

# I WANT TO USE MORE IDIOMS!



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english coach

THIS WORKSHEET IS COMPLEMENTARY TO  
LIVE FACEBOOK VIDEO LESSON PUBLISHED BY  
MY PERSONAL ENGLISH COACH ON MONDAY 14.12.2020



I WANT TO USE MORE IDIOMS, BUT I DO NOT FEEL CONFIDENT. WHAT SHOULD I DO ?



YOU SHOULD TRY TO FIND A WAY TO USE THE IDIOM IN CONTEXT (SPEAKING OR WRITING) AND CHECK WITH A NATIVE SPEAKER TO SEE IF YOU HAD DONE IT CORRECTLY. AFTER 2 OR 3 TIMES, THE IDIOM WILL FEEL MORE FAMILIAR!



LONG IDIOMS SCARE ME! HOW CAN I REMEMBER ALL THE PREPOSITIONS?



LONG IDIOMS, WITH ARTICLES AND PREPOSITIONS CAN PROVE TO BE PARTICULARLY CHALLENGING. MPEC COACHES CREATED THIS WORKSHEET TO HELP YOU MEMORISE AND USE SOME LONG IDIOMS WITHOUT FEAR OF MAKING A MISTAKE

## 33 LONG IDIOMS & THEIR MEANINGS



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### A BLESSING IN DISGUISE

MEANING: A GOOD THING THAT INITIALLY SEEMED BAD

### A CRACK AT SOMETHING

AN ATTEMPT TO DO SOMETHING; A TURN TRYING (TO DO) SOMETHING.

### ADDING INSULT TO INJURY

MEANING: TO MAKE A BAD SITUATION EVEN WORSE

### BEAT AROUND THE BUSH

MEANING: AVOID SHARING YOUR TRUE VIEWPOINT OR FEELINGS BECAUSE IT IS UNCOMFORTABLE

### BEATING A DEAD HORSE

MEANING: GIVING TIME OR ENERGY TO SOMETHING THAT IS ENDED OR OVER

### (THE) BIRDS AND THE BEES

A EUPHEMISM FOR SEX EDUCATION, ESPECIALLY WHEN TAUGHT INFORMALLY.



### BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

MEANING: THE CHOICE OR SOLUTION HAS ALL OF THE ADVANTAGES OF TWO CONTRASTING THINGS AT THE SAME TIME

### BITING OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW

MEANING: NOT HAVING THE CAPACITY TO TAKE ON A NEW ASSIGNMENT OR TASK THAT IS JUST TOO TAXING

### BY THE SKIN OF YOUR TEETH

MEANING: JUST BARELY MAKING IT

### CAUGHT BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

MEANING: MAKING A CHOICE BETWEEN TWO UNPLEASANT CHOICES

### COSTS AN ARM AND A LEG

MEANING: SOMETHING THAT IS OVERPRICED OR VERY EXPENSIVE

### DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER

MEANING: NOT JUDGING SOMETHING BY ITS INITIAL APPEARANCE

### DOING SOMETHING AT THE DROP OF A HAT

MEANING: DOING SOMETHING AT THE MOMENT OF BEING ASKED

### DON'T COUNT YOUR CHICKENS BEFORE THEY HATCH

MEANING: NOT TO COUNT ON SOMETHING HAPPENING UNTIL AFTER IT'S ALREADY HAPPENED

### FEELING UNDER THE WEATHER

MEANING: NOT FEELING WELL, OR FEELING SICK

### FIT AS A FIDDLE

MEANING: BEING IN GOOD HEALTH

### FINDING A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK (IT IS LIKE...)

SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING THAT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO LOCATE

### GIVING THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT

MEANING: BELIEVING SOMEONE'S STORY WITHOUT PROOF EVEN THOUGH IT MAY SEEM UNBELIEVABLE

### GIVING SOMEONE THE COLD SHOULDER

MEANING: IGNORING SOMEONE

### GOING ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE

MEANING: DOING SOMETHING THAT IS POINTLESS

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### HEARD IT ON OR THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

MEANING: HEARING RUMOURS ABOUT SOMEONE OR SOMETHING

### HITTING THE NAIL ON THE HEAD

MEANING: PERFORMING A TASK WITH EXACTNESS

### HAVE A HIDE LIKE A RHINOCEROS

TO HAVE THE ABILITY TO IGNORE VERBAL ATTACKS OR CRITICISM FROM OTHERS.

### KILLING TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE

MEANING: ACCOMPLISHING TWO DIFFERENT TASKS IN THE SAME UNDERTAKING

### KILL THE GOOSE THAT LAYS THE GOLDEN EGG

TO RUIN OR DESTROY SOMETHING THAT BRINGS ONE WEALTH.

