

# ENGLISH

## COMMON IDIOMS





## To the Learner

Dear Learner,

Good morning learner! How are you today? Today, we will learn about idiomatic expressions.



### Let's Learn This

This module will help you learn how to use idiomatic expressions as a special combination of words by usage as well as to express clearly what you want to say.



### Let's Try This

Read each sentence. The underlined group of words is an idiom. Choose the best meaning. Encircle your answer in a separate sheet of paper.

1. Whenever Rene is under the weather, he gets plenty of rest and takes vitamins.  
a. out in the rain      b. ill      c. exercising
2. Marlon's jokes wear thin after you've heard them ten times.  
a. becomes dull      b. becomes shorter      c. remains funny
3. We like our neighborhood to look clean, so it burns up when we see someone littering in the streets.  
a. makes us feel hot      b. makes us angry      c. starts fire

4. Although Ester did well in the spelling quiz, she tripped up when she came to the word giraffe.
- a. fell on the floor    b. made a mistake    c. spoke quietly
5. The movie was so funny; it really had us in stitches.
- a. sewing                      b. laughing hard              c. watching eagerly
6. Walking in the woods, we saw a rabbit appear out of the blue.
- a. from a hole                  b. unexpectedly              c. running fast
7. Although Ronnie didn't like the new plan, he went along with it because he hated to make waves.
- a. cause trouble              b. go swimming              c. talk loudly

- Are all your answers like these?

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

- Write your score in the big ribbon.





## Let's Study This

One of the fascinating things about the English language is that common words can be used with other words to mean something completely different. These special phrases are called idiomatic expressions.

Filipinos are fond of using flowery words. Instead of saying "I saw a man beaten rudely," we sometimes prefer to say "I saw a man beaten black and blue" to add a little drama to the statement.

An idiomatic expression conveys a meaning different from its individual words. Neither can the idiom be readily analyzed from its grammatical construction.

Although idioms cannot be explained by the strict rules of grammar, their long-continued, general use has given them recognition.

Idiomatic expressions give force, color and vividness to our language. We use idiomatic expressions to make our speech and writing more interesting. Often, we can get the meaning of an idiomatic expression from context.

Study the following italicized expressions and their meanings.

### A.

1. The birds and animals felt *down in the dumps* because of the destruction of the forest. (depressed)
2. The woodcutter *turned down* their suggestions. (refused, denied)
3. Conservationist *keep an eye* on loggers. (watch carefully)
4. Sometimes the protectors *turn up* too late. (appear, arrive)
5. Often, conservationist and loggers do not *get along* with each other. (live harmoniously together)

More examples:

### Idiomatic expressions

### Meaning

Face the facts	To accept reality
Come down to earth	To be practical; realistic
Take it or leave it	Whether you accept it or not
See the world	To see life
Serve one right	To deal with one as he deserves
Sound a person out	Find out his intention
Commit to memory	To learn by heart
Bury the hatchet	To make peace
Cry over spilt milk	To cherish useless regrets
Follow the crowd	To act or believe as most people do
Kills two birds with one stone	Accomplishes two things at a time



### Let's Do This

#### Idioms

**Idiom** is a phrase that says one thing but actually means something quite different.

**Example:** A **horse of a different color** means something quite unusual.

**Directions:** Write the letter of the correct meaning for each bold phrase. The first one has been done for you.

- refusal to see or listen.
- misbehaving, acting in a wild way
- made a thoughtless remark
- lost an opportunity
- got angry
- pay for
- unknowing
- feeling very sad
- get married
- excited and happy



- f
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. My parents will **foot the bill** for my birthday party.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Tony and Lisa will finally **tie the knot** in June.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Sam was **down in the dumps** after he wrecked his bicycle.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Sarah **put her foot in her mouth** when she was talking to our teacher.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 5. I really **missed the boat** when I turned down the chance to work after school.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 6. I got the **brush-off** from Susan when I tried to ask her where she was last night.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Mickey is **in the dark** about our plans to throw a surprise birthday party for him.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The children were **bouncing of the walls** when the baby-sitter tried to put them to bed.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The students were **flying high** on the last day of school.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 10. My sister **lost her cool** when she discovered I had spilt chocolate milk on her new sweater.



## Let's Do More

Below are idioms and their meanings. Study them carefully.

