

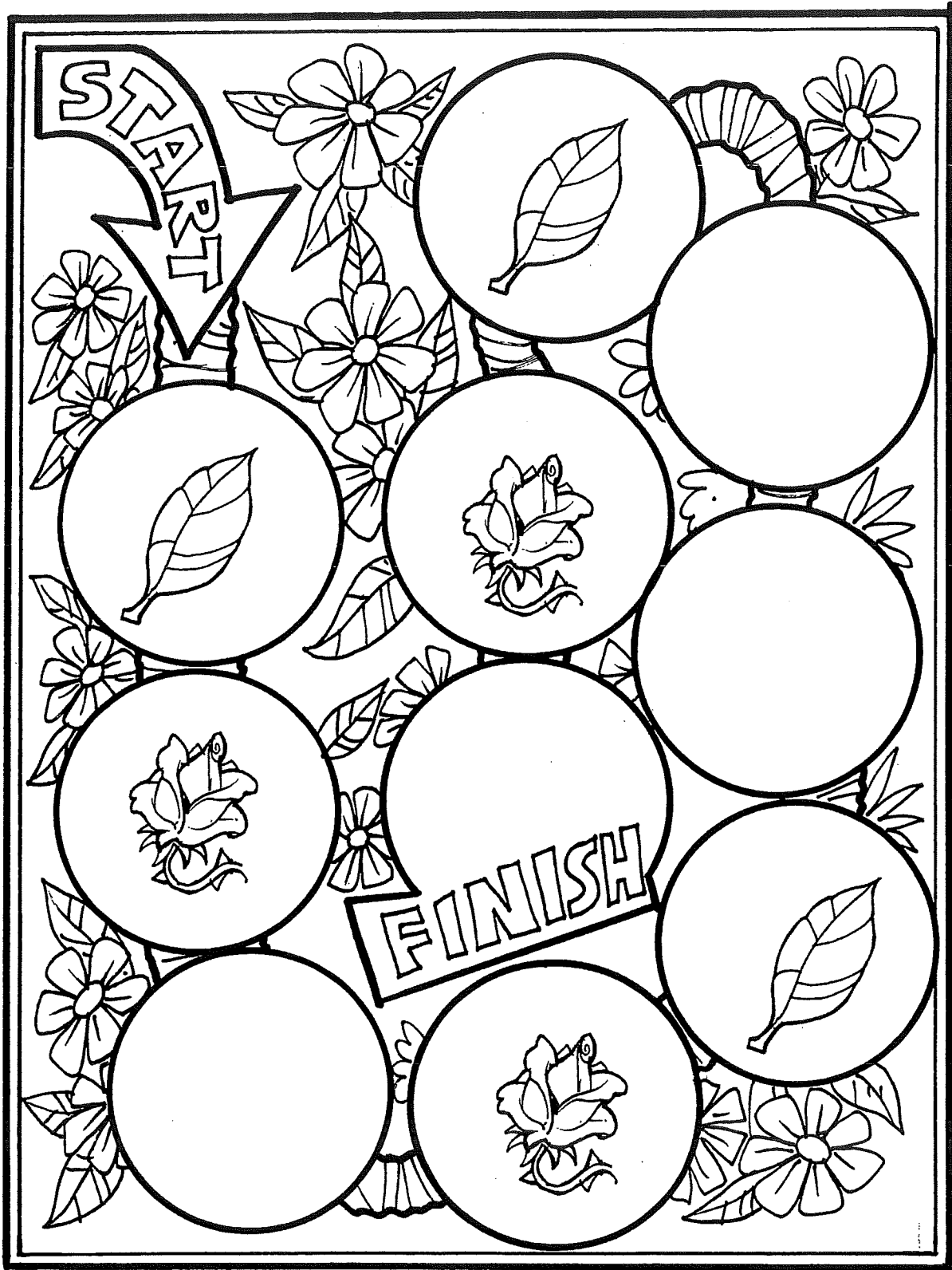
# Game 18

## Expression Express

*Instructions:* The student's task is to explain the meaning of the underlined expression in each sentence below. Allow the student to move the marker one additional space whenever his/her marker lands on a space containing a picture that matches the picture on the game card.



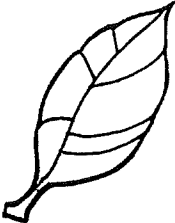

*Playing Card Items:*

1. Alice was guilty, but she came out smelling like a rose.
2. I feel like I'm beating my head against the wall when I talk to him.
3. It is time to bury the hatchet.
4. Tom wears the pants in his family.
5. Katrina had to eat her words.
6. I will put in a good word for you.
7. Chuck can't carry a tune.
8. Alfredo was down in the dumps after losing the game.
9. Luisa fell flat on her face when she gave the concert.
10. My new coat fits like a glove.
11. Nobody can get a word in edgewise when Kevin is speaking.
12. Tom would not foot the bill at the restaurant.
13. I have a problem that I need to get off my chest.
14. I got the runaround when I asked Robert to return the bike.
15. Sarah couldn't get up the nerve to ask the question.
16. Father flew off the handle when he saw the bill.
17. You need to tell Roger to get to the point when he is talking to you.
18. Tim made a suggestion that is food for thought.







**Game 18 - Expression Express**

## Game 18 - Expression Express

<p><b>Item 1</b></p> <p>Explain the meaning of the underlined expression.</p> <p>Alice was guilty, but she came out <u>smelling like a rose</u>.</p> <p>Move ahead 2 spaces!</p>	<p><b>Item 2</b></p> <p>Explain the meaning of the underlined expression.</p> <p>I feel like I'm <u>beating my head against the wall</u> when I talk to him.</p>	<p><b>Item 3</b></p> <p>Explain the meaning of the underlined expression.</p> <p>It is time to <u>bury the hatchet</u>.</p> 
<p><b>Item 4</b></p> <p>Explain the meaning of the underlined expression.</p> <p>Tom <u>wears the pants</u> in his family.</p>	<p><b>Item 5</b></p> <p>Explain the meaning of the underlined expression.</p> <p>Katrina had to <u>eat her words</u>.</p> <p>Move ahead 2 spaces!</p>	<p><b>Item 6</b></p> <p>Explain the meaning of the underlined expression.</p> <p>I will <u>put in a good word</u> for you.</p> 
<p><b>Item 7</b></p> <p>Explain the meaning of the underlined expression.</p> <p>Chuck can't <u>carry a tune</u>.</p> 	<p><b>Item 8</b></p> <p>Explain the meaning of the underlined expression.</p> <p>Alfredo was <u>down in the dumps</u> after losing the game.</p> 	<p><b>Item 9</b></p> <p>Explain the meaning of the underlined expression.</p> <p>Luisa <u>fell flat on her face</u> when she gave the concert.</p>

