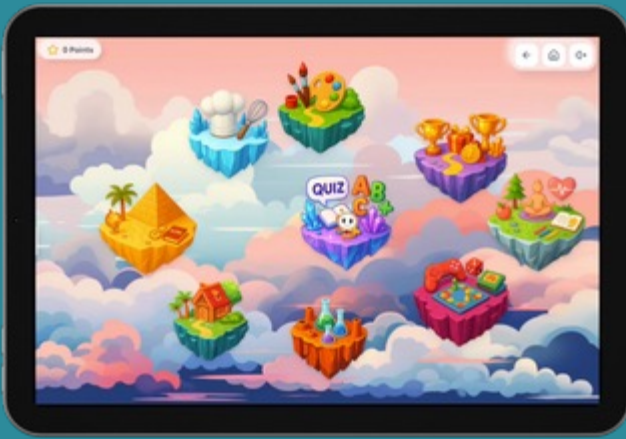


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Idioms - Year 5

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IDIOMS

Literal Pictures • Figurative Meanings

An idiom is a familiar phrase whose intended meaning differs from its word-for-word picture.

LITERAL

the picture the words create



“break the ice”

FIGURATIVE

the message people intend



help people feel comfortable and start talking



Good readers ask:
What meaning makes sense in this context?

BREAK THE ICE

A worked idiom example

Before the teams began, Maya asked everyone to share the funniest lunch they had ever packed. Her question **broke the ice.**

LITERAL PICTURE

physically cracking
frozen water



VS

FIGURATIVE MEANING

helping people feel
relaxed and begin talking



USE CONTEXT CLUES

1. Notice an expression that sounds odd word for word.
2. Read the words and sentences around it.
3. Test a figurative meaning that fits.
4. Check the tone and situation.



The lunch question makes the group more comfortable, so the figurative meaning fits.



IDIOM



DETECTIVE GUIDE



An idiom is a familiar phrase with an intended meaning that differs from its word-for-word picture.

FOUR CLUES TO THE MEANING



1. Spot a phrase that sounds unusual word for word.



2. Read the sentence around it.



3. Test if figurative meaning that fits the situation.



4. Check the speaker's tone and purpose.

QUICK REFERENCE

“on the same page”

share the same understanding

“miss the boat”

miss an opportunity

“pull your socks up”

improve your effort or behaviour

“add fuel to the fire”

make a problem worse



Does the word-for-word picture make sense here?
What message fits the situation?



Idioms can be cultural. Check the meaning and context before you use one.





IDIOM MATCH-UP



Match the phrase • Explain the meaning • Use it in context



SET UP

1. Play with 2–4 players.
2. Shuffle the phrase cards and meaning cards separately.
3. Place both decks face down.



HOW TO PLAY

1. Turn over one card from each deck.
 2. If they match, explain the idiom in a new sentence.
 3. Keep the pair after a correct explanation.
 4. If they do not match, turn both cards back.
- The player with the most pairs wins.

PHRASE CARD

MEANING CARD

MATCH?

Challenge: Explain why the word-for-word picture would be misleading.

IDIOM MATCH-UP — PHRASE CARDS

Cut along the dashed lines.



break the ice



hit a nail on the head



under the weather



the ball is in your court



cost an arm and a leg



once in a blue moon



on the same page



miss the boat



a piece of cake



spill the beans



pull your socks up



add fuel to the fire

IDIOM MATCH-UP – MEANING CARDS

Cut along the dashed lines.



make a problem worse



help people feel
relaxed and begin talking



be exactly right about
something



miss an opportunity



improve your effort
or behaviour



share the same
understanding



cost a great deal



be very easy



the decision or next
action is yours



happen very rarely

reveal a secret

feel ill

PREVIEW

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE FOUR CORNERS

Read • Sort • Justify

1. Shuffle the sentence cards.
2. Read one card aloud.
3. Place it in the best category.
4. Explain the evidence for your choice.
5. Another player checks the decision.



IDIOM

“a familiar expression with a non-literal meaning”



METAPHOR

“a comparison that says one thing is another”



HYPERBOLE

“a deliberate exaggeration for effect”



LITERAL

“words that mean exactly what they say”



Challenge: Rewrite the sentence as a different category.



“ FOUR CORNERS — SENTENCE CARDS 1-8 ”

Read each sentence. Sort it. Justify your choice.



After the long
hike, I was
running on
empty.



The classroom
was a beehive
of activity.



I have told you
a million times
to pack
your hat.



The library
closes at four
o'clock.



When the plan
changed, we had
to go back to
the drawing
board.



Her voice was
velvet during
the solo.



This backpack
is a
tonel



The rain filled
the water tank.

FOUR CORNERS – SENTENCE CARDS 9-16

Read each sentence. Sort it. Justify your choice.

Kai let the
cat out of the
bag about the
surprise.

The moon was
a silver coin
above the valley.

The queue
stretched all
the way to
the moon.

Mina placed
three pencils
beside her
notebook.

Our rehearsal
was touch and
go until the
final scene.

The test was
a mountain in
front of me.

I waited a
thousand years
for one bus.

The class
planted
seedlings in
the garden.

Name: _____



MATCH THE MEANING



Idioms — Page 1

Write the correct meaning letter beside each idiom. Use each letter once.

IDIOMS

MEANINGS

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|---|
| 1. break the ice | _____ | A. reveal a secret |
| 2. under the weather | _____ | B. show the same understanding |
| 3. spill the beans | _____ | C. feel unwell |
| 4. miss the boat | _____ | D. make a difficult situation worse |
| 5. hit the nail on the head | _____ | E. miss an opportunity |
| 6. add fuel to the fire | _____ | F. help people feel comfortable and begin talking |
| 7. once in a blue moon | _____ | G. be exactly right about something |
| 8. on the same page | _____ | H. happen very rarely |

Which two meanings were easiest to infer? Explain why.

Name: ANSWERS



MATCH THE MEANING



Idioms — Page 1

Write the correct meaning letter beside each idiom. Use each letter once.

IDIOMS

MEANINGS

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|---|
| 1. break the ice | <u>F</u> | A. reveal a secret |
| 2. under the weather | <u>C</u> | B. share the same understanding |
| 3. spill the beans | <u>A</u> | C. feel unwell |
| 4. miss the boat | <u>E</u> | D. make a difficult situation worse |
| 5. hit the nail on the head | <u>G</u> | E. miss an opportunity |
| 6. add fuel to the fire | <u>D</u> | F. help people feel comfortable and begin talking |
| 7. once in a blue moon | <u>H</u> | G. be exactly right about something |
| 8. on the same page | <u>B</u> | H. happen very rarely |

Which two meanings were easiest to infer? Explain why.

Answers will vary. For example, 'feel unwell' and
'miss an opportunity' were easy because their meanings
fit familiar situations.

Name: _____

MATCH THE MEANING

Idioms — Page 2

Use each idiom in an original sentence that makes its meaning clear. Then explain the context clue.

