

Popular English Idioms

idiom= a phrase in which the symbolic meaning of the words come to teach a lesson or make a point

Matching

Match the different sentence halves to form English idioms.

1. Where there's a will	a. Be choosers
2. Don't look a gift horse	b. Before they hatch
3. If it ain't broke,	c. Spoil the broth
4. Beggars can't	d. There's a way
5. Too many cooks	e. Are better than one
6. There's no such thing	f. As a free lunch
7. People who live in glass houses	g. In the mouth
8. Two wrongs	h. In one basket
9. The squeaky wheel	i. Shouldn't throw stones
10. Don't put all your eggs	j. Gets the grease
11. Two heads	k. Don't fix it
12. Don't count your chickens	l. Don't make a right

Meaning

Match the idiom to its definition- write the idiom in the space under its meaning.

Getting revenge will only make things worse.

Don't criticise people if you have imperfections too.

If something is working well, why change it?

If you're desperate you're not in a position to be picky.

If you complain about a situation you're more likely to get better service.

Have a backup plan. Don't risk all of your money and time on one plan.

If there are too many people involved in making a decision, it won't turn out well.

If someone gives you a present, don't question it.

Two people will probably solve a problem faster than one.

Don't assume something will work out and start celebrating or planning the next step too early.

If something is free, there's normally a catch or hidden cost.

If you really want something, you'll find a way to achieve it.

Processing

Answer the questions below.

1. Which idioms are the same in your language?
2. In which ones is the meaning obvious?
3. Which ones will you remember?
4. Which ones will you forget?
5. Which one is your favourite?
6. What image do you associate with each idiom?

Scenarios

Which idiom fits the scenario?

1. Just because he cheated on you doesn't mean you should cheat on him.
2. The Christmas play is going to be awful because there are 5 different directors!
3. I gave him my old bike for free and now he's complaining about the tyres.
4. I know they said we only have to call this number to win a free vacation but I smell a rat.
5. I'll ask Julia what she thinks; we'll work on it together.

6. He's saving up money now because he really wants to go on vacation next summer.
7. Is your soup cold too? We should say something.
8. You can talk Martin! You drink just as much as Tony does!
9. I just think we should have something else up our sleeve if they don't like the first idea.
10. Hold your horses, we haven't won the competition yet so stop planning how you're going to spend the prize money.
11. It's the only room you can afford, so it's take it or leave it I'm afraid.
12. The new online banking system is working really well but I hear they're thinking of changing it again.

Personalise

Choose 3 idioms and try to relate them to a time in your life. Write three sentences.