



Idiom Street

Mission: The people of Idiom Street keep saying strange things! Visit each neighbor, compare the silly literal picture with what they really mean, and build an idiom dictionary.

Big question: How do we figure out what an idiom really means?

★ Warm-up: Draw it literally

Sketch the literal meaning, then write the real meaning.

"Hold your horses." ✓ **Wait / be patient.**

"Cold feet." ✓ **Being nervous about doing something.**

Key vocabulary

Idiom	A saying whose meaning differs from its words.
Literal	Exactly what the words say.
Figurative	Not meant word for word.
Context	The situation around the words.

1 Box 1

Visit the neighbors

In the simulator: Visit every neighbor and choose what each one REALLY means.

What did you notice?

2 Box 2

Idiom dictionary

Match each idiom to its meaning.

Sort: a piece of cake • break a leg • under the weather • don't spill the beans

Easy	Good luck	A little sick	Keep a secret
a piece of cake	break a leg	under the weather	don't spill the beans

3 Box 3

Use context

"My brother has cold feet about the diving board." Using context, what does "cold feet" mean?

☐ He is nervous about jumping ☐ His feet are freezing ☐ He forgot his shoes

✓ **He is nervous about jumping**

4 Box 4

Idiom in a story

Write 2 sentences that use one idiom from Idiom Street correctly. Make the context show its meaning.

Look for: Uses an idiom from the street; at least 14 words

5 Box 5

Legend: explain an idiom Legend only

Explain why an English learner might be confused by "spill the beans," and how context helps.

Look for: Explains the literal confusion; Explains how context helps; at least 14 words

Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How do we figure out what an idiom really means?

Look for: An idiom is a saying whose meaning is different from the literal meaning of its words. Use the situation (context) to figure it out: "It's raining cats and dogs" means it is raining very hard.

Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
 Explorer	3LH-E
 Investigator	Z37-I
 Legend	1J1-L

Watch for these misconceptions

- "Any comparison is a simile." It is a simile only if it uses like or as.
- "Context clues are always in the same sentence." Sometimes they are in the next sentence.
- "Idioms mean what they say." Their meaning is not literal.