1. break the ice



Sentence: _____

Meaning in this context: _____

Clue that helps: _____



2. miss the boat



Sentence: _____

Meaning in this context: _____

Clue that helps: _____



3. on the same page



Sentence: _____

Meaning in this context: _____

Clue that helps: _____



4. add fuel to the fire



Sentence: _____

Meaning in this context: _____

Clue that helps: _____



EXTENSION

Choose one sentence. Revise it to create a different tone.



Name: ANSWERS

MATCH THE MEANING

Idioms — Page 2

Use each idiom in an original sentence that makes its meaning clear. Then explain the context clue.

1. break the ice



Sentence: Jaya told a funny story to break the ice before rehearsal.

Meaning in this context: help people relax and start talking

Clue that helps: funny story; before rehearsal



2. miss the boat



Sentence: If we delay the booking, we may miss the boat and lose our place.

Meaning in this context: miss an opportunity

Clue that helps: delay; lose our place



3. on the same page



Sentence: Let's check the plan so we are on the same page before we begin.

Meaning in this context: we are the same understanding

Clue that helps: check the plan; before we begin



4. add fuel to the fire



Sentence: Blaming each other will add fuel to the fire during the disagreement.

Meaning in this context: make a difficult situation worse

Clue that helps: blaming; disagreement



EXTENSION

Choose one sentence. Revise it to create a different tone.



Jaya shared a silly story to break the awkward silence before rehearsal.

Name: _____



CONTEXT CLUE DETECTIVES

Idioms — Page 1



Read each passage. Underline the idiom. Infer its figurative meaning and identify the context clue that helped you.

CASE 1

When Noah joined the robotics group, everyone was quiet. Priya told a silly riddle to break the ice, and soon the group was laughing and sharing ideas.

Idiom: _____

Figurative meaning: _____

Context clue: _____

CASE 2

Zara practised every afternoon, so winning a place in the choir was a piece of cake for her.

Idiom: _____

Figurative meaning: _____

Context clue: _____

CASE 3

After forgetting his hat again, Sam knew he was skating on thin ice with the sports teacher.

Idiom: _____

Figurative meaning: _____

Context clue: _____

Which clue type helped most: an example, a contrast, a result or a familiar situation? Explain.



Name: ANSWERS



CONTEXT CLUE DETECTIVES

Idioms — Page 1



Read each passage. Underline the idiom. Infer its figurative meaning and identify the context clue that helped you.

CASE 1

When Noah joined the robotics group, everyone was quiet. Priya told a silly riddle to break the ice, and soon the group was laughing and sharing ideas.

Idiom: break the ice

Figurative meaning: help people relax and begin talking

Context clue: everyone was quiet; soon laughing and sharing ideas

CASE 2

Zara practised every afternoon, so winning a place in the choir was a piece of cake for her.

Idiom: a piece of cake

Figurative meaning: very easy

Context clue: practised every afternoon

CASE 3

After forgetting his hat again, Sam knew he was skating on thin ice with the sports teacher.

Idiom: skating on thin ice

Figurative meaning: at risk of getting into trouble

Context clue: forgetting his hat again; the sports teacher

Which clue type helped most: an example, a contrast, a result or a familiar situation? Explain.

- A result helped most because the laughter after Priya's —
- riddle showed that the group had relaxed. —



Name: _____



CONTEXT CLUE DETECTIVES

Idioms — Page 2



Read each passage. Underline the idiom. Infer its figurative meaning and identify the context clue that helped you.

CASE 4

Mei promised not to reveal the science-fair theme, but during lunch she let the cat out of the bag. Her teammates groaned because the surprise was ruined.

Idiom: _____

Figurative meaning: _____

Context clue: _____



CASE 5

The team had tried three designs. Luis suggested one final change, but Mia said, 'Let's call it a day. We can test again tomorrow.'

Idiom: _____

Figurative meaning: _____

Context clue: _____



CASE 6

The class kept debating the excursion plan. Finally, Ms Khan said, 'The ball is in your court. Vote for the option you prefer.'

Idiom: _____

Figurative meaning: _____

Context clue: _____



Write one sentence that shows an idiom's meaning without explaining it directly.

Name: ANSWERS



CONTEXT CLUE DETECTIVES

Idioms — Page 2



Read each passage. Underline the idiom. Infer its figurative meaning and identify the context clue that helped you.

CASE 4

Mei promised not to reveal the science-fair theme, but during lunch she let the cat out of the bag. Her teammates groaned because the surprise was ruined.

Idiom: let the cat out of the bag

Figurative meaning: reveal a secret

Context clue: promised not to reveal; the surprise was ruined



CASE 5

The team had tried three designs. Luis suggested one final change, but Mia said, 'Let's call it a day. We can test again tomorrow.'

Idiom: call it a day

Figurative meaning: stop working for now

Context clue: tried three designs; test again tomorrow



CASE 6

The class kept debating the excursion plan. Finally, Ms Khan said, 'The ball is in your court. Vote for the option you prefer.'

Idiom: the ball is in your court

Figurative meaning: the choice or next action is yours

Context clue: vote for the option you prefer



Write one sentence that shows an idiom's meaning without explaining it directly.

- The instructions were confusing, but Zara hit the nail on the head when she explained the missing step. _____

Name: _____



LITERAL LENS, FIGURATIVE FOCUS



Idioms — Page 1

Read each context. Draw the word-for-word picture, then explain the intended figurative meaning.

raining cats and dogs

Context:

We moved the picnic indoors because it was raining cats and dogs.

Draw the word-for-word picture:

Figurative meaning: _____

Context clue: _____

How does each literal picture differ from the intended message?

hold your horses

Context:

Hold your horses, the glue needs five minutes to dry before we lift the model.

Draw the word-for-word picture:

Figurative meaning: _____

Context clue: _____

Name: _____

ANSWERS



LITERAL LENS, FIGURATIVE FOCUS



Idioms — Page 1

Read each context. Draw the word-for-word picture, then explain the intended figurative meaning.

raining cats and dogs

Context:

We moved the picnic indoors because it was raining cats and dogs.

Draw the word-for-word picture:

Suggested literal picture:
cats and dogs falling from rain clouds.

Figurative meaning: raining very heavily

Context clue: the picnic moved indoors

How does each literal picture differ from the intended message?

The literal pictures show impossible or physical scenes; the contexts communicate heavy rain and a need to wait.

hold your horses

Context:

Hold your horses, the glue needs five minutes to dry before we lift the model.

Draw the word-for-word picture:

Suggested literal picture:
a person physically holding two horses.

Figurative meaning: wait or slow down

Context clue: the glue needs five minutes to dry

Name: _____



LITERAL LENS, FIGURATIVE FOCUS



Idioms — Page 2

Read each context. Draw the word-for-word picture, then explain the intended figurative meaning.

butterflies in my stomach

Context: "Before the speech, I had butterflies in my stomach even though I was prepared."

Draw the word-for-word picture:

Figurative meaning: _____

Context clue: _____

Why can a literal picture be funny but still unhelpful for finding the intended meaning?

the last straw

Context: "When the printer jammed for the third time, that was the last straw for Mr Chen."

