

# Idioms

## Guided Discussion

**Say this:** There are a lot of phrases that people use that you can't figure out from the words in the phrase. These are called idioms.

**Give examples:** When someone says, "Keep an eye on your little brother." You don't really take your eye out, and place it on your little brother. This just means that you should watch your little brother.

Another example is when someone says, 'That's the last straw.' Does that mean that they were holding a bunch of straws, and now they only have one? No. This phrase doesn't have anything to do with straws. It means that somebody has just done the last thing out of a lot of things to make someone mad.

One more example is when someone says, "That came out of the blue." Does that mean that something came out of some blue paint, or something else colored blue? No. That means that something appeared seemingly out of nowhere. It was a surprise. It really has nothing to do with the color blue.

**Say this:** There are a lot of idioms that people use all the time. Sometimes the words in the idioms are clues about the meaning. Much of the time, though, they're not, and so you have to memorize them.

**Additionally** if desired, say: Idioms give your speech character. If you never used idioms you would sound like a robot. People like using and hearing idioms.

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## Quick Drill

## Guided Practice Ideas

Discuss specific sentences containing idioms. Have students repeat sentences and discuss what that sentence meant. Discuss as many sentences as student tolerates at near 100% accuracy.

### **Common examples:**

She ran into her mom (at the store).  
The boy couldn't go through with his plan (to sneak into class).  
The girl was out of place (at the boy scout camp).

### **Less common examples:**

The hungry boy ate like a horse (at the picnic).  
My mom got carried away (with my birthday presents).  
Our teacher wanted all our eyes on the board.

### **Advanced examples:**

Our teacher told us not to cut corners (on our reports).  
My father turned a deaf ear to my request (to go to the party).  
It goes without saying (that my little brother wants a cookie).