

Medically Speaking Idioms

Idioms and American Slang

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Cover Design : Sarah Bishins

Audio Recording: Jackson Whitt Productions, Inc.

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ISBN 978-0-9830258-0-1

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Published by
Successfully Speaking
Owings Mills, MD 21117
410-356-5666 FAX 410-356-5666

SAMPLE UNIT

A pre - and post -training multiple choice idioms quiz is included in this book.

Note: The italicized idioms are found in the dialogues or extra activities and are in addition to the idioms in the lesson. These idioms require discretion and may not always be appropriate.

Lesson 1

All ears
All thumbs
Apples and oranges
Back to square one
Barge in
Basketcase
Beat around the bush
Bite the bullet
Bite your tongue
I give up
What's up?
on pins and needles
think straight
nerve-racking
turn into
take it easy
task at hand
sounds good
break the bank
on duty
peevish
push your buttons
closed door meeting
on (someone's) mind
you've got me
the look on my face
stormed out of the room
blew her off
putting your foot in your mouth
popping in
one of these days
I'm lost
train of thought
get to the point
head is spinning
get the news
hiring freeze
a big blow
think up
it sounds like
brainstorming session
go ahead

Nine units of idioms and additional activities at the end of the book.

Unit quizzes for idioms are included in each lesson of this book.

Lesson 1

How well do you know these idioms? Check the answer before beginning this unit.

Know this idiom

Not sure

Don't know this idiom

All ears

All thumbs

(Comparing) Apples and oranges

Back to square one

Barge in

Basketcase

Beat around the bush

Bite the bullet

Bite your tongue

Lesson 1

1. All ears
Meaning: eager to listen
"You said you weren't feeling well. I'm all ears ."
2. All thumbs
Meaning: awkward and clumsy
"I tried to insert the needle. I was all thumbs ."
3. (Comparing) Apples and oranges
Meaning: comparing two completely different entities
"Now you're comparing apples and oranges ."
4. Back to square one
Meaning: return to the beginning, start all over
"That diagnosis wasn't correct, so it's back to square one ."
5. Barge in
Meaning: arrive or enter abruptly and unexpectedly, intrude
"I didn't mean to barge in on you."
6. Basketcase
Meaning: overwrought; distressed, unable to function properly
"When she heard the diagnosis, she was a basketcase ."
7. Beat around the bush
Meaning: to avoid answering a question, to be ambiguous or vague and withhold information or mislead the listener
"Don't beat around the bush . Tell me the test results."
8. Bite the bullet
Meaning: prepare for an unpleasant experience; brace yourself for something painful, but necessary
"It's your turn to present. Just bite the bullet ."
9. Bite your tongue
Meaning: struggle not to say something you want to say, hold your tongue
"I know you are angry but you better bite your tongue ."

Four dialogues are included in this unit.

SAMPLE UNIT

Lesson 1

Dialogue I

Track #1

- A: I give up !* I can't believe I just dropped this entire carton of new syringes!
- B: You really seem to be all thumbs today! What's up *?
- A: I'm on pins and needles * about my certification exams. I can't even think straight *.
- B: I know they're nerve-wracking *, but try not to turn into* a basketcase !
- A: Alright. I'll try to take it easy, * and focus on the task at hand* .
- B: That sounds good *. We can't afford to break the bank every time you're on duty!*

* I give up (I am so frustrated)

* What's up (What's happening?, What's the matter?, What's going on?)

* on pins and needles (nervous)

* think straight (focus, concentrate, think clearly)

* nerve-wracking (stressful)

* turn into (become)

* take it easy (relax, refrain from becoming upset)

* task at hand (current activity)

* sounds good (good idea)

* break the bank (spend a lot of money unnecessarily)

* on duty (scheduled to work)

SAMPLE UNIT

Lesson 1, Dialogue I

A: _____! I can't believe I just dropped this entire carton of new syringes!

B: You really seem to be _____ today!
_____?

A: I'm _____ about my certification exams. I can't even _____.

B: I know they're _____, but try not to _____ (a) _____!

A: Alright. I'll try to _____ and focus on the _____.

B: That (is a) _____. We can't afford to _____ every time you're _____!

This page is on the right side of the opened book, so the student can look to the left, see the dialogue and then insert the definitions.

SAMPLE UNIT

Quiz #1

Directions: Place the correct letter to match up the idiom with the definition on the right.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Bite your tongue____ | a. prepare for an unpleasant experience; brace yourself |
| 2. Basket case____ | b. arrive or enter unexpectedly |
| 3. Apples and oranges____ | c. eager to listen |
| 4. Beat around the bush____ | d. overwrought; distressed; upset |
| 5. All ears ____ | e. awkward and clumsy |
| 6. Bite the bullet____ | f. struggle not to say something you want to say |
| 7. All thumbs____ | g. comparing two completely different entities |
| 8. Barge in____ | h. avoid answering a question |
| 9. Back to square one____ | i. return to the beginning |

Select five of the idioms above and make up a sentence for each one:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

SAMPLE UNIT

Answers

- 1. f
- 2. d
- 3. g

- 4. h
- 5. c
- 6. a

- 7. e
- 8. b
- 9. i

Know this idiom

Not sure

Don't know this idiom

All ears

All thumbs

(Comparing) Apples and oranges

Back to square one

Barge in

Basketcase

Beat around the bush

Bite the bullet

Bite your tongue