

Vocabulary Building -4 (Idiomatic Expressions)

Let's move on with our ongoing journey of vocabulary building!

The next stop is

'Idiomatic Expressions'

⇒ *What is an idiom?*

'An idiom is a group of words with an implied meaning which is different from the meaning of individual words.'

An idiomatic language is always better equipped to communicate as it lends charm and expression to our routine language. However excessive use of idioms is not advisable as it makes the language showy and may give an impression that speaker wants to impress the listener.

Let's have fun with the following idioms:

Idiom	Meaning
A picture paints a thousand words	A visual presentation is far more descriptive than words.
A slap on the wrist	A very mild punishment.
A taste of your own medicine	When you are ill-treated the same way you ill-treat others.
All Greek to me	Meaningless and incomprehensible.
Knee jerk reaction	A quick and automatic response
Know the ropes	Know the details
Let sleeping dogs lie	To avoid restarting a conflict
Level playing field	A fair competition where no side has an advantage.
On the same page	When multiple people agree on the same thing
To pull the plug	To bring something to an end
Read between the lines	To pay attention to what is implied in writing and speech
Rule of thumb	A rough estimate
The best of both worlds	There are two choices and you have them both.
To carry the day	To be victorious
To steal someone's thunder	To win praise for oneself by doing what someone else was going to do.
Under the weather	Feeling ill
Use your loaf	Use your head. Think smart
Wear your heart on your sleeve	To openly and freely express your emotions.
No room to swing a cat	An unusually small or confined space.
Smell a rat	To detect someone in the group who is betraying others
To eat humble pie	To have to apologize
Keep your chin up	To remain joyful in a tough situation
Good Samaritans	Someone who helps others when they are in need with no thought of reward.
Finding your feet	To become more comfortable in whatever you are doing.
Break the ice	To remove hesitation at the first meeting
Beat a dead horse	To force an issue that has already ended.
Go the extra mile	To make extra efforts for the task in hand.
Icing on the cake	Something extra that is added to an already good situation.
It's a small world	You frequently see the same people at different places.
Have a figure in every pie	To be involved in a lot of different activities

Keep exploring more!