and I can't work out what it means! I think they are upset...but I can't tell for sure. When I translated the note, it didn't make an sense. Can you help? It says:

Your party last night was unacceptable. We are at the end of our tether with all your noisy guests. We have let you off the hook several times, but we won't any more. I know we shouldn't judge a book by its cover, but you and your flat mates seem very rude. Please quieten down or we'll have to bite the bullet and phone the police. You are driving us up the wall!



Respond to the email

Respond to the email from the previous slide, explaining the idioms and the meaning of the note.

-□×

To: sonia.czerlinsky@studentmail.co.uk

Subject: re: Do you understand this?

Hi Sonia,

I had a look at the note and here's what it means...



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