Draw the word-for-word picture:

Figurative meaning: _____

Context clue: _____



LITERAL LENS, FIGURATIVE FOCUS



Idioms — Page 2

Read each context. Draw the word-for-word picture, then explain the intended figurative meaning.

butterflies in my stomach

Context: "Before the speech, I had butterflies in my stomach even though I was prepared."

Draw the word-for-word picture:

Suggested literal picture:
butterflies flying inside
a person's stomach.

Figurative meaning: feel nervous or excited

Context clue: before the speech

Why can a literal picture be funny but still unhelpful for finding the intended meaning?

A literal picture can be funny because it is impossible, but it does not explain what the speaker intends.

the last straw

Context: "When the printer jammed for the third time, that was the last straw for Mr Chen."

Draw the word-for-word picture:

Suggested literal picture:
one straw being added to a pile.

Figurative meaning: the final problem that makes someone lose patience

Context clue: the printer jammed for the third time

Name: _____



IDIOM RESEARCH FILE



Evidence, Meaning and Origin — Page 1

“

Choose two idioms. Research each current meaning and a possible origin.

Record evidence, not guesses.

”

IDIOM A

Idiom: _____

Current figurative meaning:

Natural context sentence:

Possible origin:

Source title, site or book:

Evidence that supports the claim:

IDIOM B

Idiom: _____

Current figurative meaning:

Natural context sentence:

Possible origin:

Source title, site or book:

Evidence that supports the claim:

“

EVIDENCE CHECK

”

How do you know the source is trustworthy and the origin claim is more than a guess?

☐ I checked the information against a second reliable source.

Name: _____

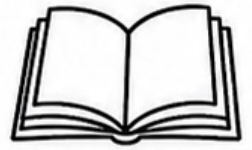


IDIOM RESEARCH FILE



Global Idiom Inquiry — Page 2

Research one idiom from a language or culture you know or are studying. Verify the wording, meaning and appropriate context.



Language or culture: _____

Original expression: _____

Literal translation: _____

Intended meaning: _____

When people use it: _____

Example in context: _____

Verified source: _____

Closest English expression, if any: _____

One important difference: _____

RESPECTFUL-USE CHECK

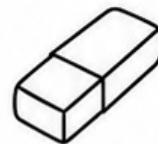
- ☐ I verified the expression with a reliable source or fluent speaker.
- ☐ I will not use the expression as a joke or stereotype.
- ☐ I checked when and with whom the expression is appropriate.

What does this idiom reveal about how culture shapes language?

Name: _____



IDIOM REVISION LAB



Choose with Purpose – Page 1

Revise each sentence with one precise idiom from the word bank.
You may change the sentence structure. Then explain the effect.

WORD BANK

on the same page • under the weather • a piece of cake • add fuel to the fire • miss the boat • hit the nail on the head

1. Original: The maths puzzle was very easy for Lani.

My revision: _____

Effect on tone or voice: _____

2. Original: Owen felt unwell and stayed home from training.

My revision: _____

Effect on tone or voice: _____

3. Original: The committee needed to share the same understanding before voting.

My revision: _____

Effect on tone or voice: _____

4. Original: The rude comment made the disagreement worse.

My revision: _____

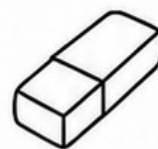
Effect on tone or voice: _____

☐ My idiom suits the meaning. ☐ The context makes the meaning clear. ☐ I have not overused idioms.

Name: ANSWERS



IDIOM REVISION LAB



Choose with Purpose – Page 1

Revise each sentence with one precise idiom from the word bank.
You may change the sentence structure. Then explain the effect.

WORD BANK

on the same page • under the weather • a piece of cake • add fuel to the fire • miss the boat • hit the nail on the head

1. Original: The maths puzzle was very easy for Lani.

My revision: The maths puzzle was a piece of cake for Lani.

Effect on tone or voice: More vivid and conversational.

2. Original: Owen felt unwell and stayed home from training.

My revision: Owen was under the weather, so he stayed home from training.

Effect on tone or voice: Expresses feeling unwell naturally.

3. Original: The committee needed to share the same understanding before voting.

My revision: The committee checked that everyone was on the same page before voting.

Effect on tone or voice: Shows shared understanding.

4. Original: The rude comment made the disagreement worse.

My revision: The rude comment added fuel to the fire during the disagreement.

Effect on tone or voice: Shows the comment made the tension worse.

☒ My idiom suits the meaning.

☒ The context makes the meaning clear.

☒ I have not overused idioms.

IDIOM REVISION LAB

Name: _____

Edit for Impact — Page 2

The paragraph below overuses or misuses idioms. Rewrite it so only two purposeful idioms remain. Make every meaning clear from context.



Original paragraph:

When our group began the model, we were on cloud nine, under the weather and in the same boat. Then the instructions were a piece of cake but also clear as mud. Luca spilled the beans about the missing part, and that added fuel to the fire. We decided to call it a day, even though we had only just started.

1. Circle idioms that are confusing, contradictory or overused.

2. Rewritten paragraph:

PREVIEW

3. One idiom I kept:

4. Why it improves the writing:

5. One idiom I removed:

6. Why it did not fit:

EDITING CHECK

- ☐ I used only two idioms. ☐ Each idiom suits the situation. ☐ Context makes each meaning clear.

IDIOM REVISION LAB

Name: ANSWERS

Edit for Impact — Page 2

The paragraph below overuses or misuses idioms. Rewrite it so only two purposeful idioms remain. Make every meaning clear from context.



Original paragraph:

When our group began the model, we were on cloud nine, under the weather and in the same boat. Then the instructions were a piece of cake but also clear as mud. Luca spilled the beans about the missing part, and that added fuel to the fire. We decided to call it a day, even though we had only just started.

1. Circle idioms that are confusing, contradictory or overused.

2. Rewritten paragraph:

When our group began the model, we were in the same boat. No one understood the instructions. Luca revealed that a part was missing, and blaming him only added fuel to the fire. We checked the steps together and solved the problem.

3. One idiom I kept:

in the same boat

4. Why it improves the writing:

It clearly shows their shared difficulty.

5. One idiom I removed:

on cloud nine

6. Why it did not fit:

The context does not show extreme happiness.

EDITING CHECK



I used only two idioms.



Each idiom suits the situation.



Context makes each meaning clear.

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE CHALLENGE

Classify the Sentence — Page 1

Name: _____



Write I for idiom, M for metaphor, H for hyperbole or L for literal.



I = idiom

M = metaphor

H = hyperbole

L = literal

1. _____ The final puzzle was a piece of cake.

7. _____ The cheering shook the whole planet.

2. _____ The playground was an oven at lunchtime.

8. _____ May played a wilder on the ...

3. _____ I have carried this bag for a hundred kilometres!

9. _____ Arun hit the nail on the head with his explanation.

4. _____ The ... at three o'clock

10. _____ The city lights were a necklace across the harbour.

5. _____ We need to get the ball rolling on our project.

