

Idioms – A Closer
Lesson 2
(The) Bomb



Part A

- (The) Bomb
- Bone of contention
- Born yesterday
- Bottom line
- Break a leg
- Buckle down
- Bug
- Burn a hole in my pocket
- Burn the midnight oil (1)
- Burn the midnight oil (2)
- Burn the midnight oil (3)
- Bursting at the seams (1)
- Bursting at the seams (2)
- By the skin of my teeth
- Call it a day

An idiom may be listed multiple times due to multiple definitions and signs that may be possible.

(The) Bomb

Bone of contention

Born yesterday

Bottom line

Break a leg

Buckle down

Bug

Burn a hole in my pocket

Burn the midnight oil (1)

Burn the midnight oil (2)

Burn the midnight oil (3)

Bursting at the seams (1)

Bursting at the seams (2)

By the skin of my teeth

Call it a day

Lesson 02 - A



An expression used to identify a really neat/cool person:
Whoa, you play guitar *and* sing??? YOU'RE **THE BOMB!**



Something to fight over; reason for quarrels:
The boundary line between the farms was a **bone of contention** between the two farmers.



Inexperienced and easily fooled:
I won't give you the money till I see the bicycle you want to tell me. Do you think I was **born yesterday?**



The most essential information:
The discussion lasted many hours. The **bottom line** was that the XYZ Company isn't for sale.

An expression used to identify a really neat/cool person:
Whoa, you play guitar *and* sing??? YOU'RE **THE BOMB!** (Neat You!)

Something to fight over; reason for quarrels:
The boundary line between the farms was a **bone of contention** between the two farmers.
(Reason Argue)

Inexperienced and easily fooled:
I won't give you the money till I see the bicycle you want to sell me. Do you think I was **born yesterday?** (Innocent)

The most essential information:
The discussion lasted many hours. The **bottom line** was that the XYZ Company isn't for sale.
(Point)

Lesson 02 - A



To wish good luck
I understand you have a job interview tomorrow. **Break a leg!**



To give complete attention (to an effort or job); attend
The group knew they were going to have to **buckle down** to get the project finished.



Annoy; bother
I'm trying to concentrate! Don't **bug** me!



To have money that you just want to spend
I was never able to save any money, it always **burned a hole in my pocket.**

To wish good luck

I understand you have a job interview tomorrow. **Break a leg!** (Good Luck)

To give complete attention (to an effort or job); attend

The group knew they were going to have to **buckle down** to get the project finished. (Roll Up Sleeves Work Ready)

Annoy; bother

I'm trying to concentrate! Don't **bug** me! (Bother)

To have money that you just want to spend

I was never able to save any money, it always **burned a hole in my pocket.** (Money Save Cant)

Lesson 02 - A



Study/work all night or until very, very late at night
I'm not ready for the test tomorrow. I guess I'll have to **burn the midnight oil.**



Study/work all night or until very, very late at night
I'm not ready for the test tomorrow. I guess I'll have to **burn the midnight oil.**



Study/work all night or until very, very late at night
I'm not ready for the test tomorrow. I guess I'll have to **burn the midnight oil.**



To be very busy or overcrowded
The airport was so busy it was **bursting at the seams.**

Study/work all night or until very, very late at night (work all night)
I'm not ready for the test tomorrow. I guess I'll have to **burn the midnight oil.**
(Work All Night)

Study/work all night or until very, very late at night (do, do all night)
I'm not ready for the test tomorrow. I guess I'll have to **burn the midnight oil.**
(Do Do Do All Night)

Study/work all night or until very, very late at night (stay away all night)
I'm not ready for the test tomorrow. I guess I'll have to **burn the midnight oil.**
(Eyes Open All Night)

To be very busy or overcrowded
The airport was so busy it was **bursting at the seams.** (Scads/Hordes Cramped)

Lesson 02 - A



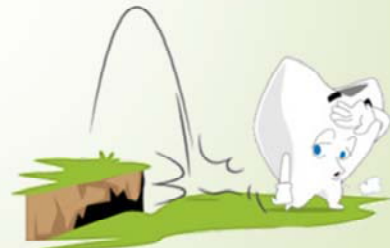
To be very excited
I was **bursting at the seams** to tell my news!