### LETTING SOMEONE OFF THE HOOK

MEANING: NOT HOLDING SOMEONE RESPONSIBLE FOR SOMETHING

### LETTING THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG

MEANING: SHARING INFORMATION THAT WAS INTENDED TO BE A SECRET  
LIVE ON (ONE'S) NERVES

TO BE IN A CONSTANT STATE OF ANXIETY, FEAR, OR WORRY.

### MAKE (SOMEONE OR SOMETHING) OUT TO BE (SOMETHING)

TO CHARACTERISE SOMETHING IN A CERTAIN WAY, OFTEN ONE THAT IS NOT ACCURATE.

### MAKE (ONE'S) WAY THROUGH

TO STAY CONTINUOUSLY ENGAGED IN A TASK, ESPECIALLY WITH METICULOUS ATTENTION OR FOCUS. OFTEN USED WHEN THE TASK IS LONG-TERM

### ON THE BALL

MEANING: DOING A GOOD JOB, BEING PROMPT, OR BEING RESPONSIBLE

### ON A SHORT LEASH (TO BE )

TO BE STRICTLY CONTROLLED (BY SOMEONE); TO NOT BE ALLOWED VERY MUCH INDEPENDENCE OR AUTONOMY

### OFF ON A SIDETRACK (BE OR GET SOMEBODY)

ADDRESSING A TOPIC OR TOPICS NOT RELEVANT TO THE MAIN DISCUSSION.

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### PICK OF THE BUNCH (TO BE THE...)

MEANING: THE BEST OR MOST IDEAL OPTION IN A GROUP.

### PICK UP THE BILL

MEANING: TO PAY A BILL, ESPECIALLY WHEN PAYING FOR OTHERS.

### RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

TO DISCOVER OR UTILISE THE STRENGTH OR SKILL NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH SOME DIFFICULT TASK

### RUN (SOMETHING) BY (ONE) AGAIN

TO EXPLAIN SOMETHING TO ONE OR INFORM ONE ABOUT SOMETHING FOR A SECOND, THIRD, ETC., TIME.

### SPEAK OF THE DEVIL

MEANING: WHEN THE PERSON YOU HAVE JUST BEEN TALKING ABOUT ARRIVES STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

MEANING: READING OR HEARING SOMETHING FROM THE SOURCE

### SHOW (SOMEONE) WHAT (ONE'S) MADE OF

MEANING: TO DEMONSTRATE ONE'S TRUE TALENT, FORTITUDE, ABILITY, COURAGE, OR WORTH (TO SOMEONE).

### THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

MEANING: AN ISSUE, PERSON, OR PROBLEM THAT SOMEONE IS TRYING TO AVOID

### THROWING CAUTION TO THE WIND

MEANING: BEING RECKLESS OR TAKING A RISK

### WAIT ON SOMEONE HAND AND FOOT

MEANING: TO SERVE SOMEONE VERY WELL, ATTENDING TO ALL PERSONAL NEEDS

### WAIT FOR THE OTHER SHOE TO DROP

MEANING: TO WAIT FOR THE NEXT, SEEMINGLY UNAVOIDABLE (AND TYPICALLY NEGATIVE) THING TO HAPPEN.

### WANT THE FIRST CRACK AT (SOMETHING)

TO HAVE THE FIRST CHANCE TO DO SOMETHING.

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# EXERCISE 1



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WHAT PREPOSITION OR ARTICLE IS MISSING? FILL IN THE  
BLANKS WITH THE MISSING WORDS FROM THE IDIOMS WE  
STUDIED TOGETHER

