

Thematic Idioms

Idioms, which are a type of figurative language, vary extensively. The below resource serves to categorize some of these most commonly used expressions in the English language. Teaching idioms by theme is beneficial for students in that it assists them when developing connections for better understanding and eventual application.

Animal Idioms

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| 1. Straight from the horse's mouth. | Heard it from someone who was involved and knows. |
| 2. Let the cat out the bag. | Told the secret. |
| 3. Pull a rabbit out of a hat. | Make something happen at the last minute to solve a problem. |
| 4. My goose is cooked. | I'm in trouble. |

Head and Face Idioms

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| 1. Tongue-tied. | Too embarrassed or nervous to talk. |
| 2. Long face. | A disappointed look. |
| 3. Play it by ear. | Decide as you go – no definite plans. |
| 4. Keep my head above water. | Stay out of trouble. |

Sports Idioms

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| 1. Drop the ball. | Make a mistake. |
| 2. Skating on thin ice. | Risk danger. |
| 3. Jump thought hoops. | Go to great effort. |
| 4. That's the way the ball bounces. | That's life. |

Number Idioms

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| 1. On cloud nine. | So happy. |
| 2. Two heads are better than one. | Work with another person to solve a problem. |
| 3. Take five. | Take a short break. |
| 4. Dress to the nines. | Wear your best clothes. |