

Idioms – A Closer  
Lesson 7  
Little bird told me



## Part A

- ▶ Little bird told me
- ▶ Look like the cat that swallowed the canary
- ▶ Look at what the cat dragged in
- ▶ Make a dent in
- ▶ Man after my own heart (1)
- ▶ Man after my own heart (2)
- ▶ Mind like a steel trap
- ▶ Money talks
- ▶ Month of Sundays
- ▶ More than one way to skin a cat
- ▶ My hands are tied
- ▶ Name is mud
- ▶ Neck and neck
- ▶ Neither here nor there (1)
- ▶ Neither here nor there (2)

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

Little bird told me

Look like the cat that swallowed the canary

Look at what the cat dragged in

Make a dent in

Man after my own heart (1)

Man after my own heart (2)

Mind like a steel trap

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My hands are tied

Name is mud

Neck and neck

Neither here nor there (1)

Neither here nor there (2)

Lesson 07 - A



I won't tell you who told me  
A: Who told you I was dating Percy?  
B: Oh, a **little bird told me**.



To look proud of one's self  
When she won the prize, she went home **looking like the cat that swallowed the canary**



A humorously derogatory comment on someone's arrival  
When Tom entered the room, his brother Kyle said, "**Look at what the cat dragged in.**"



To make less by a very small amount; reduce slightly  
Amrit studied all afternoon and only **made a dent in** her homework.

I won't tell you who told me  
A: Who told you I was dating Percy?  
B: Oh, a **little bird told me**. (Rumor/Gossip)

To look proud of one's self  
When she won the prize, she went home **looking like the cat that swallowed the canary** (Proud)

A humorously derogatory comment on someone's arrival  
When Tom entered the room, his brother Kyle said, "**Look at what the cat dragged in.**" (Look Down On – Show Up)

To make less by a very small amount; reduce slightly  
Amrit studied all afternoon and only **made a dent in** her homework. (Reduce Little)

Lesson 07 - A



Well liked because of agreeing with your own feelings, interest, and ideas; to your liking  
He likes baseball and good food; he is a **man after my own heart**.



A very quick and understanding mind  
Although Henry doesn't usually make good grades, he has a **mind like a steel trap**.



Well liked because of agreeing with your own feelings, interest, and ideas; to your liking  
He likes baseball and good food; he is a **man after my own heart**.



Using money to influence or control people  
You can ask the man, but **money talks**. He will let you in the door for a tip.

Well liked because of agreeing with your own feelings, interest, and ideas; to your liking

He likes baseball and good food; he is a **man after my own heart**. (Heart Same)

Well liked because of agreeing with your own feelings, interest, and ideas; to your liking

He likes baseball and good food; he is a **man after my own heart**. (Mine Same)

A very quick and understanding mind

Although Henry doesn't usually make good grades, he has a **mind like a steel trap**. (Brilliant/Smart)

Using money to influence or control people

You can ask the man, but **money talks**. He will let you in the door for a tip. (Money Persuade)

Lesson 07 - A



A very long time I have not had devil's food cake in a **month of Sundays**.



More than one way to do something There's **more than one way to skin a cat** when it comes to composing an essay.



Unable to do something one would like to do **My hands are tied**; there is nothing more I can do for you. You will have to answer to the district manager for your unacceptable behavior.



A person is in trouble; a person is blamed or no longer liked If you tell your parents I spilled ink on their rug, **my name will be mud**.

A very long time I have not had devil's food cake in a **month of Sundays**. (Since Long Time)

More than one way to do something There's **more than one way to skin a cat** when it comes to composing an essay. (Path Different Have)

Unable to do something one would like to do **My hands are tied**; there is nothing more I can do for you. You will have to answer to the district manager for your unacceptable behavior. (Stuck)

A person is in trouble; a person is blamed or no longer liked If you tell your parents I spilled ink on their rug, **my name will be mud**. (Trouble)

Lesson 07 - A



Equal or nearly equal in a race or contest; abreast; tied At the end of the race the two horses were **neck and neck**.



Not important to the thing being discussed; off the subject Perhaps you did stay up late finishing your homework. That's **neither here nor there**. You still must come to school on time



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Equal or nearly equal in a race or contest; abreast; tied At the end of the race the two horses were **neck and neck**. (Bent B's [equal] jockey for the top)

Not important to the thing being discussed; off the subject Perhaps you did stay up late finishing your homework. That's **neither here nor there**. You still must come to school on time. (Whatever)

Not important to the thing being discussed; off the subject Perhaps you did stay up late finishing your homework. That's **neither here nor there**. You still must come to school on time. (Worth - Worthless)

Lesson 07 - A

Bent V Handshape

1. Way too much (taxed money, salt, etc)
2. You've got a lot of nerve
3. Nab; go after
4. To be immersed; to become fully involved with
5. Restless, ants in one's pants
6. Shortage; lack of something
7. Hardly
8. Dumb founded; at a loss for words



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## "LAUGH-AT-YOU, ME"

- ▶ "Ha ha ha"
- ▶ I don't take you seriously.
- ▶ Also used in making fun of another person having to work hard when you're not working



## "LAUGH-AT-YOU, ME"

"Ha ha ha"

I don't take you seriously.

