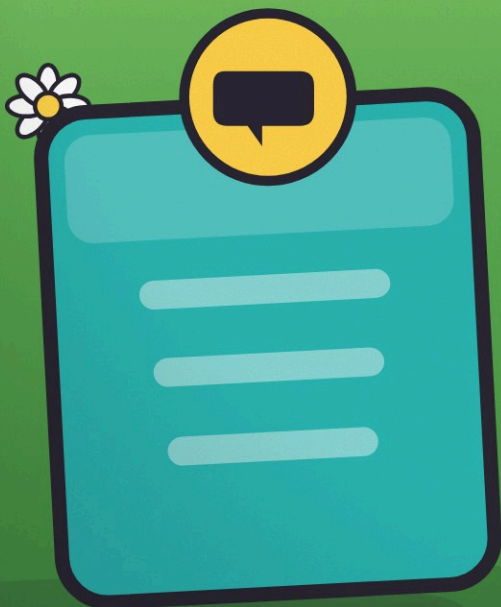


Idioms Worksheets

SAYS · MEANS



• 23 pages · 34 idioms · 3 page types



An idioms kit built so a child always knows what is being asked: match a common idiom to its real meaning, sort real from not-real, then write the real meaning in their own words.

THREE STEPS

- 1 **Look at the Helper together**
Page 6 shows the difference between what an idiom's words literally say and what it really means, side by side. Read the two cards with the child before the first practice page.
- 2 **Pick a page type and a set**
Three page types, easiest to hardest: Match the Meaning, then Sort, then Write the Real Meaning. The chart says which page for which child.
- 3 **Check it, record it, send it home**
The answer keys are pages 14 and 15. Date each page on the tracker (page 16), and send the home page (page 18). A filled example is on page 19.

WHICH PAGE, WHEN

WHEN...	USE...
Learning what an idiom is	Helper, page 6
Can read an idiom and pick the real meaning	Match the Meaning, pages 7, 8, 9
Ready to sort and categorize	Sort Real or Not, pages 10 and 11
Ready to write a real meaning in their own words	Write the Real Meaning, pages 12 and 13

Everything inside (23 pages)

- **8 student pages** in 3 page types plus a Helper, 1 dot to 3 dots
- **34 idioms** across Match, Sort and Write the Real Meaning, no idiom repeated anywhere in the file
- **2 cut-and-sort pages** with mixed real-meaning and not-the-meaning strips
- **2 answer keys** with every item's real answer, taken straight from the same bank as the pages
- **1 tracker, 1 team note, 1 home page, 1 filled example, 1 phrase bank**
- **1 back page**

What makes it different

Every idiom, sentence and meaning is pulled from an already-checked idiom bank, and every “Not the Meaning” strip is that same idiom's own literal misreading — so there is never a strip a child could argue either way.



My name: _____

Date _____

**The Words**What it **SOUNDS** like

What the words say, word for word.
Example: “raining cats and dogs”
would mean animals falling from the
sky.
That is **NOT** what really happens.

The Real MeaningWhat it **ACTUALLY** means

What the idiom **REALLY** means.
Example: “raining cats and dogs”
really means it is raining very
heavily.
That is the idiom’s true meaning.

What is an idiom?

An idiom is a group of words that does not mean what each word means on its own. “It’s raining cats and dogs” does not mean animals are falling — it means it is raining very hard. Readers have to learn an idiom’s real meaning; the words alone will not give it away.





My name: _____

Date _____



Read each sentence. The idiom is underlined. Circle A, B or C for what it really means.

1. My neighbor almost let the cat out of the bag about the surprise visit before it happened.

☐ A. keep a secret safe

☐ B. free a cat from a sack

☐ C. reveal a secret

2. The twins begged their cousin not to spill the beans about the surprise party.

☐ A. tell a secret

☐ B. spill real beans

☐ C. forget the answer

3. After weeks of practice, the spelling test felt like a piece of cake to the whole class.

☐ A. a very hard task

☐ B. a slice of dessert

☐ C. very easy to do

4. With finals coming up, the whole study group decided to hit the books every night this week.

☐ A. study hard

☐ B. clean a messy room

☐ C. slam books shut

5. The picnic was moved inside because it started raining cats and dogs right at noon.

☐ A. animals falling from sky

☐ B. raining very heavily

☐ C. a light, gentle drizzle

6. The coach stayed home from practice because she was feeling under the weather.

☐ A. feeling a bit sick

☐ B. feeling very happy

☐ C. standing in the rain

Remember: the real meaning is never the literal, word-for-word reading.



