

POPULAR AND USEFUL ENGLISH IDIOMS AND EXPRESSIONS

Khudayberganova Madinabonu Qudratovna

English teacher at Foreign Language and literature department

Urgench State Pedagogical institute

Yusupova Dilnoza Raximboy qizi

Student of Urgench State Pedagogical institute,

Foreign Language and literature department

Abstract: *This article explains the importance of idioms and expressions in language learning. In this article there is stated several useful common idioms with their meanings and example sentences as well as some ways how to master idioms easily.*

Keywords: *expression, native, natural, master, phrase, elaborate, idiomatic.*

What is an idiom?

Everyday English consists of several types of important idioms, proverbs and expressions. They can be used both written and spoken English. The reason why most language learners try to learn to use common idioms and expressions is that by doing this they can sound more native. Almost each conversation done by native speakers contains a number of idioms. It may be really challenging to get along with them without mastering common idioms.

An idiom is a group of words, or in other words, a phrase that has a meaning different from the literal meaning of the words in it. According to the Oxford Learner's Dictionary, an idiom is defined as "a group of words whose meaning is different from the meanings of the individual words", and according to the Cambridge Dictionary, an idiom is defined as "a group of words in a fixed order that has a particular meaning that is different from the meanings of each word on its own" and McArthur also (1993) explained the idioms nearly in the same meaning in his research papers.

The Collins Dictionary defines an idiom as "a group of words which have a different meaning when used together from the one they would have if you took the meaning of each word separately." The Merriam-Webster Dictionary provides a more elaborate definition. According to them, an idiom is "an expression in the usage of a language that is peculiar to itself either in having a meaning that cannot be derived from the conjoined meanings of its elements (such as up in the air for "undecided") or in its grammatically atypical use of words (such as give way)".

Meaning and definition

•To be on fire – this means to be doing very well. For example, she is doing great, she is on fire.

•To stop a runaway train – to stop something from getting worse. Example: We have to do something to stop this runaway train or else we are going to go out of business.

•To be worth a shot – this idiom is used to describe something that is worth doing even if it may not be successful. For instance, it might not work out, but it is a worth shot.

Let's do it! What do we have to lose. This idiom is used in situations when there is a change worth trying but even if it fails nothing will be lost.

- To take the high road – it means to make the correct moral decision. You might be okay writing off all of these fraudulent expenses, but I am going to take the high road on this one and follow my accountant's suggestions.

- To level the playing field – it means to make everyone's chance at success the same. For example, in Silicon Valley, tech companies have been leveling the playing field by hiring more women.

- To draw the line – to make a boundary about something. For example, I have addressed other people's comments about my English in a recent video, but this is where I draw the line and I am not going to comment any further based on the online searching findings.

Best ways to learn idioms

Learning and remembering common idioms may seem challenging at first. That's why learners should find some useful ways to do this. One of the best ways is to review it regularly. But even a person looks at the same word or idiom million times a day, it may not be effective. Many people find the only way to acquire an idiom is to apply it to their everyday speech. Not only idioms or expressions can be learned this way but also any other vocabulary in a foreign language should be mastered by using them on a regular basis.

Another trick in learning idioms is not trying to get too many at once. As idioms can be considered as being complicated, students should not try to learn more than five at a time. They should always practice what they learned in one study session. Next, it is better to try to understand the feeling. We often use idioms to convey our emotions or feelings. For example, if we describe a person using the idiom of "heart of gold", we can imagine someone whose heart is like a precious metal and a good person. In other words, this person is described as being very kind. Idioms can also help people to image someone or a thing. We can understand the meaning by getting the mental picture of a person.

Finally, we can guess meaning of an idiom by guessing. If there is used two words in an unusual way, it may be a new idiom. Sometimes it may be possible to guess the meaning by the words or trying to understand the situation that the idiom is used. We can the meaning through understanding the feeling. But if it is impossible that we need to make a note of them or directly ask the person who used them. The most important method is not to skip any of the idioms we encounter. Every learner should pay special attention to any idiomatic expression when they come across one that seems unfamiliar.

REFERENCES:

1. McArthur, T. (ed.). 1992. The Oxford companion to the English language. Oxford University Press. Oxford, UK. p.495-496
2. Hossein, V. D. 2011. Translation of idioms: A hard task for the translator.
<https://byjus.com/english/idioms-in-english/>
<https://youtu.be/T2IeJwURA74?si=X1kcxgAn3qKRa-GJ>