Also used in making fun of another person having to work hard when you're not working

Lesson 07 - A

"ME SICK THAT"

- ▀ I'm sick of that!
- ▀ I hate that!"



**"ME SICK THAT"**

I'm sick of that!

I hate that!"

Lesson 07 - A

"ME, ME, ME, YOU!"

■ You are an egotist!



"ME, ME, ME, YOU!"

You are an egotist!

Lesson 07 - A

"MONEY  
COMFORTABLE, YOU!"

► You're well-off!



**"MONEY COMFORTABLE, YOU!"**

You're well-off!

Lesson 07 - A

"NERVY, YOU!"

► You have some nerve!



"NERVY, YOU!"

You have some nerve!

## Part B

- ▶ Nest egg
- ▶ Nip it in the bud
- ▶ No holds barred
- ▶ No spring chicken
- ▶ Not know which way to turn
- ▶ Off-the-cuff
- ▶ Off the wagon
- ▶ Old hat
- ▶ On the cutting edge
- ▶ On the Q.T
- ▶ Once in a blue moon (1)
- ▶ Once in a blue moon (2)
- ▶ One's bark is worse than one's bite
- ▶ Out of character
- ▶ Out of stock

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

Nest egg

Nip it in the bud

No holds barred

No spring chicken

Not know which way to turn

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Once in a blue moon (1)

Once in a blue moon (2)

One's bark is worse than one's bite

Out of character

Out of stock

Lesson 07 - B



A fund of money kept in reserve; savings The interest on that investment should provide a substantial **nest egg** for when we retire.



Forestall/frustrate a scheme/plan (before it can be implemented) Any ill-feeling has to be **nipped in the bud** before it develops into open revolt.



Acting very forcefully or enthusiastically without paying attention to any restraints, limits or restrictions that may exist We are in a state of war. It is a war with **no holds barred**, and we must prepare to resist.



Old Bernice was **no spring chicken** when she finally decided to get married at age 55

A fund of money kept in reserve; savings The interest on that investment should provide a substantial **nest egg** for when we retire. (Money Invest)

Forestall/frustrate a scheme/plan (before it can be implemented) Any ill-feeling has to be **nipped in the bud** before it develops into open revolt. (Block Event/Happen)

Acting very forcefully or enthusiastically without paying attention to any restraints, limits or restrictions that may exist We are in a state of war. It is a war with **no holds barred**, and we must prepare to resist. (Limit None/Zero)

Old Bernice was **no spring chicken** when she finally decided to get married at age 55. (Old)

Lesson 07 - B



To be puzzled about getting out of a difficulty When Oscar missed the last bus home, he didn't **know which way to turn**.



Without preparation He made a stupid **off-the-cuff** remark



No longer refusing to drink whiskey or other alcoholic beverages When a heavy drinker quits, he must really quit. One little drink of whiskey is enough to drive him **off the wagon**.



Not new or different I've been doing this job for so long, it's all **old hat now**.

To be puzzled about getting out of a difficulty When Oscar missed the last bus home, he didn't **know which way to turn**. (Do Do – Don't Know)

Without preparation He made a stupid **off-the-cuff** remark. (Not Planed)

No longer refusing to drink whiskey or other alcoholic beverages When a heavy drinker quits, he must really quit. One little drink of whiskey is enough to drive him **off the wagon**. (Alcohol Again)

Not new or different I've been doing this job for so long, it's all **old hat now**. (Same O – Same O)

Lesson 07 - B



Using the most recent technology The university's computer lab is **on the cutting edge**. It has all the latest hardware and software.



Secretly; without anyone knowing The teachers got the principal a present strictly **on the Q.T.**



Very rarely; very seldom Coin collecting is interesting, but you find a valuable coin only **once in a blue moon**.



Using the most recent technology The university's computer lab is **on the cutting edge**. It has all the latest hardware and software. (New)

Secretly; without anyone knowing The teachers got the principal a present strictly **on the Q.T.** (Secret)

Very rarely; very seldom Coin collecting is interesting, but you find a valuable coin only **once in a blue moon**. (Sometimes)

Lesson 07 - B



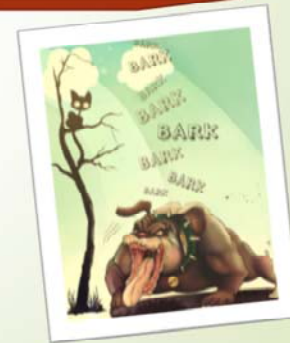
Someone comes across as being very mean and nasty, but doesn't necessarily act on their threats. She was always scolding her children, but they knew that her **bark was worse than her bite**.



Not in agreement with a person's character or personality; not usual. Lin is a nice girl. Her fit of temper was **out of character**.



Having none for sale or use; no longer in supply; sold out. When Father tried to get tires for an old car, the man in the store said the size was **out of stock** and were not sold anymore.



Someone comes across as being very mean and nasty, but doesn't necessarily act on their threats. She was always scolding her children, but they knew that her **bark was worse than her bite**. (Seems Mean / Heart Soft)

Not in agreement with a person's character or personality; not usual. Lin is a nice girl. Her fit of temper was **out of character**. (Tendency Not)

Having none for sale or use; no longer in supply; sold out. When Father tried to get tires for an old car, the man in the store said the size was **out of stock** and were not sold anymore. (Gone)