

Welcome to L1 Labo Anglais!



Please take
out your
name tags.

Week Five : Idioms

NAME:
.....

Warm Up



See how many of these English expressions you know!

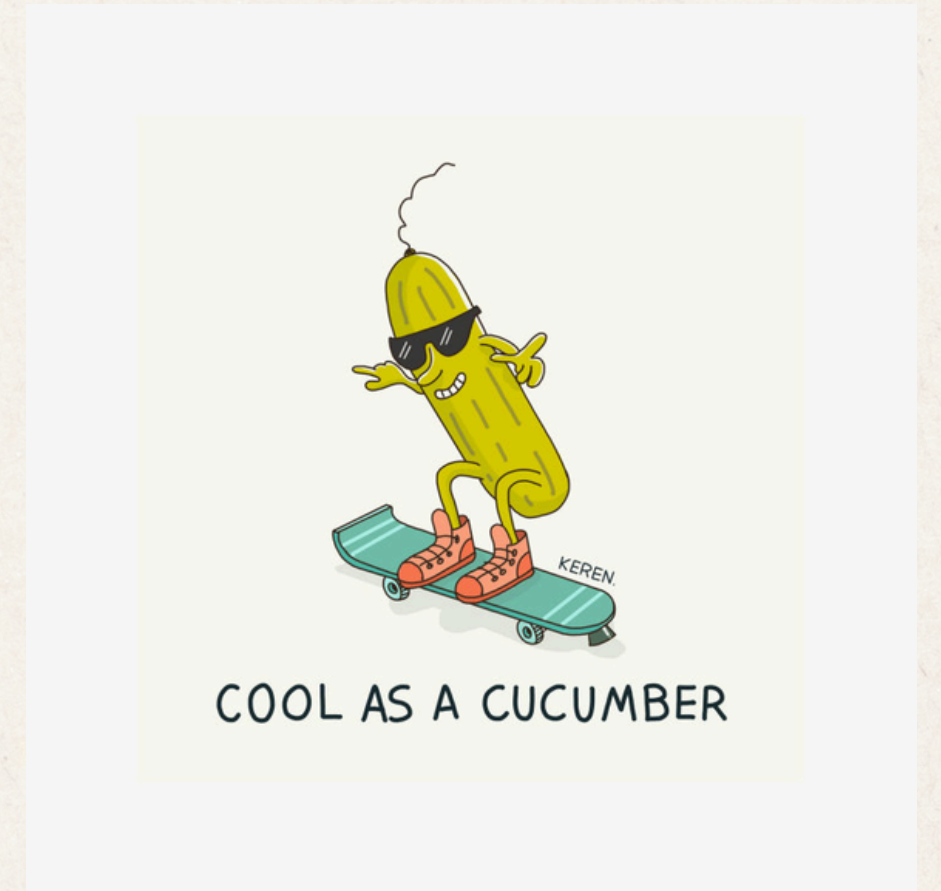
Think about it and be ready to share with the class.

What are idioms?

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- Examples of idioms:
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Why do you think we use idioms?

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- Examples of idioms used in sentences:
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What is an idiom?

An idiom is "an expression whose meaning cannot be predicted from the usual meanings of its constituent elements."

(Webster's Dictionary)

"An idiom can have a literal meaning, but its alternate, figurative meaning must be understood metaphorically."

(T.C. Cooper)

"A speech form or an expression of a given language that is peculiar to itself grammatically or cannot be understood from the individual meanings of its elements, as in keep tabs on."

(<http://www.dictionary.com/search?q=idiom>)

Quoted in: <http://nadabs.tripod.com/idioms/>



Guess the Idiom

French	Literal Translation	English Idiom / Concept
<i>Quand on parle du loup, on en voit la queue</i>	When you talk about the wolf, you see its tail.	"Speak of the devil." This is used when you are talking about someone and then they appear.
<i>comme un éléphant dans un magasin de porcelaine</i>	like an elephant in a china shop	"like a bull in a china shop" someone who is very clumsy or awkward and makes a mess without meaning to
<i>C'est le serpent qui se mord la queue.</i>	It's the snake that bites its own tail.	"It's a vicious cycle." a series of problems that causes its own continuation
<i>Quelle mouche t'a piqué?</i>	What fly bit you?	What's gotten into you? What's wrong with
<i>appeler un chat un chat</i>	to call a cat a cat	"to call a spade a spade" to say exactly what one means
<i>avoir un chat dans la gorge</i>	to have a cat in the throat	"to have a frog in your throat" to have throat congestion or cough
<i>Quand le chat n'est pas là, les souris dansent.</i>	When the cat isn't here, the mice dance.	"When the cat's away, the mice will play." Lacking supervision, some will take advantage of the situation.
<i>donner sa langue au chat</i>	to give one's tongue to the cat	"to be out of ideas" to stop guessing when you have no ideas left

Guess the Idiom

<i>couper la poire en deux</i>	to cut the pear in two	"to split the difference" to meet halfway, to compromise
<i>tomber dans les pommes</i>	to fall in the apples	to faint, to pass out
<i>avoir la banane</i> (casual)	to have the banana	to be in a good mood, to have a big smile