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| a. pass away | - to die                                |
| b. break off | - to put an end to                      |
| c. cut down  | - diminish in amount                    |
| d. stand out | - to be distinguished                   |
| e. hand out  | - to distribute                         |
| f. break in  | - to train, tame, discipline            |
| g. put down  | - to record                             |
| h. lay up    | - to save                               |
| i. hand over | - to give up the possession of anything |
| j. fall out  | - to quarrel                            |

A. Read the sentences below. Substitute the boldface words with the correct idiomatic expression listed above. Write the answer in the blank.

1. Einstein **was distinguished** in any crowd because of his white hair and massive shoulders. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Linda **put an end to** her engagement when she learned that she was sick with cancer. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. My great grandfather **died** last week. \_\_\_\_\_
  4. The efficient secretary was requested to **record** the minutes of the meeting. \_\_\_\_\_
  5. Usually parents **save** jewels for their children. \_\_\_\_\_
  6. The hold upper demanded that the cashier **give up** the cash in the vault. \_\_\_\_\_
  7. It is unusual to have brothers and sisters **quarreling** among themselves. \_\_\_\_\_
  8. Before the examination started, the teacher **distributed** the examination questions. \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you done?
  - Check your answers.
  - What's your score? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Very good!!!
  - Let's continue.



## Let's Remember This

What are idioms?

Idioms are expressions that cannot be understood simply by putting together the meaning of the individual words. They have meanings as whole expressions instead of as individual words.

Example:

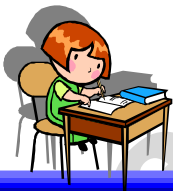
Mother was fit to be tied when I was late for dinner.

Mother was angry when I was late for dinner.

An idiomatic expression is used by writers to achieve certain dramatic effect. Such an expression makes writing more vivid.

Example:

kick the bucket means "to die"



## Let's Test Ourselves

A. Read each sentence below. Each contains an italicized idiomatic expression. Identify its meaning and write the letter of your answer in the blank.

- 1. After the most-needed vacation, the photographer and his partner *get on in life*.
- left work.
  - continued being partners



- 2. One partner returned to town *to look after* the business.
- a. to see
  - b. to take care
- 3. When the partner returned, he saw the philosopher *highly spirited*.
- a. energetic and enthusiasm
  - b. proud and arrogant
- 4. The reddish-brown color of the water was *no good* according to the philosopher.
- a. improper
  - b. of no use
- 5. After a short stay in the rest house, certain changes *took place* in the philosopher's life.
- a. exchanged places
  - b. came about

**B.** Circle the word or phrase that best defines the bold words.

1. Carol **lost her cool** when the party was called off.

got angry                      had a fever                      went home

2. The whole family was there when Bill and Lynn **tied the knot** last weekend.

were caught in a trap                      bought a house                      got married

3. I will have to **foot the bill** for the damage you caused.

kick                                      pay for                                      seek payment

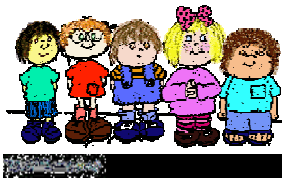
4. The kite **soared like an eagle**.

flapped and fluttered      glided along high in the air  
crashed to the ground

5. It was **raining cats and dog**.

showering      raining very hard      not heavy at all

- Are you done?
- Look at the Answer Key again then check your answers.
- How much did you get?
- If your score is 8-10 (A&B) then proceed to the next module.
- If your score is 5-7, answer Let's Enrich Ourselves.
- If your score is 1-4, review the whole module.



### Let's Enrich Ourselves

**Directions:** Write the letter of the correct meaning for the idiom in each sentence.

- made a thoughtless remark
- lost an opportunity
- pay for
- feeling very sad
- excited and happy



- 1. My Uncle promised to foot the bill for a new computer if I got terrific grades this year.
- 2. Tony was down in the dumps when his team lost the game.
- 3. The opposing team was flying high after the win.
- 4. Jonah put his foot in his mouth when he told his mother what he really thought of her new hairdo.
- 5. Sean really missed the boat when he turned down the chance to travel to England.

- Are you done?
- Look at the answer key to check your answers.
- Did you get it all correctly? ----- Congratulations for the job well done!!! Proceed to the next module.



## Answer Key

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### Let's Do This

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. f | 6. a  |
| 2. i | 7. g  |
| 3. h | 8. b  |
| 4. c | 9. j  |
| 5. d | 10. e |

### Let's Do More

- |      |      |
|------|------|
| 1. d | 5. h |
| 2. b | 6. i |
| 3. a | 7. j |
| 4. b | 8. e |

### Let's Test Ourselves

#### A.

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

#### B.

1. got angry
2. got married
3. pay for
4. glided along high in the air
5. raining very hard

### Let's Enrich Ourselves

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