



The Learning Centre

Speaking Skills **Idiom Usage Practice**

Instructions

Read the following sentences and identify the *intended meaning* of the sentence with the idiom. The idiom will be **bolded**.

Ex. When I was eight, I was walking with my mom to Dean's Grocery and I started running along the sidewalk. "**Hold your horses**," she yelled. "You're going to get hit by a car!"

Intended Meaning: "**Slow down**," she yelled.

Sentences

1. I better **hit the books** soon; I have a Sociology test on Monday.

Intended Meaning:

2. I was feeling pretty **down in the dumps** yesterday, but my mom told me to **keep my chin up**.

Intended Meaning:

3. Raine was extremely disruptive in class today. However, Mrs. Lee only gave him a **slap on the wrist**, as usual. She's always been so passive.

Intended Meaning:

4. I want to buy a new car, but I'm scared that I might **buy a lemon**. Does anyone have any suggestions for reliable car brands?

Intended Meaning:

5. Want to go to Starbucks and grab a **cup of Joe**?

Intended Meaning:

6. My granddaughter came to visit me today. That's something that only happens **once in a blue moon**.

Intended Meaning:

7. I have been having an extraordinary day. First, I got called for a job interview in the morning and received an "A" on my paper in the afternoon. The **icing on the cake** was when I got engaged to my boyfriend tonight at dinner.

Intended Meaning:

8. "I don't trust Kianna," said Joanie. "She's been a **loose cannon** lately."

Intended Meaning:

9. There were Kitchen Aid mixers on sale at Canadian Tire, but the store didn't have any in stock. Therefore, they gave me a **raincheck**.

Intended Meaning:

10. Don wanted to work hard to get a raise in his job; however, he was **running out of steam**.

Intended Meaning: