



University of the Philippines Cebu

Social Sciences Cluster

MASTER OF EDUCATION PROGRAM

WORDS and BEYOND..

[A Module on Idiomatic Expressions for Grade Six]

Presented to:

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EDL 251

*Production/Adaptation and Evaluation of Language Learning
Materials*

By:

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Words and Beyond...

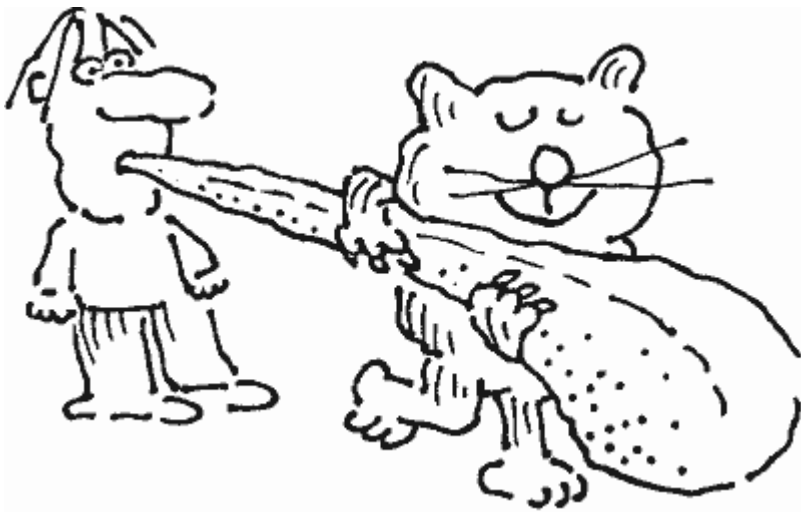
[A Module on Idiomatic Expressions]

INTRODUCTION

Getting an education may be that easy but limiting your potentials to make this world a better place to live in is denying yourself and those around you a chance to work together and pave the way for higher levels of wisdom, understanding and personal development. In this module, you will develop your potential by learning to embrace and live words beyond its meaning.

An idiom is a word or phrase that doesn't mean exactly what it says like

"The cat's got your tongue."



Idioms are usually common phrases that native speakers (people who grew up knowing English) use to communicate. However, these phrases wouldn't make sense to a non-native speaker because they would only understand the literal meaning of each of the words.

For instance, if your parents tell you that you are driving them up a wall, they don't mean that you are causing them to take their car and drive it up the walls of your house. They mean that you are making them crazy.

As you go through with this module, you will not only develop your skills and potential but rather enhanced and enriched your intelligence with vast knowledge about idioms.

OBJECTIVES

This module will help you build and enriched your idiomatic expressions.

Thru this module, you'll be able to:

1. Give the definition of idioms.
2. Use the given idioms in sentences.
3. Identify the meaning of idioms based on the sentences given.

LET'S GET STARTED!

An **idiom** (Latin: *idioma*, "special property", f. Greek: *ἰδίωμα* – *idiōma*, "special feature, special phrasing", f. Greek: *ἴδιος* – *idios*, "one's own") is a combination of words that has a figurative meaning, due to its common usage. An idiom's figurative meaning is separate from the literal meaning or definition of the words of which it is made. Idioms are numerous and they occur frequently in all languages.

An idiom is an expression whose meaning is different from the meaning of its constituent words. Knowledge of idioms is an important part of comprehension of the English language. Below is a list of some commonly used idioms in English with their meanings and usage.

TURN OVER A NEW LEAF	Changing for the better
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After John was released from prison, he decided to turn over a new leaf and become an honest man.



PULL UP ONE'S SOCKS	To make an effort to improve
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Juan scored only forty on his English mid-term exams. He needs to pull up his socks if he wants to do well in his finals.

HIT BELOW THE BELT	To act in an unfair manner
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The candidate of the opposition party spread false rumours about the Mayor. People felt that he was hitting below the belt.

GIFT OF THE GAB	The ability to speak well
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Jerome was able to keep the audience amused with his stories. He surely has the gift of the gab.

WILD GOOSE CHASE	Futile search
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Searching for hidden gold of Yamashita is nothing but a wild goose chase

HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS	Reconsider a decision
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Pedro began to have second thoughts about his decision to study English when he realized that he could not even pay attention during the lectures.

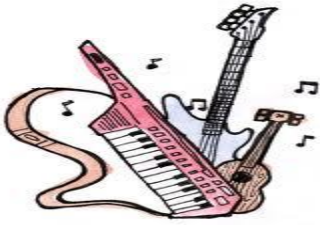
TAKE TO TASK	To reprimand someone
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Maria was taken to task by her father when she failed her exam.

FACE THE MUSIC

To face the consequences of one's action



I lost my father's pen. I will have to face the music when I reach home.

BREAK THE ICE

Overcome initial shyness



Last Monday, the teacher asked the students to introduce themselves to each other to break the ice.

MAKE A MOUNTAIN OUT OF A MOLEHILL

To give great importance to minor things



Mario stopped talking to Rhea because she did not lend him her notebook. I think he is making a mountain out of a molehill.