Barely succeed in doing something
I'll have to start earlier the next time. This time I only finished **by the skin of my teeth**.



To stop for the day; quit
Su Linn studied hard until 10 P.M., and then decided to **call it a day** and went to bed.



To be very excited

I was **bursting at the seams** to tell my news! (Jump Excited)

Barely succeed in doing something

I'll have to start earlier the next time. This time I only finished **by the skin of my teeth**.

(Nick of Time)

To stop for the day; quit

Su Linn studied hard until 10 P.M., and then decided to **call it a day** and went to bed.

(Decide Stop)

Animal Idioms

Idiom	Meaning
ants in one's pants	
(the) birds and the bees	
cat nap	
chicken out	
copy cat	

Animal Idioms

Ants in one's pants

Unable to sit still or remain calm out of nervousness or excitement

(the) birds and the bees

Sex education

Cat nap

A short sleep

Chicken out

To decide not to do something out of fear (usually just before)

Copy cat

A person who does the same thing as someone else

Animal Idioms

Idiom	Meaning
eager beaver	
cash cow	
kangaroo court	
bull in a china shop	
hold your horses	

Animal Idioms

Eager beaver

A person who is excited about doing certain work

Cash cow

A good way to make money

Kangaroo court

A self-appointed group that decides what to do to someone who is supposed to have done wrong

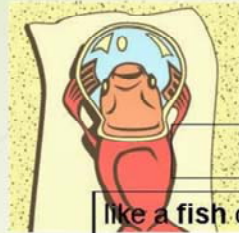
Bull in a china shop

A person with no tact who upsets others or upsets plans

Hold your horses

Wait and be patient

Animal Idioms



Idiom

Meaning

like a fish out of water.

to eat like a horse.

mutton dressed (up) as lamb.

to pull a rabbit out of the hat.

a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Animal Idioms

Like a fish out of water

To be uncomfortable in a particular situation

Mutton dressed (up) as lamb

To describe a woman who is dressed in a style that is more suitable for a much younger woman

