

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.

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

