

Assignment#3:

Idioms and its role in English language;

Definition. An idiom (also called idiomatic expression) is an expression, word, or phrase that has a figurative meaning conventionally understood by native speakers. This meaning is different from the literal meaning of the idiom's individual elements. In other words, idioms don't mean exactly what the words say.

There are a large number of Idioms and they are used very commonly in all languages. There are estimated to be at least 25,000 idiomatic expressions in the English language. Idioms in fact, evolve the language; they are the building blocks of a language and civilization.

We need idioms because they were coined to communicate a specific and usually quite precise meaning for which there is no exact word. The clever or creative ones tend to be memorable, and what's memorable gets repeated in meme-like fashion. Idioms are a type of figurative language that plugs the gaps in our vocabulary.

1. "Hit the hay." "Sorry, guys, I have to hit the hay now!" ...
2. "Up in the air" ...
3. "Stabbed in the back" ...
4. "Takes two to tango" ...
5. "Kill two birds with one stone." ...
6. "Piece of cake" ...
7. "Costs an arm and a leg" ...
8. "Break a leg"

Idioms play a great role in the enrichment of the English language. Idioms represent unique cultural and historical information as well as broaden people's understanding and manipulation of English. Native speakers use idioms to make their speech more colorful and alive.

An idiom is an expression with a figurative meaning that differs from the literal meaning. We hear idioms every day – both in conversation and in the media. Used correctly, idioms can amplify messages in a way that draws readers in and helps to awaken their senses.

The answer is clear – no. Idioms, such as “it cost an arm and a leg” are informal which means they are not suitable for IELTS writing task 2 academic or general training essays.

However, idioms are only one type of idiomatic language. ... Instead, use the idea from the quote and write it in your own words.

such idioms are not used in formal conversations or writing. This is simply not true. A narrower definition of idiom is that an idiom is a phrase whose meaning cannot be deduced from its constituent words. ... It is true that informal language abounds with idioms in this sense of the word

The most common English idioms

Idiom	Meaning
A blessing in disguise	a good thing that seemed bad at first
A dime a dozen	Something common
Beat around the bush	Avoid saying what you mean, usually because it is uncomfortable
Better late than never	Better to arrive late than not to come at all

- Straight from the horse's mouth. Meaning: getting information directly from the most reliable source. ...
- Let the cat out of the bag. Meaning: to mistakenly reveal a secret. ...
- Butter someone up. ...
- Pulling someone's leg. ...
- Wolf in sheep's clothing. ...
- Hands down. ...
- Riding shotgun. ...

- Barking up the wrong tree.

do (one's) best

To do as well as one possibly can at something. I'm just not good at math, so, believe me, a B- in Algebra means that I've done my best. No, you're not the star player on the team, but you always do your best, which encourages the rest of us to do the same.

Categorized as formulaic language, an idiom's figurative meaning is different from the literal meaning. Idioms occur frequently in all languages; in English alone there are an estimated twenty-five thousand idiomatic expressions.

Idioms affect reality in life in a way it represents human experiences, and mostly use in a frequently occurring situations. They also demonstrates life lessons.

Do not expect too much or plan ahead on something that might not happen. Better late than never. It's better to arrive or be delayed than not to arrive or do it at all.

- Between a rock and a hard place, is used when you have to make a hard decision.
- in a quandary is also used sometimes..

The phrase 'Better Late than Never' means that doing something late is better than not doing it at all. Example of Use: "Sorry I was late for the meeting today; I got stuck in traffic." Answer: "That's okay; better late than never."

1. The phrase 'Better Late than Never' means that doing something late is better than not doing it at all. Example of Use: "Sorry I was late for the meeting today; I got stuck in traffic." Answer: "That's okay; better late than never."
2. Teach idioms with pictures. Provide a picture to explain the context. ...
3. Use small groups to present dialogues. Break your class into small groups and have each group look up two idioms. ...
4. Introduce Amelia Bedelia. No, Amelia! ...
5. Use a theme.

Learn them in grouping and phrasing. Never try to learn too many idioms at one time. However, learning them by grouping into themes is quite a good idea. Whenever you are preparing for idioms and phrases, relate them to stories and remember it with visualization.

Reason One. Why teach idioms? Because idioms help learners to encounter and understand the workings of natural human language; that is, they help them to gain a deeper knowledge of the creative expression of human thought and language development over time.

Non-native speakers of English are found in different parts of the world. The usage of Idiomatic expressions by those speakers is considered as an important issue and is regarded as an essential part of the English Language competence. It is a necessity that all speakers of the English Language become aware and proficient in using English idiomatic expressions. It is essential and is considered a big part of English language proficiency to be able to use idiomatic expression when communicating in the English Language. However, many English learners, especially those of Arabic origin, lack the competence to use English idiomatic expressions adequately. This paper aims to discuss the importance of idiomatic expressions to English language learners. In this paper, personal suggestions have been reached for better idiomatic comprehension and acquisition. Contributions have been made by the author regarding the importance of understanding and how to better use idioms.

Linguists used to believe that idioms were completely arbitrary: that is, you could not guess their meaning from the words they consist of. Consequently, teachers used to tell their students that the only way to master idioms was to learn them by heart. Fortunately, we now know that many idioms can be explained after all, and so they can be learned in systematic ways. Research tells us that when idioms are presented as non-arbitrary features of language, students find them much easier to understand and remember. In the following sections we will demonstrate the non-arbitrary nature of idioms.

Idioms derived from sailing:

clear the decks

a leading light

be on an even keel

to first finish a job completely

a good example to follow

to make calm, steady progress

Idioms derived from war:

stick to your guns

to refuse to change your opinion

fight a losing battle
be in the front line

to be unlikely to succeed
to have an important role