

Idioms – A Closer
Lesson 9
Show your colors



Part A

- Show your colors
- Sight for sore eyes
- Sitting duck
- Skeleton in the closet
- Sleep on it
- Song and dance
- Speak of the devil
- Spitting image
- Split hairs
- Square peg in a round hole
- Steal one's thunder (1)
- Steal one's thunder (2)
- Sticky fingers
- Stomping ground
- Stool-pigeon

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

Show your colors

Sight for sore eyes

Sitting duck

Skeleton in the closet

Sleep on it

Song and dance

Speak of the devil

Spitting image

Split hairs

Square peg in a round hole

Steal one's thunder (1)

Steal one's thunder (2)

Sticky fingers

Stomping ground

Stool-pigeon

Lesson 09 - A



To show what you are really like
We thought Toby was timid, but he **showed his colors** when he rescued the ponies from the burning barn.



A welcome sight; a relief
After our long, dusty hike, the pond was a **sight for sore eyes**.



An easy mark
The overweight little boy with glasses was a **sitting duck** for the merciless bully.



A shameful secret; someone or something kept hidden
The **skeleton in our family closet** was Uncle Willie. No one mentioned him because he drank too much.

To show what you are really like
We thought Toby was timid, but he **showed his colors** when he rescued the ponies from the burning barn. (Show True Self)

A welcome sight; a relief
After our long, dusty hike, the pond was a **sight for sore eyes**. (Relieved)

An easy mark
The overweight little boy with glasses was a **sitting duck** for the merciless bully. (Easy Take Advantage)

A shameful secret; someone or something kept hidden
The **skeleton in our family closet** was Uncle Willie. No one mentioned him because he drank too much. (Terrible Secret)

Lesson 09 - A



To give serious thought before making a decision
Before we buy a pool, I had first better **sleep on it** and then I'll decide.



Foolish or uninteresting talk; dull nonsense
I met Nancy today and she gave me a long **song and dance** about her family.



A person comes just when you are talking about him
We were just talking about Bill when he came in the door.
Speak of the devil, and he appears.



An exact likeness; a duplicate
Kaz is the **spitting image** of his grandfather.

To give serious thought before making a decision
Before we buy a pool, I had first better **sleep on it** and then I'll decide. (First Sleep/Thinking – Later Decide)

Foolish or uninteresting talk; dull nonsense
I met Nancy today and she gave me a long **song and dance** about her family.
(Comment – Same O Same O)

A person comes just when you are talking about him
We were just talking about Bill when he came in the door. **Speak of the devil**, and he appears. (Recent Speak Your Name Show Up)

An exact likeness; a duplicate
Kaz is the **spitting image** of his grandfather. (Looks Strong)

Lesson 09 - A



To find and argue about unimportant differences as if the differences are important
Emilio is always **splitting hairs**; he often starts an argument about something small and unimportant.



A person who does not fit into a job or position; someone who does not belong where he is
He is a **square peg in a round hole** when he is playing ball.



Rob somebody of the chance to receive credit/praise
I did all the hard work, but my boss **stole my thunder** by announcing the discovery as his own.



Rob somebody of the chance to receive credit/praise
I did all the hard work, but my boss **stole my thunder** by announcing the discovery as his own.

To find and argue about unimportant differences as if the differences are important
Emilio is always **splitting hairs**; he often starts an argument about something small and unimportant. (Think/Thought Meditate Nothing)

A person who does not fit into a job or position; someone who does not belong where he is
He is a **square peg in a round hole** when he is playing ball. (Mis-match)

Rob somebody of the chance to receive credit/praise
I did all the hard work, but my boss **stole my thunder** by announcing the discovery as his own. (Comment Steal)

Rob somebody of the chance to receive credit/praise
I did all the hard work, but my boss **stole my thunder** by announcing the discovery as his own. (Idea Steal)

Lesson 09 - A



The habit of stealing things you see and want
Don't leave money in your locker; some students have **sticky fingers**.



A place where a person spends much of his time
Pete's soda fountain is an after-school **stomping ground** for the high school kids.



An informer
The teacher's pet is a classic **stool-pigeon**, as he will tattletale on anyone.



The habit of stealing things you see and want
Don't leave money in your locker; some students have **sticky fingers**. (Tend to Steal)

A place where a person spends much of his time
Pete's soda fountain is an after-school **stomping ground** for the high school kids.
(Area - Same O Same O)

An informer
The teacher's pet is a classic **stool-pigeon**, as he will tattletale on anyone. (Tend - Tattle-tail)

Lesson 09 - A

B - Handshape

1. Brown nose, kiss up to
2. To be fed up
3. Ready to burst; blow a fuse
4. A slap in the face
5. Straightforward
6. To frequent (place or person) often go to
7. A booming success
8. Convince completely; to talk someone into



B - Handshape

1. Brown nose, kiss up to
2. To be fed up
3. Ready to burst; blow a fuse
4. A slap in the face
5. Straightforward
6. To frequent (place or person) often go to
7. A booming success
8. Convince completely; to talk someone into

Lesson 09 - A

The Claw Handshape

1. Light-headed
2. To hold back; repress a feeling
3. Gross!
4. To catch what someone said or did
5. To work something out
6. To foul up; a total mess
7. Mismatch; don't go together
8. To try to muddle through (to an understanding)



The Claw Handshape

1. Light-headed
2. To hold back; repress a feeling
3. Gross!
4. To catch what someone said or did
5. To work something out
6. To foul up; a total mess
7. Mismatch; don't go together
8. To try to muddle through (to an understanding)

Lesson 09 - A

"SICK-YOU!"

- ▀ You are sick and disgusting!
- ▀ I'm sick of you!



"SICK-YOU!"

You are sick and disgusting!
I'm sick of you!

