

Idioms Practice Worksheet

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Learn more about idioms by playing these two games in pairs. The fastest and highest scoring pair wins!

<https://edtechsims.com/idioms-as-emojis-challenge/>



<https://edtechsims.com/idioms-quest/>



Activity 1: Match the Pairs

Draw a line connecting each idiom on the left to its correct meaning on the right.

Idiom	Meaning
A. Kill two birds with one stone	1. Said when someone appears right after being mentioned
B. Speak of the devil	2. To avoid discussing something directly
C. Beat around the bush	3. Very rarely; hardly ever
D. Once in a blue moon	4. To accomplish two things with a single action
E. The last straw	5. Feeling ill or unwell
F. Under the weather	6. The final problem that causes someone to lose patience
G. Throw someone under the bus	7. A general principle that provides practical guidance
H. Rule of thumb	8. To betray someone for personal gain
I. Cut to the chase	9. To get to the point without wasting time
J. Add fuel to the fire	10. To make an angry situation even worse

Activity 2: Reverse Quiz — Meaning to Idiom

Read the meaning, then circle the correct idiom.

1. **Something that is extremely expensive**
a) A piece of cake b) Cost an arm and a leg
c) Cut corners d) Rule of thumb
2. **To reveal a secret accidentally**
a) Let the cat out of the bag b) Speak of the devil
c) Jump on the bandwagon d) Beat around the bush
3. **To do something the easiest or cheapest way**
a) Bite off more than you can chew b) Hit the nail on the head
c) Cut corners d) Add fuel to the fire
4. **The final problem that causes someone to lose patience**
a) The last straw b) Under the weather
c) Once in a blue moon d) Kill two birds with one stone
5. **To betray someone or sacrifice them for personal gain**
a) Cut to the chase b) Throw someone under the bus
c) Barking up the wrong tree d) Rule of thumb

Activity 3: Fill in the Blank

Complete each sentence with the correct idiom from the box below.

Word Bank: break a leg · cost an arm and a leg · hit the nail on the head · let the cat out of the bag · the ball is in your court · bite off more than you can chew · barking up the wrong tree · cut corners · a piece of cake · jump on the bandwagon

1. I have my big speech tomorrow. _____!
2. That new smartphone _____!
3. You _____ when you said she's jealous of her sister's success.
4. I was planning a surprise party, but my brother _____ when he mentioned it to her.
5. I've sent her my proposal, so now _____.

6. By signing up for five advanced classes, she _____.
7. If you think I took your phone, you're _____.
8. The contractor _____ when building the house.
9. The test was _____; I finished it in half the time.
10. Once the team started winning, everyone _____.

Activity 4: Scenario Application

Read each short scenario. Write the idiom that best fits the situation.

1. Maria has joined the debate team, the chess club, student council, AND the school play, all in the same term. Her friends worry she has taken on too much.
Idiom: _____
2. Halfway through the group project, Tom finally admits what everyone was thinking: the real problem is that no one wrote down the deadlines.
Idiom: _____
3. The detective spent three days investigating the neighbor, only to discover the neighbor had been out of town the entire week.
Idiom: _____
4. During the heated family argument, Dad brought up an old unrelated complaint, making everyone even angrier.
Idiom: _____
5. After a long week of tests, Priya woke up with a headache and a sore throat and decided to stay home.
Idiom: _____
6. Instead of taking responsibility for the missed deadline, the manager blamed it entirely on a junior staff member in front of the whole office.
Idiom: _____
7. The teacher gave a long, complicated explanation, then said, "Let's skip the rest and get straight to what will be on the test."
Idiom: _____

8. Jake mentioned wanting a new bicycle, and by giving him extra chores to earn money for it, his parents also taught him responsibility.

Idiom: _____

9. When the company predicted rain, they still built a corporate skyscraper — as a general guideline, always check the weather forecast in construction.

Idiom: _____

10. As soon as the class started talking about the strange noise in the hallway, the school janitor walked in.

Idiom: _____

Activity 5: Origin Matching

Match each idiom to the story behind where it likely came from.

Idiom	Origin
A. Break a leg	1. From political campaigns in the 1800s, when candidates paraded through town with a band
B. Bite off more than you can chew	2. From theater, where wishing "good luck" was considered bad luck
C. Jump on the bandwagon	3. Refers to taking a bigger bite of food than one can comfortably chew
D. A piece of cake	4. Became popular in the 1930s, comparing easy tasks to the ease of eating cake
E. Cut to the chase	5. From early filmmaking, cutting directly to the exciting chase scene

Activity 6: Create Your Own Idiom

Now it's your turn! Invent an idiom of your own (it can be silly, serious, or based on something from your own culture or family).

My idiom:

What it means:

Example sentence using it:

Where I imagine it might have come from:

Answer Key

Activity 1: Match the Pairs

A–4, B–1, C–2, D–3, E–6, F–5, G–8, H–7, I–9, J–10

Activity 2: Reverse Quiz

1. b) Cost an arm and a leg
2. a) Let the cat out of the bag
3. c) Cut corners
4. a) The last straw
5. b) Throw someone under the bus

Activity 3: Fill in the Blank

1. Break a leg
2. costs an arm and a leg
3. hit the nail on the head
4. let the cat out of the bag
5. the ball is in her court
6. bit off more than she could chew
7. barking up the wrong tree
8. cut corners
9. a piece of cake
10. jumped on the bandwagon

Activity 4: Scenario Application

1. Bite off more than you can chew
2. Beat around the bush (*or: hit the nail on the head, depending on framing — accept either with justification*)
3. Barking up the wrong tree
4. Add fuel to the fire
5. Under the weather
6. Throw someone under the bus
7. Cut to the chase
8. Kill two birds with one stone
9. Rule of thumb
10. Speak of the devil

Activity 5: Origin Matching

A–2, B–3, C–1, D–4, E–5

Activity 6: Create Your Own Idiom

(Open-ended — assess for creativity, clarity of meaning, and correct example usage.)