## Game 18 - Expression Express

<p><b>Item 10</b></p> <p>Explain the meaning of the underlined expression.</p> <p>My new coat <u>fits like a glove</u>.</p> 	<p><b>Item 11</b></p> <p>Explain the meaning of the underlined expression.</p> <p>Nobody can <u>get a word in edgewise</u> when Kevin is speaking.</p>	<p><b>Item 12</b></p> <p>Explain the meaning of the underlined expression.</p> <p>Tom would not <u>foot the bill</u> at the restaurant.</p> <p>Move ahead 2 spaces!</p>
<p><b>Item 13</b></p> <p>Explain the meaning of the underlined expression.</p> <p>I have a problem that I need to <u>get off my chest</u>.</p> 	<p><b>Item 14</b></p> <p>Explain the meaning of the underlined expression.</p> <p>I <u>got the runaround</u> when I asked Robert to return the bike.</p> <p>Move ahead 2 spaces!</p>	<p><b>Item 15</b></p> <p>Explain the meaning of the underlined expression.</p> <p>Sarah couldn't <u>get up the nerve</u> to ask the question.</p> 
<p><b>Item 16</b></p> <p>Explain the meaning of the underlined expression.</p> <p>Father <u>flew off the handle</u> when he saw the bill.</p> 	<p><b>Item 17</b></p> <p>Explain the meaning of the underlined expression.</p> <p>You need to tell Roger to <u>get to the point</u> when he is talking to you.</p>	<p><b>Item 18</b></p> <p>Explain the meaning of the underlined expression.</p> <p>Tim made a suggestion that is <u>food for thought</u>.</p>

# Idioms

K-3

Food & colors:	at my fingertips	Other Idioms:
full of beans	shoot off your mouth	sleep on it
that's corny	big mouth	zip your lip
in a pickle	save your breath	pitch in
piece of cake	catch your breath	beat it
apple of my eye	on the tip of my tongue	beauty sleep
feeling blue	pull the wool over his eyes	break your word
tickled pink	have a heart	by a hair
heart of gold	by a nose	down in the dumps
Animals:	keep your nose clean	drag your feet
raining cats and dogs	under your nose	feel like a million dollars
monkey business	I'm all ears	finders keepers
let the cat out of the bag	in one ear, out the other	get off my back
frog in my throat	lend me a hand	hang in there
sounds fishy	green thumb	hit the sack
quit horsing around	eyes are bigger than your stomach	last straw
could eat a horse	in one ear, out the other	lower the boom
cry wolf	lend me a hand	needle in a haystack
Body parts:	green thumb	on the ball
lost my head	eyes are bigger than your stomach	put on your thinking cap
level-headed	get up the nerve	pins and needles
put your heads together	have my hands full	ship shape
use your head	hand-me-downs	sleep on it
lump in my throat	cold feet	zip your lip
get on my nerves	drag your feet	put on your thinking cap
butterflies in my stomach	chip on his shoulder	pins and needles
elbow room	get off my back	ship shape

# A Visitor from "Out of the Blue"

## Story Activity

Talk about *idioms* with your students. Give some examples of idioms from the Idioms Resource List on page 187. See if your students can tell you any idioms they've heard.

Next, read the story to your class. As Brennan introduces his classmates, he uses idioms. Talk about what each of the idioms he uses means.

\* \* \* \* \*

Brennan Bear was excited! An exchange student from Mexico was going to visit him for three whole weeks. Brennan watched the steps of the plane until he saw a brightly-colored parrot step down. "There he is!" shouted Brennan. "There's Pedro Parrot!"

Brennan ran up to greet Pedro Parrot and welcome him to the United States. "Hello, Pedro!" said Brennan. "Welcome to America."

"Hola, Brennan!" said Pedro. "It's nice to be here."

"I'm so glad you're here Pedro! I have so many things I want to show you. I can't wait for you to meet my classmates." After they got home, Brennan and Pedro talked for a long time about how their countries were alike and different. Finally, Brennan's mom said, "Brennan, it's time to *put out the lights* and *hit the hay!*"

"It's strange that you must carry the lights outside and that you must punch hay before you go to bed," said a puzzled Pedro.

Brennan chuckled, "No, that's not what my mom really meant. She's talking in idioms. *Put out the lights* means to turn off the lights. *Hit the hay* means to go to bed."

"I thought I spoke good English," said Pedro, "but I can see I have a lot to learn."

Pedro and Brennan woke up the next day to the sound of rain on the roof. "You'd better find two umbrellas before you leave for school," said Brennan's mom. "*It's raining cats and dogs!*" Pedro looked outside, but only saw dark clouds and rain — no cats and dogs.

Brennan saw that Pedro was confused and said, "*It's raining cats and dogs* means that it's raining very hard."

"Oh, it's one of those idioms, right?" asked Pedro.

"No," Brennan laughed. "It's an idiom!"

## A Visitor from "Out of the Blue", *continued*

As Brennan and Pedro walked into the classroom, Brennan pointed to the teacher sitting at her desk and whispered, "That's Mrs. Maloney, our teacher. She's *as tough as nails*, but she's nice."

Pedro said, "I think she looks like a normal person. She doesn't look at all like a nail. I don't even see any nails on her desk."

Brennan said, "Sorry Pedro. *As tough as nails* means that she makes us work hard."

"Oh," exclaimed Pedro. "She is *as tough as nails!*" He was proud that he had used an idiom in English.

Then, Brennan let Pedro meet his classmates. As he introduced them to Pedro, he used many idioms. Can you explain what these idioms mean?

1. Bud Bulldog is the class bully. He's always *in hot water*.
2. Ruth Raccoon is our class gardener. She takes care of our plants because she has a *green thumb*.
3. Maggie Mouse is very shy. *The cat's got her tongue*.
4. Ollie Owl always gets good grades. Now he has a *big head*.
5. Dennis Dog is the class clown. He's always *pulling your leg*. He keeps *us in stitches*.
6. Brennan blushed as he pointed out Barbie Bear. "*I'm crazy about her*," said Brennan. "I always try to *catch her eye*."

Brennan and Pedro had many laughs over the idioms! Pedro learned a lot of new expressions during the three weeks he was in the United States. Next year, Brennan wants to visit Mexico to learn more about the language. Adios!

