

Minna and the Canine Club

Literary Devices/Idioms

What is an Idiom?

*What is an **idiom**?* An **idiom** is a phrase which means something different from its literal meaning. For example if someone says the idiom “that’s a piece of cake” it literally means there is a piece of cake. What the speaker actually meant is “that task is easy to do”. Wow! how is a person suppose to know that? How can we know what an idiom really means? You cannot figure them out by knowing what each individual word means. You must understand the language and the culture and you will then learn the idioms. **Idioms** are interesting phrases used to make a point. You can use them when speaking or in your writing.

Do You Know What These Idioms Mean?

Match the **idiom** on the left with its actual meaning from box **B**. Place the letter on the line.

- _____ 1. food for thought
- _____ 2. for the birds
- _____ 3. fly by the seat of your pants
- _____ 4. fit as a fiddle
- _____ 5. fifth wheel
- _____ 6. finger in every pie
- _____ 7. eyes in the back of your head
- _____ 8. cost an arm and a leg
- _____ 9. cat got your tongue
- _____ 10. hit the books

Box B

- A. very expensive
- B. good health
- C. interesting idea
- D. study, do your homework
- E. know what’s happening even if you’re not there
- F. Why aren’t you speaking
- G. worthless, stupid
- H. unneeded, extra person
- I. involved in too many activities
- J. do something without planning or instruction

Choose two idioms from the above list and use them in a sentence.

11. _____

12. _____

Challenge: Fold a blank piece of paper in half. Write an idiom at the top. On one half of the paper draw the actual meaning of the idiom, and on the other half draw the literal meaning of the idiom.

Literary Devices/Idioms

What is an Idiom?

*What is an **idiom**?* An **idiom** is a phrase which means something different from its literal meaning. For example if someone says the idiom “that’s a piece of cake” it literally means there is a piece of cake. What the speaker actually meant is “that task is easy to do”. Wow! how is a person suppose to know that? How can we know what an idiom really means? You cannot figure them out by knowing what each individual word means. You must understand the language and the culture and you will then learn the idioms. **Idioms** are interesting phrases used to make a point. You can use them when speaking or in your writing.

Do You Know What These Idioms Mean?

Match the **idiom** on the left with its actual meaning from box **B**. Place the letter on the line.

- C** 1. food for thought
- G** 2. for the birds
- J** 3. fly by the seat of your pants
- B** 4. fit as a fiddle
- H** 5. fifth wheel
- I** 6. finger in every pie
- E** 7. eyes in the back of your head
- A** 8. cost an arm and a leg
- F** 9. cat got your tongue
- D** 10. hit the books

Box B

- A. very expensive
- B. good health
- C. interesting idea
- D. study, do your homework
- E. know what’s happening even if you’re not there
- F. Why aren’t you speaking
- G. worthless, stupid
- H. unneeded, extra person
- I. involved in too many activities
- J. do something without planning or instruction

Choose two idioms from the above list and use them in a sentence. **Answers will vary**

- 11. **Thank you for your idea, it is food for thought.**
- 12. **Your new coat must have cost an arm and a leg!**

Challenge: Fold a blank piece of paper in half. Write an idiom at the top. On one half of the paper draw the actual meaning of the idiom, and on the other half draw the literal meaning of the idiom.