11. _____ This queue is a thousand people long!

6. _____ Her ideas were sparks in the discussion.

12. _____ The team practised after school.



Choose one answer. What feature helped you classify it?

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE CHALLENGE

Classify the Sentence — Page 1

Name: **ANSWERS**



Write I for idiom, M for metaphor, H for hyperbole or L for literal.



I = idiom

M = metaphor

H = hyperbole

L = literal

1. **I** The final puzzle was a piece of cake.

7. **H** The cheering shook the whole planet.

2. **M** The playground was an oven at lunchtime.

8. **L** May played the fiddle on the porch.

3. **H** I have carried this bag for a hundred kilometres!

9. **L** Arun hit the nail on the head with his explanation.

4. **L** The bell rang at three o'clock.

10. **M** The city lights were a necklace across the harbour.

5. **I** We need to get the ball rolling on our project.

11. **H** This queue is a thousand people long!

6. **M** Her ideas were sparks in the discussion.

12. **L** The team practised after school.



Choose one answer. What feature helped you classify it?

Sentence 2 is a metaphor because it directly compares the playground to an oven.

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE CHALLENGE

Explain and Transform — Page 2

Name: _____

1 How is an idiom different from a metaphor?

?

2 How is an idiom different from hyperbole?

?

3 Rewrite this literal sentence with a suitable idiom.
The task was easy.



4 Write one line of dialogue containing an idiom.
Underline the idiom.



5 Explain the effect of your idiom on the speaker's tone or voice.

?

6 Extension: Transform the sentence "The rain was heavy." in two ways.



Metaphor: _____

Hyperbole: _____

☐

My figurative language is clear from context.

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE CHALLENGE

Explain and Transform — Page 2

Name: ANSWERS

- 1 How is an idiom different from a metaphor?



An idiom is a familiar expression with a conventional non-literal meaning.

A metaphor directly says one thing is another.

- 2 How is an idiom different from hyperbole?



An idiom has a conventional meaning.

Hyperbole deliberately exaggerates for effect.

- 3 Rewrite this literal sentence with a suitable idiom.

The task was easy.



The task was a piece of cake.

- 4 Write one line of dialogue containing an idiom.

Underline the idiom.



"How you horses!" Mia said. "We need to check the measurements."

- 5 Explain the effect of your idiom on the speaker's tone or voice.



The idiom creates an urgent but conversational warning.

- 6 Extension: Transform the sentence "The rain was heavy." in two ways.



Metaphor: The rain was a silver curtain.

Hyperbole: The rain could fill an ocean.



My figurative language is clear from context.

IDIOM INSIGHT AND WRITING ASSESSMENT

Part A — Read and Analyse

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Read the passage. Underline the five idioms.

At camp, our group had to build a shelter before lunch. At first, we were not on the same page: Tahlia wanted to use the tarpaulin, while Ben planned a frame of branches. Mr Patel told us to break the ice by sharing one idea each. Soon, Tahlia hit the nail on the head: we could combine both plans. We got the ball rolling by sorting materials into piles. Halfway through, a knot came loose and the roof sagged. Ben wanted to blame the rope, but Tahlia said that would only add fuel to the fire. We checked and no one tightened the frame and finished with minutes to spare. Our shelter was not perfect, but everyone could explain how clear communication had helped us solve the problem.

2. Complete the table for each idiom.

Idiom	Figurative meaning	Context clue

3. Choose one idiom. Explain how it affects the passage's tone or meaning.



IDIOM INSIGHT AND WRITING ASSESSMENT

Part A — Read and Analyse

Name: ANSWERS

Date: _____

1. Read the passage. Underline the five idioms.

At camp, our group had to build a shelter before lunch. At first, we were not on the same page: Tahlia wanted to use the tarpaulin, while Ben planned a frame of branches. Mr Patel told us to break the ice by sharing one idea each. Soon, Tahlia hit the nail on the head: we could combine both plans. We got the ball rolling by sorting materials into piles. Halfway through, a knot came loose and the roof sagged. Ben wanted to blame the rope, but Tahlia said that would only add fuel to the fire. We checked and tightened the frame and finished with minutes to spare. Our shelter was not perfect, but everyone could explain how clear communication had helped us solve the problem.

2. Complete the table for each idiom.

Idiom	Figurative meaning	Context clue
on the same page	are the same understanding	Tahlia and Ben had different plans
break the ice	help people relax and start talking	they shared one idea each
hit the nail on the head	identify the exact solution	her idea combined both plans
get the ball rolling	begin the work	they sorted materials into piles
add fuel to the fire	make conflict worse	blaming the rope would increase tension

3. Choose one idiom. Explain how it affects the passage's tone or meaning.



"Hit the nail on the head" emphasises that Tahlia found the precise solution. It creates a confident, positive turning point.

IDIOM INSIGHT AND WRITING ASSESSMENT

Part B — Purposeful Writing

Name: _____

Date: _____

Write two paragraphs about a team solving an unexpected problem.
Use exactly three suitable idioms. Underline each idiom.
Make each meaning clear from context.



PLAN

Problem:

People:

Three idioms:

How each meaning
will be clear:

MY WRITING

PREVIEW

EDITING CHECK

☐

I wrote two paragraphs.

☐

I used exactly three idioms.

☐

I underlined each idiom.

☐

Context makes each meaning clear.

IDIOM INSIGHT AND WRITING ASSESSMENT

Part B — Purposeful Writing

Name: ANSWERS

Date: _____

Write two paragraphs about a team solving an unexpected problem.
Use exactly three suitable idioms. Underline each idiom.
Make each meaning clear from context.



PLAN

Problem:	cardboard display base split
People:	Ava, Hamish and the narrator
Three idioms:	not on the same page; get the ball rolling; add fuel to the fire
How each meaning will be clear:	opposing ideas; first action; blaming would worsen tension

MY WRITING

Our group was preparing a display when the cardboard base suddenly split. For a moment we were not on the same page: Ava wanted tape, while Hamish wanted a new base. I asked everyone to explain one idea so we could get the ball rolling. We chose a stronger base and divided the job.

When the title slid sideways, blaming the glue would only add fuel to the fire. We calmly measured, replaced the strip and checked each corner. The repaired display stood straight, and everyone understood how listening had helped us solve the problem.

EDITING CHECK



I wrote two paragraphs.



I used exactly three idioms.

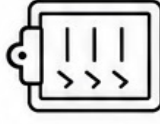


I underlined each idiom.



Context makes each meaning clear.

