

Idioms

Idioms are phrases that mean something different to their literal meaning.
Decide whether the phrases below are idioms or not. Answer questions 1 to 8.

1. It was a piece of cake.
☐ not an idiom
☐ an idiom
2. Anything can happen if you let it.
☐ not an idiom
☐ an idiom
3. They're a dime a dozen.
☐ not an idiom
☐ an idiom
4. We'd better call it a day.
☐ not an idiom
☐ an idiom
5. We're going to get on with it.
☐ not an idiom
☐ an idiom
6. It's time to hit the hay.
☐ not an idiom
☐ an idiom
7. There is no smoke without fire.
☐ not an idiom
☐ an idiom
8. Maybe you should go back to the drawing board.
☐ not an idiom
☐ an idiom

Fill in the Blanks. Choose the correct word for each sentence to complete the idioms from questions 9 to 14.

9. If you do something properly, you don't cut _____ .
- ☐ lines
 - ☐ corners
 - ☐ edges
 - ☐ objects
10. When my sister did a show, we told her to break a _____ .
- ☐ foot
 - ☐ arm
 - ☐ leg
 - ☐ finger
11. This is too crazy, it's getting out of _____ .
- ☐ control
 - ☐ foot
 - ☐ arm
 - ☐ hand
12. My teacher really let me off the _____ there, I thought I'd be in trouble!
- ☐ hook
 - ☐ clip
 - ☐ lead
 - ☐ rope
13. Why don't you get it? It's not rocket _____ .
- ☐ mathematics
 - ☐ science
 - ☐ launching
 - ☐ engineering
14. I'm feeling a bit under the _____, so I should go to the doctor.
- ☐ weather
 - ☐ blanket
 - ☐ bridge
 - ☐ chair

It's Your Call. For each of these examples can you think of an idiom that means the same thing? Choose the correct idiom for questions 15 to 19.

15. Time goes fast when you're doing something you enjoy.

- ☐ life goes slow
- ☐ life passes by in a blink of an eye
- ☐ time flies
- ☐ life's an impossible dream

16. Try to understand something complicated.

- ☐ wrap your head around it
- ☐ figure it out
- ☐ plan ahead
- ☐ think about it

17. This is the very last thing I can handle.

- ☐ last on your list
- ☐ the last straw
- ☐ leave it out
- ☐ end of the road

18. Calm down when you're feeling upset.

- ☐ pulling away
- ☐ pull yourself together
- ☐ don't panic
- ☐ take deep breaths

19. Trying to avoid saying what you mean.

- ☐ not an idiom
- ☐ talking a lot
- ☐ beat around the bush
- ☐ sitting quietly