

TOPIC

Conversation for Idioms



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1

Example Sentences



You have two months left to **learn the ropes** of your new job so that you won't feel nervous.

I **couldn't make heads or tails of** his handwriting because it was so bad.



I need to **brush up on** my French before I go to Paris.

You might want to **put on your thinking cap** for this exam. Most students failed it last year.



2

Key Idioms

KNOWLEDGE

1. learn the ropes

to learn the basic skills for a job

2. can't make heads or tails of

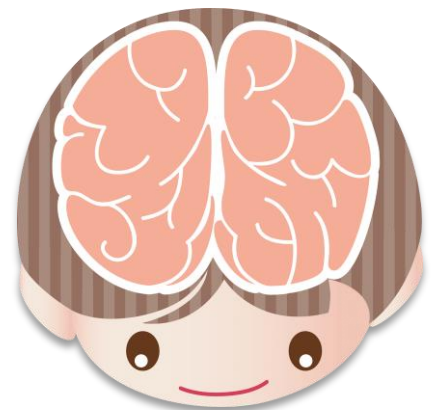
can't understand at all

3. brush up on

revising or improving knowledge on something

4. put on one's thinking cap

to think seriously or creatively about a problem



1

Example Sentences



What was her name again?
It's **on the tip of my tongue**.

I couldn't recall anything from yesterday's lesson. I have **a memory like a sieve**.



Kara is capable of recalling everything her boss says. She has a **photographic memory**.



Elders usually **take a trip down memory lane** and tell their grandchildren stories from their youth.



2

Key Idioms

MEMORY

1. on the tip of one's tongue

used to indicate that someone is almost but not quite able to bring a particular word or name to mind

2. a memory like a sieve

to have a very bad memory

3. a photographic memory

the ability to recall something in detail with great accuracy

4. take a trip down memory lane

to reminisce over memories of past events, especially happy ones



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Example Sentences



Jennie felt ill after getting wet from the rain.
I hope she gets **back on her feet** soon.

Mr. Grey is already 93 years old
but he is still as **fit as a fiddle**.



Mike was busy working when he suddenly
felt off-color. I think he needs to rest a bit.

We drank a lot of alcohol last night and
looked **the worse for wear** this morning.



2

Key Idioms

HEALTH

1. back on one's feet

to recover after an illness or injury

2. fit as a fiddle

in excellent health or condition

3. feel off-color

to be slightly ill

4. the worse for wear

tired or in a bad state due to too much work
or been drinking too much alcohol



1

Example Sentences



She **lied like a rug** when she claimed that the company's sales had improved.

She decided to **bring down the curtain on** her teaching career and retired at fifty.



Paul was put **in the hot seat** for spending all his parent's money on video games.

Many people suspected that the contest winner had cheated by handing the judges something **under the table**.



2

Key Idioms

FURNITURE

1. lie like a rug

to tell lies shamelessly

2. bring down the curtain on

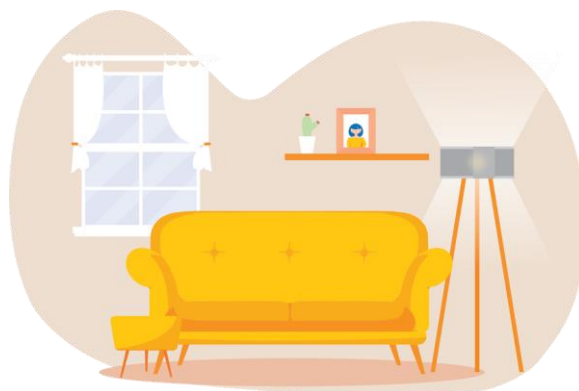
to bring an end to something

3. in the hot seat

in an awkward situation; in a position to make critical decisions

4. under the table

a secret, hidden action



1

Example Sentences



I want to have good connections with people.
So, I decided to join a sports club and **build bridges** there.

Sana and I just met for the first time today,
and we surprisingly **got on like a house on fire**.



My son successfully graduated from college.
He deserves **a pat on the back**.

Olivia is always ready to listen and help me
with my problems. She has always been
my **shoulder to cry on**.