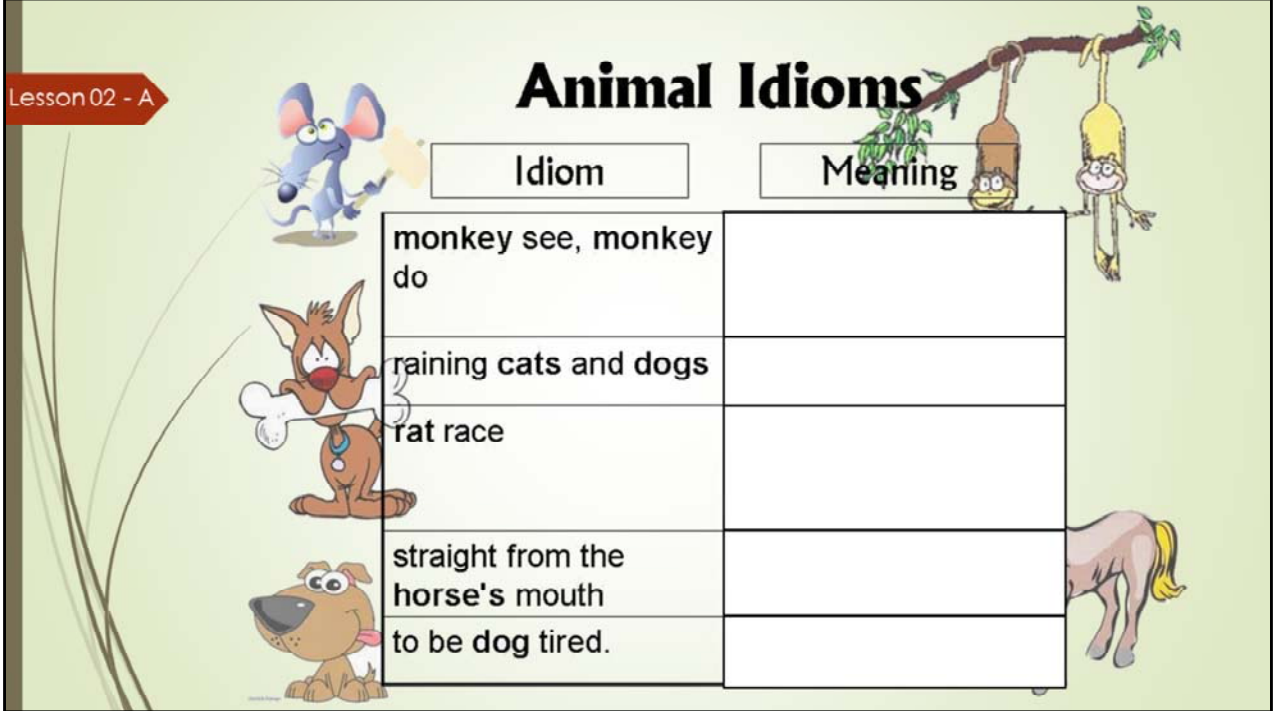
To pull a rabbit out of the hat

To surprise everyone by suddenly doing something clever

A wolf in sheep's clothing

Someone who is dangerous, but pretends to be harmless

Animal Idioms



Idiom	Meaning
monkey see, monkey do	
raining cats and dogs	
rat race	
straight from the horse's mouth	
to be dog tired.	

Animal Idioms

Monkey see, monkey do

Silly/unintelligent people tend to copy each other's actions

Raining cats and dogs

Raining heavily

Rat race

Fierce, competitive struggle for power, position etc

Straight from the horse's mouth

Directly from the original source

To be dog tired

To be exhausted

Animal Idioms

Idiom

Meaning

to have a **bee** in your bonnet.

the early **bird** catches the worm.

kill **two** birds with **one** stone

a **bird's** eye view.