\* \* \* \* \*

# Listening Activity: All Ears

Give each student a copy of *All Ears* on page 179 and a set of crayons. Then, read the following directions, one at a time, to your students. Encourage them to listen carefully and follow your instructions.

1. Look at box one.

If *go fly a kite* means it's windy outside, color the kite blue.

If *go fly a kite* means get out of here, color the kite red.

Draw a cloud in the sky.

2. Look at box two.

If *it's raining cats and dogs* means it's raining very hard, color the raindrops blue.

If *it's raining cats and dogs* means you better call the dog catcher, color the umbrella brown.

Draw a cat and a dog raining from the sky.

3. Look at box three.

If *he's pulling my leg* means he's got my leg and he's pulling on it, color the leg that's being pulled black.

If *he's pulling my leg* means he's tricking me, color the leg that's being pulled brown.

Give Brennan and Pedro silly smiles to show they're joking with each other.

4. Look at box four.

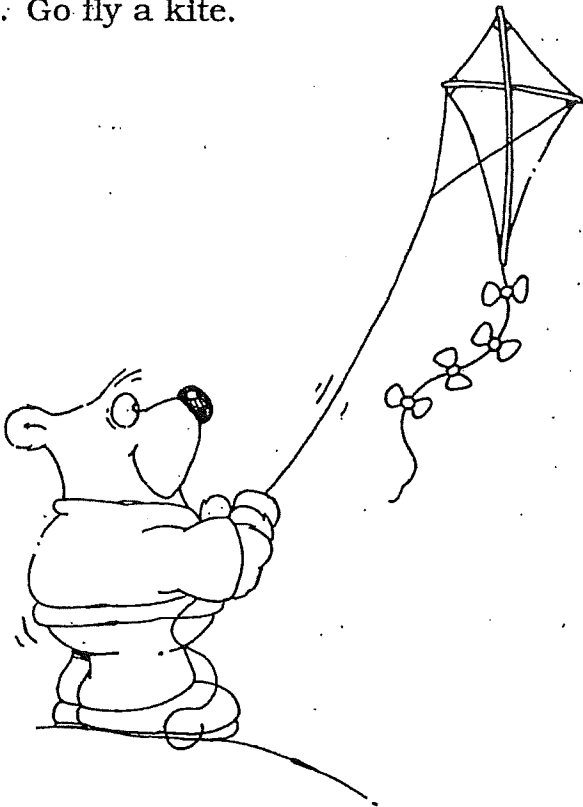
If *put your foot in your mouth* means you said something you shouldn't have, give Brennan an orange cap.

If *put your foot in your mouth* means you need to open your mouth wide so your foot fits in, give Brennan a purple cap.

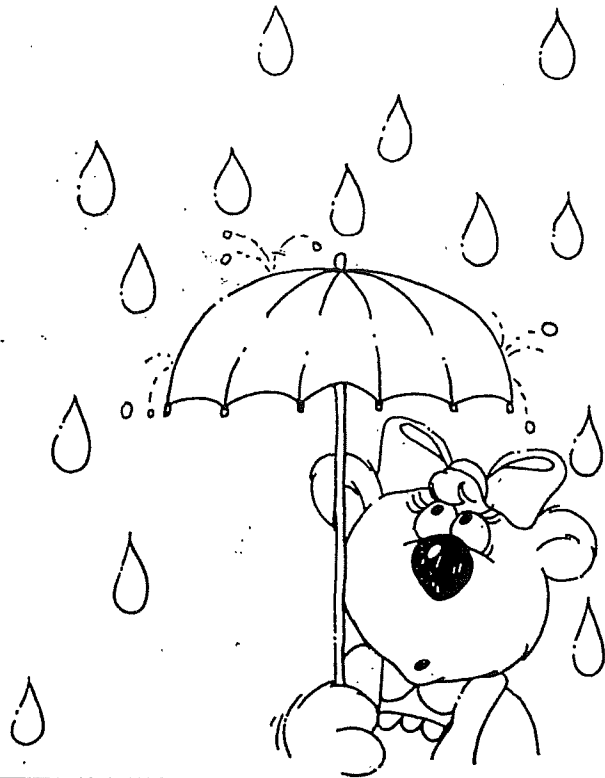
Put a black X over Brennan's mouth so he won't say something foolish.



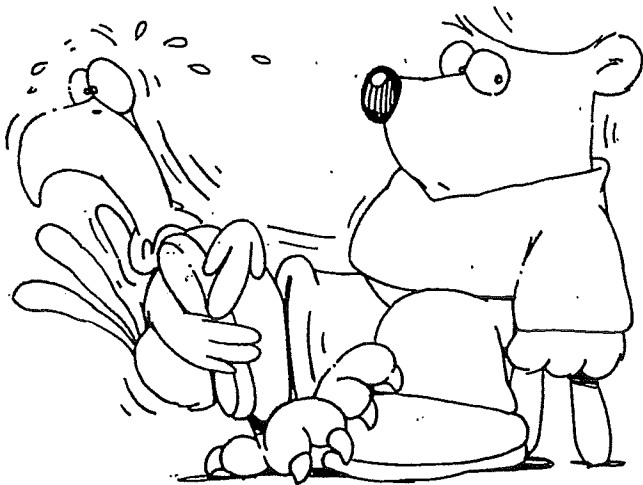
1. Go fly a kite.



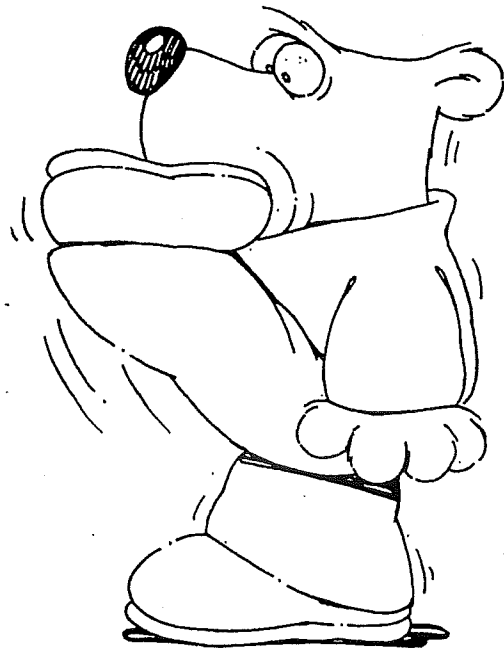
2. It's raining cats and dogs.



