

Medically Speaking Idioms

Idioms and American Slang

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SAMPLE UNIT

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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-wracking

turn into

take it easy

task at hand

sounds good

break the bank

on duty

peevd

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
<i>All ears</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>All thumbs</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>(Comparing) Apples and oranges</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Back to square one</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Barge in</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Basketcase ▲</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Beat around the bush</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Bite the bullet</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Bite your tongue</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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.

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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 | 4. h | 7. e |
| 2. d | 5. c | 8. b |
| 3. g | 6. a | 9. i |

	Know this idiom	Not sure	Don't know this idiom
<i>All ears</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>All thumbs</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>(Comparing) Apples and oranges</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Back to square one</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Barge in</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Basketcase ▲</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Beat around the bush</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Bite the bullet</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Bite your tongue</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>