

Idioms

What are idioms? Idioms are groups of words whose meanings are different from the meanings of the individual words on their own. We often come across idioms in everyday English – in songs, movies/TV series and even at work.

Here are a few examples of idioms you might already know:

- *Water under the bridge* (song by Adele)
 - This is used to talk about events that are in the past and cannot be changed so there is no point worrying about them.
- *Take my breath away* (song by Berlin)
 - If something/someone takes your breath away, you feel surprised and amazed because that thing or person is so beautiful or exciting.
- *Sweep you off your feet* ("Thinking out loud" by Ed Sheeran)
 - To fall in love with someone very quickly because you find them irresistibly attractive.

Now let's try to match the following idioms to what they mean/when to say them.

IDIOM	DEFINITION
1. A blessing in disguise	a. wishing someone good luck
2. Beat around the bush	b. deciding that you will believe someone, even though you are not sure what the person is saying is true
3. Break a leg	c. saying that you do not think something is really all that difficult to do or understand
4. Call it a day	d. the last in a series of unpleasant events that finally makes you feel that you cannot continue to accept a bad situation
5. Give someone the benefit of the doubt	e. encouraging someone to keep on trying
6. It's not rocket science	f. to be quick to understand and react to things
7. No pain, no gain	g. to talk about lots of unimportant things because you want to avoid talking about what is really important
8. On the ball	h. when you have no idea
9. The last straw	i. a good thing that seems bad at first
10. Your guess is as good as mine	j. stopping what you are doing because you do not want to do any more or think you have done enough

Answer key: 1. i 2. g 3. a 4. j 5. b 6. c 7. e 8. f 9. d 10. h

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