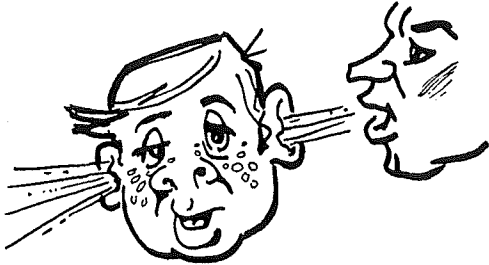
3. He's pulling my leg.



4. He put his foot in his mouth.



## Lists 36–39: Idioms



*In one ear and out the other.*

### OBJECTIVE

To develop the student's ability to understand the meanings of common idioms so as to expand his comprehension of language.

### APPLICATIONS

- ♦ Let students use context clues and guess the meanings of idioms after you use them in sentences. Then discuss them.
- ♦ Have students listen for idioms at home for a week. They should bring in lists of all the idioms they hear. Students then explain the idioms on their lists to others in the group.
- ♦ Select some idioms for students to illustrate literal and figurative meanings.

### List 36: Food and Colors

#### Food

she's a peach  
full of beans  
not my cup of tea  
full of baloney  
sour grapes  
that's corny  
in a pickle  
bring home the bacon  
in a stew  
top banana  
salt of the earth  
worth his salt  
peas in a pod  
nuts about you  
piece of cake  
can't have cake and eat it too  
he's a real ham  
hard nut to crack  
let's talk turkey  
a bad egg  
break the ice  
baker's dozen  
finger in every pie  
pot luck  
hard boiled  
apple of my eye  
rotten egg

#### Colors

in the pink  
in the red  
feeling blue  
green with envy  
rose-colored glasses  
he was very green  
turn red as a beet  
tickled pink  
heart of gold  
he's yellow  
turned purple  
in the black  
red tape

**List 37: Animals**

raining cats and dogs  
 monkey business  
 weasel out  
 go ape  
 let's talk turkey  
 let the cat out of the bag  
 crocodile tears  
 dark horse  
 card shark  
 whale of a time  
 drinks like a fish  
 frog in my throat  
 snake eyes  
 he's foxy  
 pig-headed  
 sounds fishy  
 make a hog of yourself  
 quit horsing around  
 he's a rat  
 he ratted on me  
 stool-pigeon  
 spring chicken

for the birds  
 eats like a bird  
 wolf in sheep's clothing  
 smell a rat  
 chicken-hearted  
 could eat a horse  
 don't monkey around  
 kill 2 birds with 1 stone  
 as the crow flies  
 cry wolf  
 dog-eared pages  
 let sleeping dogs lie  
 underdog  
 fish out of water  
 stir up a hornet's nest  
 get your goat  
 make a mountain out of a molehill  
 packed like sardines  
 black sheep  
 bird's eye view  
 wild-goose chase

**List 38: Parts of Body**

**Head**

can't make heads or tails of it  
 lost my head  
 keep your head above water  
 off the top of my head  
 head in the clouds  
 level-headed  
 head over heels  
 go through my head  
 have rocks in your head  
 put your heads together  
 use your head  
 hair is standing on end  
 up to his neck in work  
 tooth and nail  
 lump in my throat  
 save your neck  
 turn the other cheek  
 swallow your pride  
 my lips are sealed  
 slap in the face  
 blue in the face  
 face the music  
 keep a straight face  
 fall flat on your face  
 blow my mind  
 pick your brains  
 give you a piece of my mind

get on my nerves  
 boggle your mind  
 get up the nerve

**Mouth**

shoot off his mouth  
 down in the mouth  
 watch your mouth  
 foot in my mouth  
 big mouth  
 hand to mouth  
 keep a stiff upper lip  
 make my mouth water  
 word of mouth  
 leave a bad taste in your mouth  
 melt in your mouth  
 save your breath  
 take my breath away  
 catch your breath  
 skin of my teeth  
 sink my teeth into  
 on the tip of my tongue  
 eat your words  
 sharp tongue  
 mother tongue  
 slip of the tongue

**List 39: Other**

ace in the hole  
 ahead of the game  
 all shook up  
 all washed up  
 asleep at the switch  
 as the crow flies  
 after a fashion  
 back seat driver  
 ball of fire  
 barking up the wrong tree  
 bark is worse than his bite  
 bats in your belfry  
 bawl out  
 beat around the bush  
 beat it  
 beauty sleep  
 bed of roses  
 behind the eight ball  
 beside himself  
 better late than never  
 big shot (cheese, wheel)  
 bite off more than you can chew  
 don't bite the hand that feeds you  
 bite the dust  
 blow your top (cool)  
 bone to pick  
 brush up on  
 build a fire under  
 burn the midnight oil  
 break your word  
 break the news  
 bury the hatchet  
 burns me up  
 by a hair  
 by hook or by crook  
 call it a day  
 call it quits  
 call the shots  
 can of worms  
 car pool  
 chicken out  
 chip off the old block  
 cook one's goose  
 crack up  
 crack a book  
 crack a joke  
 cramp your style  
 cream of the crop  
 cut corners  
 cut and dried  
 dead stop  
 dead to the world  
 die out  
 dime a dozen  
 do a double take



