

Idioms in English – Volume 1

Idioms like “see eye to eye” and “make waves” are used frequently in conversations, email, and presentations in English. When nonnative speakers of English don’t understand the idioms, they can miss the point of a conversation, email, or presentation since the idiom is often used to encapsulate the message.

This is a self-paced course. Students should review the course syllabus before enrolling. Each student will have up to 12 months to complete the course and meet the course objectives as outlined below.

Electronic textbooks for the course - *Idioms in English - Volume 1*

The electronic textbook for this course includes pre and post assessments with instant scoring and features over 220 interactive lessons.

Each of the 9 chapters feature:

- TOEFL® listening practices to check comprehension
- Stories and Dialogues using the idioms in context
- Reading comprehension quizzes to identify the meaning of each idiom
- Idiom pages with definitions, examples, and pronunciation notes
- Dictation and focus word practices with scoring
- Chapter reviews with scoring

Idioms in English – Volume 1 was first released in 2005 and co-branded by ETS®, maker of the TOEFL® and GMAT® tests in 2007. The program has been used by nonnative speakers of English internationally and in the United States in workplace settings like the IBM research labs in both California (Almaden) and New York (Watson). Schools like the University of Oklahoma and De Anza College use these programs in their language labs. The program was expanded and updated in 2013.

This course includes:

- ✓ 24/7 access to the interactive, electronic textbook
- ✓ Access to an audio book version
- ✓ Weekly “Tips from the Author” emails with links to narrated movie files

Syllabus for *Idioms in English* – Volume 1 (2 CEUs)

Chapter One: Negotiations

Objectives

- Students will learn to identify and use the following idioms with the correct stress, intonation and rhythm:
 - Take the bull by the horns
 - Be on the same page
 - Think out of the box
 - Shoot from the hip
 - See eye to eye
 - Bend over backwards
 - Lay it on the line
 - Back out
 - Give and take
 - Meet someone halfway
 - Cut the deal
 - Water under the bridge
 - Win-win situation

Outcomes

- Students will be able to **hear** and **understand** the targeted idioms, improving both listening and reading comprehension, thus reducing communication problems at work.
- Students will be able to **hear** and **reproduce** correct stress, intonation and rhythm with these idiomatic phrases, improving both listening comprehension & spoken English.

Chapter Two: Meeting Work Deadlines

Objectives

- Students will learn to identify and use the following idioms with the correct stress, intonation and rhythm:
 - On one's plate
 - Have the bandwidth
 - Know the ropes
 - Catch on

- A dry run
- Nose to the grindstone
- Down to the wire
- Heads up
- Put the pedal to the metal
- Burned out

Outcomes

- Students will be able to **hear** and **understand** the targeted idioms, improving both listening and reading comprehension, thus reducing communication problems at work.
- Students will be able to **hear** and **reproduce** correct stress, intonation and rhythm with these idiomatic phrases, improving both listening comprehension & spoken English.

Chapter Three: Challenges/Difficulties

Objectives

- Students will learn to identify and use the following idioms with the correct stress, intonation and rhythm:
 - Place something on someone's doorstep
 - Make waves
 - A bottleneck
 - Cut corners
 - Make do
 - In the same boat
 - Pain in the neck
 - In someone's face
 - Between a rock and a hard place
 - Put all one's eggs in one basket
 - The market goes south
 - Be up a creek

Outcomes

- Students will be able to **hear** and **understand** the targeted idioms, improving both listening and reading comprehension, thus reducing communication problems at work.

- Students will be able to **hear** and **reproduce** correct stress, intonation and rhythm with these idiomatic phrases, improving both listening comprehension & spoken English.

