

Diagnostic Exercise on Idioms: Part 2

The purpose of this exercise is simply for you and us to find out which of the following idioms you know the meaning of already.

Circle the answer that best explains the meaning of the idiom.

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|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. <u>to ring a bell</u> | 6. <u>to get the upper hand</u> |
| a.) to take a break | a.) to be responsible |
| b.) to be believable | b.) to gain more power |
| c.) to sound familiar | c.) to get a lot of help |
| d.) to seem dangerous | d.) to become overworked |
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| 2. <u>run of the mill</u> | 7. <u>a drop in the bucket</u> |
| a.) ordinary | a.) a failed attempt |
| b.) unique | b.) a risky activity |
| c.) complicated | c.) a valuable contribution |
| d.) exciting | d.) an insignificant amount |
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| 3. <u>hand in hand</u> | 8. <u>to be on the same page</u> |
| a.) on friendly terms | a.) to experience a similar problem |
| b.) occurring together | b.) to understand someone's ideas |
| c.) working very quickly | c.) to be close to someone |
| d.) without effort | d.) to be where the action is |
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| 4. <u>to touch on something</u> | 9. <u>to fall by the wayside</u> |
| a.) to avoid talking about | a.) to have a disagreement |
| b.) to talk about briefly | b.) to have an emotional crisis |
| c.) to finish discussing | c.) to be likely to fail |
| d.) to give a long explanation | d.) to be forgotten or not continued |
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| 5. <u>to cut someone off</u> | 10. <u>goes to show</u> |
| a.) to criticize them | a.) prove a point |
| b.) to have an argument with them | b.) make an appearance |
| c.) to interrupt them | c.) make a joke |
| d.) to forget about them | d.) cause trouble |

11. to take a stab at
- a.) to try to do
 - b.) to criticize
 - c.) to fail at
 - d.) to betray
12. on target
- a.) fixed as an absolute
 - b.) completely accurate
 - c.) not moving
 - d.) busy at work
13. shift gears
- a.) wait for a few minutes
 - b.) end the discussion
 - c.) move to a different topic
 - d.) start an argument
14. to tune someone out
- a.) ignore them
 - b.) go somewhere with them
 - c.) praise them
 - d.) misunderstand them
15. keep tabs on
- a.) agree with something
 - b.) continue at the same pace
 - c.) observe or record carefully
 - d.) keep a secret
16. odds and ends
- a.) the final events
 - b.) strange events
 - c.) harsh words
 - d.) various small items
17. garden variety
- a.) new and exciting
 - b.) common type
 - c.) forbidden or illegal
 - d.) colorful
18. take the plunge
- a.) commit to something important
 - b.) make a large profit
 - c.) set unrealistic goals
 - d.) appear out of nowhere
19. off the wall
- a.) a waste of time
 - b.) dangerous or risky
 - c.) odd or unexpected
 - d.) very important
20. take someone to task
- a.) scold or criticize them harshly
 - b.) talk to them privately
 - c.) buy them lunch
 - d.) encourage them to succeed

Task A: Idioms in Context

Now, read the following excerpts from MICASE, and see if you can figure out the meaning from context.

1. the instructor- it was a G-S-I, I, don't remember her name. she was, Romanian I don't know if that really rings a bell.
2. the reason why we like really good, premium ice creams, is because they have high fat content, that's the main thing that separates a premium ice cream from your run of the mill ice cream.
3. at the same time, hand in hand with good management and knowing how to sustain these populations over a long time period, was an understanding of their biology and ecology, so a lot of studies in wildlife ecology were going on at the same time.
4. anything else about The American that we wanna touch on? well let me shift gears for a few minutes then to prep you for what we'll do next week.
5. oh, sorry I cut you off.
6. the bourgeoisie wherever it has got the upper hand, has put an end to all feudal patriarchal and idyllic relations.
7. in the case of something with long generations like us it could be, you know within maybe even a hundred thousand years. which is a drop in the bucket when we think about, when we think about big time. which is a different way of thinking about time.
8. people seem to be lost and so we're trying to make this all a more effective, so everyone's kind of on the same page. and, like anything it's a learning process...
9. although sturgeon is a game fish they're just not common enough to worry about and they never would be, so they would kind of fall by the wayside...
10. there's been loads of literature on all kinds of animals all the way up through primates, and we know that this is a deficit that's consistently a problem in older animals. so, it goes to show that it's probably gonna be a problem in older human beings
11. there were some definitions in the reading anyone, wanna take a stab at it? mhm?
12. estimator three has the lowest overall variability, even though it might not be on target.
13. (see 4.)

