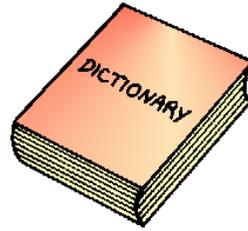


Befudiom

This is an adaptation of “Befudiom” by Merriam-Webster.



Goal: The goal of the game is correctly identify as many idioms as possible in the allotted time. The team(s) to figure out the most, will win the game.

Each person is receiving a card that contains an idiom, a group of words whose meaning as a whole is different from the meanings of each word individually. We commonly use idioms in conversations as so-called “figures of speech.”

In 60 seconds, get your teammate to guess the idiom on your card by describing the *meaning* of the phrase, without using any of the actual key words in the phrase.

I will control the timer.

Example:

You have “Let off the hook.”

You should not use the words “off” or “hook.”

You explain this as a phrase that indicates that someone is no longer being held responsible for something.

After some unsuccessful guesses, you further reveal that this idiom describes someone releasing something.

Purpose/Lesson:

This gives you practice explaining your meaning and altering your communication strategies, while demonstrating how language is contextual and cultural – as the literal, denotative, meanings of these phrases is quite different from the connotative, metaphorical, meanings for which they are commonly expressed. When we say “I was let off the hook” we usually don’t mean that someone released us from their fishing pole.

Working with idioms in this fashion should help to make you more aware of diversity issues related to language and culture (if audience members don’t share your culture or your native tongue, they might not share your understanding of the message).

Working with idioms in this way also helps to demonstrate how ambiguity in a message is sometimes desirable. As opposed to the specificity needed to help an audience understand something that is new or strange to them, ambiguity can allow the audience to be co-creators of the message – to share in the meaning construction – and let them bring their own personal interpretation and twist to your message. This can be useful in persuasion because it allows them to adapt to an idea that might otherwise be oppositional.

Water under the bridge	Sitting on pins and needles
Stiff upper lip	Step out of line
No strings attached	Between a rock and a hard place

Get off on the wrong foot

Get the ball rolling

Right up your alley

At face value

Make your hair stand on end

Hit the hay

Bright-eyed and bushy-tailed	Go up in smoke
Read between the lines	Music to my ears
Over my dead body	Bring the house down

Wrapped around my finger

All that and a bag of chips

Three sheets to the wind

Hold onto your hat

Roll out the red carpet

Just what the doctor ordered

Look on the bright side	Give the shirt off your back
Wait for the other shoe to drop	Weasel your way out of something
One-horse town	Beat your head against the wall

Go through the roof	Glass ceiling
Shoot yourself in the foot	Put your foot in your mouth
In the blink of an eye	On thin ice

Red carpet treatment

Cramp my style

Once in a blue moon

Ram it down your throat

Cat got your tongue

In over your head

Shoot your mouth off

Stab you in the back

Cutting edge

If the shoe fits

Mind like a steel trap

Larger than life

Think outside the box	Get the show on the road
Blind leading the blind	Thank your lucky stars
Show your true colors	None of your beeswax

Scared out of my wits	Can't judge a book by its cover
In your face	Make a stink
Push me over the edge	Quick as a wink

Made of money	Sugarcoat
Down in the dumps	Life of the party
Old flame	Life in the fast lane

Scream bloody murder	Sweet tooth
Burn yourself out	Want it so bad I can taste it
Kick the bucket	Knock yourself out

Holy cow

Butter me up

Have a frog in your throat

Too much on your plate

Get off my case

Writing is on the wall

Breath of fresh air	What goes around comes around
Flat as a pancake	Not playing with a full deck
Lose your marbles	Old man winter

Level the playing field

Greatest thing since sliced bread

It's Greek to me

Chicken out

Talking to a brick wall

Put you on the spot

<p>Under the weather</p>	<p>You are what you eat</p>
<p>Around the clock</p>	<p>Chip off the old block</p>
<p>Spread yourself thin</p>	<p>On the edge of your seat</p>

<p data-bbox="409 342 861 391">Jump through hoops</p>	<p data-bbox="1289 342 1503 391">Hit a snag</p>
<p data-bbox="466 725 804 774">Pat on the back</p>	<p data-bbox="1224 725 1570 774">Back on my feet</p>
<p data-bbox="470 1109 800 1157">Under the wire</p>	<p data-bbox="1270 1109 1524 1157">Lend an ear</p>

Love is blind

Little fish in a big pond

Show your stuff

Cry wolf

Stood me up

Back in the saddle

Whole enchilada	Put the pedal to the metal
Off the beaten path	Steal the show
Down the hatch	Not the sharpest knife in the drawer