IDIOMS RUBRIC



Name: _____

Date: _____

Task: _____

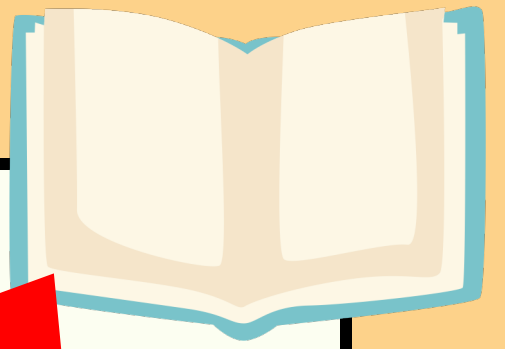
CRITERION	BEGINNING	DEVELOPING	ACHIEVING	CONFIDENT	EXCEEDING
Recognising idioms	Finds few idioms, even with support.	Finds some familiar idioms with support.	Finds familiar idioms accurately.	Finds idioms accurately in varied contexts.	Finds and explains subtle idiomatic use.
Interpreting meaning from context	Gives literal or unclear meanings.	Infers some meaning with prompts.	Infers meanings using clear context clues.	Explains meanings and cites strong clues.	Evaluates meaning, tone and context precisely.
Distinguishing language types	Confuses language types.	Sorts some examples with support.	Distinguishes idiom, metaphor, hyperbole and literal language.	Justifies distinctions with accurate features.	Explains nuanced or ambiguous cases.
Using idioms purposefully	Uses no suitable idiom or meaning is unclear.	Uses a familiar idiom with support.	Uses suitable idioms with support.	Uses idioms deliberately to shape voice or tone.	Uses idioms selectively with strong stylistic control.
Explaining and editing choices	Gives limited explanation or revision.	Explains or revises with prompts.	Explains choices and edits obvious misuse.	Justifies choices and improves precision.	Evaluates impact and edits with insight.

Teacher feedback: _____

PREVIEW
Idioms



What Is an Idiom?

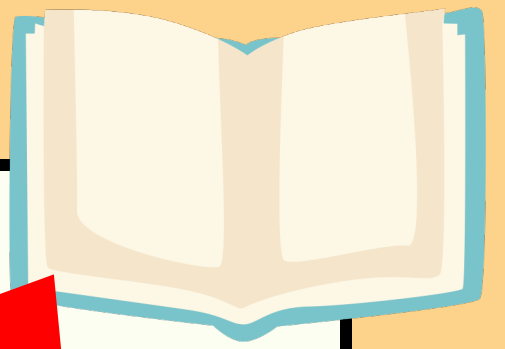


An idiom is a familiar expression with a conventional figurative meaning.

Its intended meaning differs from the word-for-word picture.



Literal or Figurative?



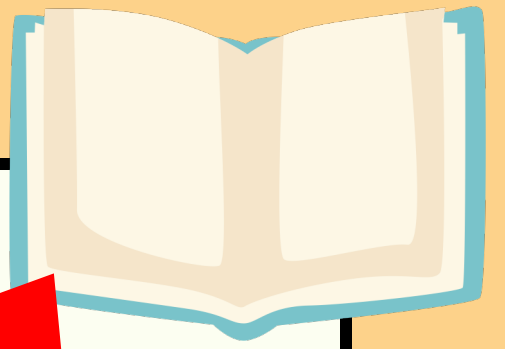
Literal meaning: the picture created by each word.

Figurative meaning: the message the speaker intends.

Context tells us which meaning makes sense.



Why Use Idioms?



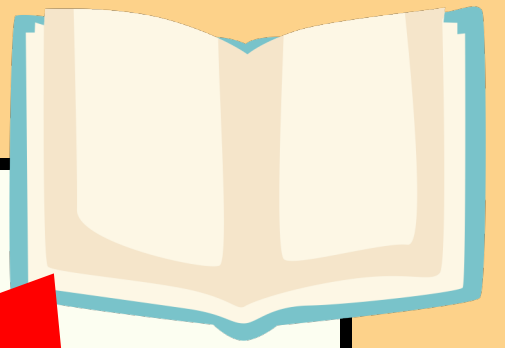
Idioms can make language vivid, conversational and memorable.

They can shape tone and voice.

Use them purposefully—not in every sentence.



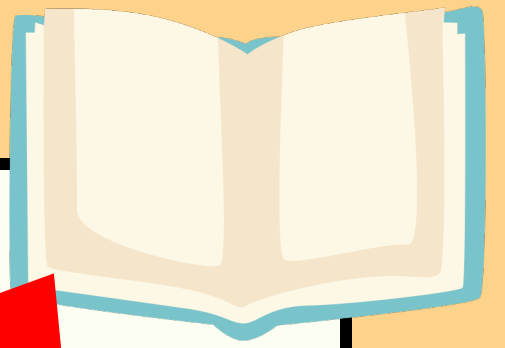
Use Context Clues



1. Notice the phrase that seems unusual.
2. Read the words and definition around it.
3. Find a meaning that fits the situation.
4. Check that the meaning matches the tone.



Break the Ice



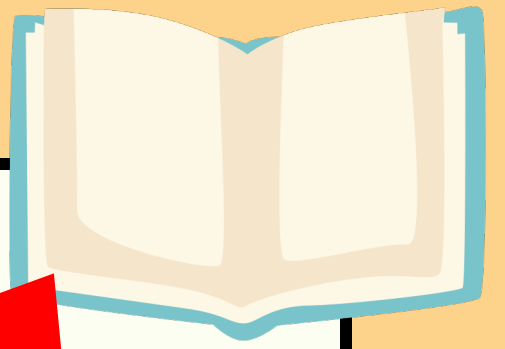
“We were quiet at first, so the game helps us break the ice.”

Meaning: help people feel comfortable and start talking.

Theme: quiet at first, then playing together.



Hit the Nail on the Head



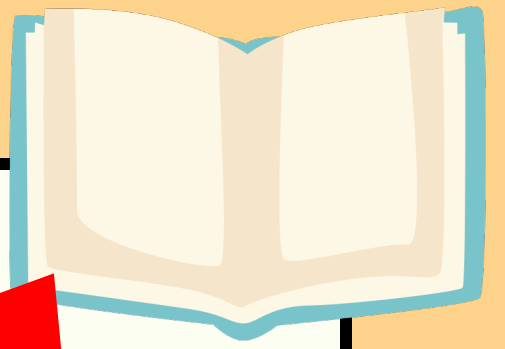
“Tahlia hit the nail on the head: we could combine both plans.”

Meaning: identifying the exact point or solution.

Clue: her idea solved the disagreement.



Under the Weather



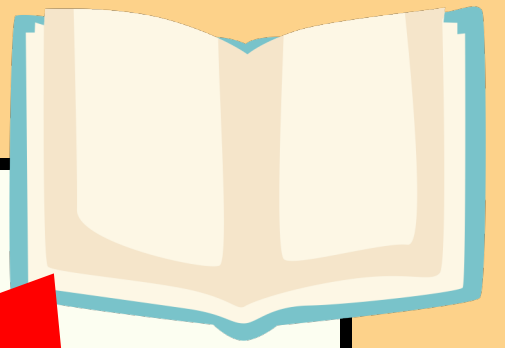
“Owen stayed home from training because he was under the weather.”

Meaning: feeling unwell.

Clue: he stayed home from training.



