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| **Lesson Title:** Idioms | | **Theme :**Grammar | |
| **Practice Activity:** PHL-09-111 | | **Class:** JSS 3 | |
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| **Learning Outcomes**  By the end of the lesson, you will be able to:  1. Interpret idiomatic expressions.  2. Use idioms in writings. | | | |

**Overview**

Idiom and idiomatic expression mean the same thing. We use idioms to make our writing or speech more interesting. **Idioms** are groups of words that, when used together, have a meaning that only certain people will know. For example, ‘raining cats and dogs’ means ‘raining heavily’. But its meaning would not be clear to a non-native speaker. Such a person might wonder why cats and dogs were coming from the sky!

The best way to find an idiom’s meaning is to look in a dictionary. Sometimes, you can also infer the meaning. That means you can find clues in a sentence or paragraph.

One type of idiom is a phrasal verb. **Phrasal verbs** are short expressions with the following structure: verb + preposition or verb + adverb.

Examples of phrasal verbs:

* stand by: be loyal to
* run into: meet unexpectedly
* put up with: tolerate
* look after: care for

**Practice**

**Activity 1**

After each of the following sentences, a list of possible interpretations of the underlined expression in the sentence is given. Choose the correct answer from the multiple-choice option given.

1. A bad friend tries to fish in troubled waters when his friends have problems.
2. To borrow money
3. To steal belongings
4. To get benefits in bad situations
5. To extend a helping hand
6. All the residents painted the town red on the eve of the festival.
7. To whitewash buildings
8. To renovate buildings
9. To celebrate noisily in public places
10. To create nuisances
11. In order to become a successful administrator in the office, an executive has to keep his ears to the ground.
12. To be very polite
13. To encourage backbiting
14. To keep informed about happenings in one’s surroundings
15. To have a strict control overall
16. The message was music to my ears.
17. The message was delivered by a musician.
18. The message was delivered in the form of a song.
19. I was pleased to hear the message.
20. I got the message from someone I love.
21. Henry is still not pleased even though he has the lion’s share of the meat.
22. the lion’s portion
23. the lion’s meat
24. the largest piece
25. the smallest piece
26. The police ordered the bandit to lay down his arms.
27. raise his arms
28. surrender
29. put both his hands on the ground
30. get down on the ground
31. Isha’s bad behaviour always gets on my nerves.
32. I get irritated when Isha misbehaves.
33. Isha’s rudeness makes me jump.
34. I find it funny when Isha misbehaves.
35. Every time Isha does the wrong thing I feel good.
36. When the jewellery went missing, everybody pointed a finger at Joe.
37. Everybody expected Joe to catch the thief.
38. Joe was asked to search for the jewellery.
39. Joe was accused of stealing the jewellery.
40. Every finger was pointed at Joe.
41. Ramatu smelt a rat when her fiancé repeatedly made excuses for his absence.
42. Became suspicious
43. Caught her fiancé red-handed
44. Was afraid of her fiancé
45. Frowned at her fiancé
46. We have a bone to pick with our class prefect for reporting us to the principal.
47. We will report the prefect to the principal.
48. We shall pick fish bones with the prefect.
49. We want to chat with the prefect.
50. We have issues to settle with the prefect.

**Activity 2**

Match the following idiomatic expressions with the definitions below.

1. Bring up to speed
2. Call the shots
3. Cross that bridge when you come to it
4. Go back to the drawing board
5. In a nutshell
6. In the loop
7. Kill two birds with a stone
8. Nip it in the bud
9. Pull the plug
10. Put on the backburner
11. Set the record straight
12. Teething problems
13. Throw a spanner in the works
14. Way off the mark
    1. Cause a problem that stops or slows progress on something that was going well
    2. Accomplish two things with one action
    3. Deal with a problem when it happens, not before
    4. Suppress or stop something at a very early stage
    5. Problems that happen in the early stages of doing something new
    6. Start again from the beginning
    7. Very wrong or inaccurate
    8. Informed or updated
    9. General practice or guideline
    10. Correct a mistake and say the truth
    11. Give something low priority
    12. Stop, discontinue
    13. In a summary
    14. Give someone the most recent information
    15. Make the important decisions

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| **Practice Activity:** PHL-09-111-MB |

**Activity 1**

1. c 2. c 3. c 4. c 5. c 6. b 7. a 8. c 9. a 10. d

**Activity 2**

1. Bring up to speed  
   n. Give someone the most recent information
2. Call the shots  
   o. Make the important decisions
3. Cross that bridge when you come to it  
   c. Deal with a problem when it happens, not before
4. Go back to the drawing board  
   f. Start again from the beginning
5. In a nutshell  
   m. In a summary
6. In the loop  
   h. Informed or updated
7. Rule of thumb  
   i. General practice or guideline
8. Kill two birds with one stone  
   b. Accomplish two things with one action
9. Nip it in the bud  
   d. Suppress or stop something at a very early stage
10. Pull the plug  
    l. Stop, discontinue
11. Put on the backburner  
    k. Give something low priority
12. Set the record straight  
    j. Correct a mistake and say the truth
13. Teething problems  
    e. Problems that happen in the early stages of doing something new
14. Throw a spanner in the works  
    a. Cause a problem that stops or slows progress on something that was going well
15. Way off the mark  
    g. Very wrong or inaccurate