

Idioms

Idiom or Not?

Idioms are phrases that mean something different to their literal meaning. Highlight or circle the idioms below. Not every example is an idiom, it is your job to identify them.

- It was a piece of cake.
- Anything can happen if you let it.
- They're a dime a dozen.
- We'd better call it a day.
- We're going to get on with it.
- It's time to hit the hay.
- There is no fire without smoke.
- Maybe you should go back to the drawing board.

Go back over the examples above and write what you think the idioms mean. If an example wasn't an idiom, leave it blank.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| a. _____ | e. _____ |
| b. _____ | f. _____ |
| c. _____ | g. _____ |
| d. _____ | h. _____ |

Fill in the Blanks

Add a word to these sentences to complete the idioms.

- If you do something properly, you don't cut _____.
- When my sister did a show, we told her to break a _____.

- c. This is too crazy, it's getting out of _____.
- d. My teacher really let me off the _____ there, I thought I'd be in trouble!
- e. Why don't you get it? It's not rocket _____.
- f. I'm feeling a bit under the _____, so I should go to the doctor.

It's Your Call

For each of these examples can you think of an idiom that means the same thing? Write an idiom for each example.

- a. Time goes fast when you're doing something you enjoy.

- b. Try to understand something complicated.

- c. This is the very last thing I can handle.

- d. Calm down when you're feeling upset.

- e. Trying to avoid saying what you mean.

Have a Go

Have a go at writing a sentence or two that include idioms.

Idioms Answers

Idiom or Not?

- a. It was a piece of cake.
- b. Anything can happen if you let it.
- c. They're a dime a dozen.
- d. We'd better call it a day.
- e. We're going to get on with it.
- f. It's time to hit the hay.
- g. There is no fire without smoke.
- h. Maybe you should go back to the drawing board.

Go back over the examples above and write what you think the idioms mean. If an example wasn't an idiom, leave it blank.

- a. *It was easy.*
- b. _____
- c. *These are something that are really common.*
- d. *We'd better stop this for today.*
- e. _____
- f. *It's time to go to bed.*
- g. _____
- h. *To start over.*

Fill in the Blanks

- a. If you do something properly, you don't cut **corners**.
- b. When my sister did a show, we told her to break a **leg**.
- c. This is too crazy, it's getting out of **hand**.
- d. My teacher really let me off the **hook** there, I thought I'd be in trouble!
- e. Why don't you get it? It's not rocket **science**.
- f. I'm feeling a bit under the **weather**, so I should go to the doctor.

It's Your Call

- a. Time goes fast when you're doing something you enjoy.
Time flies.
- b. Try to understand something complicated.
Wrap your head around it.
- c. This is the very last thing I can handle.
The last straw.
- d. Calm down when you're feeling upset.
Pull yourself together.
- e. Trying to avoid saying what you mean.
Beat around the bush.

Have a Go

Teachers: Use your judgement when marking students' work.