

Common English Idioms Explained

Reading Worksheet — Level C | tahricteaches.com

Do you know what an **idiom** is? An idiom is a **phrase** that has a special meaning. The words in an idiom do not mean what they say. For example, "break a leg" does not mean you hurt your leg! Idioms make English interesting and fun to learn.

One common idiom is "under the **weather**." When someone is under the weather, they feel **sick**. If your friend says, "I am under the weather today," it means they are not feeling well. You can say this when you stay home from school.

Another fun idiom is "piece of cake." This does not mean real cake! It means something is very **easy**. If a test is a piece of cake, the test is not hard. Students say this when their homework is simple and quick to finish.

"Break a leg!" is something people say before a show or performance. It does not mean something bad. It means "good luck!" Actors and singers hear this before they go on stage. It is a happy and kind thing to say.

Some idioms talk about secrets. "Let the cat out of the bag" means you tell a secret by accident. Idioms like these make English colorful and fun. Try to use one idiom today and see if your friends understand!

A. Vocabulary

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. idiom ____ | a. something that happens without being planned |
| 2. phrase ____ | b. what a word or phrase tells you |
| 3. weather ____ | c. information you do not share with others |
| 4. sick ____ | d. a show in front of an audience |
| 5. easy ____ | e. not feeling well; unwell |
| 6. expression ____ | f. common saying or phrase that people use |
| 7. meaning ____ | g. phrase with a special meaning different from what the words usually mean |
| 8. secret ____ | h. group of words used together |
| 9. performance ____ | i. conditions outside such as sun, rain, or wind |
| 10. accident ____ | j. not difficult; simple to do |

B. True or False

- | | |
|---|---|
| ____ 1. An idiom means exactly what the words say. | ____ 2. "Under the weather" means you feel sick. |
| ____ 3. "Piece of cake" means the food is delicious. | ____ 4. "Break a leg" is a way to say good luck. |
| ____ 5. Idioms make English boring and hard to enjoy. | ____ 6. "Let the cat out of the bag" means you tell a secret. |
| ____ 7. Actors say "break a leg" before a show. | ____ 8. "Piece of cake" means the homework is very difficult. |

___ 9. You say "under the weather" when you feel very happy.

___ 10. Idioms are phrases with special meanings.

C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: idiom, sick, easy, phrase, secret, weather, performance, accident

1. An _____ is a group of words with a special meaning.
2. When you are under the weather, you feel _____.
3. "Piece of cake" means something is very _____.
4. A _____ is a group of words used together.
5. "Let the cat out of the bag" means you tell a _____ by accident.



D. Comprehension Questions

1. What is an idiom?
2. What does the idiom "piece of cake" mean?
3. When do people say "break a leg" and why?

E. Discussion Questions

1. Do you have idioms in your language? Can you share one and explain what it means in English?
2. Which English idiom from the passage do you like best, and when could you use it?



Answer Key

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A. Vocabulary: 1-g, 2-h, 3-i, 4-e, 5-j, 6-f, 7-b, 8-c, 9-d, 10-a

B. True/False: 1-F, 2-T, 3-F, 4-T, 5-F, 6-T, 7-T, 8-F, 9-F, 10-T

C. Fill Blanks: 1-idiom, 2-sick, 3-easy, 4-phrase, 5-secret

D. Comprehension:

1. An idiom is a phrase with a special meaning that is different from what the words usually mean.
2. "Piece of cake" means something is very easy or not difficult to do.
3. People say "break a leg" before a show or performance because it means "good luck."

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