<i>C'est la cerise sur le gâteau.</i>	It's the cherry on the cake.	"It's the cherry on top."; "It's the icing on the cake." It's the final detail to finish something satisfactorily.
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<i>être mi-figue mi-raisin</i>	to be half fig, half grape	"to have its pros and cons" to be both good and bad; to be contradictory in some way
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<i>C'est du pain bénit.</i>	It's some blessed bread.	"It's a godsend." It's lucky and happening at the opportune moment.
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<i>long comme un jour sans pain</i>	long as a day without bread	"as long as a month of Sundays" seemingly unending
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<i>en faire tout un fromage</i>	to make a whole cheese of it	"to make a mountain out of a molehill" to create a larger problem out of a small one;
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Common idioms

it is what it is

a. to achieve two things at the same time

to spill the tea

b. to change in a positive way, often in appearance or confidence

to break the ice

c. to start to deal with an unpleasant or difficult situation

to kill two birds with one stone

d. to tell a secret or share gossip

to glow up

e. a big problem that people avoid talking about

from the horse's mouth

f. said to wish someone good luck, especially before a

to bite the bullet

performance

to break a leg

g. to start a conversation and make people feel more comfortable

an elephant in the room

h. something that can't be changed, so you just accept it

Scenario



Sarah is at her desk, revising for an exam. Her dad comes to her bedroom door.

Sarah's dad: I see you're burning the midnight oil again.

Sarah: Er, Dad, it's 10.30, not midnight. And anyway, I'm not burning anything in my room – that would be dangerous.

Sarah's dad: [laughs] No! It's just an expression. 'Burning the midnight oil' means you're working late at night.

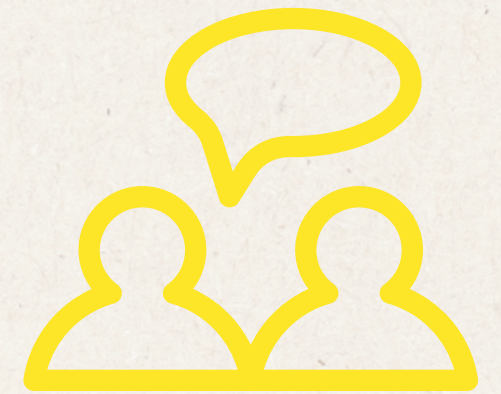
Sarah: I've never heard of it! Another one of your old-fashioned expressions!

Sarah's dad: Haha, I suppose you think we had oil lamps when I was a teenager!

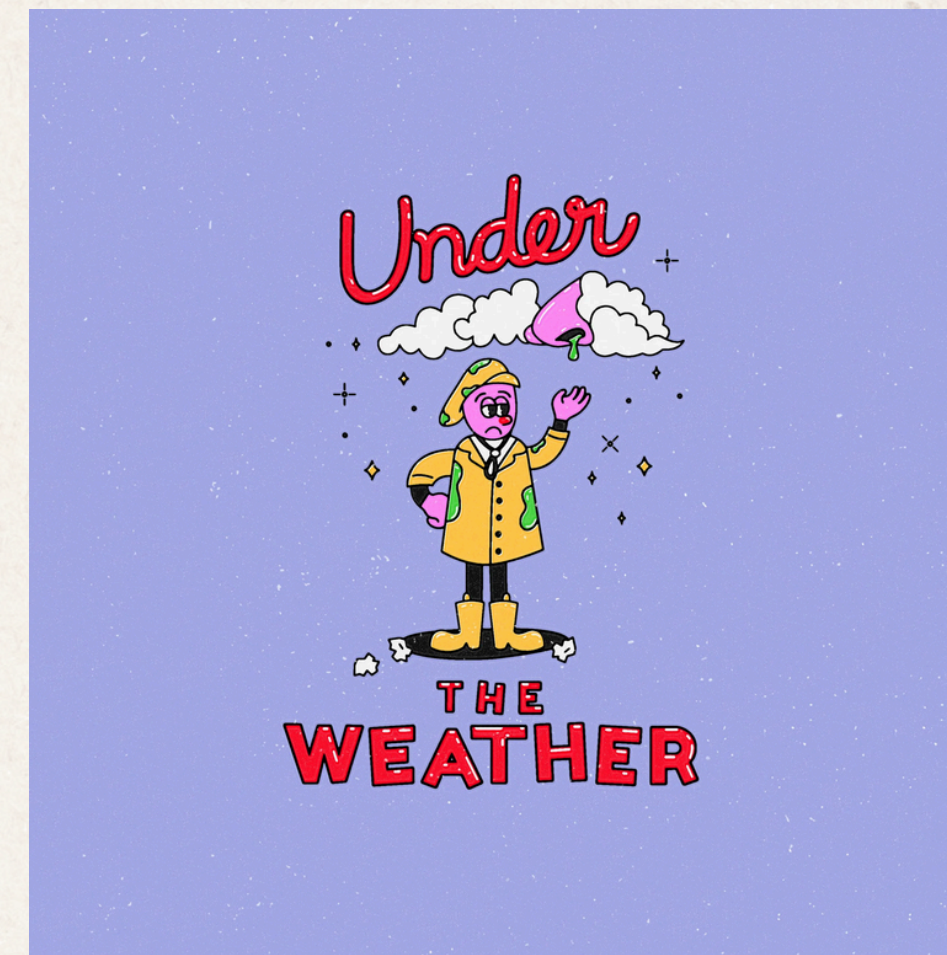
Sarah: I know that even you aren't that old, dad! Now, you'd better leave me to it... I'll have to burn a lot of oil before I'm ready for the exam tomorrow.

Create Your Own Scenario!

Draft a short dialogue with your partner using one of the idioms you've learned today!



- Choose an idiom.
- Invent a situation for your idiom.
- Decide who the characters are and invent the dialogue.
 - A says the idiom.
 - B doesn't understand the idiom – they just understand the individual words.
 - A (or C) explains the meaning of the idiom.



See you next week !