Chapter Four: Sales and Marketing

Objectives

- Students will learn to identify and use the following idioms with the correct stress, intonation and rhythm:
 - Be plugged in
 - Blow someone away
 - Jump-start
 - It's a long shot
 - A game plan
 - Low hanging fruit
 - Cherry pick
 - Go for broke
 - Go down in flames
 - Strike out
 - Go down swinging
 - Hit a home run
 - Dialed in
 - Get ahead of the ball
 - Add up

Outcomes

- Students will be able to **hear** and **understand** the targeted idioms, improving both listening and reading comprehension, thus reducing communication problems at work.
- Students will be able to **hear** and **reproduce** correct stress, intonation and rhythm with these idiomatic phrases, improving both listening comprehension & spoken English.

Chapter Five: Communication Problems

Objectives

- Students will learn to identify and use the following idioms with the correct stress, intonation and rhythm:



- Get the ball rolling
- Step up to the plate
- Hand in hand
- Step on someone's toes
- Be on the right track
- Out of bounds
- Give someone the runaround
- Fly it up the food chain
- In the loop/out of the loop
- Screw up
- Draw the line
- Knock it off
- Take someone off-line
- Walk the talk

Outcomes

- Students will be able to **hear** and **understand** the targeted idioms, improving both listening and reading comprehension, thus reducing communication problems at work.
- Students will be able to **hear** and **reproduce** correct stress, intonation and rhythm with these idiomatic phrases, improving both listening comprehension & spoken English.

Chapter Six: The New Accountant

Objectives

- Students will learn to identify and use the following idioms with the correct stress, intonation and rhythm:
 - Be on the ball
 - Shoot the breeze
 - Pull strings
 - Kickback
 - Go by the book
 - On one's toes
 - Eyeball it
 - In the black/ in the red

Outcomes

- Students will be able to **hear** and **understand** the targeted idioms, improving both listening and reading comprehension, thus reducing communication problems at work.
- Students will be able to **hear** and **reproduce** correct stress, intonation and rhythm with these idiomatic phrases, improving both listening comprehension & spoken English.

Chapter Seven: The Start Up

Objectives

- Students will learn to identify and use the following idioms with the correct stress, intonation and rhythm:
 - Go for the gold
 - Go for it
 - Miss the boat
 - A trade-off
 - Shoot the moon
 - Land on one's feet
 - Twist someone's arm
 - Burn one's bridges
 - Fall through
 - Once in a blue moon

Outcomes

- Students will be able to **hear** and **understand** the targeted idioms, improving both listening and reading comprehension, thus reducing communication problems at work.
- Students will be able to **hear** and **reproduce** correct stress, intonation and rhythm with these idiomatic phrases, improving both listening comprehension & spoken English.

Chapter Eight: A Bad Decision

Objectives

- Students will learn to identify and use the following idioms with the correct stress, intonation and rhythm:
 - Jump the gun

- Hold one's horses
- Get burned
- Do an end run
- Have one's cake and eat it too
- Blow it
- Be back to square one
- Off base
- Pass the buck

Outcomes

- Students will be able to **hear** and **understand** the targeted idioms, improving both listening and reading comprehension, thus reducing communication problems at work.
- Students will be able to **hear** and **reproduce** correct stress, intonation and rhythm with these idiomatic phrases, improving both listening comprehension & spoken English.

Chapter Nine: The Speech

Objectives

- Students will learn to identify and use the following idioms with the correct stress, intonation and rhythm:
 - Throw someone a curve
 - No dice
 - A piece of cake
 - Raise the bar
 - Butter someone up
 - Drop the ball
 - Play it by ear
 - On second thought

Outcomes

- Students will be able to **hear** and **understand** the targeted idioms, improving both listening and reading comprehension, thus reducing communication problems at work.
- Students will be able to **hear** and **reproduce** correct stress, intonation and rhythm with these idiomatic phrases, improving both listening comprehension & spoken English.

Successful Completion of the course will be demonstrated by satisfying the required 20 hours working in the online program, audio book, Weekly Tips from the Author and completing the Final review with a minimum score of 75% (tracked by the UMS - User Management System).