14. my boss talks to himself all the time and I've learned to tune him out when he's doing that so I don't even hear what he says.
15. how about the roles of the other people in the group? 'cuz you've been kind of the minder in a way keeping tabs on things and keeping things going.
16. I've got a few pieces of business and odds and ends I have to deal with and I want to say a little bit about how things are going with the projects so I'd like to reconvene if we could at half past nine.
17. next slide shows we do, in addition, we do have your sort of garden variety of clear cutting, so there is some extensive forest cutting going on, although the present time, that's sort of stagnated because of...
18. for the time of the post-doc, you know, others will expect you to function something like an assistant professor. so again it just depends on the institution but it's a wonderful opportunity for you to move to that next step before you take the plunge of getting on a tenure-track line.
19. wow, that's an interesting question um, you know, I mean the first thing that comes to my mind is this may be a little off the wall but the first thing that comes to mind is this has done a lot for me as a musician but I haven't had the time to actually be a musician, so I'm looking forward to how this will transpire in my practice and in my playing. this, really doesn't have much to do with, the academic part but the musician was sort of on hold for a year...
20. the poem basically carries that, you know that old-fashioned, reactionary idea that the primary purpose for women in life is to bear children and that's what this poem is all about. Diane Di Prima, another San Francisco poet, took him to task on the subject, and you'll find her poem on page three sixty-one. (...) so it's good to know that she was she was ready to take him to task, on that subject. that'd be kind of an interesting thing for you to study if you're talking about gender, relations and gender ideas in the Beat Generation would be to contrast, that poem by Gary Snyder with that poem, uh, by Diane Di Prima.
21. that fifty-fifty means in terms of the money, spent. half the money is spent on treatment, half the money is spent on law enforcement. maybe the half that's spent on treatment goes a lot farther. you get more bang for your buck in that fifty than you get in the other fifty.

Task B: Guessing the Idiom from Context

What idiom from the above list goes in the blanks? (One idiom for each set; read all example sentences in the set before deciding on your answer.)

1. _____

a.	at the same time, _____ with good management and knowing how to
b.	these things all go _____ because if we're gonna fulfill our promise,
c.	not a very good example, just it seems like they go _____
d.	you see this (what) normally looking two kids walking _____, down a mall and you don't realize that...
e.	national pride and notions of economic expansion go _____.
f.	yeah it seems like the two go _____,
g.	again uh, games and politics go _____,
h.	...were two arguments that went _____ and kind of worked with each other

2. _____

a.	i'm gonna really briefly _____ some evolutionary thinking before Darwin,
b.	i won't answer it fully but i'll at least, _____ that issue,
c.	okay did we, _____ the main points?
d.	one of the things that you could _____ that you didn't _____ in in either of these cases...
e.	the book doesn't really _____ it all that much

3. _____

a.	evidently and she got entranced with sorta the heaviness of the Indiana limestone so the bottom part of one of her series is sorta clunky, which i would never think after looking at this. all _____ you, a mistake often made by people like me is that you judge all of the artist's work by one piece but you gotta go back and look at it all
b.	there was several students walking around with yarmulkes on and she asked me what fraternity wears those hats? and i'm like, you know, don't you watch T-V even? like, well it just _____ like how blind, people are.
c.	then started beating up on Jonas Beltrao, while people did nothing. he was left semi-conscious with a cranial fracture and perforated eardrum. after that incident, they both, continued to, suffer police harassment. so this just _____ that, first of all the, street children were being harassed by the policemen, and then the policemen were beating up the defenders who were trying to protect the children...