get the **lion's** share

Animal Idioms

To have a bee in your bonnet

To be blessed about something

The early bird catches the worm

If you do something in a timely manner you will succeed

Kill two birds with one stone

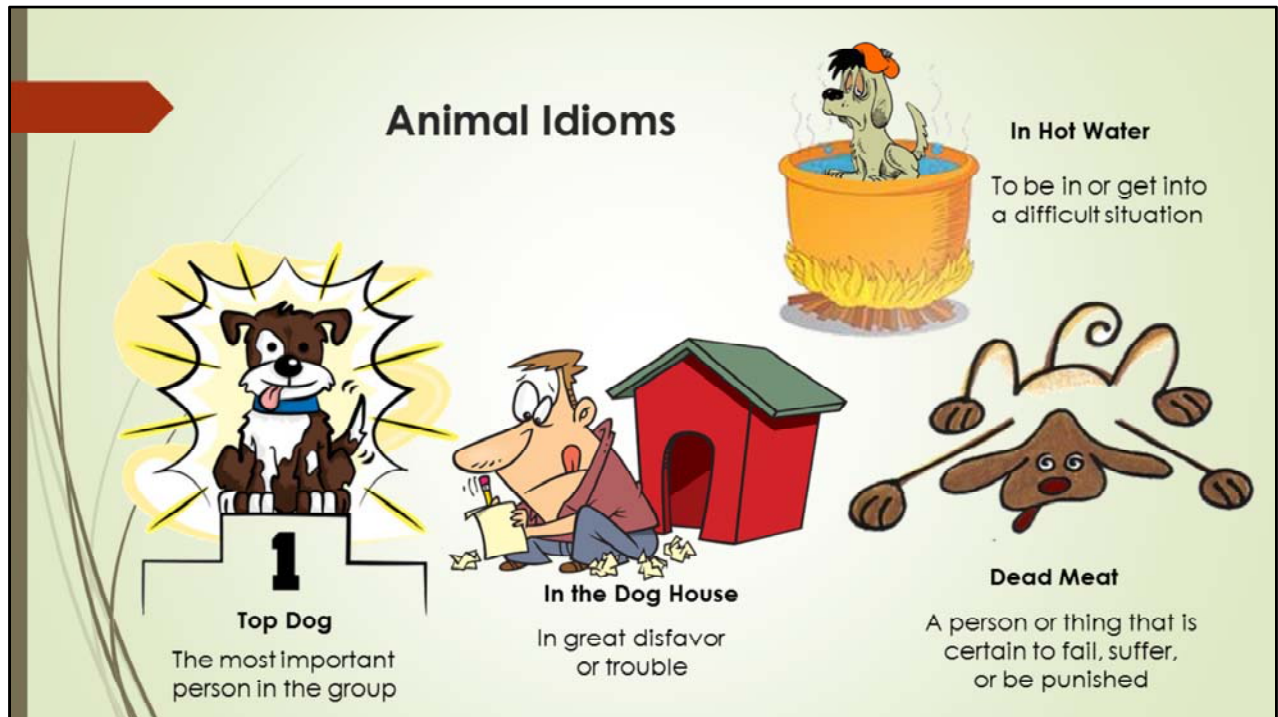
Get two things done at once

A bird's eye view

The appearance of something seen from above

Get the lion's share

Get the greatest percentage



Gog idioms

Top Dog

The most important person in the group

In the Dog House

In great disfavor or trouble

In Hot Water

To be in or get into a difficult situation

Dead Meat

A person or thing that is certain to fail, suffer, or be punished

X - Handshape



1. Mental scar: something I'm not likely to forget
2. Hooked on; addicted
3. To be fresh
4. Perceptive; quick to notice
5. To give in; All right, alright
6. Right on time
7. To pry into one's business to steal a look
8. Apt to





ASL Idioms



- Most of these what people call "ASL Idioms" are just regular vocabulary signs in ASL. However, many people for many years have called them "idioms" and "expressions" (probably because the English translations often appear as an expression). None-the-less, these are fun signs and well worth knowing.

ASL Idioms

Most of these what people call "ASL Idioms" are just regular vocabulary signs in ASL. However, many people for many years have called them "idioms" and "expressions" (probably because the English translations often appear as an expression). None-the-less, these are fun signs and well worth knowing.

"ANGRY, ME"

- ▶ I am so mad about that!
- ▶ I was never so angry in all my life!
- ▶ (Use "angry" sign in the sense of being mad enough to pull off your shirt and start fighting)



"ANGRY, ME"

I am so mad about that!

I was never so angry in all my life!

(Use "angry" sign in the sense of being mad enough to pull off your shirt and start fighting)

Lesson 02 - A

"ARGUE WORTHLESS"

- It's no use arguing!
- Arguing with you is no good!
- You'll get nowhere by arguing!



"ARGUE WORTHLESS"

It's no use arguing!
Arguing with you is no good!
You'll get nowhere by arguing!

Lesson 02 - A

"BEAT YOU, ME!"

- ▶ (Use "shoot-H" sign for "beat-you")
- ▶ I'm better than you are!

