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## **SPECIFIC PECULARITIES OF AMERICAN ENGLISH IDIOMS**

**Rakhmonova Amira Ulfatovna,**

**Norboboyeva E'zoza Farhod qizi**

**Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages Samarkand, Uzbekistan**

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**Abstract.** Idioms are a set of words that have a different meaning than the words that make up the collection. Idioms abound in American English, as in any other language, especially in colloquial speech. Idioms enrich the language by creating images that convey meanings beyond the individual words they consist of. Idioms are related to culture, revealing information about the history, culture and attitude of users. This is due to the fact that most idioms have evolved over time under the influence of behavior, beliefs and other elements of other cultures. As culture develops, the words used to define it also change.

**Keywords:** Idioms, comparison, expression, idiom-a week, sorting, memory, category.

Many idioms refer to elements of the natural world, such as weather or animals. Since these terms are already part of the English lexicon, it is quite natural that they should appear in idiomatic expressions.

Idioms are common in most languages. Over time, native speakers learn a lot of idioms that they use without thinking about them. Since their meanings cannot be determined by their parts, idioms can be very difficult for non-native speakers to understand.[1]

Idioms can be flattering or demeaning. They are able to express a wide range of emotions, including joy, sadness, love, hate, heroism, cowardice and everything in between. Idioms can also be used to convey a sense of time, location, or scale. Idioms are used in a variety of situations. Idioms are difficult for non-native speakers to learn because of their complexity.

This complexity, on the other hand, is part of what makes idioms so fascinating to learn and understand; they are rarely boring. Learning idioms, especially those

used in the United States, is a great approach to learning not only the language, but also the people who speak it.

However, one caveat: students should only learn one idiom/expression at a time, as studies show that if they learn seven words in a row in fifteen minutes, they will forget everything later. It is preferable to do one thing correctly and repeatedly fix it until the student understands it and can use it if necessary. Working together with a native speaker teacher is ten times easier than working alone, so it is recommended that the student use this book with a native speaker teacher. However, some experienced students may find that they can use the book to their advantage on their own.

Since the list of idioms and expressions below is by no means exhaustive, and as the reader will see if he delves into the text enough, many idioms are only listed and only partially defined and explained. However, this is not a problem, because the method we use is a learning process, and not a large list of idioms, definitions and examples that need to be learned in the old-fashioned way.

This approach is more of a working tool than a completed result. Indeed, the best examples of words reflecting human circumstances will appear thanks to the interaction of the student and the teacher, who picks up and develops the concepts they are interested in. You will not need a book once you master the technique, as you do with many things.

In addition, the thoughts and views expressed above do not reflect a single point of view; rather, they are quoted randomly, because different types of people in the world speak differently - sometimes intelligently, sometimes arbitrarily, sometimes ignorantly, and sometimes wisely. So feel free to agree or disagree with anything said or done in any situation presented in this book. Please don't blame the current author for the way people talk or what they say. Language is nothing more than an elementary cultural convention. Who am I to blame me for the stupid and rude things that ordinary people say?

It is also worth noting that each packaged idiom can be turned into a lesson on its own, complete with a main topic, appropriate terminology and questions for definition, explanation and discussion. The better it is, the slower you progress and the more you communicate on one topic of interest to you at the same time. Teachers should keep in mind that simply reading sentences, phrases, or words out loud can help with pronunciation and rhythm. Since language learning also involves speaking, the better the results should be if the teacher speaks less, listens more and offers more.

At the very least, the text will provide a diverse range of options for teaching vocabulary and related, real-life conversation themes. Don't bother with an idiom you don't want to teach or that is inappropriate for your audience. Instead, do something you enjoy. Let's look through common examples of idioms in American English:

***Back against the wall***

Stuck in a difficult circumstance with no escape [2]

***Break fresh/ new ground***

Doing something that has never been done before [2]

***To get down to brass tacks*** means to take something seriously.[3]

***Get Over It:*** To get past an issue that is bothering you.

Someone who gets out of bed on the wrong side of the bed is having a bad day.[3]

***Go Down Like A Lead Balloon:*** To receive a negative response from an audience.

To go for broke means to risk everything you own.

Put yourself in a difficult situation in order to support someone or something.

Going above and beyond what is required for the task at hand is referred to as "going the extra mile."

***A good Samaritan*** is someone who assists people in need without asking for anything in return or expecting anything in return.

Working hours for the Graveyard Shift are around 12:00 am to 8:00 am.

It's the time of day when the majority of people are asleep.

Great Minds Think in Similar Ways: Intelligent people think in similar ways.

***Albatross around (one's) neck*** a burden or someone difficult to get rid of.

1. That car is extremely expensive to repair. It's slung around your neck like an albatross. Why don't you throw it out? 2. I hired my wife's brother to work in my company, but he's a complete waste of time. He is completely inactive. He's an albatross slung around my neck. Millstone around (one's) neck is a synonym. A big marine bird called an albatross. The phrase derives from Samuel T. Coleridge's poem "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner," in which a sailor shoots a helping albatross with a crossbow, bringing bad luck to the ship's crew. As a form of punishment, the other sailors tie the bird around the sailor's neck.[1.1]

***Apart from that, I'm joking.*** Taking things seriously

1. That was a funny joke, but we need to get back to work right away.
2. What you're saying sounds incredible. Aside from that, are you serious?

