

Advanced Idioms Workbook

Part 1: Definitions Matching

Instructions: Match the advanced idioms from the box with their correct definitions below. Write the letter (A-F) in the brackets.

A) To play devil's advocate • B) To read between the lines • C) To push the envelope
D) To steal someone's thunder • E) To hit the nail on the head • F) To leave no stone unturned

1. [] To express or figure out the exact truth or the precise cause of a problem or situation.
2. [] To look for clues, meaning, or hidden intentions that are not explicitly stated in a conversation or text.
3. [] To do everything possible, exploring every potential option or solution, in order to achieve a result.
4. [] To argue against an idea or expand on a counter-argument purely for the sake of thorough debate or to test its validity.
5. [] To take attention or praise away from someone else, often by anticipating their actions or revealing their good news first.
6. [] To innovate, go beyond established boundaries, or challenge current limits to achieve something new and radical.

Part 2: Idioms in Context

Instructions: Complete the sentences using the correct idiom from the box. Change the verb tense if necessary.

A) To play devil's advocate • B) To read between the lines • C) To push the envelope
D) To steal someone's thunder • E) To hit the nail on the head • F) To leave no stone unturned

1. I don't want to _____, but I actually came up with that marketing concept three weeks before Sarah presented it to the board.
2. Our legal team will _____ in order to find the evidence we need to win this corporate lawsuit.
3. She didn't explicitly say she was unhappy with the merger, but if you _____, it's clear she's looking for a new job.
4. When you said that the main bottleneck in our production line is the outdated software, you absolutely _____.

5. I agree with your proposal overall, but let me _____ for a moment: what happens if our primary supplier goes bankrupt?

6. This new AI startup is really trying to _____ when it comes to automated data analysis and predictive models.

Part 3: Real-World Situations & Role-Play

*Instructions: Read the real-world scenarios below. In pairs or small groups, discuss how you would react or respond. You **must** naturally incorporate the specified idiom into your response or solution.*

- **Scenario A: The Perfect Diagnosis**

You are in a high-stakes board meeting. Everyone is arguing about why sales dropped by 30% this quarter. Finally, a colleague points out that a tiny change in the website checkout flow confused customers. You agree 100% with this analysis.

*Task: Formulate your agreement using: **To hit the nail on the head***

- **Scenario B: The Office Meeting Strategy**

Your team is unanimously agreeing on a new business plan. You actually think it's a good plan too, but you want to make sure the team considers potential risks (like a competitor undercutting your price) before committing all your budget.

*Task: Introduce your counter-arguments using: **To play devil's advocate***

- **Scenario C: Reading the Signs**

Your boss just sent a very vague, short email saying: 'We need to talk about the project's direction tomorrow. Changes are coming.' He doesn't say if the changes are good or bad, but you know the department budget was just cut.

*Task: Tell a coworker how you interpret the email using: **To read between the lines***

- **Scenario D: The Stolen Idea**

You spent all weekend preparing a pitch for a new creative campaign. Five minutes before the meeting starts, your teammate casually tells the director your exact headline idea as if they just thought of it.

*Task: Explain your frustration to a friend later using: **To steal someone's thunder***

- **Scenario E: The High-Stakes Investigation**

A major cyber-attack has compromised customer data at your firm. The CEO demands a complete investigation to figure out exactly how the hackers got in, stating that budget is not an issue.

*Task: Write or say the CEO's directive using: **To leave no stone unturned***

- **Scenario F: The Disruptive Product**

Your R&D; team is designing a new smartphone. Instead of making it slightly faster, you want to introduce a completely transparent holographic screen that breaks all current market standards.

*Task: Pitch this radical idea to investors using: **To push the envelope***