

Activity Type

Reading, matching and writing exercises

Focus

Idioms

Aim

To learn and practice 12 idioms commonly used in the English Language.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two-page worksheet for each student.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

In this idioms worksheet, students learn and practice 12 idioms commonly used in the English language.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

To begin, students match sentence halves together that contain well-known English idioms.

Exercise A - Answer key

1. i 2. l 3. a 4. h 5. d 6. j
7. k 8. f 9. c 10. g 11. e 12. b

Next, the students guess the meanings of the idioms from the sentences in Exercise A and match them with their correct definitions.

Exercise B - Answer key

1. f 2. a 3. k 4. g 5. j 6. l
7. b 8. e 9. d 10. c 11. h 12. i

After that, the students complete sentences with the idioms from the previous page.

Exercise C - Answer key

1. once in a blue moon
2. butterflies in my stomach
3. kill two birds with one stone
4. under the weather
5. raining cats and dogs
6. hit the sack
7. not my cup of tea
8. a piece of cake
9. caught him red-handed
10. costs an arm and a leg
11. kick the bucket
12. let the cat out of the bag

In the last exercise, students complete questions with the words shown. The students then answer the questions in the spaces provided. Afterwards, the students ask and answer the questions with a partner.

Exercise D - Answer key

1. arm 4. under 7. bag 10. hit
2. moon 5. piece 8. cup 11. red
3. bucket 6. cats 9. birds 12. butterflies

Note: This resource can be edited using a PDF editor.

A. Match the sentence halves together that contain well-known English idioms in bold.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. I didn't buy the Ferrari. It | a. was a piece of cake . |
| 2. I don't know how he is. We only see | b. kill two birds with one stone . |
| 3. I knew all the answers in the exam. It | c. to hit the sack . |
| 4. I don't think I'll go to the film with you. It's | d. had butterflies in my stomach . |
| 5. Before the interview, I | e. It's raining cats and dogs . |
| 6. There are so many things I want to do before | f. I caught him red handed . |
| 7. I was furious with him when I realised | g. I was feeling under the weather . |
| 8. I know it was Joe who stole the cookies. | h. not my cup of tea . |
| 9. I'm absolutely exhausted, so I'm going..... | i. costs an arm and a leg . |
| 10. I didn't go to work because | j. I kick the bucket . |
| 11. There's no way I'm going outside. | k. he'd let the cat out of the bag . |
| 12. I'll go to the bank on my way to the shop, and | l. him once in a blue moon . |

B. Guess the meanings of the idioms from the sentences in Exercise A and match them with their correct definitions.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. unwell | a. once in a blue moon |
| 2. happening very rarely | b. let the cat out of the bag |
| 3. die | c. a piece of cake |
| 4. catch someone doing something bad | d. not your cup of tea |
| 5. go to bed | e. cost an arm and a leg |
| 6. feel nervous | f. under the weather |
| 7. reveal a secret | g. catch someone red handed |
| 8. really expensive | h. raining cats and dogs |
| 9. not to your taste | i. kill two birds with one stone |
| 10. really easy | j. hit the sack |
| 11. raining very heavily | k. kick the bucket |
| 12. do two things at the same time | l. have butterflies in your stomach |

C. Complete the sentences with the idioms from the previous page.

1. No wonder the floor's so dirty, you only wash it
2. Before the exam, I had
3. I decided to and do my shopping when I was in town.
4. Peter's a bit, so he didn't come to school today.
5. Are you sure you want to go outside? It's
6. I early last night as I'd had a tiring day.
7. You can finish the rest of the biscuits. They're
8. Anyone can ride a bike. It's a
9. Sven's mother stealing sweets from his sister.
10. I can't afford to shop in that supermarket. Everything
11. When I, I want a party instead of a funeral.
12. I accidentally and told him about the party.

D. Complete the questions with the words below. Then, answer the questions in the spaces provided. Afterwards, ask and answer the questions with a partner.

cup bag piece butterflies red arm under moon bucket cats birds hit

1. What are two things you think cost an and a leg?
2. What is something you do once in a blue?
3. What is something you'd like to do before you kick the?
4. When was the last time you were the weather?
5. What is something you think is a of cake?
6. What do you wear if it's raining and dogs?
7. Have you ever let the cat out of the?
8. What is something that's not your of tea?
9. When was the last time you killed two with one stone?
10. What time do you usually the sack?
11. Have you ever caught someone handed?
12. When was the last time you had in your stomach?