

IDIOMS 1

- Many words mean exactly what they say in a sentence - they have a literal meaning
- Some words don't mean exactly what they say in a sentence - they have a figurative meaning
- **Idioms** are groups of words that have **figurative** meanings

All of these sentences use the figurative meaning of the words in bold

1) It was the day of the exam, so I had to **bite the bullet** and go into the exam hall.

- bite into a bullet (literal)
- do something difficult which you wish you didn't have to (figurative)

2) "I'm going to **call it a day** now," sighed my brother, after studying for three hours without a break.

- say the name of the day (literal)
- stop doing something (figurative)

3) "They cost **an arm and a leg**," complained mum, as I put on my new trainers.

- one arm and one leg (literal)
- too much (figurative)

4) The deadline to buy the tickets was yesterday but I didn't have time to go online, so I've **missed the boat** on the concert.

- Not got on a ship (literal)
- too late for something (figurative)

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- 1) "Don't **beat around the bush**, just tell me what happened", said my dad when he saw glass all over the kitchen floor.
 - fight around a plant (literal)
 - avoid saying what you mean because it is uncomfortable (figurative)
- 2) "This class is **getting out of hand**", said the Head-teacher when he looked through the window and saw the children running around the classroom.
 - leaving their hand (literal)
 - losing control (figurative)
- 3) You **hit the nail on the head** when you said too much homework is stressful for kids.
 - bang a nail (literal)
 - said something exactly right (figurative)
- 4) I was shocked when my teacher told me that I'd failed the test but then she said, "I'm just **pulling your leg**."
 - pulling a leg (literal)
 - joking (figurative)

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Match the idioms to their meanings

missed the boat	joking
bite the bullet	said something exactly right
pulling your leg	was too late for something
beat around the bush	too much
call it a day	do something difficult which you wish you didn't have to
getting out of hand	stop doing something
an arm and a leg	losing control
hit the nail on the head	avoid saying what you mean because it is uncomfortable

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Answers

missed the boat	joking
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bite the bullet

pulling your leg

an arm and a leg

beat around the bush

call it a day

getting out of hand

hit the nail on the head

Write a sentence using each of the idioms

Try and join up the sentences to make a funny story

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