***All thumbs*** are clumsy and uncoordinated, especially with one's hands.

1. I tried to assemble this toy according to the instructions, but I'm a klutz. I can't seem to get the pieces to work together.
2. Today, Peter appears to be all thumbs. He is constantly dropping his tools.[1.2]

***Everything is wrong to the point of being obscene or unbelievable.***

1. He's dripping wet if he thinks I'll believe his lies.
  2. Ignore Maria's advice. She has no idea what she is talking about. She's drenched.
- Compare: not knowing jack about (something); out to lunch; for the birds; talking through one's hat.

***Go/come on the ride to be present for an activity without participating in it.***

1. Janet's brothers decided to go fishing in the mountains. Janet isn't a fisherwoman, but she joined in the fun.
  2. I don't need to go shopping, but if it's okay with you, I might join you for the ride.
- The statement implies that the individual's engagement in the activity is limited to the ride itself, and that the person does not participate in the activity for which the ride is intended.

***Apple of (one's) eye*** a person or object that is very valuable or beloved.

1. Richard adores his daughter and would go to great lengths to protect her. He's enamored with her.

2. The boy is misbehaving at school, but you are unable to persuade his parents. He's the apple of their collective gaze. This term has been around for centuries, and it comes from the traditional notion that the pupil of the eye was solid and formed like an apple. Because one couldn't see without it, the pupil was deemed valuable.[1.2]

### ***Armed to the teeth***

1. The cops will not go into the bank where the thief is hiding. He's loaded to the gills.

2. The invading soldiers were heavily armed. It was impossible for the defense to win.

From one's toes to one's teeth, the term implies possessing weapons (arms).[1.2]

***It's a done deal.*** “*We agree. Everything has been decided. We're ready to sign the contract.*”

*Examples:*

1. “*The bank has confirmed the loan agreement, so It's a done deal.*”

2. “*The court has approved the restructuring plan, so it's a done deal.*”

3. “*The Senior Partner has signed my promotion papers, so it's a done deal.*”[2.1]

### ***A breath of fresh air***

*An unexpected clever idea or insight; a stroke of genius;*

*a sudden inspiration.* “*I had the brainwave of installing a Bluetooth System in my car*

*radio, connected to the GPS, which would allow the car to run more-or-less on*

*autopilot. Tests begin tomorrow.*” “*Who was it who had the*

*brainwave to inflate big air balloons by burning nitrogen?*” “*Einstein was the genius*

*who had the brainwave that the speed of a moving particle in a relative relationship*

*to another moving particle could be measured.*” [2.6]

***At the drop of a hat*** on any pretense; without the necessity for an explanation or justification

1. Those workers look for any excuse to take a break. At the drop of a hat, they'll set down their tools.



2. Nancy is adamant about leaving her current position. She'll depart at the drop of a hat for another one.

***Pull up stakes*** to collect one's household belongings and leave one's house or property; to move to another place

1. *Life in the big cities of the east was often discouraging, so many families pulled up stakes and moved west to California.*

2. *There aren't many people left in this town. Almost everyone is pulling up stakes and moving someplace where they can find a job and make a better living.*

*This express originated during the 1700s with pioneers moving westward through the United States seeking land to settle on.*

*To claim a portion of land for themselves, the settlers would mark the boundaries of the land with stakes (wood). If they later decided to move and give up claim to the land, they would literally pull up the stakes marking the boundaries. It is often used to describe a sense of abandonment, of leaving one's land behind because one has fallen on hard times.*

***Ax to grind*** a secret motivation for wanting or disliking someone or something

1. Don't believe Claudia when she says that teacher is terrible. She's harbored a grudge against him since he let her down last year.

2. Why do you keep telling me not to go into that store and buy anything? Do you truly believe they sell inferior goods, or do you have a vendetta against them?[1.3]

***A drop in the ocean***

*Just a small amount compared to the size of the whole; only a little bit of the total quantity. "A million dollars is a drop in the ocean compared to the total amount needed to combat starvation and hunger in the Sudan." "The little bit he gives to charity is just a drop in the ocean compared to money he wastes on drink and women." "What the company spends on staff development is just a drop in the ocean compared to what it spends on developing the company image." [2.9]*



***Roll out the red carpet the red-carpet treatment*** is to treat someone with the utmost respect and hospitality.

1. The small town treated the businessmen like royalty in the hopes that they would decide it was a good place to build a factory.

2. When we come to visit, please don't go to any trouble for us. There's no need to spread out the crimson carpet. When renowned or important individuals arrive, a red carpet is usually prepared for them to walk on from their carriage or car to the building they will enter. When someone is given the red-carpet treatment, they are treated like a one-of-a-kind individual. [1.76]

***Hard act to follow*** a person or thing that is so good that the person or thing that follows may not measure up to the same standard

1. The last manager of this department was hardworking and well-liked by everyone. I doubt anyone else will be as good as she was—she will be a hard act to follow.

2. My job here is fun, stimulating, and the pay is good.

If I ever leave, it will be a hard act to follow. The expression probably originates from the time of vaudeville when a show consisted of several acts, each by different actors. It was hard to succeed if one's act followed another that was extremely popular, because the audience would compare the two and expect the second act to measure up to the high standard of the first [1.46].

English is considered an "idiomatic language" for a reason – it is literally overloaded with idioms, numerous proverbs, sayings and sayings. Without idioms, English will sound disgustingly simple, while correctly used idioms will decorate it and make it alive.

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