4. _____

a.	but you know i was trying to concentrate on what he was saying and i was consciously trying to _____ the mechanically produced sounds around me.
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Exercise on Idioms: Week 2

The purpose of this exercise is simply for you and us to find out which of the following idioms you know the meaning of already.

Circle the answer that best explains the metaphorical meaning of the idiom.

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|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. <u>no mean feat</u> | 6. <u>touch base</u> |
| e.) an easy task | e.) obtain a result |
| f.) an important task | f.) score a goal |
| g.) a difficult task | g.) make contact |
| h.) a minor task | h.) understand the foundation |
|
 | |
| 2. <u>to wind up (with)</u> | 7. <u>tease out</u> |
| e.) to begin an experiment | e.) to cancel or erase |
| f.) to mix together | f.) obtain or extract with effort |
| g.) to start up a clock | g.) make fun of someone |
| h.) to get a final result | h.) understand something completely |
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| 3. <u>doesn't cut it</u> | 8. <u>go off on a tangent</u> |
| e.) not meaningful | e.) talk about an unrelated topic |
| f.) not good enough | f.) have a mathematical discussion |
| g.) not clear | g.) start an argument |
| h.) not very exciting | h.) to leave the room suddenly |
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| 4. <u>one fell swoop</u> | 9. <u>to wrap up</u> |
| e.) all at once | e.) to make worthwhile |
| f.) a disastrous event | f.) to give a gift or present |
| g.) a frequent result | g.) to bring to a conclusion |
| h.) one by one | h.) to do a job well |
|
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| 5. <u>put a spin on it</u> | 10. <u>rears its ugly head</u> |
| e.) to make it less complex | e.) to be mistaken |
| f.) to present a certain interpretation | f.) to become unattractive |
| g.) to disprove a hypothesis | g.) to be afraid |
| h.) to accept a contradiction | h.) to appear |

11. cut to the chase
- a.) perform well
 - b.) get to the point quickly
 - c.) get out of a bad situation
 - d.) remove something
12. pick on someone
- a.) to get ideas from someone
 - b.) to be helpful to someone
 - c.) to tease someone
 - d.) to praise someone
13. out of whack
- a.) not working properly
 - b.) free of problems
 - c.) having bad luck
 - d.) in a bad mood
14. fall into place
- a.) feel satisfied
 - b.) be confusing
 - c.) be relaxed
 - d.) become clear
15. fall back on
- a.) experience a setback
 - b.) rely on
 - c.) feel regret
 - d.) disappoint
16. flesh out
- a.) to forget something
 - b.) to try to convince someone
 - c.) to provide details
 - d.) to repeat yourself
17. come into play
- a.) become relevant
 - b.) behave badly
 - c.) have a good time
 - d.) calm down
18. train of thought
- a.) travel plans
 - b.) connected ideas
 - c.) new topic
 - d.) a satisfactory answer
19. tongue in cheek
- a.) meant as a joke
 - b.) dangerously close
 - c.) too good to believe
 - d.) extremely clumsy

Task A: Idioms in Context

Now, read the following excerpts from MICASE, and see if you can figure out the meaning from context.