1. I LET THEM HAVE THE FIRST CRACK ..... PRODUCING MY FILM, BUT THEY WEREN'T INTERESTED, SO I TOOK MY SCRIPT TO ANOTHER STUDIO.
2. YES, I DID HAVE SURGERY A FEW MONTHS AGO, BUT I'M ..... FIT AS A FIDDLE NOW.
3. WE'VE ALL MOVED ON FROM THAT PROBLEM, SO THERE'S NO USE ..... A DEAD HORSE.
4. GIVE SARAH A CRACK ..... THE EQUATION. I BET SHE CAN SOLVE IT!
5. THE GROWING BUDGET DEFICIT IS THE ..... IN THE ROOM THAT NOBODY WANTS TO TALK ABOUT.
6. YOU'RE MY SISTER! CAN'T I GET THE ..... OF THE DOUBT, INSTEAD OF YOU BELIEVING THE WORST ABOUT ME?
7. DON'T LET MY MOTHER WATCH ANY OF THOSE SAPPY MOVIES-SHE CRIES AT THE ..... OF A HAT.
8. YOU'RE PREPARING YOUR ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BEFORE EVEN BEING NOMINATED? DON'T COUNT YOUR CHICKENS ..... THEY'RE HATCHED.
9. OH MAN, MY CAR WOULDN'T START THIS MORNING-I JUST MADE IT HERE BY THE ..... OF MY TEETH!
10. MY FATHER EXPECTS MY MOTHER TO WAIT ..... HIM HAND AND .....
11. A: "HEY EVERYONE, SORRY I'M LATE!" B: "WELL, SPEAK OF THE .....! WE WERE JUST SPEAKING TALKING SOMETHING FUNNY YOU WERE SAYING THE OTHER DAY."
12. MUM SAID THAT DAD WOULD PUNISH US WHEN HE GOT HOME FROM WORK, SO NOW WE'RE JUST WAITING FOR THE ..... SHOE TO DROP.
13. YOU CAN'T LIVE LIFE COMPLETELY RESERVED, YOU KNOW. YOU'VE GOT TO THROW CAUTION ..... WIND EVERY NOW AND THEN.
14. WELL, I HAVEN'T FIXED A MOTOR IN NEARLY 10 YEARS, BUT I'LL CERTAINLY ..... A CRACK ..... IT.
15. ANN IS EXHAUSTED AGAIN. SHE'S ALWAYS BITING ..... MORE THAN SHE ..... CHEW.
16. MY MOM TALKED TO ME ABOUT THE ..... AND ..... BEES THIS MORNING-IT WAS SO MORTIFYING!
17. FIRST, THE BASEMENT FLOODED, AND THEN, TO ..... INSULT ..... INJURY, A PIPE BURST IN THE KITCHEN.
18. THIS REPORT MAY LOOK DULL, BUT ..... JUDGE A BOOK ..... ITS COVER-I WILL HAVE YOU RIVETED BY THE FACTS AND FIGURES IN NO TIME!
19. COLLEGE TUITION ..... AN ARM ..... LEG NOWADAYS.

# EXERCISE 2



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2. I WAS ..... A ROCK AND ..... HARD ....., FOR IF I DIDN'T TAKE OUT ANOTHER LOAN-AND GO DEEPER INTO DEBT-I COULDN'T PAY OFF THE DEBTS I ALREADY OWED.
3. I BELIEVE THAT LIVING AT COLLEGE GIVES YOU THE BEST OF .....WORLDS: A PLACE WHERE BOTH STUDY AND SOCIAL LIFE CAN THRIVE.
4. WOULD YOU PLEASE STOP BEATING ..... THE BUSH? ARE YOU LEAVING THE COMPANY OR NOT?
5. WE WERE OUT CELEBRATING VALERIE'S BIRTHDAY LAST NIGHT-THAT'S WHY WE'RE ALL ..... THE WEATHER TODAY.
6. I DON'T KNOW IF TOM'S RELATIONSHIP WITH JEREMY IS HEALTHY. IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S ALWAYS ..... ON HIM HAND ..... FOOT.
7. TRYING TO FIND MY CONTACT LENS ON THE FLOOR WAS LIKE LOOKING FOR A NEEDLE IN A .....
8. BEING LATE FOR WORK TURNED OUT TO BE A BLESSING IN ..... I WOULD HAVE BEEN IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT TRAFFIC JAM HAD I LEFT THE HOUSE ON TIME.
9. LET'S GIVE HIM THE BENEFIT OF THE ..... BEFORE WE START ACCUSING HIM. THERE MAY BE A GOOD EXPLANATION FOR THE MISSING MONEY.
10. FIRING THE PROGRAMMER WHO CREATED YOUR MOST SUCCESSFUL APP IS LIKE KILLING THE GOOSE THAT ..... THE GOLDEN EGG.
11. I TRIED TO ADDRESS THE CUSTOMER'S PROBLEM, BUT SHE KEPT GOING .....ON A SIDETRACK AND I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HER TRUE COMPLAINT WAS.
12. YOU'VE SPOTTED THE FLAW, SALLY. YOU HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD. BOB DOESN'T SAY MUCH, BUT EVERY NOW AND THEN HE HITS THE NAIL ..... THE HEAD.
13. AT FIRST, SAM WAS SUSPECTED OF STEALING MONEY FROM THE SAFE, BUT HE WAS LET ..... THE HOOK AFTER SECURITY CAMERA FOOTAGE SHOWED IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE.
14. I HEARD ..... THE GRAPEVINE THAT STACY AND MARK ARE GETTING A DIVORCE.
15. THE ODDS WERE ..... THEM, BUT THE HOME TEAM ROSE TO THE CHALLENGE AND MANAGED TO WIN THE CHAMPIONSHIP.
16. A: "IS OUR TEST REALLY GETTING RESCHEDULED?" B: "YEP, OUR TEACHER WAS AHEAD OF ME IN THE LUNCH LINE, SO I HEARD IT ..... FROM THE HORSE'S ....."

# ANSWERS EX. 1



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