Idioms

Use this packet to help you think and plan for your pop-up book of idioms.

Read over the list of idioms and their meanings.

Place a check next to 10 of your favorite idioms.

Choose five that you would like to illustrate with a background and a pop-up, and box them.
A hot potato
Speak of an issue which many people are talking about and which is usually disputed

A penny for your thoughts
A way of asking what someone is thinking.

Actions speak louder than words
People's intentions can be judged better by what they do than what they say.

Add insult to injury
To further a loss with mockery or indignity; to worsen an unfavorable situation.

An arm and a leg
Very expensive or costly. A large amount of money.

At the drop of a hat
Meaning: without any hesitation; instantly.

Back to the drawing board
When an attempt fails and it's time to start all over.

Ball is in your court
It is up to you to make the next decision or step

Barking up the wrong tree
Looking in the wrong place. Accusing the wrong person

Be glad to see the back of
Be happy when a person leaves.

Beat around the bush
Avoiding the main topic. Not speaking directly about the issue.

Best of both worlds
Meaning: All the advantages.

Best thing since sliced bread
A good invention or innovation. A good idea or plan.

Bite off more than you can chew
To take on a task that is way too big.

Blessing in disguise
Something good that isn't recognized at first.

Burn the midnight oil
To work late into the night, alluding to the time before electric lighting.

Can't judge a book by its cover
Cannot judge something primarily on appearance.
Caught between two stools
   When someone finds it difficult to choose between two alternatives.

Costs an arm and a leg
   This idiom is used when something is very expensive.

Cross that bridge when you come to it
   Deal with a problem if and when it becomes necessary, not before.

Cry over spilt milk
   When you complain about a loss from the past.

Curiosity killed the cat
   Being Inquisitive can lead you into an unpleasant situation.

Cut corners
   When something is done badly to save money.

Cut the mustard
   To succeed; to come up to expectations; adequate enough to compete or participate

Devil's Advocate
   To present a counter argument

Don't count your chickens before the eggs have hatched
   This idiom is used to express "Don't make plans for something that might not happen".

Don't give up the day job
   You are not very good at something. You could definitely not do it professionally.

Don't put all your eggs in one basket
   Do not put all your resources in one possibility.

Drastic times call for drastic measures
   When you are extremely desperate you need to take drastic actions.

Elvis has left the building
   The show has come to an end. It's all over.

Every cloud has a silver lining
   Be optimistic, even difficult times will lead to better days.

Far cry from
   Very different from.

Feel a bit under the weather
   Meaning: Feeling slightly ill.

Give the benefit of the doubt
   Believe someone's statement, without proof.
Hear it on the grapevine
This idiom means 'to hear rumors' about something or someone.

Hit the nail on the head
Do or say something exactly right.

Hit the sack / sheets / hay
To go to bed.

In the heat of the moment
Overwhelmed by what is happening in the moment.

It takes two to tango
Actions or communications need more than one person.

Jump on the bandwagon
Join a popular trend or activity.

Keep something at bay
Keep something away.

Kill two birds with one stone
This idiom means, to accomplish two different things at the same time.

Last straw
The final problem in a series of problems.

Let sleeping dogs lie
Do not disturb a situation as it is - since it would result in trouble or complications.

Let the cat out of the bag
To share information that was previously concealed.

Make a long story short
Come to the point - leave out details.

Method to my madness
An assertion that, despite one's approach seeming random, there actually is structure to it.

Miss the boat
This idiom is used to say that someone missed his or her chance.

Not a spark of decency
Meaning: No manners.

Not playing with a full deck
Someone who lacks intelligence.
Off one's rocker
   Crazy, demented, out of one's mind, in a confused or befuddled state of mind, senile.

On the ball
   When someone understands the situation well.

Once in a blue moon
   Meaning: Happens very rarely.

Picture paints a thousand words
   A visual presentation is far more descriptive than words.

Piece of cake
   A job, task or other activity that is easy or simple.

Put wool over other people's eyes
   This means to deceive someone into thinking well of them.

See eye to eye
   This idiom is used to say that two (or more people) agree on something.

Sit on the fence
   This is used when someone does not want to choose or make a decision.

Speak of the devil!
   This expression is used when the person you have just been talking about arrives.

Steal someone's thunder
   To take the credit for something someone else did.

Take with a grain of salt
   This means not to take what someone says too seriously.

Taste of your own medicine
   Means that something happens to you, or is done to you, that you have done to someone else.

To hear something straight from the horse's mouth
   To hear something from the authoritative source.

Whole nine yards
   Everything. All of it.

Wouldn't be caught dead
   Would never like to do something

Your guess is as good as mine
   To have no idea, do not know the answer to a question
Pop-up #1:

Idiom: ____________________________

Meaning: __________________________

Description of pop-up:

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Description of background:

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Pop-up #2:

Idiom: ______________________________________

Meaning: _____________________________________

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Description of pop-up:

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Description of background:

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Pop-up #3:

Idiom: ____________________________

Meaning: ____________________________

Description of pop-up:

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Description of background:

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Pop-up #4:

Idiom: ____________________________

Meaning: ____________________________

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Description of pop-up:

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Description of background:

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Pop-up #5:

Idiom: ________________________

Meaning: ________________________

Description of pop-up: _____________

Description of background: ___________