The Ball Is in Your Court



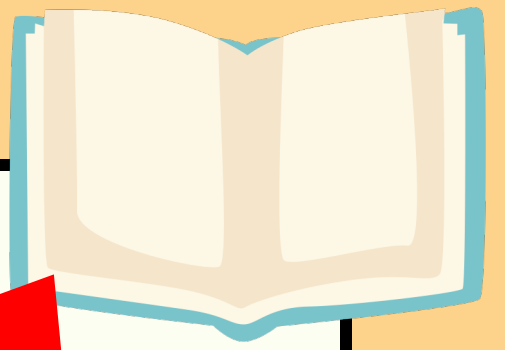
“I have explained both options. Now the ball is in your court.”

Meaning: it is your responsibility to decide or act.

Use: the speaker has finished explaining.



Idioms in Dialogue



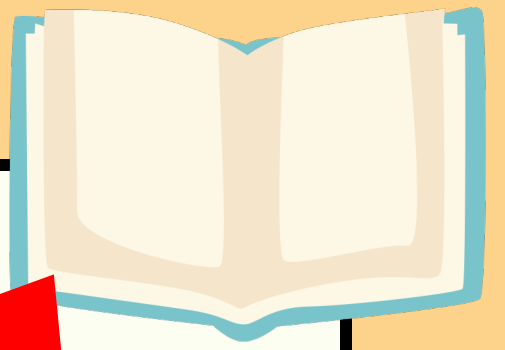
Dialogue can reveal voice and relationships.

“Hold your horse.” sounds urgent but conversational.

Ask: What attitude does the idiom add?



Idioms in Narratives



Use an idiom when it strengthens voice, tone or meaning.

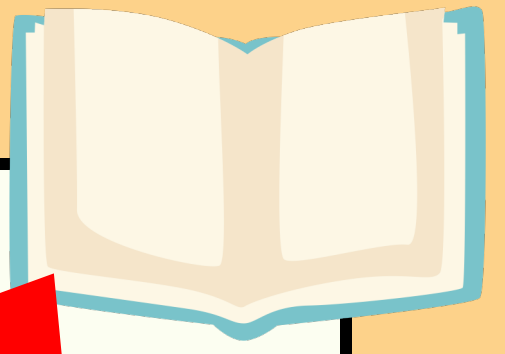
Make the context clear.

Avoid clichés that do not suit the scene.

Do not pile idioms together.



Idioms Across Cultures



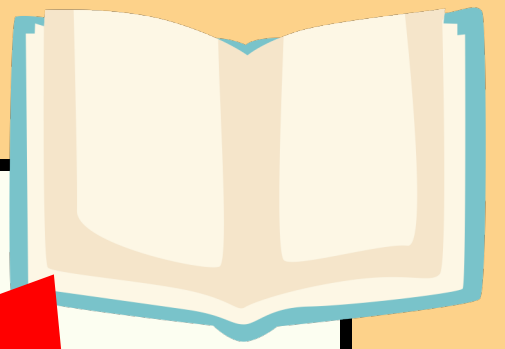
Idioms are shaped by language and culture.

A word-for-word translation may not carry the same meaning.

Verify the expression, its context and respectful use.



Idiom or Metaphor?



Idiom: a familiar expression with a conventional non-literal meaning.

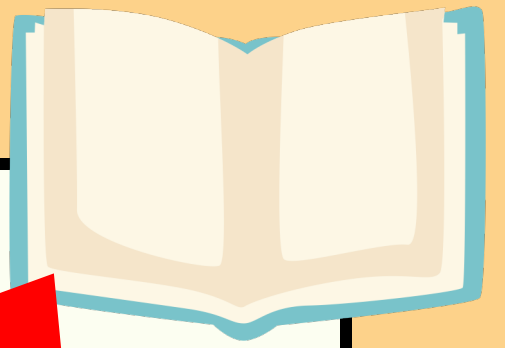
“The test was a piece of cake.”

Metaphor: directly says one thing is another.

“The playground was an oven.”



Idiom or Hyperbole?



Idiom: a conventional non-literal expression.

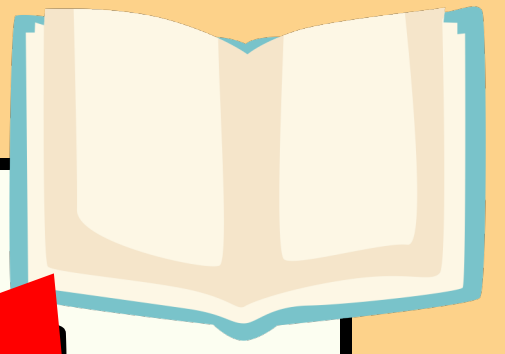
“Get the ball rolling.”

Hyperbole: a deliberate exaggeration for effect.

“I have waited a thousand years!”



Check Your Understanding



Infer each idiom from context.

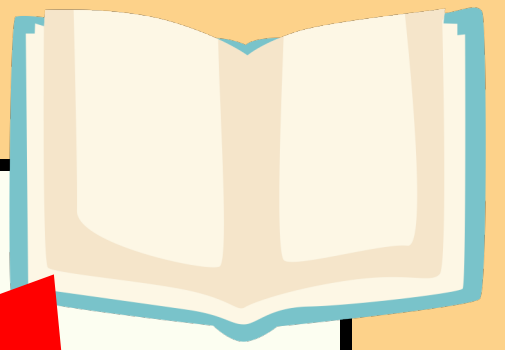
4. We were on the same page before voting.

5. He spilled the beans about the surprise.

6. The rude comment added fuel to the fire.



Quick Practice



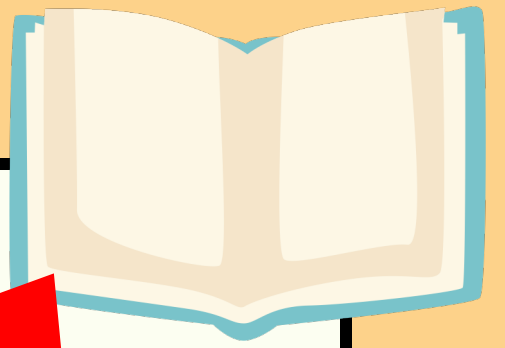
Revise this sentence with one quick idiom:

“The puzzle was very easy.”

Then explain how your idiom changes the tone or voice.



Review



- Idioms have conventional figurative meanings.
- Context provides relevant information.
- Idioms differ from metaphor and hyperbole.
- Choose idioms purposefully.





PREVIEW

Well Done!

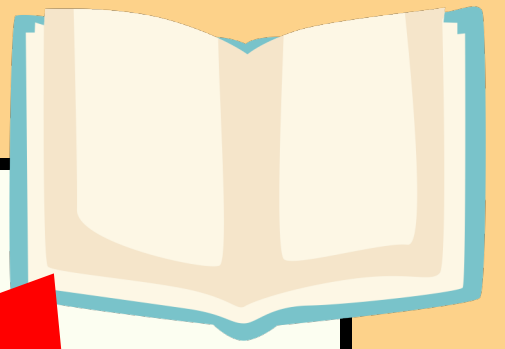


Idioms Quiz

PREVIEW



Question 1



Which sentence contains an adverb?