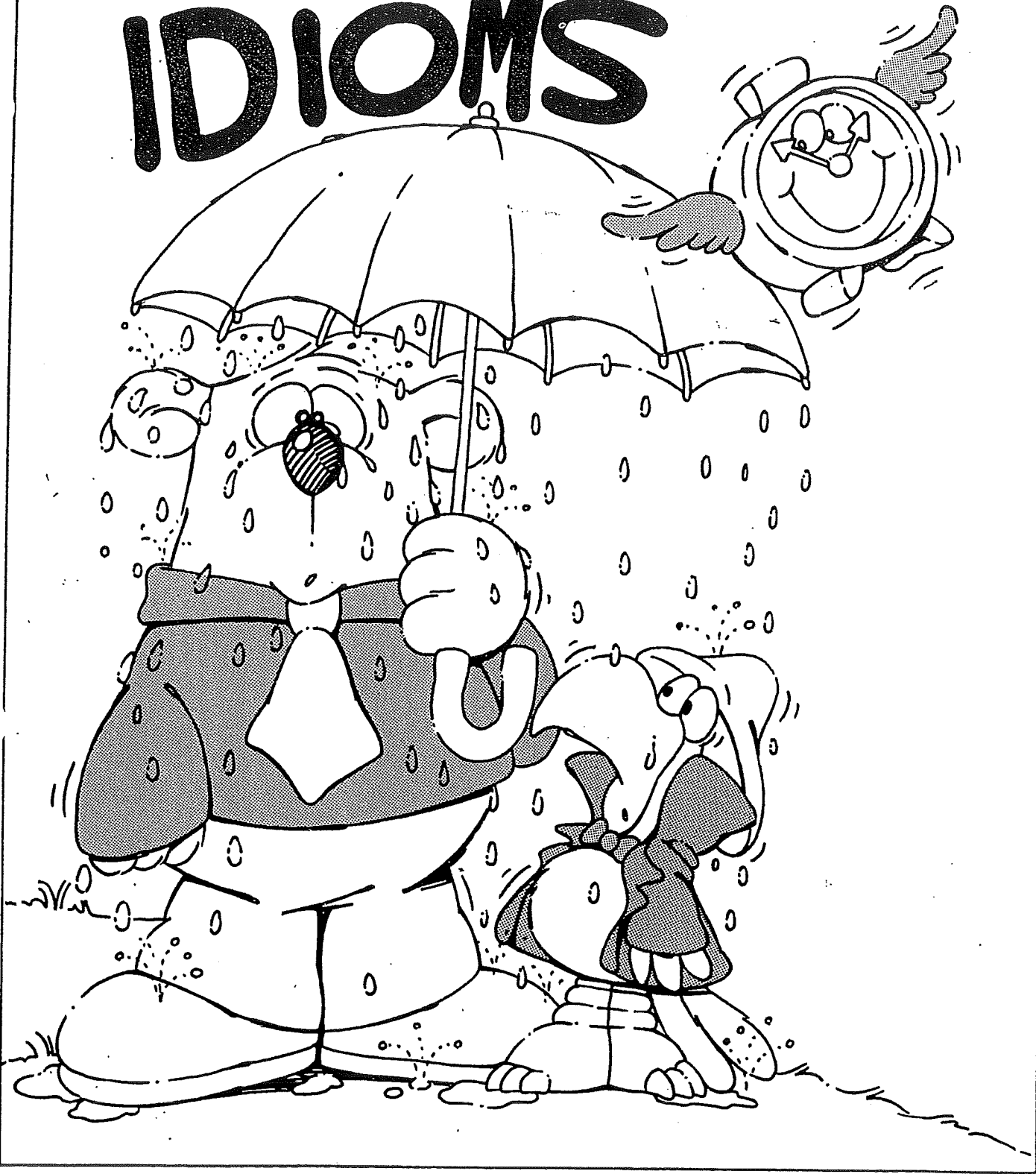
down in the dumps  
 dose of your own medicine  
 down the drain (tubes)  
 drag one's feet  
 draw a blank  
 draw the line  
 drive a hard bargain  
 drop in the bucket  
 eat like a bird (horse)  
 end of one's rope  
 feel like a million dollars  
 finders keepers  
 fit like a glove  
 flip one's lid  
 fly off the handle  
 fool around  
 fool proof  
 for keeps  
 fork out  
 forty winks  
 get away with  
 get down to brass tacks  
 get even  
 get off my back  
 get the ball rolling  
 get to the bottom of  
 get out of bed on the wrong side  
 ghost of a chance  
 give a hard time  
 give an inch and he'll take a mile  
 give yourself away  
 give up the ghost  
 globe trotter  
 go around in circles  
 go into orbit  
 go jump in the lake  
 go off the deep end  
 grass is always greener on the other side of the street

## Idioms (continued)

start from scratch  
steal his thunder  
steal the spotlight  
stick to your guns  
stick-in-the-mud  
strike it rich  
strike home  
strike while the iron is hot  
take a back seat  
take off  
take your medicine  
take the floor  
take your hat off to  
take sides  
talk turkey  
tall story  
throw the book at  
throw in the sponge (towel)  
throw a party  
throw a fit  
to the letter  
time marches on  
tie the knot  
tickled to death  
time of your life  
touch and go  
touch up  
to the tune of

tricks of the trade  
turn in  
turn the tables  
turn over a new leaf  
turned on  
twiddle your thumbs  
under your wing  
up to something  
up in arms  
ups and downs  
upstage  
wait on  
walk all over  
walk on air  
walk on thin ice  
warm the bench  
wash dirty linen in public  
waste your breath  
wear and tear  
wear out your welcome  
when my ship comes in  
weather the storm  
writing on the wall  
wind up  
wipe out  
word for word  
word to the wise  
zip your lip

# IDIOMS



Class Goal: Your students will be able to explain the meanings of some popular idioms.

If you really think about idioms, some of them are very funny.

Read the idioms — and then make a picture of what it SAYS — not what it means.

Don't give up now . . . just **hang in there**.

That guy is really **on the ball**.

He made a real **pig of himself** at the picnic.

I never thought you would **break your word**.

When it comes to fixing things, **he is all thumbs**.

She was so angry, she **blew her top**.

# Idioms Resource List

## *General Idioms:*

We're in hot water.  
Go fly a kite.  
Go jump in a lake.  
Button your lip.  
Time flies.  
He has a green thumb.  
She gave him a dirty look.  
Stop pulling my leg.  
She put her foot in her mouth.  
This idea will knock your socks off.  
He's over the hill.  
I want to catch his eye.  
Get out of my hair.  
Keep a stiff upper lip.  
We don't see eye to eye.  
We're all in the same boat.  
Harry and Paula tied the knot.  
Let's hit the road.  
She won by the skin of her teeth.  
She's a ball of fire.  
We're up a creek.  
That's the way the cookie crumbles.  
Stop dragging your feet.  
She has a big head.

## *Animal Idioms:*

It's raining cats and dogs.  
That's monkey business.  
He's got a frog in his throat.  
She is pig-headed.  
I killed two birds with one stone.  
She's like a fish out of water.  
The cat's got her tongue.  
I went ape over it.  
He let the cat out of the bag.  
He's got the tiger by the tail.  
Straight from the horse's mouth.  
I feel as proud as a peacock.  
It's a dog's life.  
Sometimes you act like a cold fish.  
I could eat a horse.  
Stop bugging me.  
Stop horsing around!  
You sound like you're fishing for compliments  
When the cat's away, the mice will play.  
I have butterflies in my stomach.



## Multiple Meaning Words

Multiple meaning words are words that have several meanings depending upon how they are used in a sentence. For example, "bat" may have three different meanings: the mammal that flies, the sports equipment used in baseball and the action of hitting a ball.