SORT REAL OR NOT THE MEANING



My name: _____ Date: _____



Cut out the strips. Glue each one in the right bin: Real Meaning or Not the Meaning.

Real Meaning

Not the Meaning

Cut on the dashed lines.

flip a plant's leaf over	happening very suddenly	help someone	start fresh and improve
in a risky spot now	floating above the ground	tugging on my real leg	not yet decided
coming down from the sky	joking around with me	skating on a frozen pond	loan someone money





My name: _____

Date _____



Read each idiom. Write what it REALLY means, in your own words.

“PUT ALL YOUR EGGS IN ONE BASKET”

Write what this idiom REALLY means. (Not the literal words!)

.....

.....

.....

Draw a quick picture of the real meaning.

.....

.....

.....

“BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD”

Write what this idiom REALLY means. (Not the literal words!)

.....

.....

.....

Draw a quick picture of the real meaning.

.....

.....

.....

Need a word to start? Try: **It really means...** · **This idiom is about...** · **It is NOT about...**



ANSWER KEY: MATCH THE MEANING PAGES



Match the Meaning, pages 7, 8, 9. Item numbers are the numbers printed to the left of each sentence; the idiom underlined on the student page is the same one named here.

Set A

ITEM	IDIOM → REAL MEANING	ANSWER
A-1	“let the cat out of the bag” → reveal a secret	C
A-2	“spill the beans” → tell a secret	A
A-3	“a piece of cake” → very easy to do	C
A-4	“hit the books” → study hard	A
A-5	“raining cats and dogs” → raining very heavily	B
A-6	“under the weather” → feeling a bit sick	A

Set B

ITEM	IDIOM → REAL MEANING	ANSWER
B-1	“hit the sack” → go to bed	C
B-2	“in hot water” → in trouble	B
B-3	“break a leg” → good luck	C
B-4	“cost an arm and a leg” → very expensive	C
B-5	“once in a blue moon” → very rarely	A
B-6	“caught red-handed” → caught doing something wrong	A

Set C

ITEM	IDIOM → REAL MEANING	ANSWER
C-1	“get cold feet” → get nervous and back out	B
C-2	“in the same boat” → in the same tough spot	C
C-3	“hang in there” → keep trying, don't quit	B
C-4	“keep an eye on” → watch closely	A
C-5	“keep their chin up” → stay cheerful, not sad	A
C-6	“hit the nail on the head” → describe it exactly right	A



Use this page between team meetings, or to send home, without writing a note from scratch. Everything below is observable, with room for your own wording and numbers from the tracker (page 16).

CLINICIAN / TEACHER

STUDENT

MARKING PERIOD

What we worked on this week

What went well

Next focus

Anything else for the team meeting

A filled-in line, for reference

"This week we practiced Match the Meaning, Set A and B. Correctly chose 5 of 6 in Set A and 6 of 6 in Set B. Next focus: Sort Real or Not the Meaning, page 1." That is the level of detail this page is built for — every blank is a number or a word your team already uses, never a label.

QUESTIONS? BEST WAY TO REACH ME

SIGNATURE, IF YOUR SCHOOL ASKS





Starters for a session note, a progress update, or the questions to ask before the pencil moves. Each one is an observation with a blank for the number or the word — the count comes off the tracker or the page itself, never from memory.

Describing accuracy

- Chose the correct meaning for ____ of ____ idiom sentences.
- Sorted ____ of ____ strips into the Real Meaning or Not the Meaning bin correctly.
- Wrote the real meaning of ____ of ____ idioms in their own words.
- Checked work against the answer key with ____ of ____ correct on the first try.

Describing what the student did

- Needed [visual cue / hand-over-hand / a model] to sort a strip.
- Explained what an idiom meant in their own words without being asked.
- Chose the literal misreading instead of the idiom's real meaning on ____ of ____ items.
- Re-read a sentence before choosing, without being asked to.

For next steps

- Ready to move to [Sort Real or Not the Meaning / Write the Real Meaning].
- Needs more practice telling an idiom's real meaning from its literal words before writing it out.
- Can now notice an idiom when reading a story or listening to a conversation.
- Showed this skill outside of the lesson on ____.
- Ready for a new set (A, B or C) of the same page type.

Talk-first questions, any page

- What do the words literally say?
- What does the whole sentence really mean?
- Have you heard this idiom before? Where?
- Can you think of a different idiom that means something similar?

For the Write the Real Meaning page

- Wrote the real meaning of ____ in their own words, not a word-for-word retelling.
- Drew a picture that matched the idiom's real meaning for ____.
- Used a sentence starter (It really means, This idiom is about) without being asked.
- Needed the idiom's meaning read aloud before writing it in their own words.