1. at the beginning of airlifting women out it was not a very easy thing to do getting those women out of there to deliver them in hospitals was no mean feat.
2. if we look at metabolic scope, which you will recall is active, minus standard, you wind up with a curve sort of relationship, because of the shape of the metabolism.
3. this tool measures nurses' attributes not hospitals' attributes so for my purposes that doesn't quite cut it.
4. and what we could do... is combine together, library services and physical disabilities not the other disabilities. now what we've done by doing this in one fell swoop is, we've never found out what the combination of these two is.
5. it's not that she doesn't like what we are saying it's just how we are saying it ... we've got to, sort of put a spin on it that is more open-ended okay
6. so what's the point of all that? why is that so important? it shows that you can touch base with the community... let them know that you're being accountable so then they can understand your position.
7. one of the biggest challenges is that, you know in rats we don't have to worry about super complex, mental abilities. but we do with human beings and being able to tease out verbal learning strategies such as rehearsal and memorization based on verbal strategies versus actual hippocampal place cell activity is gonna probably be a challenge.
8. as I said the Basques did adapt Latin as a language especially for religious purposes, starting around the third and fourth centuries, and the Basques by the way have been some in the history of Spain, if I may just go off on a tangent the Basques have been in Spanish history and Spanish religious history some of the most fervent Catholics. I mean one of the world's greatest...
9. this Thursday next lecture I'm gonna assign practice problems for homework, any questions before we wrap up?
10. and the example that has been most well studied is the TRP attenuation. and attenuation in various forms actually shows up, it rears its ugly head in a lot of eukaryotic systems as well. not exactly the same but the similar kind of process so it's worth bringing up.

11. what to do? what to do? lemme do it this way. you will never stand for this derivation I know it. [Laugh] not today. the weather's too nice, so I'm going to cut to the chase and I might come back and fill in some details on Monday.
12. there is so much talking going on. [Students Laugh] but i will remain calm, i will not scream... i will not pick on anybody unless I really get upset and then I will. um, any questions on that?
13. thyroid is, uh, it's a gland that you know it's all sorts of really important hormones. if your thyroid is severely out of whack it has all the exact same symptoms of depression.
14. my advice to you would be to try and read the stuff before lecture so that you have some idea of how it all fits together before I get here, or before I start talking, hopefully my lecture should make all the pieces fall into place.
15. I mean we saw it in the films last night absolutely. it's like when there is, despair one can always fall back on the children. children are the future.
16. but what about his relationship to this woman? I mean that's one of the interesting points that I think Berman tries to flesh out, but I don't know if it's satisfactory.
17. how easy it is (...) to trample all over the people who we're purporting to help and I think questions of respect come into play and I think those those can get, you know tricky like a lot of other things...

once this has happened, there are again some other factors that come into play that determine whether or not extensive growth will take place... extensive growth of metastases requires a couple things...
18. it's not like it was ever a big issue in my life, but one thing that's kind of brought me into this whole, multicultural train of thought is the fact that I really really loved France, for no apparent reason. really really wanted to go to France...
19. she quotes Gary Snyder, "the female is fertile in discipline only confuses her," and she comes back very uh, very tongue in cheek and very, sarcastic by, you know kind of repeating these ideas, in her own voice, with a straight face and very ironically

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1.	i'll try to strike , a happy medium, okay? but please, this is
2.	is remarkably sort of, redolent pompous tone struck any reader as it did another late Roman his
3.	these words. only suddenly to draw his sword and strike at him. Yuranosuke wards off the blow, and
4.	come up refers specifically to a kind of castle, struck by the sun, appeared in the background, al
5.	Galapagos Islands, one of the things that he was struck by was that there were at least eighteen diff
6.	because of that that need, so i was struck by your comments that most of the, applic
7.	Orbits? yeah they were probably struck by, some other foreign object
8.	call dialects. but basically you ha- uh, wh- what struck everybody's attention was that this change
9.	a two minute speech on yourself. which usually strikes fear into the heart, hearts of most people.
10.	parent for. she noticed a smell that struck her. a smell that was foreign to this house.
11.	twentieth century uh one of the things that's really struck me and and i detail this in the last chapters
12.	Yeah. the the rat in the box um, struck me as similar to the surrealist um, film whe
13.	yeah i mean it would strike me as being reasonable it's like
14.	not really responding but it just, something which strikes me as strange is in Kant's text with the res
15.	and that's the uh ag- as i was going through it, it struck me how important, the um, uh, German per
16.	really disempowered position. and also i- it strikes me how, um.. the people who have the po
17.	that again when you ga- gave us that tape it just struck me how, uh, i mean he n- he not only playe
18.	(you) know what also, kind of strikes me interesting now is the idea that um, tha
19.	i don't know this just eh this is another idea that struck me is like natural resource endowments lik
20.	and then reading this version some things uh struck me that didn't strike me before, and uh one
21.	this scene which was the first scene and what struck me was that the cameras were not oriented
22.	that, particularly those terms. but it it's always struck me, once you do that and you put this build
23.	the stairs. and, it ends, although i don't think it strikes one in normal reading as being separable. i
24.	a result of his victories he's beginning to sort of strike out on his own, and he takes the name victo
25.	the lines in these reviews to figure out why it struck such a chord. nobody mentioned the word
26.	dinner is finished eaten we wait for the clock to strike twelve, and then we jump into the New Year
27.	they fight together but, seeing his chance, Rikiya strikes with his broad sword and Yakushiji, slashe
28.	the other thing that was interesting that i was struck with when the other speakers, were talking
29.	developments of this technology that sort of, sometimes strike you as being significant? (Amin) yeah.
30.	isn't reached that mandatory minimum. doesn't this strike you as unequitable, unjust i mean, that this
31.	out the different characters you know if somebody strikes you as weird you know, those are always