Let us now begin...

SAQ 1-1

Directions: I am the underlined idiomatic expressions used in each sentence. Choose my meaning from the box on top of the sentences. Write only the letter on the blank before each number.

a. at large
d. directly

b. a reliable source
e. close down

c. quickly
f. to spend much time

g. dishonest dealing
j. regularly

h. investigate

i. in trouble

- _____1. The teacher told her students to work **on the double** in making the project.
- _____2. The boys always **hang out** in the computer shop after the class.
- _____3. The court ordered the police to **dig into** more evidences.
- _____4. He was in **hot water** because of what he said.
- _____5. The criminal is still **on the loose**.
- _____6. The man was told to go **point blank** on the issue.
- _____7. They got the news **from the horses' mouth**.
- _____8. Some businesses **go to the wall** because of economic problems.
- _____9. He goes to work **day in, day out**.
- _____10. He was involved in a **hanky-panky** business.

Student's comments	Teacher's comments	Parent's comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Gee It's peanuts!○ Whew It's a bit ok!○ Gosh It's hard	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Awesome!○ Good job!○ Could do better!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Isn't that great○ We know he/she is ok○ Could do better, we'll keep in touch

SAQ 1-2

Directions: encircle the letter of my correct meaning.

1. The speaker is not yet around. Guests are told to **cool their heels**.
 - a. Leave
 - b. To be kept waiting for some time.
 - c. Have refreshments.
2. They do not want to spread the news so they talk **on the sly**.
 - a. Secretly
 - b. Too much
 - c. To each other
3. **To cut the long story short**, the main character died.
 - a. In short
 - b. To stop
 - c. To continue
4. Everybody must be **on the lookout** for safety.
 - a. On guard
 - b. Outside
 - c. Standing outside
5. They agree in everything because they are **on the same wavelength**.
 - a. Compatible
 - b. On the same age
 - c. On the same house
6. Marie looks **on the sunny side** of her age.

- a. Different
 - b. Happy
 - c. Somewhat younger than specified age
7. The news about her sickness is on everyone's tongue.
- a. Kept secret
 - b. Widespread gossip
 - c. Not acceptable
8. Peter misses his lessons in school because he always plays hookey.
- a. Play games
 - b. Roam around
 - c. Absent from school without consent
9. The lady was out of spirits because of the death of her husband.
- a. Depressed
 - b. Out of her mind
 - c. Out of the altar
10. The performer is prepared to bring the house down.
- a. Act well
 - b. Receive comments
 - c. To please the audience greatly

Student's comments	Teacher's comments	Parent's comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gee It's peanuts! ○ Whew It's a bit ok! ○ Gosh It's hard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Awesome! ○ Good job! ○ Could do better! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Isn't that great ○ We know he/she is ok ○ Could do better, we'll keep in touch

SAQ 1-3

Directions: Read and understand the following idioms and their meanings. Select five from the given idioms and use them in sentences. Write your answers on the space provided.

1. Wear a long face	To be sad or distressed
2. Tighten one's belt	Be thrifty
3. Kick the bucket	To die
4. Mum's the word	To keep a secret
5. Pick up your ears	To listen intently
6. Hit the hay	To go to bed
7. Bushed	Tired or completely exhausted
8. Caught with your pants down	Found out!
9. Get out of hand	A situation which was resulted in chaos
10. Let sleeping dogs lie	Not to interfere

1. _____
2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Student's comments	Teacher's comments	Parent's comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> Gee It's peanuts!<input type="radio"/> Whew It's a bit ok!<input type="radio"/> Gosh It's hard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> Awesome!<input type="radio"/> Good job!<input type="radio"/> Could do better!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> Isn't that great<input type="radio"/> We know he/she is ok<input type="radio"/> Could do better, we'll keep in touch

SAQ 1-4

Directions: Read the following sentences. Then, fill in the missing word to complete the idiomatic expressions used in the sentence. Choose your answer by writing on the blank the word that best fits the sentence.

1. If you have a lot of work to do, you are as busy as a ____.

- bat
- beaver
- bull
- dog

2. If someone ruins their plans, they cook their ____.

- chicken
- beaver
- goose
- cuckoo

3. Hot summer days are ____ days.

- goose
- dog
- cat
- bull

4. If you haven't seen someone for ____ years, you haven't seen them for a very long time.

- bull's
- donkey's
- beaver's
- frog's

5. A big ____ is an important person.

- dog
- donkey
- fish
- chicken

6 . If someone cries ____ tears, they pretend to be upset.