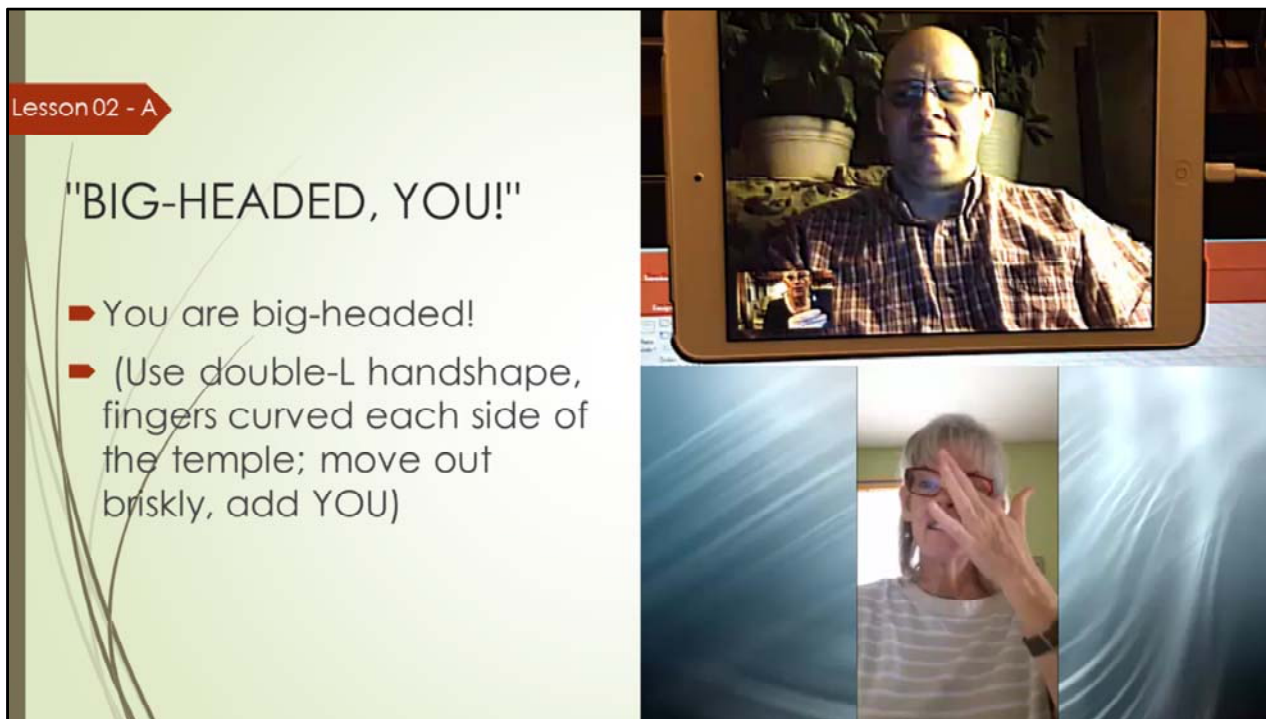


"BEAT YOU, ME!"

(Use "shoot-H" sign for "beat-you")
I'm better than you are!

"BIG-HEADED, YOU!"

- ▶ You are big-headed!
- ▶ (Use double-L handshape, fingers curved each side of the temple; move out briskly, add YOU)



"BIG-HEADED, YOU!"

You are big-headed!

(Use double-L handshape, fingers curved each side of the temple; move out briskly, add YOU)

Part B

- Can't make heads or tails of
- Cash cow
- Catch some Z's
- Catch someone's eye
- Change your tune
- Charley horse
- Cheap skate
- Chip on your shoulder
- Cinch (1)
- Cinch (2)
- Clear the air
- Cold feet
- Cold shoulder
- Cool it
- Cost an arm and leg

An idiom may be listed multiple times due to multiple definitions and signs that may be possible.

Can't make heads or tails of

Cash cow

Catch some Z's

Catch someone's eye

Change your tune

Charley horse

Cheap skate

Chip on your shoulder

Cinch (1)

Cinch (2)

Clear the air

Cold feet

Cold shoulder

Cool it

Cost an arm and leg

Lesson 02 - B



Unable to see the 'why' of; unable to find a meaning in; unable to understand
She **could not make heads or tails** of the directions on the dress pattern.



Someone who is wealthy and supports someone/something
Our university is supported in large part by a **cash cow** millionaire.



Sleep for a while; take a nap
You look tired, Harrison. Why don't you **catch some Z's**?



To attract your attention
Rob **caught Joanne's eye** when he waved to her from the crowd.