### Idiom

An idiom is a word or phrase which means something different from what it says - it is usually a metaphor (language we use to compare things, but without using "like" or "as".) An example of an idiom is "break a leg", which means good luck, when speaking to a performer. Sometimes children know the actual meaning of an idiom and they can draw it accurately. But often it is fun to have the children draw the literal meanings of idioms, such as "put your foot in your mouth", "time flies", and "I have butterflies in my stomach."

### Simile

A simile compares two unlike things using the word "like" or "as", such as "busy as a bee."

### Metaphor

A metaphor compares two unlike things without using the words "like" or "as" such as "it's a dog's life."

The ability to use and comprehend these abstract language forms helps students increase their vocabulary skills, listening and reading comprehension, and their ability to communicate effectively in a variety of situations.

## A

**Air Your Dirty Laundry:** to talk about your private disagreements or embarrassing matters in public

**All Thumbs:** awkward and clumsy, especially with the hands

**Ants in Your Pants:** extreme restlessness; overactive

## B

**Beat a Dead Horse:** to pursue a useless goal

**Bed of Roses:** a wonderful, pleasant situation or position

**Break a Leg:** good luck

## C

**Cat Got your Tongue?:** is there a reason that you're not speaking?

**Chew the Fat:** to have a friendly, informal talk

**Cold Feet:** a fear of doing something

## D

**Don't Take any Wooden Nickels:** don't let anyone cheat you

**Down in the Dumps:** sad and depressed

Dressed to the Nines: wearing fashionable clothing

### E

Early Bird Catches the Worm: a person who gets up early and starts a project ahead of others has the best chance of accomplishing his or her goal

Eat Your Words: to have to take back what you said

Elbow Grease: hard energetic manual labor

### F

Feet of Clay: a hidden fault of character

Fish Out of Water: a person who is out of his or her usual place

Fly By the Seat of Your Pants: to do something by instinct and feel without any earlier experience or instruction

### G

Get Your Feet Wet: to have a first experience in something

Go over Like a Lead Balloon: to fail miserably

Green Thumb: having a special talent for making flowers and green plants grow well

## H

**Hang in There:** to not lose faith or courage

**Have a Bone to Pick with You:** to have an argument with someone

**Hit the Books:** study school assignments carefully

**In Hot Water:** in serious trouble

## I

**In the Doghouse:** facing punishment

**In the Limelight:** at the center of attention

## J

**Jump down Your Throat:** to talk or scream at someone in a sudden, angry way

**Jump Off the Deep End:** to act emotionally without carefully thinking about the end result

**Jump on the Bandwagon:** to become part of the newest activity because many other people are

## K

**Keep a Stiff Upper Lip:** to be brave and not show emotion in a time of trouble

**Keep Up with the Joneses:** to try to keep up with what your neighbors have socially and financially

Kick the Bucket: to die

L

Leave No Stone Unturned: to make all possible efforts to carry out a task

Let Sleeping Dogs Lie: to not make trouble if you don't have to

Let the Cat Out of the Bag: to give away a secret

M

Mad as a Wet Hen: very upset

Monkey Business: silliness or fooling around

More than One Way to Skin a Cat: there are several different ways of reaching the same goal

N

Name is Mud: the person is in trouble

No Skin off Your Nose: it doesn't matter to you

No Spring Chicken: not young anymore

O

Off Your Rocker: crazy

On the Ball: alert

Open a Can of Worms: to cause trouble

P

Pay through the Nose: to pay too much for something

Pie in the Sky: something not possible

Pot Calling the Kettle Black: the person criticizing another person's faults is guilty of the same faults

Q

Quick on the Draw: ready & alert

Quiet as a Mouse: silent or still

R

Roll with the Punches: to adjust to a difficult situation

Rub Elbows with Someone: to be in the same place with others

Run Circles around Someone: to easily do something far better than someone

S

Scrape the Bottom of the Barrel: to use whatever is left after the best have been taken

Shake a leg: to hurry up

Sick as a Dog: very sick

T

Take Someone under Your Wing: to help

Take the Bull by the Horns: to act bravely in a troublesome situation

Tickled Pink: to be very amused or pleased

U

Under the Table: in secret

Under the Weather: sick

Up a Creek Without a Paddle: in deep trouble

V

Vinegar Catch more Flies with Honey than with Vinegar: more can be accomplished by being pleasant than by being disagreeable

W

Walk on Eggs: to be very cautious

Walking on Air: to be exuberantly happy

Watched Pot Never Boils: when waiting anxiously or impatiently for something to happen it seems to take much longer

X

X-Ray Vision: very good eyesight

Y

You Can Lead a Horse to Water but You Can't Make Him Drink: you can encourage, but not force, someone to do something

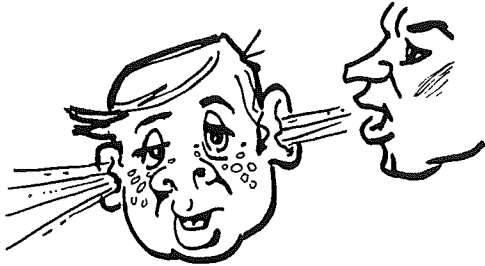
You Can't Teach an Old Dog New Tricks: people who find it difficult or impossible to change their ways

Z

Zipper Your Mouth: to stop talking



## Lists 36–39: Idioms



*In one ear and out the other.*

### OBJECTIVE

To develop the student's ability to understand the meanings of common idioms so as to expand his comprehension of language.

### APPLICATIONS

- ♦ Let students use context clues and guess the meanings of idioms after you use them in sentences. Then discuss them.
- ♦ Have students listen for idioms at home for a week. They should bring in lists of all the idioms they hear. Students then explain the idioms on their lists to others in the group.
- ♦ Select some idioms for students to illustrate literal and figurative meanings.