A. The gate was open.

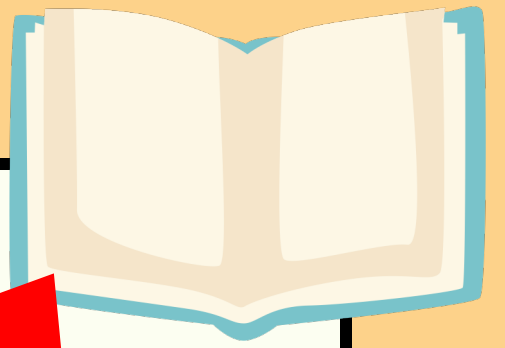
B. We tried to get the ball rolling.

C. The lunchbox is blue.

D. Rain fell all afternoon.



Answer 1



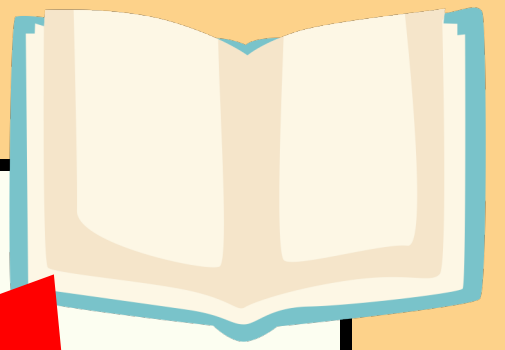
B. We need to get the ball rolling.

It needs to begin the task or process.



PREVIEW

Question 2

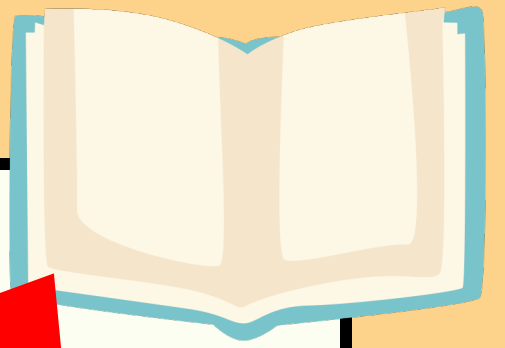


True or false?

An idiom's intended meaning is always the same as its word-for-word picture.



Answer 2

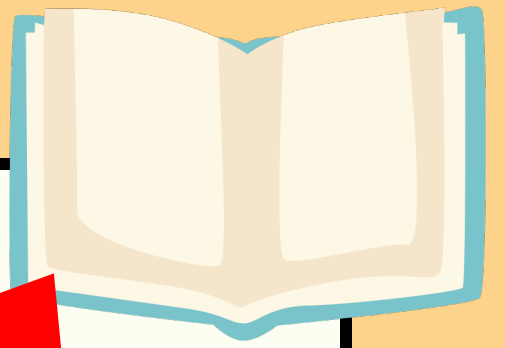


False

An idiom is a conventional figurative meaning. Context helps us infer what the speaker intends.



Question 3

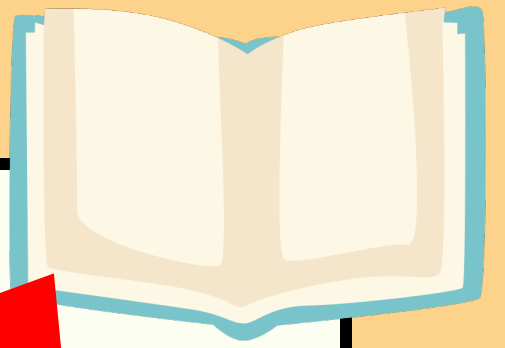


Jin whispered, “Don’t spill the beans about the surprise.”

What does spill the beans mean here?



Answer 3

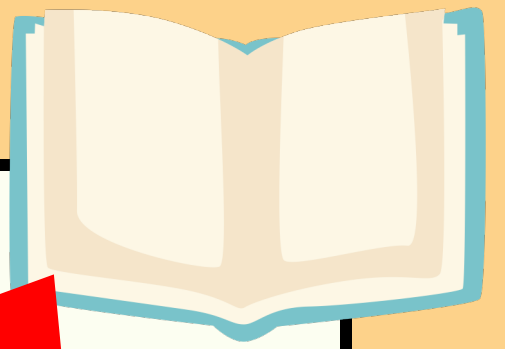


It means: revealed the secret

The word "surprise" doesn't show that Jin wants the information kept private.



Question 4



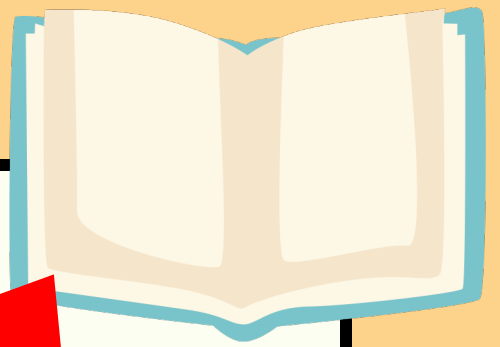
Mia stayed home with a sore throat because she was under the weather.

What does the idiom mean?

- A. Outside in rain B. Feeling unwell
- C. Feeling excited D. Travelling



Answer 4

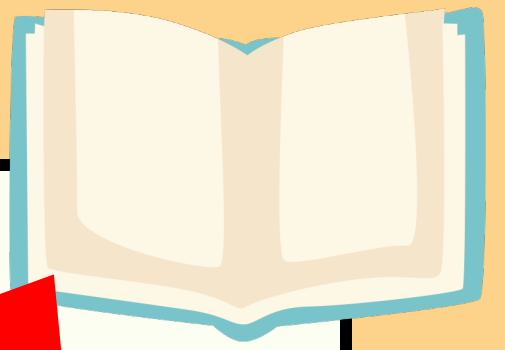


B. Feeling unwelcome

There are two words and staying in some are context clues.



Question 5



Which sentence is ironic?

A. We are in the same boat.

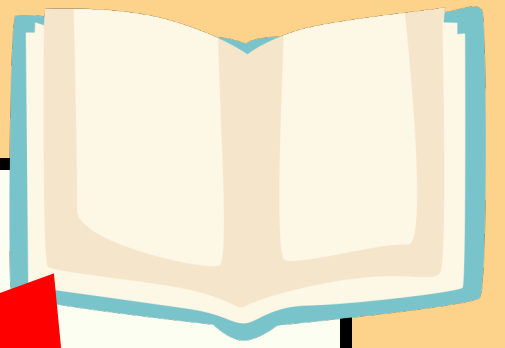
B. May I put the folder on the desk.

C. The test was a piece of cake.

D. Hold your horses!



Answer 5

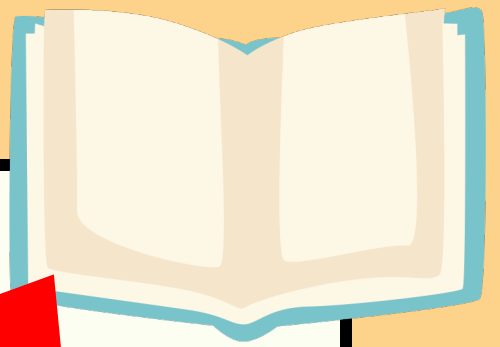


B. Maya put the folder on the desk.

It describes an action that happened exactly as stated.