- wolf
- cuckoo
- crow
- crocodile

7. If you work like a ____, you work very hard.

- bull
- dog
- cuckoo
- crow

8. The shortest distance between two places is as the ____ flies.

- cuckoo
- crow
- butterfly
- bird

9. If you solve two problems with a single action, you kill two ____ with one stone.

- geese
- crows
- birds
- cuckoos

10. A person who is a mystery is a dark ____.

- bull
- horse
- ox
- dog

Student's comments	Teacher's comments	Parent's comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Gee It's peanuts!○ Whew It's a bit ok!○ Gosh It's hard	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Awesome!○ Good job!○ Could do better!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Isn't that great○ We know he/she is ok○ Could do better, we'll keep in touch

ENRICHMENT

This time try studying the following idioms together with their meanings....

break the ice	At the start of the meeting, Mike tried to break the ice by telling a joke.	Definition = to initiate social interaction/conversation. (Note: the 'ice' is that cold feeling when no one is talking or people don't know each other. You break the ice by beginning to speak or starting an activity (e.g. telling a joke, or doing a warm-up activity))
go out of your way to do sth	I went out of my way to help Jenny find an apartment, and she didn't even say thanks!	Definition = to take extra time to make an additional effort to do sth
cross your mind	The thought never even crossed my mind.	Definition = to think about sth; to consider sth
road rage	I don't like being in the car with Gary. He has difficulty controlling his road rage.	Definition = extreme anger when driving
go on about	The old man went on about his school days for nearly an hour.	Definition = to speak for too long about sth uninteresting
slip your mind	I was going to return the library books today after work, but the thought slipped my mind.	Definition = used to say you forgot to do sth
have/throw a fit	The baby threw a fit when I took his toy away.	Definition = to get angry and begin acting like an angry child
The ball is in your court	The ball is in their court now. Let's wait for their decision.	Definition = used to say that YOU now have control of the situation

make your day	Finding a fifty-dollar bill on the ground made my day.	Definition = used to say that sth made your day special (and great).
a rip off / to rip sb off	Six dollars for a cup of coffee?! What a rip off!	Definition = sth very over-priced
get a kick out of sth	I get a kick out of reading science fiction novels.	Definition = to get enjoyment from sth
catch sb's eye	The bright advertisement caught my eye.	Definition = to grab sb's attention and make them look at sth
jump the gun	I jumped the gun and asked Gail to marry me. She said she wasn't sure what to say.	Definition = to do sth too soon.
give sb a piece of your mind	The angry worker gave his boss a piece of his mind.	Definition = to speak angrily to sb about sth bad they have done
cross your fingers	Kate crossed her fingers and hoped it wouldn't rain on her wedding day.	Definition = (Westerners cross their fingers when they want good luck)
cost (sb) an arm and a leg	The designer handbag cost her an arm and a leg.	Definition = to cost a LOT of money
be in hot water	Ken was in hot water about forgetting his wedding anniversary.	Definition = to be in trouble
in a bind	Susan is really in a bind. She has two essays due tomorrow and she hasn't started either of them.	Definition = in a difficult situation; stuck in a difficult situation

an eye-opener	The film on global warming was a real eye-opener for Tom.	Definition = sth that makes you see or think about sth differently from then on
let off steam	Ted plays squash when he needs to let off steam.	Definition = to release anger and frustration
read between the lines	You can figure out the author's opinion by reading between the lines.	Definition = to find the hidden meaning in sth that is written or said
go all out	We went all out and booked a five-star hotel for our trip.	Definition = to use all of your energy or resources (e.g. money in the above example) to do sth
out of line	Mark's comment was out of line. He shouldn't have said that to a client.	Definition = inappropriate; not in accordance with how sb is supposed to behave
be on sb's back	My manager is on my back about being at work on time.	Definition = to persistently urge sb to do (or not to do) sth
would not be seen/caught dead	I wouldn't be seen dead wearing an ugly dress like that.	Definition = used to say that you would NEVER do sth
have mixed feelings	Larry has mixed feelings about his new job.	Definition = to be unsure about sth
draw a blank	When asked for her postal code, Amy drew a blank.	Definition = to be unable to remember anything
You name it.	A: Daddy, can I have anything on the menu?	Definition

	B: Sure. You name it, you got it.	= synonym of 'whatever you want'; anything
know your stuff	Jim has been a mechanic for 20 years. He really knows his stuff.	Definition = to know sth well
left, right and centre	Businesses were closing in town left, right and centre.	Definition = everywhere
a change of heart	After seeing a mouse on the floor, I had a change of heart about eating at the restaurant.	Definition = a change of feeling; used to say you changed your mind about sth

After studying the idioms, it's time for you to use them in your day to day communication, be it written or oral. Enjoy...

Checking your progress

How did you go about this module? What score would you give yourself for the work that you have done?

Check your performance by writing the corresponding rating beside each sentence.

1	NO
2	SOMETIMES
3	YES

1. I read and understood the module well. _____
2. I gained knowledge about idioms. _____
3. I answered the activities in the module properly. _____
4. I did my work neatly. _____
5. I now enjoy idioms more. _____
6. I learn to appreciate idiomatic expressions. _____

ASAQ 1-1

1. C quickly
2. F to spend much time
3. H investigate
4. I in trouble
5. A at large
6. D directly
7. B a reliable source
8. E close down
9. J regularly
10. G dishonest dealing

ASAQ 1-2

1. C
2. A
3. A
4. A
5. A
6. B
7. B
8. C
9. B
10. C

ASAQ 1-3

Answers may vary

ASAQ 1-4

1. beaver
2. goose
3. dog
4. donkey's
5. fish
6. crocodile
7. dog
8. crow
9. birds
10. horse

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