



ESL Vocabulary Worksheet for Adults

Topic: Idioms

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EXERCISE 1: Fill in the gaps. Complete the sentences with idioms from the box.

Idioms Box

Out of the blue	On the ball	The last straw	Hit the sack	Spill the beans
Break the ice	Costs an arm and a leg	A piece of cake	Once in a blue moon	Feeling under the weather

Sentences

1. I can't believe the car repairs _____. I might need to get a loan.
2. I was really tired after the trip, so I decided to _____ early last night.
3. To _____, the manager started the meeting with a funny anecdote.
4. My grandmother visits us _____; she doesn't like travelling much anymore.
5. The math test was _____. I finished it in less than an hour.
6. When she _____ about the surprise party, we had to plan another one.
7. He got the promotion because he's always _____. His performance is consistently good.

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8. Getting stuck in traffic for hours was _____ for me; I'm moving closer to work.
 9. I didn't expect to win the lottery. It happened _____.
 10. I'm not going to the picnic today because I'm _____.



EXERCISE 2: Multiple Choice

Choose the idiom that best fits the sentence.

1. My friend bought a house that's _____, but it's truly a beautiful place.
 - a) A hot potato
 - b) The icing on the cake
 - c) A stone's throw away

2. They decided to _____ rather than wait for the perfect opportunity.
 - a) Bite the bullet
 - b) Burn bridges
 - c) Miss the boat

3. I need to get back in shape, but I keep _____.
 - a) Moving the goalposts
 - b) Hitting below the belt
 - c) Dragging my feet

4. When she found out she was promoted, she was _____.
- a) On cloud nine
 - b) Barking up the wrong tree
 - c) In hot water
5. John is always _____; he never contributes to our group projects.
- a) Pulling his weight
 - b) On thin ice
 - c) A couch potato
6. During the debate, her opponent's comment was _____, and she felt insulted.
- a) A breath of fresh air
 - b) Out in left field
 - c) A low blow
7. Losing my job felt like a disaster, but it was really _____ because I found a better one.
- a) A blessing in disguise
 - b) Adding insult to injury
 - c) A wild goose chase

8. We were _____ until the teacher walked in.
- a) In the same boat
 - b) Having a ball
 - c) On pins and needles
9. The employees need to _____ because the new policy is here to stay.
- a) Face the music
 - b) Cut corners
 - c) Make a mountain out of a molehill
10. He's always _____; I can't believe anything he says.
- a) Pulling my leg
 - b) The talk of the town
 - c) Hitting the nail on the head



EXERCISE 3: Idiom to Definition Matching

Match idioms to definitions.

Cut to the chase	To chat informally
Cold feet	To be sick or feel ill
Hit the nail on the head	To not take something completely seriously
Jump on the bandwagon	To be indecisive
Let the cat out of the bag	To have doubts or second thoughts
Shoot the breeze	To join others in doing something because it is popular
Sit on the fence	To describe something accurately
Take with a grain of salt	To reveal a secret accidentally
Through thick and thin	To get to the point without wasting time
Under the weather	To stick with something, no matter what



Exercise 4: Create Your Own Sentences

Write original sentences using the idioms below.

1. Bite off more than you can chew
2. Cross that bridge when you come to it
3. Go the extra mile
4. Have the best of both worlds
5. It's not rocket science
6. Let sleeping dogs lie
7. Make a long story short
8. Play it by ear

9. The ball is in your court
10. You can't judge a book by its cover

Instructions:

Use each idiom in a sentence that reflects its meaning. Your sentences should give clues about the idiom's meaning based on the context you provide.

Examples:

Bite off more than you can chew: "When I volunteered to bake 200 cookies for the school event on the same day as my piano recital, I definitely bit off more than I could chew."

Cross that bridge when you come to it: "I know you're worried about the presentation next month, but let's cross that bridge when we come to it; we have more immediate deadlines to focus on right now."

Sentences:

Go the extra mile: _____

Have the best of both worlds: _____

It's not rocket science: _____

Let sleeping dogs lie: _____

Make a long story short: _____

Play it by ear: _____

The ball is in your court: _____

You can't judge a book by its cover: _____



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