

Idioms & Phrases**A. Idioms and Phrases**

Idioms or idiomatic expressions are a set of words or phrase that expresses a completely different meaning from the individual elements. They do not mean exactly what the words say but have a hidden meaning. Idioms add color and enhance your communication.

For ex, the idiom 'think on your feet'. It means to adjust quickly to changes and be able to make fast decisions.

Example Sentence: A good sales man must be able to think on his feet to close the deal.

Other examples

It's raining cats and dogs. Its literal meaning suggests that cats and dogs are falling from the sky. We interpret it to mean that it is raining hard.

- **To stick your neck out** is to say or do something that is bold and a bit dangerous. A similar idiom that is used for slightly more dangerous situations is to "go out on a limb." In both idioms, the idea is that you put yourself in a vulnerable position.
- **To break the ice** is to be the first one to say or do something, with the expectation that others will then follow. Another idiom that means something similar is "get the ball rolling."
- **To get long in the tooth** means to get old. The expression was originally used when referring to horses since gums recede with age. So the longer the teeth a horse has, the older it is said to be.
- **To have a chip on one's shoulder** is usually an expression to describe a person who acts, as you say, rudely or aggressively, but also in a manner that could be described as "aggressively defensive." The person seems always ready for a fight.

Food for thought

These idioms are all about food. Can you explain what they really mean?

- Taking two bits of the cherry
- Selling like hot cakes
- Playing gooseberry
- Going bananas

What do these idioms mean?

Feel like a fish out of water

Shake a leg

Hang on

Turn someone off

Numbers up

Lots of idioms are about numbers. See if you can fill in the missing numbers in these says.

What do they mean?

- Dressed up to the _____
- Talking ____ to the dozen
- One in a _____
- Playing _____ fiddle
- In _____ heaven

Animal Crackers

- It's raining ____ and dogs!
- I've got a ____ in my throat
- Those are just _____ tears
- He's taken the _____ share
- I can smell a ____

In each of the following questions choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of idiom in italics.

1. We should not *pick holes* in other's reputation.
 - 1) To find fault
 - 2) To tear apart
 - 3) to praise
 - 4) neglect
 - 5) none of these.
2. The notorious thief was at last *brought to book* by the diligent cop.
 - 1) to fail
 - 2) to arrest
 - 3) to punish
 - 4) to book
 - 5) None of these.
3. There is no hard and fast rule regarding this subject.
 - 1) rule that cannot be broken or modified.
 - 2) rule that is difficult.
 - 3) rule that is fast changing
 - 4) rule that be broken or modified.
 - 5) None of these.
4. He made light of his teacher's advice.
 - 1) Rejected.
 - 2) listened
 - 3) Ignored
 - 4) Disregarded
 - 5) None of these.
5. To all intents and purposes he is a Goodman.
 - 1) Finally
 - 2) Practically
 - 3) Above all
 - 4) In practice
 - 5) None of these.
6. When the police came, the thieves took to their heels.
 - 1) Took shelter in a tall building
 - 2) Were taken by surprise
 - 3) Took to flight
 - 4) Was taken by surprise
 - 5) None of these.
7. In deep waters
 - 1) In great difficulties
 - 2) In the middle of water
 - 3) having lot of money.
 - 4) Under the sea.

8. Jaundiced eye
 - 1)to have jealousy
 - 2)eyes affected by jaundice
 - 3)not able to see clearly
 - 4)None of these.
9. Cry out
 - 1)decry
 - 2)clamor
 - 3)desire
 - 4)complain
 - 5)extol
- 10.To beat the air
 - 1)To make vain efforts
 - 2)to bring and boast
 - 3)to give airs
 - 4)to submit
- 11.The failure of crops in successive years put the farmer in **a tight corner.**
 - 1) in a closed room
 - 2) in a small field
 - 3) in a difficult situation
 - 4) in a meadow
12. The effort to trace the culprit was **a wild goose chase.**
 - 1) a fruitful hunting
 - 2) futile search
 - 3) ideal seeking
 - 4) genuine effort
1. The story **does not hold water.**
 - 1) does not deserve appreciation
 - 2) does not fulfill the requirements
 - 3) Cannot be believed
 - 4) cannot be valued
2. Raj couldn't pay the bill, so he asked the owner to put it **on the cuff.**
 - 1) on credit
 - 2) against his credit
 - 3) in his bank account
 - 4) in his friend's account
3. His statement is **out and out** a lie.
 - 1) totally
 - 2) simply
 - 3) merely
 - 4) slightly
4. The luxury car that they bought turned out to be **a white elephant.**
 - 1) a rare article
 - 2) useful mode of transport
 - 3) costly or troublesome possession
 - 4) a proud possession
5. If you are **fair and square** in your work you will definitely prosper.
 - 1) active
 - 2) honest
 - 3) business like
 - 4) authoritative
6. There is **no love lost between** any two neighboring countries in the world.
 - 1) stop loving
 - 2) not on good terms
 - 3) forming a group
 - 4) have a good understanding
7. The heavy downpour **played havoc** in the coastal area.
 - 1) caused destruction
 - 2) caused disease
 - 3) caused floods
 - 4) caused hardship
8. To have a **green thumb** means:

1) one's nails are painted green

2) one is artistic

3) to have a natural interest in gardening

4) one has a green tattoo on the thumb

Answers

1 - 1	2 - 3	3 - 1	4 - 3	5 - 2	6 - 3	7 - 1	8 - 1	9 - 2	10 - 1
11 - 3	12 - 2	13 - 3	14 - 1	15 - 1	16 - 3	17 - 2	18 - 2	19 - 1	20 - 3