

Idioms related to... Books & Reading

Exercise 1: Read the example sentences below, and try to guess the meaning of the phrases.

a bookworm

*You can always find Jane in the library.
She's a total bookworm.*

hit the books

Dave: *Have you started studying for the exams yet?*
Seth: *No, I'm gonna hit the books this weekend.*

book-smart

Juliana is really book-smart, but she's not street-smart at all. I think she needs to travel more.

don't judge a book by its cover

Maria: *Look at the panda bear. He's so cute.*
David: *Don't judge a book by its cover. Given half a chance, a panda would attack you, kill you, and eat you for breakfast.*

read between the lines

She says she doesn't fancy him, but reading between the lines, I think she definitely has a thing for him.

be on the same page

I don't think it's going to work out with Geoff. He wants to travel the world, and I want to settle down and have kids. We're just not on the same page.

have your nose in a book

Mary: *What's Jake doing?*
Greg: *Oh he probably has his nose in a book as usual.*

the oldest trick in the book

Dan: *A stranger offered to take a photo of us, and then he ran away with my camera.*
Sue: *Oh Dan! That's the oldest trick in the book.*

Exercise 2: Match the phrases above to the correct definition below.

- _____ = with knowledge coming from reading/studying, rather than experience.
- _____ = know sth, although it's not explicitly stated/in contrast to what is stated.
- _____ = agree with, or think in the same way as another person.
- _____ = someone who loves reading.
- _____ = a trick which is so predictable that you would be a fool to be deceived by it.
- _____ = don't form an opinion of sb/sth based on appearance/the first impression.
- _____ = start studying eagerly, especially for an exam.
- _____ = be absorbed in a book you are reading or be studying intently.

Exercise 3:

Let's practise!

Work with your partner and write three or four mini-dialogues using some of the expressions you have learnt. See the example below:

A: Did Franco go to the party on Saturday?
B: No. He's not really a fan of parties. He prefers to stay in with his nose in a good book.