## List 36: Food and Colors

### Food

she's a peach  
full of beans  
not my cup of tea  
full of baloney  
sour grapes  
that's corny  
in a pickle  
bring home the bacon  
in a stew  
top banana  
salt of the earth  
worth his salt  
peas in a pod  
nuts about you  
piece of cake  
can't have cake and eat it too  
he's a real ham  
hard nut to crack  
let's talk turkey  
a bad egg  
break the ice  
baker's dozen  
finger in every pie  
pot luck  
hard boiled  
apple of my eye  
rotten egg

### Colors

in the pink  
in the red  
feeling blue  
green with envy  
rose-colored glasses  
he was very green  
turn red as a beet  
tickled pink  
heart of gold  
he's yellow  
turned purple  
in the black  
red tape

**List 37: Animals**

raining cats and dogs  
 monkey business  
 weasel out  
 go ape  
 let's talk turkey  
 let the cat out of the bag  
 crocodile tears  
 dark horse  
 card shark  
 whale of a time  
 drinks like a fish  
 frog in my throat  
 snake eyes  
 he's foxy  
 pig-headed  
 sounds fishy  
 make a hog of yourself  
 quit horsing around  
 he's a rat  
 he ratted on me  
 stool-pigeon  
 spring chicken

for the birds  
 eats like a bird  
 wolf in sheep's clothing  
 smell a rat  
 chicken-hearted  
 could eat a horse  
 don't monkey around  
 kill 2 birds with 1 stone  
 as the crow flies  
 cry wolf  
 dog-eared pages  
 let sleeping dogs lie  
 underdog  
 fish out of water  
 stir up a hornet's nest  
 get your goat  
 make a mountain out of a molehill  
 packed like sardines  
 black sheep  
 bird's eye view  
 wild-goose chase

**List 38: Parts of Body**

**Head**

can't make heads or tails of it  
 lost my head  
 keep your head above water  
 off the top of my head  
 head in the clouds  
 level-headed  
 head over heels  
 go through my head  
 have rocks in your head  
 put your heads together  
 use your head  
 hair is standing on end  
 up to his neck in work  
 tooth and nail  
 lump in my throat  
 save your neck  
 turn the other cheek  
 swallow your pride  
 my lips are sealed  
 slap in the face  
 blue in the face  
 face the music  
 keep a straight face  
 fall flat on your face  
 blow my mind  
 pick your brains  
 give you a piece of my mind

get on my nerves  
 boggle your mind  
 get up the nerve

**Mouth**

shoot off his mouth  
 down in the mouth  
 watch your mouth  
 foot in my mouth  
 big mouth  
 hand to mouth  
 keep a stiff upper lip  
 make my mouth water  
 word of mouth  
 leave a bad taste in your mouth  
 melt in your mouth  
 save your breath  
 take my breath away  
 catch your breath  
 skin of my teeth  
 sink my teeth into  
 on the tip of my tongue  
 eat your words  
 sharp tongue  
 mother tongue  
 slip of the tongue

**List 39: Other**

ace in the hole  
 ahead of the game  
 all shook up  
 all washed up  
 asleep at the switch  
 as the crow flies  
 after a fashion  
 back seat driver  
 ball of fire  
 barking up the wrong tree  
 bark is worse than his bite  
 bats in your belfry  
 bawl out  
 beat around the bush  
 beat it  
 beauty sleep  
 bed of roses  
 behind the eight ball  
 beside himself  
 better late than never  
 big shot (cheese, wheel)  
 bite off more than you can chew  
 don't bite the hand that feeds you  
 bite the dust  
 blow your top (cool)  
 bone to pick  
 brush up on  
 build a fire under  
 burn the midnight oil  
 break your word  
 break the news  
 bury the hatchet  
 burns me up  
 by a hair  
 by hook or by crook  
 call it a day  
 call it quits  
 call the shots  
 can of worms  
 car pool  
 chicken out  
 chip off the old block  
 cook one's goose  
 crack up  
 crack a book  
 crack a joke  
 cramp your style  
 cream of the crop  
 cut corners  
 cut and dried  
 dead stop  
 dead to the world  
 die out  
 dime a dozen  
 do a double take



*Don't  
 bite  
 off  
 more* *than  
 you  
 can  
 chew!*

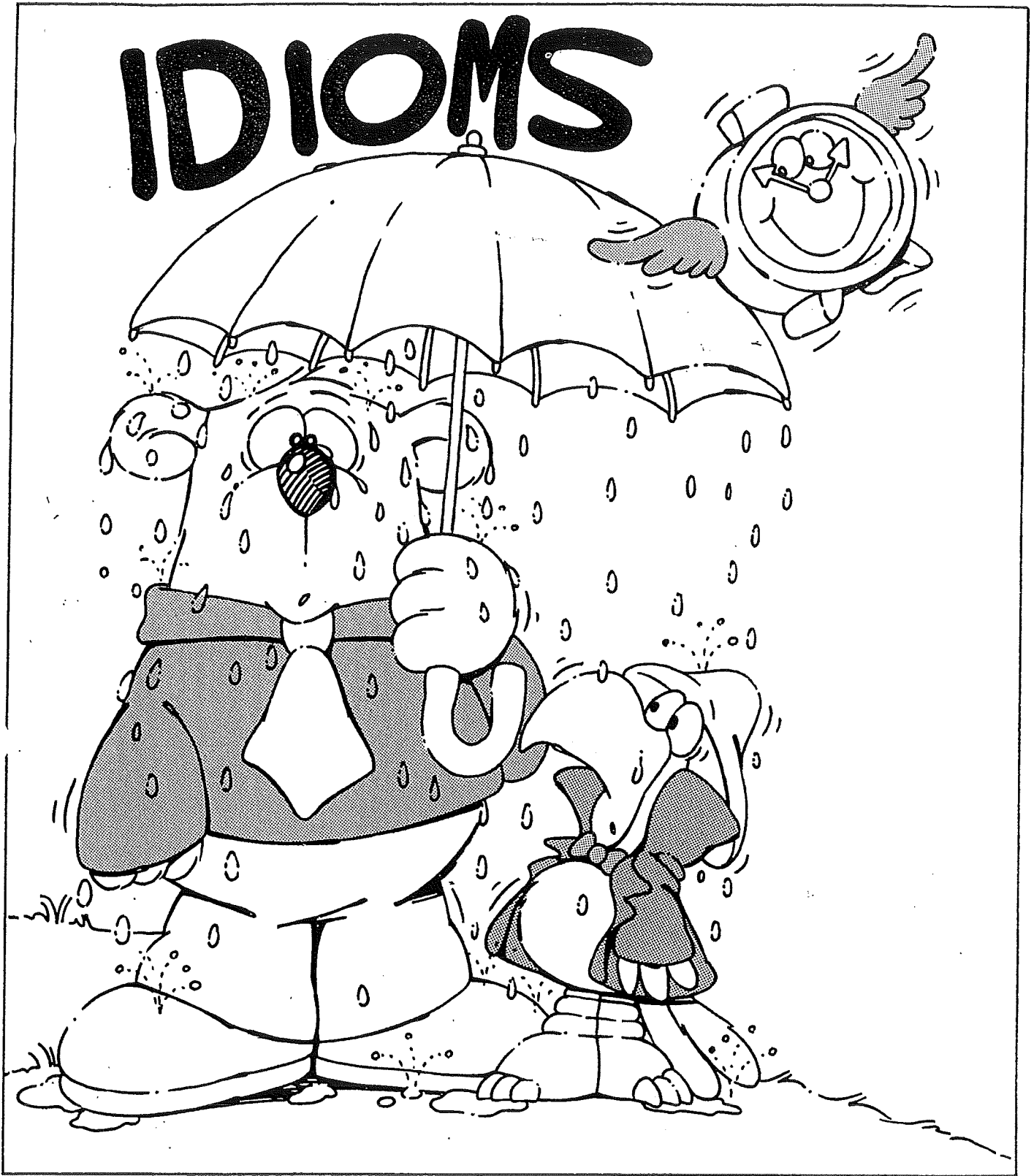
down in the dumps  
 dose of your own medicine  
 down the drain (tubes)  
 drag one's feet  
 draw a blank  
 draw the line  
 drive a hard bargain  
 drop in the bucket  
 eat like a bird (horse)  
 end of one's rope  
 feel like a million dollars  
 finders keepers  
 fit like a glove  
 flip one's lid  
 fly off the handle  
 fool around  
 fool proof  
 for keeps  
 fork out  
 forty winks  
 get away with  
 get down to brass tacks  
 get even  
 get off my back  
 get the ball rolling  
 get to the bottom of  
 get out of bed on the wrong side  
 ghost of a chance  
 give a hard time  
 give an inch and he'll take a mile  
 give yourself away  
 give up the ghost  
 globe trotter  
 go around in circles  
 go into orbit  
 go jump in the lake  
 go off the deep end  
 grass is always greener on the other side of the street

