

An idiom (also called idiomatic expression) is a group of words that take on a meaning different from the definitions of the individual words. Often, different idioms are used within different cultures. Being familiar with commonly used American/western idioms will help you in everyday conversation and beyond!

- a. Let the cat out of the bag
 - To share information that was previously hidden
 - b. Bite off more than you can chew
 - To take on too large a task
 - c. Beat around the bush
 - To avoid speaking directly about the topic at hand
 - d. Once in a blue moon
 - Rarely
 - e. Take with a grain of salt
 - Not to take too seriously
 - f. Kill two birds with one stone
 - To accomplish two different tasks at the same time
 - g. Hit the nail on the head
 - To do or say something exactly right
 - h. Hear through the grapevine
 - To learn something through a rumor
 - i. Put all your eggs in one basket
 - To concentrate all your resources into one thing or place
 - j. Play devil's advocate
 - A counter-argument
 - k. To add insult to injury
 - To act in a way that makes a bad situation even worse
 - l. Feel under the weather
 - To feel sick, unwell
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Use the letters above to fill in the blanks with the idiomatic expression that works best:

1. Michael breaking up with Denise over text was bad enough, but _____, now he is ignoring her.

2. Mary made that comment without thinking – you should _____.
 3. I _____ that Jasmine and Jalen broke up...is that true?
 4. I like to listen to practice my Spanish while I do the dishes. That way, I can _____.
 5. I barely ever go to the park anymore; only _____.
 6. Stop wasting my time by _____!
 7. I won't be able to come into work today because I'm _____.
 8. I agree that vegetarianism is better for animals, but just to _____ -- isn't meat a necessary source for our nutrition?
 9. At the horserace, Josiah bet all his savings on one horse because it was the fastest of the group. But the horse tripped before crossing the finish, and now Josiah has lost all his money. It's dangerous to _____.
 10. Roxane explained that complicated topic so perfectly! She totally _____.
 11. I really messed up...Brianna told me a secret but I _____.
 12. I was so eager to help organize the protest, that I ended up _____. Now I have to go buy posters, hang up flyers, and recruit other students to join.
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Correct the following sentences to form the proper expressions:

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1. When I asked Sheila who had told her, she told me she found out on the grape vine.
2. The twins are so similar they are practically one in the same.
3. It wasn't until 2am in the morning that she realized she had bitten at more than she could chew.
4. I know he didn't do it on purpose; it was on accident.
5. Only once and a blue moon does my math teacher forget to assign homework.
6. You don't always get off scotch free if you make a mistake.
7. Her hatred for broccoli is deep-seeded in the fact that she dislikes green vegetables.
8. Knowing the truth will finally give me piece of mind.
9. As if the situation hadn't escalated enough, Jake had to add insult on injury.
10. These options aren't ideal, but we'll just have to make due.
- 11.

Answer Key A:

1. k
2. e
3. h
4. f
5. d
6. c
7. l
8. j
9. i
10. g
11. a
12. b

Answer Key B:

1. through the graph vine
2. one and the same
3. bitten off more than she could chew
4. by accident
5. once in a blue moon
6. scot-free
7. deep-seated
8. peace of mind
9. insult to injury
10. to make do