2

Key Idioms

FRIENDS

1. **build a bridge**
to establish a good relationship
2. **get on like a house on fire**
to become good friends very quickly
3. **a pat on the back**
a show of praise or approval
4. **a shoulder to cry on**
a person who gives sympathy and support



1

Example Sentences



Mr. Bourne's kids are **bookworms**.
They collect and read all sorts of books.

My friend **went overboard**
in preparing our dinner.



He **puts his heart and soul**
into photography.

Guy **cooked up a storm** for his friends.



2

Key Idioms

HOBBY

1. bookworm

a person who reads a lot

2. go overboard

to do too much of something

3. put one's heart and soul into something

to make a lot of effort to do something

4. cook, dance, etc. up a storm

to do something with great energy and enthusiasm



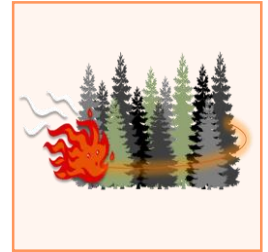
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Example Sentences



I had no idea that he lost the game.
I just found out **by word of mouth**.

She told us to keep it a secret, but we
were shocked that it **spread like wildfire**.



Mila is busy but she still **drops me a line**
and lets me know how she is doing.



My favorite radio station provides
hot-off-the-press news every hour.

2

Key Idioms

COMMUNICATION

1. by word of mouth

by being told by another person

2. spread like wildfire

to spread quickly

3. drop someone a line

write someone a letter or an email

4. hot-off-the-press

only just printed or only just received



1 Example Sentences



Stop **making a mountain out of a molehill**.
It's just a small wound.

I am **picking my friend's brain**
for ideas to use in my business plan.



Don't cry over spilled milk. You can try
re-applying for the promotion next year.

My teacher looks fierce but she is very kind.
You **shouldn't judge a book by its cover**.



2 Key Idioms

BEHAVIOR

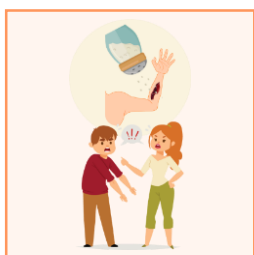
1. **make a mountain out of a molehill**
to treat a minor problem as if very serious
2. **pick someone's brain**
to talk to someone in order to get
helpful information or advice
3. **don't cry over spilled milk**
to be unhappy about what cannot be undone
4. **don't judge a book by its cover**
you should not decide upon something
based just on outward appearances



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Example Sentences

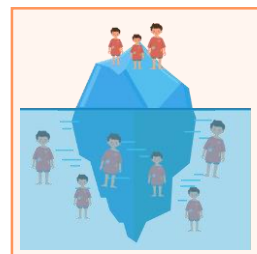
He doesn't agree with his friend's plan on going to the beach, but all he can do is **grin and bear it**.

They tried to solve the incident yesterday but it was **a tough nut to crack**.



John's girlfriend broke up with him right after he lost the basketball championship. She really **rubbed salt in his wounds**.

Those homeless kids that we visited yesterday in the slums were just **the tip of the iceberg**. There were still thousands of kids out there.

2
Key Idioms

DIFFICULT SITUATIONS

1. **grin and bear it**
accept a bad situation without complaining
2. **a tough nut to crack**
a problem or situation that's difficult to deal with
3. **rub salt in someone's wounds**
to make a bad situation feel worse
4. **the tip of the iceberg**
a small, visible part of the problem



1

Example Sentences



As she is a little **wet behind the ears**, she doesn't seem like a suitable fit for the job.

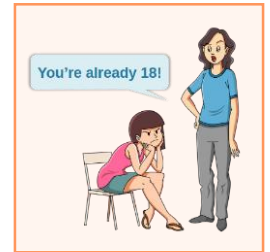
Belle believes that she is too **long in the tooth** to go mountain climbing.



Although I am still in my 2nd year at university, my schoolwork has been **putting years on me**.



Her mother scolds her for not knowing how to cook rice and tells her to **act her age**.



2

Key Idioms

AGE

1. **wet behind the ears**

young and inexperienced

2. **long in the tooth**

to be too old to do something

3. **put years on**

to cause one to look or feel older

4. **act one's age**

behave in a way appropriate to one's age

