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IDIOMS
FOR
LANGUAGE
LEARNERS

SET 3



IDIOM EXERCISES
FOR LANGUAGE LEARNERS





*A bird in the hand is worth
two in the bush*

Call it a day

*Don't judge a book by its
cover*

Fish out of water

Look before you leap

Miss the boat

*The grass is always
greener*

IDIOMS

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The
GRASS
is always
GREENER



A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush

Meaning:

it is better to hold onto something you already have, rather than risking it for something that is uncertain

Example:

The girl could have given up her nice job to start working at the new shop but a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.



Call it a day

Meaning:

to stop working or end an activity

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Example:

*We've finished our homework,
let's call it a day and go play
outside.*



Don't judge a book by its cover

Meaning:

don't make assumptions about someone or something based on just their appearance

Example:

Sally thought the new student would be mean because of his tattoos, but she learned **not to judge a book by its cover** when he helped her with her math homework.



Fish out of water

Meaning:

feeling uncomfortable or out of place in the situation

Example:

When I moved to a new country, I felt like a fish out of water because everything was so different.



Look before you leap

Meaning:

to think carefully before taking action

Example:

Before crossing the street, remember to **look before you leap** to ensure it's safe.



Miss the boat

Meaning:

to miss an opportunity or chance

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Example:

Sarah missed the boat when she wanted to join the school choir because she didn't turn up to the rehearsals.



The grass is always greener

Meaning:

other people's situations seems better than yours, even though this may not be true

Example:

*Tommy always wants to change his role in the play because he thinks **the grass is always greener** on the other side.*

A BIRD IN THE
HAND IS
WORTH TWO
IN THE BUSH





Example Conversations

Amy: "Should I trade my old toy for Jason's new one?"

Sarah: "Think carefully, Amy. Remember, a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. You already have a toy that you enjoy."

Jack: "We've been playing for hours. Should we keep going?"

Lily: "No, let's call it a day. We've had a good training session."



Example Conversations

Tom: "I don't want to partner with Mark for the science project. He seems so quiet."

Lisa: "Don't judge a book by its cover, you might be pleasantly surprised."

Mia: "I just moved to a new school. I don't know anyone here."

Alex: "It's normal to feel like a fish out of water in a new place. Give it some time, and you'll be ok."

Sarah: "I'm thinking of signing up for the school talent show."

Emma: "That sounds exciting! Just remember to look before you leap and make sure you're well-prepared."



Example Conversations

Ryan: "I wanted to join the basketball team, but I forgot to submit the registration form."

Emma: "Oh no, Ryan! It looks like you missed the boat. The deadline was last week."

Mike: "I wish I had a bigger room like yours, Emily."

Emily: "Well, the grass is always greener on the other side. You might not like it so much when you have to tidy up and do the cleaning."



IDIOM EXERCISES
FOR LANGUAGE LEARNERS

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idiom exercise 1

Identify the Correct Idiom

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Delete the incorrect idiom

1. Before you jump into the swimming pool, remember to (look before you leap / don't judge a book by its cover) to make sure it's deep enough.
2. We have finished our painting project for today. Let's (miss the boat/ call it a day) and clean up.
3. Lisa always wishes she had curly hair like her friend Sarah, but she fails to see that (the grass is always greener/ a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush) on the other side



Delete the incorrect idiom

4. Tim thought the new student was not good at sports because he was thin, but he soon realized not to (call it a day/ judge a book by its cover) when he saw him playing basketball skillfully.

5. I was offered a job in another city with a higher salary, but I decided to stay because (a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush / you should look before you leap) and I felt good at my current position.



Delete the incorrect idiom

6. I wanted to buy that limited edition toy, but I (missed the boat / call it a day) and decided to save my money instead.
7. Sarah felt like (a fish out of water / the grass is always greener) when she moved to a new country and had to adjust to a different culture and language.

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idiom exercise 2

Complete the Sentence with the Correct Idiom

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Fill in the Blanks

1. As an exchange student in a foreign country, I often feel _____, trying to adapt to new customs and language.
2. I know you're tempted to quit your job and search for a better one, but remember that _____.
3. I wanted to buy tickets for the concert, but they sold out so quickly. I _____ on that one



Fill in the Blanks

4. Jenny is always dreaming about living in a big city, but she fails to realize that _____ on the other side.

5. Just because someone looks quiet and serious doesn't mean they're not friendly. Remember, _____.

6. Tommy always rushes into decisions without thinking. I always tell him to _____.

7. We've been studying for hours, and it's getting late. Let's _____ and continue tomorrow.

FISH OUT OF WATER





IDIOMS

advanced idiom exercise

Use the Idiom

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Give an example of how you use the following idioms in a sentence

Missed the boat

Call it a day

Don't judge a book by its cover

Look before you leap

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush

Example:

I'm too late to join, I have **missed the boat** again.



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IDIOM EXERCISES

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ANSWERS



Delete the incorrect idiom

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Fill in the Blanks

1. As an exchange student in a foreign country, I often feel like a fish out of water trying to adapt to new customs and language.
2. I know you're tempted to quit your job and search for a better one, but remember that a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
3. I wanted to buy tickets for the concert, but they sold out so quickly. I missed the boat on that one



Fill in the Blanks

4. Jenny is always dreaming about living in a big city, but she fails to realize that the grass is always on the other side.

5. Just because someone looks quiet and serious doesn't mean they're not friendly. Remember, don't judge a book by its cover

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examples of idioms in a sentence

I'm too late to join, I have **missed the boat** again

Studying has been hard but we have done well, let's **call it a day**

it was a surprise to see the power of the small women, it shows you **don't judge a book by its cover**

Wait! Are you sure you trust that advert?
Look before you leap

Keep your savings for now, a **bird in the hand is worth two in the bush**



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