Lesson 09 - A

"STINK YOU!"

- ▶ You were lousy!
- ▶ You were terrible!
- ▶ You did a bad job!



"STINK YOU!"

You were lousy!
You were terrible!
You did a bad job!

Lesson 09 - A

"STOMACH TURNOVER, ME"

- ▶ That makes me sick to my stomach!
- ▶ I can't stomach that!
- ▶ I'm upset!



"STOMACH TURNOVER, ME"

That makes me sick to my stomach!
I can't stomach that!
I'm upset!

★ "SWALLOW FISH!"

- He's a sucker.
- He's gullible and naïve.
- He fell for that hook, line, and sinker!



"SWALLOW FISH!"

He's a sucker.

He's gullible and naïve.

He fell for that hook, line, and sinker!

Lesson 09 - A

"THINK EASY, YOU?"

- (Used as a challenge when someone is physically threatened)



"THINK EASY, YOU?"

(Used as a challenge when someone is physically threatened)

Part B

- Straight face
- Struck out
- Stuck-up
- Swallow it hook, line and sinker
- Take a back seat
- Take issue with
- Take the bull by the horns
- Talk to the hand
- Tan your hide
- Tell a white lie
- Think on your feet
- Tight-fisted
- Time on your hands
- Tip off
- To a t

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

Straight face

Struck out

Stuck-up

Swallow it hook, line and sinker

Take a back seat

Take issue with

Take the bull by the horns

Talk to the hand

Tan your hide

Tell a white lie

Think on your feet

Tight-fisted

Time on your hands

Tip off

To a t

Lesson 09 - B



A face that is not laughing or smiling
Maria told all the funny stories she knew to try to make Juanita laugh, but Juanita kept a **straight face**.



To fail at something
Dolores **struck out** when she tried to get her job back. She should not have quit in the first place.



Acting as if other people are not as good as you are; conceited; snobbish
Sue is very **stuck-up**, and will not speak to the poor children in her class.



Believing something (usually a falsity)
The girl at the party really believed me when I said I worked as a secret agent. She **swallowed the story hook, line and sinker**.

A face that is not laughing or smiling

Maria told all the funny stories she knew to try to make Juanita laugh, but Juanita kept a **straight face**. (Expression Zero)

To fail at something

Dolores **struck out** when she tried to get her job back. She should not have quit in the first place. (Fail)

Acting as if other people are not as good as you are; conceited; snobbish

Sue is very **stuck-up**, and will not speak to the poor children in her class. (Stuck Up/ Snooty)

Believing something (usually a falsity)

The girl at the party really believed me when I said I worked as a secret agent. She **swallowed the story hook, line and sinker**. (Fish Swallow / Gullible)

Lesson 09 - B



To accept a poorer or lower position
During the war all manufacturing had to **take a back seat** to military needs.



To openly go against; speak against; disagree with
He thought his boss was wrong but was afraid to **take issue with** him on the matter.



To face and tackle a difficulty without shirking
He decided to **take the bull by the horns** and demand a raise in salary even though it might cost him his job.



A sarcastic expression used to inform someone that they are not listening
What? I don't want to hear you yell at me...**talk to the hand!**

To accept a poorer or lower position
During the war all manufacturing had to **take a back seat** to military needs. (Priority Lower)

To openly go against; speak against; disagree with
He thought his boss was wrong but was afraid to **take issue with** him on the matter. (Quick Confrontation)

To face and tackle a difficulty without shirking
He decided to **take the bull by the horns** and demand a raise in salary even though it might cost him his job. (Roll up Sleeves – Face to Face/Challenge)

A sarcastic expression used to inform someone that they are not listening
What? I don't want to hear you yell at me...**talk to the hand!** (Hold Up -5 hand – Attention Not)

Lesson 09 - B



To give a beating to; spank hard
Nigel's father **tanned his hide** for staying out too late.



Say something that isn't true in order not to hurt or offend someone
When Susan asked if I liked the cake she made, I **told a white lie** and said it was good.



To be mentally agile/ think quickly
There's no time to consult reference books, you have to **think on your feet** for this job.



Very frugal; unwilling to spend money unnecessarily
A: Will Charlie donate any money to the activities fund?
B: No way! He's too **tight-fisted!**

To give a beating to; spank hard
Nigel's father **tanned his hide** for staying out too late. (Spank)

Say something that isn't true in order not to hurt or offend someone
When Susan asked if I liked the cake she made, I **told a white lie** and said it was good. (Lie – 1 finger)

To be mentally agile/ think quickly
There's no time to consult reference books, you have to **think on your feet** for this job. (Think Quick)

Very frugal; unwilling to spend money unnecessarily
A: Will Charlie donate any money to the activities fund?
B: No way! He's too **tight-fisted!** (Selfish)

Lesson 09 - B



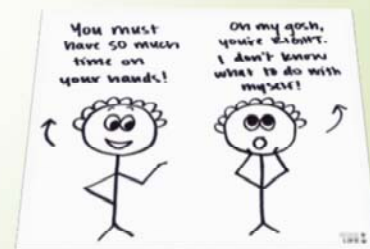
When one has nothing to do; bored; wasting his or her time
During the summer months, most kids have too much **time on their hands**.



Just right; to perfection; exactly
His nickname, Tiny, **suitied him to a T**.



To tell something not generally known; tell secret facts to; warn
The class president **tipped off** the class that it was the superintendent's birthday.



When one has nothing to do; bored; wasting his or her time
During the summer months, most kids have too much **time on their hands**. (Nothing to Do)

To tell something not generally known; tell secret facts to; warn
The class president **tipped off** the class that it was the superintendent's birthday.
(Secret – tell)

Just right; to perfection; exactly
His nickname, Tiny, **suitied him to a T**. (Perfect)