

ESL Conversation Club: Idioms

Warm-up:

Head, shoulders, knees, and toes, knees and toes.
Head, shoulders, knees, and toes, knees and toes.
And eyes and ears and mouth and nose.
Head, shoulders, knees, and toes, knees and toes.

Warm-up:

If two witches would watch two watches, which
witch would watch which watch?

Conversation Questions in Groups of 2 People:

- Have you ever heard an idiom in English that you didn't understand? What was it, and how did you figure out its meaning?
- Do idioms exist in your native language? Can you share some examples with us?
- How do you feel about slang and idioms? Are they good or bad?
- Do you find it challenging to use idioms in conversations in English? Why or why not?
- Are there any idioms that are similar in meaning to expressions in your native language?

IDIOM EXAMPLES with pictures

 <p>hit the hay to get into bed and go to sleep</p>	 <p>sleep in to sleep later than usual, usually on purpose</p>	 <p>not sleep a wink to not sleep at all; to fail to fall asleep</p>
 <p>for the birds without value; undesirable; stupid; boring;</p>	 <p>bite your tongue to struggle to not say something one really wants to say</p>	 <p>take the cake to be a remarkable example of something negative or positive</p>
 <p>have bigger fish to fry to have more important things to do</p>	 <p>have a big mouth to be talkative and prone to revealing secrets</p>	 <p>time to kill to have nothing to do for some period of time</p>

Activity in Groups of 2 people:

Here are some common American idioms. What do they mean? When are they used?

Idiom	When is it used?	What does it mean?
It costs an arm and a leg.		
She let the cat out of the bag		
I am going to catch some z's.		
Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.		
His bark is worse than his bite.		
She wears her heart on her sleeve.		
I bent over backwards to help them.		
Cross your fingers!		
That was the icing on the cake.		
I'm on the fence about it.		