

STANDARD 7
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
CH 22: IDIOMS & PROVERBS

- **Definition**
- **Use of Idioms in Sentences**
- **Exercises**

1. Idioms

- **Definition:** An 'idiom' is a word or phrase which actually means something different from the literal meaning of the words.
- Eg. **A penny for your thoughts-** a way of asking what someone is thinking.
'A penny for your thoughts?', Sheila asked her worried mother who was deep in thought.
- Eg. **At the drop of a hat-** without hesitation, instantly.
Shakuntala Devi was a genius in Math, she could do calculations **at the drop of a hat.**
- Eg. **Ball is in your court-** it is up to you to make the next decision or step.
'I have stated the truth to the jury, now the **ball is in your court**', said the lawyer to the jury members.
- Eg. **Beat about the bush-** avoiding the main topic. Not speaking directly about the issue.
Aman was **beating around the bush** as he knew he was in the wrong and was trying to avoid the fact.
- Eg. **Blessing in disguise-** something good that isn't recognized at first.
For some the COVID-19 has been a **blessing in disguise** as it has brought their families closer together.
- **Costs an arm and a leg-** something is very expensive.
The diamond necklace worn by Ankita cost her husband **an arm and a leg.**

2. Idioms numbers 31-40

31. **To go through** — to examine
He **went through** the entire book before making any comment.
32. **First come, first served** — first people to arrive are the first people who are served.
The shopkeeper announced that the offer is valid on **first come, first served** basis.
33. **Give (someone) a hand** — to help someone do something or to clap or applaud after a performance.
I **gave a hand** to the old lady who was unable to cross the street with heavy bags.
34. **To give away** — to distribute
The Principal **gave away** prizes to the winners.
35. **In a fix** — in trouble or difficulty
I was totally **in a fix** when I had my practical exam as I forgot to get my practical notebook.
36. **To lose heart** — to lose courage
Soldiers do not **lose heart** even when they are suddenly attacked by the enemy.
37. **In black and white** — clearly defined in writing
The Indo Pak trade agreement was inked **in black and white** today.
38. **To make up one's mind** — to decide
I have **made up my mind** to become a doctor.
39. **In a nutshell** — briefly
Please tell me the story **in a nutshell**.
40. **With open arms** — a warm welcome

3. EXERCISE A

Complete the following *idiomatic expressions* and use them in sentences of your own.

1. **First come, - first serve.**

The seats for the school trip are available on a *first come first serve* basis, so hurry up if you want to enroll.

2. **To make up- one's mind.**

Sunil *made up his mind* to work hard and stand first in class.

3. **To go -through.**

He eagerly *went through* the first letter he received from home when he was in boarding looking for news about his grandparents and friends.

4. **In a -fix.**

She was *in a fix* when she realized that she left her examination hall ticket at home and had arrived for the exam.

5. **To lose- heart.**

When the storm started on the mountain top the climbers *lost heart* and abandoned their climb to the summit.

4. EXERCISE B

Use the following *idiomatic expressions* in sentences of your own.

1. **Give (someone) a hand.**

The kind policeman ***gave a hand*** to the blind beggar who was trying to cross the busy street.

2. **To give away.**

Many charitable institutions are ***giving away*** food packages to the needy people during the pandemic.

3. **In black and white**

The lawyer advised the rich old man to put down his will ***in black and white*** so that his children would not fight for his property after his death.

4. **In a nutshell.**

The emergency helpline operator asked the panicked caller to explain her problem ***in a nutshell***.

3. **With open arms.**

In the parable of the 'Prodigal son' in the bible the father forgave and welcomed his rebellious son ***with open arms***.

- **This is the end of zoom class for Ch22: Idioms and Proverbs (31-40).**
- **This is for your further understanding.**
- **You do not have to copy it anywhere.**