## Idioms (continued)

start from scratch  
steal his thunder  
steal the spotlight  
stick to your guns  
stick-in-the-mud  
strike it rich  
strike home  
strike while the iron is hot  
take a back seat  
take off  
take your medicine  
take the floor  
take your hat off to  
take sides  
talk turkey  
tall story  
throw the book at  
throw in the sponge (towel)  
throw a party  
throw a fit  
to the letter  
time marches on  
tie the knot  
tickled to death  
time of your life  
touch and go  
touch up  
to the tune of

tricks of the trade  
turn in  
turn the tables  
turn over a new leaf  
turned on  
twiddle your thumbs  
under your wing  
up to something  
up in arms  
ups and downs  
upstage  
wait on  
walk all over  
walk on air  
walk on thin ice  
warm the bench  
wash dirty linen in public  
waste your breath  
wear and tear  
wear out your welcome  
when my ship comes in  
weather the storm  
writing on the wall  
wind up  
wipe out  
word for word  
word to the wise  
zip your lip

# IDIOMS



Class Goal: Your students will be able to explain the meanings of some popular idioms.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

If you really think about idioms, some of them are very funny.

Read the idioms — and then make a picture of what it SAYS — not what it means.

Don't give up now . . . just **hang in there**.

That guy is really **on the ball**.

He made a real **pig of himself** at the picnic.

I never thought you would **break your word**.

When it comes to fixing things, **he is all thumbs**.

She was so angry, she **blew her top**.

# Idioms Resource List

## *General Idioms:*

We're in hot water.  
Go fly a kite.  
Go jump in a lake.  
Button your lip:  
Time flies.  
He has a green thumb.  
She gave him a dirty look.  
Stop pulling my leg.  
She put her foot in her mouth.  
This idea will knock your socks off.  
He's over the hill.  
I want to catch his eye.  
Get out of my hair.  
Keep a stiff upper lip.  
We don't see eye to eye.  
We're all in the same boat.  
Harry and Paula tied the knot.  
Let's hit the road.  
She won by the skin of her teeth.  
She's a ball of fire.  
We're up a creek.  
That's the way the cookie crumbles.  
Stop dragging your feet.  
She has a big head.

## *Animal Idioms:*

It's raining cats and dogs.  
That's monkey business.  
He's got a frog in his throat.  
She is pig-headed.  
I killed two birds with one stone.  
She's like a fish out of water.  
The cat's got her tongue.  
I went ape over it.  
He let the cat out of the bag.  
He's got the tiger by the tail.  
Straight from the horse's mouth.  
I feel as proud as a peacock.  
It's a dog's life.  
Sometimes you act like a cold fish.  
I could eat a horse.  
Stop bugging me.  
Stop horsing around!  
You sound like you're fishing for compliments  
When the cat's away, the mice will play.  
I have butterflies in my stomach.

## Multiple Meaning Words

**Multiple meaning words** are words that have several meanings depending upon how they are used in a sentence. For example, "bat" may have three different meanings: the mammal that flies, the sports equipment used in baseball and the action of hitting a ball.

### Idiom

An **idiom** is a word or phrase which means something different from what it says - it is usually a metaphor (language we use to compare things, but without using "like" or "as".) An example of an idiom is "break a leg", which means good luck, when speaking to a performer. Sometimes children know the actual meaning of an idiom and they can draw it accurately. But often it is fun to have the children draw the literal meanings of idioms, such as "put your foot in your mouth", "time flies", and "I have butterflies in my stomach."

### Simile

A **simile** compares two unlike things using the word "like" or "as", such as "busy as a bee."

### Metaphor

A **metaphor** compares two unlike things without using the words "like" or "as" such as "it's a dog's life."

The ability to use and comprehend these abstract language forms helps students increase their vocabulary skills, listening and reading comprehension, and their ability to communicate effectively in a variety of situations.



# Idiom Fever

chew the fat	talk turkey	on the fence	cool it	where you're coming from	a mental block	kick the bucket
raining cats and dogs	from the horse's mouth	hold your temper	beat around the bush	simmer down	toot your own horn	feeling blue
down in the dumps	ace in the hole	toe the mark	down the tube	beat it	beside myself	bite the dust
break the news	burns me up	crack up	get off my back	I'm all ears	get to the bottom of	cut corners
dead stop	give yourself away	brush up on	bed of roses	can of worms	full of beans	go bananas
black sheep	down in the mouth	blue in the face	tickled pink	hold your own	break the ice	bury the hatchet
slap in the face	sink your teeth into it	let the cat out of the bag	tied down	forty winks	take it to heart	get down to brass tacks
pull strings	apple polisher	in full swing	all wound up	tied up	on the ball	up in arms



End



Start