Unable to see the 'why' of; unable to find a meaning in; unable to understand
She **could not make heads or tails** of the directions on the dress pattern. (Not Understand)

Someone who is wealthy and supports someone/something
Our university is supported in large part by a **cash cow** millionaire. (Rich Person Support)

Sleep for a while; take a nap
You look tired, Harrison. Why don't you **catch some Z's**? (Sleep)

To attract your attention
Rob **caught Joanne's eye** when he waved to her from the crowd. (Look Look)

Lesson 02 - B



To make a change in your story, statement or claim
The man said he was innocent, but when they found the stolen watch in his pocket he **changed his tune**.



A muscular cramp (especially in the thigh or calf) following vigorous exercise
Courtney couldn't go aerobics due to a **charleyhorse**.



Selfish or stingy person; a person not willing to spend much
No one wants to hang around a **cheap skate** because they run when the bill comes.



A quarrelsome nature; readiness to be angered
Charles often gets into fights because he goes around with a **chip on his shoulder**.

To make a change in your story, statement or claim

The man said he was innocent, but when they found the stolen watch in his pocket he **changed his tune**. (Comment Change)

A muscular cramp (especially in the thigh or calf) following vigorous exercise
Courtney couldn't go aerobics due to a **charleyhorse**. (Leg Hurt)

Selfish or stingy person; a person not willing to spend much
No one wants to hang around a **cheap skate** because they run when the bill comes. (Money Pay Refuse)

A quarrelsome nature; readiness to be angered
Charles often gets into fights because he goes around with a **chip on his shoulder**. (Fume)

Lesson 02 - B



Something that's very easy to do
The test was a **cinch**. I finished it quickly and I know that all my answers were correct.



Something that's very easy to do
The test was a **cinch**. I finished it quickly and I know that all my answers were correct.



To remove angry feelings, misunderstanding, or confusion
The President's statement that he would run for office again **cleared the air** of rumors and guessing.



A loss of courage or nerve
Ben was going to ask Sharon to dance with him but he got **cold feet** and didn't.

Something that's very easy to do (nothing to it)

The test was a **cinch**. I finished it quickly and I know that all my answers were correct.

(Nothing)

Something that's very easy to do (a real pro)

The test was a **cinch**. I finished it quickly and I know that all my answers were correct. (True

Pro)

To remove angry feelings, misunderstanding, or confusion

The President's statement that he would run for office again **cleared the air** of rumors and guessing. (Discuss Problem Solve)

A loss of courage or nerve

Ben was going to ask Sharon to dance with him but he got **cold feet** and didn't. (Nervous)

Lesson 02 - B



Unfriendly treatment of a person: looking down at a person
The membership committee gave Jim the **cold shoulder** when he requested to join the club.



Calm down
There's no need to be so upset. Just **cool it!**



Cost a lot; be very expensive
Your new car is really nice. I bet it **cost an arm and a leg!**



Unfriendly treatment of a person; looking down at a person
The membership committee gave Jim the **cold shoulder** when he requested to join the club. (Ignore)

Calm down
There's no need to be so upset. Just **cool it!** (Take Easy)

Cost a lot; be very expensive
Your new car is really nice. I bet it **cost an arm and a leg!** (Expensive Wow)

IDIOMS DESCRIBING PEOPLE



DAREDEVIL
Someone who takes unnecessary risks.



CRYBABY
Someone who cries a lot and for no good reason - not a real baby.



CHEAPSKATE
Someone who hates to spend money.



BARREL OF LAUGH
Someone who is very funny.



OLD AS THE HILLS
Someone who is very old.



TROUBLEMAKER/ CLASSCLOWN
The first causes trouble and the second makes everyone laugh.



NUTTY AS A FRUIT CAKE
Someone who is a bit crazy.

Idioms Describing People

Daredevil = Someone who takes unnecessary risks

Crybaby = Someone who cries a lot and for no good reason – not a real baby.

Cheapskate = Someone who hates to spend money.

Barrel of Laugh = Someone who is very funny.

Old As The Hills = Someone who is very old.

Troublemaker / Classclown = The first causes trouble and the second makes everyone laugh

Nutty As A Fruit Cake = Someone who is a bit crazy.