Exercise 1

The excerpts above are all taken from MICASE transcripts, and have a phrase with some form of the word **strike** in it. Discuss the following with your partner.

1. What kind of words follow the word **strike**? (eg: noun, adjective, preposition)
2. What kind of objects (nouns?) follow the phrase **struck by**?
3. Which adjectives are used with the phrases **strikes me as/struck me as**?

Exercise 2

Here is the literal meaning of the word strike:

strike v. **struck** or **stricken**, **striking**, **strikes**. – tr. **1.a.** To hit sharply, as with the hand, fist or a weapon. **b.** To inflict (a blow).
2.a. To collide with or crash into.

1. With your partner, discuss each of the examples given above with the word **strike** and decide whether the phrase is

- a) literal
- b) metaphorical
- c) an idiom

2. Now try to determine the meaning of each phrase, using the meanings given below. Write the appropriate letter or letters in the column to the right of each phrase. Keep in mind that a single phrase can have more than one appropriate meaning.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| A. making a percussive sound | B. to occur or appear |
| C. to cause a strong, deep emotion | D. literal meaning |
| E. to be illuminated | F. to be independent |
| G. causing a sudden impression or impact | H. maintain a balance |

Idioms Listening Excerpts

Excerpt 1:

[S5] i should_ lemme ask l- i just remembered one more thing. part of the other, controversy, quote unquote is the fact that NASCAR is under some heat right now because this is the fourth, race car driver to die in the last nine months, {[S3] oh } so there's the suspicion and then there's the perception that, s- safety's safety {[S1] mhm } measurements aren't exactly up to snuff here {[S1] mhm } and, perhaps

[S1] (that their) lax being lax in,

[S5] right and as as as a new story i think these these, editors are_ and photo people are looking at this, information as possible, uh information that they'd like to, impart to the public.

Excerpt 2:

[S9] just i, i uh tend to think why is it anybody's business, to see these photos? i mean, the guy is dead, {[S2] he's a public figure } the family, the family is in pain, it's uh, i mean it's not, a journalist's job to uncover, whether NASCAR is unsafe. common sense would dictate that going around the track at two hundred forty miles per hour, [LAUGH] is probably unsafe in itself, and if four drivers have died in the last nine months, i'm sure NASCAR will take some steps to correct that and it, doesn't require the involvement of journalists.

[S1] are they more likely to take steps if the press puts some heat on them?

[SS] mhm yeah

[S2] the press has already put heat on 'em they're putting heat on themselves. i don't think it's necessary.

[S1] well they're obviously not having enough heat put on them because it keeps happening. {[S2] i think (xx)} i mean for_ at least it's possible. yes?

