

What are Idioms?

Worksheet

An idiom is a group of words whose meaning is not the sum of its parts — 'raining cats and dogs' (heavy rain), 'break a leg' (good luck), 'piece of cake' (easy). Idioms are figurative, not literal.

Questions

1. What is 'piece of cake'?
 - A) actual dessert
 - B) something very easy
 - C) something sweet
 - D) bakery item
2. If someone says 'hit the books', they mean...
 - A) throw books
 - B) study hard
 - C) read slowly
 - D) organize books
3. Which is NOT an idiom?
 - A) raining cats and dogs
 - B) breaking an egg
 - C) burning the midnight oil
 - D) piece of cake
4. What does 'under the weather' mean?
 - A) outside in rain
 - B) feeling sick
 - C) happy and healthy
 - D) standing below
5. Interpret the idiom: 'She is burning the midnight oil.'
6. What does 'piece of cake' mean?
7. Explain: 'He is an early bird.'
8. Define: Idiom: 'Raining cats and dogs'
9. Define: Idiom: 'Break a leg'
10. Define: Idiom: 'Piece of cake'

Answer Key

1. B) something very easy — 'Piece of cake' is an idiom meaning something very easy. It's not about real cake.
2. B) study hard — 'Hit the books' is a figurative expression meaning to study intensively.
3. B) breaking an egg — 'Breaking an egg' is a literal action. The others are idioms with figurative meanings.
4. B) feeling sick — 'Under the weather' is an idiom for feeling ill or unwell.
5. Literal: burning oil at midnight — doesn't happen. Idiom meaning: She is working very hard, late into the night. Context: 'Despite the deadline, she is burning the midnight oil to finish the project.'
6. Literal: a slice of cake — actual food. Idiom meaning: something very easy to do. Example: 'The math test was a piece of cake — I finished in 20 minutes.'
7. Literal: he is a bird that wakes early — nonsense. Idiom meaning: he is a person who wakes up and starts work early. Example: 'My father is an early bird; he's always up at 5 AM.'
8. Meaning: It is raining very heavily. Example: 'We can't go outside; it's raining cats and dogs.'
9. Meaning: Good luck (especially before a performance). Example: 'Before the play, I said, Break a leg!'
10. Meaning: Something very easy. Example: 'Learning English grammar is a piece of cake once you understand the rules.'

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