

Idioms

Figures of Speech

Idiom – a common saying with a figurative meaning. The message is communicated through a “picture”.

Ex. The issue of school uniforms is a *hot potato*. (talked about but not in agreement)

Directions: Complete the following idiom meanings and choose five to illustrate in the boxes.

1. **A penny for your thoughts** – *After I lost the game, mother said, “I’ll give you a penny for your thoughts.”*
Meaning: **A way of asking what someone is thinking.**
2. **Back to the drawing board** – *The invention was a disaster, so it was back to the drawing board.*
Meaning: **When an attempt fails and it is time to start all over.**
3. **At the drop of a hat** – *Dad offered us a trip to the beach, and we were in the car at the drop of a hat.*
Meaning: **Without hesitation; instantly.**
4. **Ball is in your court** – *I gave wise advice to Tina, and now the ball is in her court.*
Meaning: **It is up to you to make the next decision or step.**
5. **Best of both worlds** – *John won a car and his parents paid the insurance; it was the best of both worlds.*
Meaning: **All the advantages.**
6. **Barking up the wrong tree** – *The scientist searched for fossils, but she was barking up the wrong tree.*
Meaning: **Looking in the wrong place.**
7. **Best thing since sliced bread** – *The house design was the best thing since sliced bread.*
Meaning: **A good invention, idea, or plan.**
8. **Bite off more than you can chew** – *Len bit off more than he could chew fixing the broken car.*
Meaning: **To take on a task that is too big.**
9. **Judge a book by its cover** – *The man with snake tattoos was nice, and I shouldn’t judge a book by its cover.*
Meaning: **Decide something only on appearance.**
10. **Costs an arm and a leg** – *The diamond jewelry cost an arm and a leg.*
Meaning: **Something is very expensive.**
11. **Curiosity killed the cat** – *As Jen crawled into the cave, she remembered curiosity killed the cat.*
Meaning: **Being inquisitive can lead to an unpleasant situation.**
12. **Cut corners** – *The inspector checked the bridge to ensure workers did not cut corners.*
Meaning: **Something done badly to save money.**
13. **Crying over spilled milk** – *Ken accidentally ripped his shirt, but he did not cry over spilled milk.*
Meaning: **Unhappy about something that has already happened or cannot be helped.**

Idioms

Figures of Speech

Idiom – a common saying with a figurative meaning. The message is communicated through a “picture”.
Ex. The issue of school uniforms is a *hot potato*. (talked about but not in agreement)

Directions: Complete the following idiom meanings and choose five to illustrate in the boxes.

1. **A penny for your thoughts** – *After I lost the game, mother said, “I’ll give you a penny for your thoughts.”*
Meaning: _____
2. **Back to the drawing board** – *The invention was a disaster, so it was back to the drawing board.*
Meaning: _____
3. **At the drop of a hat** – *Dad offered us a trip to the beach, and we were in the car at the drop of a hat.*
Meaning: _____
4. **Ball is in your court** – *I gave wise advice to Tina, and now the ball is in her court.*
Meaning: _____
5. **Best of both worlds** – *John won a car and his parents paid the insurance; it was the best of both worlds.*
Meaning: _____
6. **Barking up the wrong tree** – *The scientist searched for fossils, but she was barking up the wrong tree.*
Meaning: _____
7. **Best thing since sliced bread** – *The house design was the best thing since sliced bread.*
Meaning: _____
8. **Bite off more than you can chew** – *Len bit off more than he could chew fixing the broken car.*
Meaning: _____
9. **Judge a book by its cover** – *The man with snake tattoos was nice, and I shouldn’t judge a book by its cover.*
Meaning: _____
10. **Costs an arm and a leg** – *The diamond jewelry cost an arm and a leg.*
Meaning: _____
11. **Curiosity killed the cat** – *As Jen crawled into the cave, she remembered curiosity killed the cat.*
Meaning: _____
12. **Cut corners** – *The inspector checked the bridge to ensure workers did not cut corners.*
Meaning: _____
13. **Crying over spilled milk** – *Ken accidentally ripped his shirt, but he did not cry over spilled milk.*
Meaning: _____