[S10] showing pictures of a dead body is not gonna put the heat on 'em that's necessary to make the changes though, i mean it's gonna be the reporting on the incident, you know it's th- one photo of a dead_ i mean i i just think that it's, definitely an invasion of privacy, that isn't necessary. </U>

Excerpt 3:

[S2]... i really don't think that it'd be front page, because it's just not, quite ready for that.

[S6] bottom line is which i- which story's more important?

[S1] they're both on,

[S2] alright mine is

[S3] ours

[S8] i don't think yours is

[S9] global warming's a very serious worldwide issue

[S8] to who? but

Excerpt 4:

[S6] we conclude that uh, {[SU] we win.} these these uh, you know percentages of of favoring Bush are a dime a dozen they they they, the occur so often, that what's more important is is, a key decision of a reversal that Bush made and, by him making this decision u- it's gonna affect his support anyway so, already this, sixty percent, is, not correct it's gonna be it's gonna change.

Idioms in Context: 'catch'

1. there's a real perception that I catch from students, that Spanish is not an academic language it's not a language in which you function intellectually [STP355-1]
2. no there are lots of interviews where he talks like that before as well it's just the ones where he pronounces his refusal of artistic lineage are more eye-catching or ear-catching. they're simply, they, they're more heard. [DEF420]
3. when Christianity caught on in Spain and began to spread in Spain in the third and fourth century, it was Christianity that played a major role in the linguistic Latinization of the Basques. [LES355]
4. the reason that we did that as Mir-Soo said in the first place, was, we were afraid that people would see what we were doing. they would see oh here's a professor here's a classmate, I'm supposed to do a different response here instead of controlling for that variable, but we ended up, two people I believe, responded that they would say the same thing to the professor and a classmate they said this is what I would say either way, and no one seemed to catch on to what we were doing so we might as well send both scenarios to everyone, and have more data. [STP355-2]
5. (Student, S3, talking to professor, S1):
[S3] so so you said you'll be around? will you have any, time?
[S1] I got a proposal to get out this afternoon and I'm not sure, how long
[S3] okay well I'll catch you on Monday [MTG270]
6. it's much (...) better if I actually know what I'm doing, like, cuz the last two weeks I had exams, so I caught up this weekend. that's why I have questions. [SGR175]
7. after a rather hectic last couple of months things are finally quieting down with the International Programs Office, the one thing about working with students is that they mostly clear out [LAUGH] by that last day of exams. and we can now catch up on a lot of things [MTG999]
8. Manon Lascaux would get caught up in all of this gambling, as a kind of outsider, you know she kind of goes with the gambler, because she thinks he's kind of a man of money, because the gambler (...) both connected to the very wealthy and the underworld. and of course she just ends up with debt. [SEM545]
9. I think the issue of self-image, and particularly body-image, is of critical importance to girls young women and even mature women. unfortunately despite women's liberation we seem to be more caught up on our physical attributes than ever. [COL605]
10. the thing that brought me up short a little bit and, I'm not trying to catch you on anything but I wonder if you'd just comment on it was the date of the quote was sixty-nine, which is quite a bit before, that particular concert and, I just wonder... [DEF420]

11. (From an advising session, talking about dropping a class the student is doing poorly in.)

S4: i guess (i could) like go back and do like the review problems or something like that but

S2: yeah... just (try no-) it's just one of those things i can't make the call for you [S4: yeah i know i know that i know that.] i mean and i think that there are there are pretty serious implications of dropping it because,

S4: yeah cuz [S2: just, you know] then because if i drop it then i think i'm down to eleven credits then the Business School doesn't like that either. so [S2: you got it. and so i guess if you have the] you know it's like it's a catch-twenty-two.

S2: if you have the energy and math is not sucking you dry you know it's_ occasionally i'll talk to somebody and they're they're saying it's (no)

S4: i think it's a matter of_ it's not even a matter of energy like i think i just need to manage my time better [S2: yeah] because i s- i mean i do waste a lot of time. and you know [S2: mhm] i mean if i, like i could do ev- i think i really could pull it off it's just a matter of, you know

[ADV700]