Question 6

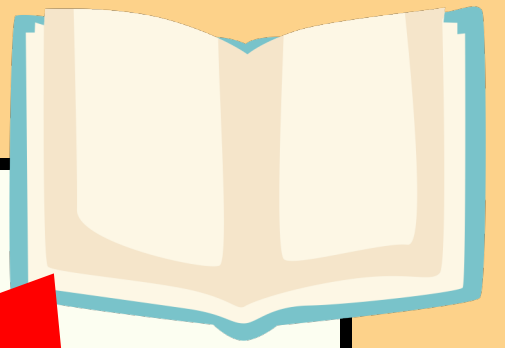


True or false?

Idioms always translate word for word across languages and cultures.



Answer 6



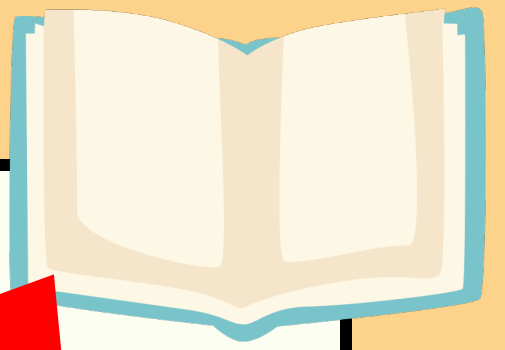
False

Conventional expressions vary across languages and cultures.

Verify the meaning and context.



Question 7

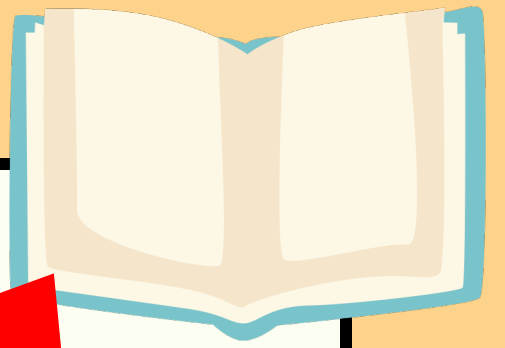


“Hold your horses,” Dad said as Leo reached towards the road.

What effect does the idiom create in Dad’s voice?



Answer 7



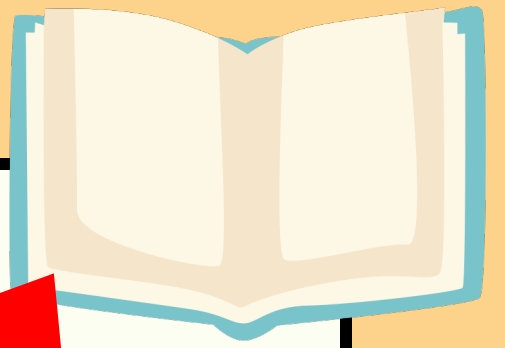
It creates an urgent but conversational warning.

Dad is telling Leo to wait and slow down.



PREVIEW

Question 8



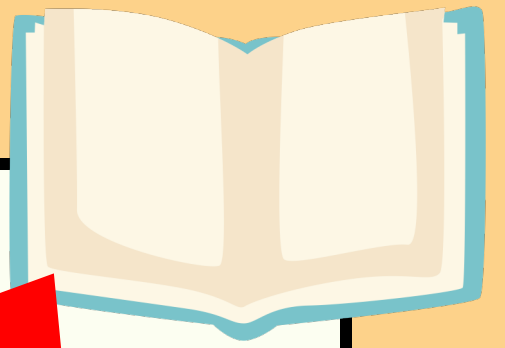
“The playground was a cornfield.”

What type of language is this?

- A. Simile B. Metaphor
- C. Hyperbole D. Literal



Answer 8

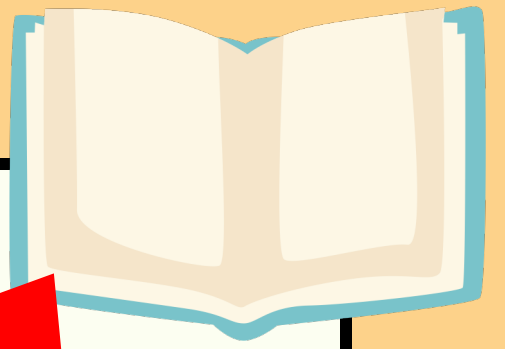


B. Metaphor.

It directly compares the playground to an oven to suggest intense heat.



Question 9

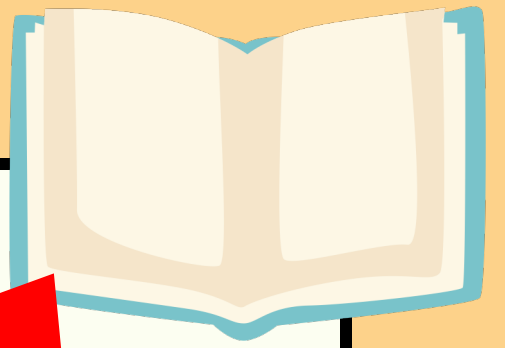


Write one sentence that uses the word in the court correctly.

Make the meaning clear from context.



Answer 9

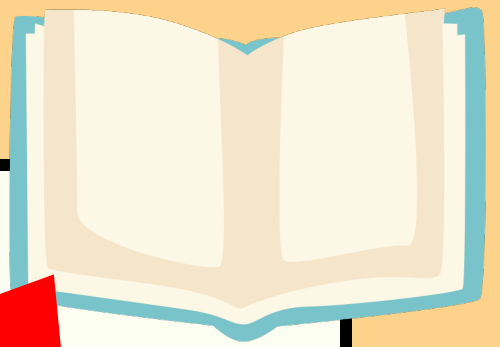


Sample: I have explained both choices, and the final call is in your court;
you must decide which plan will be best.

The important thing is it is now your responsibility to decide or act.



Question 10



Choose the strongest revision of: "The task was easy."

A. The task was under the weather.

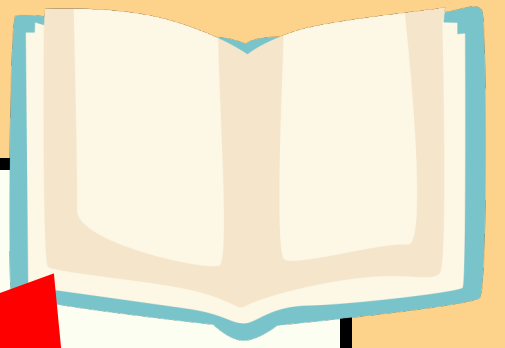
B. The task was a piece of cake.

C. The task spilled the beans.

D. The task missed the boat.



Answer 10



B. The task was a piece of cake.

The idiom "a piece of cake" means very easy and makes the sentence more vivid.





PREVIEW

Well Done!

