

English Idioms: Business

Introduction

This worksheet introduces idioms that are related to business.

In the Lesson

Provide each student with a copy of the worksheet.

In exercise 1, Students work all together or with a partner to match each phrase to the correct definition.

For exercise 2, students choose five idioms from exercise 1 and write sentences for them.

Exercise 1 answer key

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. j | 14. g |
| 2. f | 15. d |
| 3. n | 16. z |
| 4. s | 17. o |
| 5. v | 18. m |
| 6. b | 19. h |
| 7. y | 20. q |
| 8. c | 21. x |
| 9. k | 22. u |
| 10. e | 23. t |
| 11. a | 24. r |
| 12. w | 25. p |
| 13. i | 26. l |

Exercise 2 - student answers

Focus	Aim	Level	Time
English Idioms	To learn some English idioms	B1/B2	30 minutes

ENGLISH IDIOMS: BUSINESS

Do you know the meanings of these phrases?



1 Match the idiom with the correct definition.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Back to square one | ___ a. A deal that benefits both sides. |
| 2. Think outside the box | ___ b. Start something with energy and enthusiasm. |
| 3. Bite the bullet | ___ c. Do something in a cheaper/easier way, sacrificing quality. |
| 4. Learn the ropes | ___ d. Set higher standards. |
| 5. Go the extra mile | ___ e. Start a project or initiative. |
| 6. Hit the ground running | ___ f. Be creative in problem-solving. |
| 7. Read between the lines | ___ g. Start over after a failed attempt. |
| 8. Cut corners | ___ h. Excessive bureaucracy or rules. |
| 9. A long shot | ___ i. Work late into the night. |
| 10. Get the ball rolling | ___ j. Start over from the beginning. |
| 11. A win-win situation | ___ k. Something unlikely to succeed but worth trying. |
| 12. The bottom line | ___ l. Losing money or unprofitable. |
| 13. Burn the midnight oil | ___ m. A business or product that generates a lot of money. |
| 14. Go back to the drawing board | ___ n. Decide to do something difficult or unpleasant. |
| 15. Raise the bar | ___ o. A difficult or unfortunate situation. |
| 16. Put your foot in your mouth | ___ p. Profitable or making money. |
| 17. A tough break | ___ q. Be aggressive or tough in negotiations. |
| 18. A cash cow | ___ r. Secret or illegal transactions. |
| 19. Red tape | ___ s. Understand how things work in a company or industry. |
| 20. Play hardball | ___ t. Progress in your career. |
| 21. Take the bull by the horns | ___ u. A big issue people avoid talking about. |
| 22. The elephant in the room | ___ v. Put in more effort than expected. |
| 23. Climb the corporate ladder | ___ w. The most important point or final financial outcome. |
| 24. Under the table | ___ x. Confront a problem directly. |
| 25. In the black | ___ y. Understand a hidden meaning. |
| 26. In the red | ___ z. Say something embarrassing or inappropriate. |

2 Write five sentences using five of the above idioms.

e.g. *Let's go the extra mile to finish this project.*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____