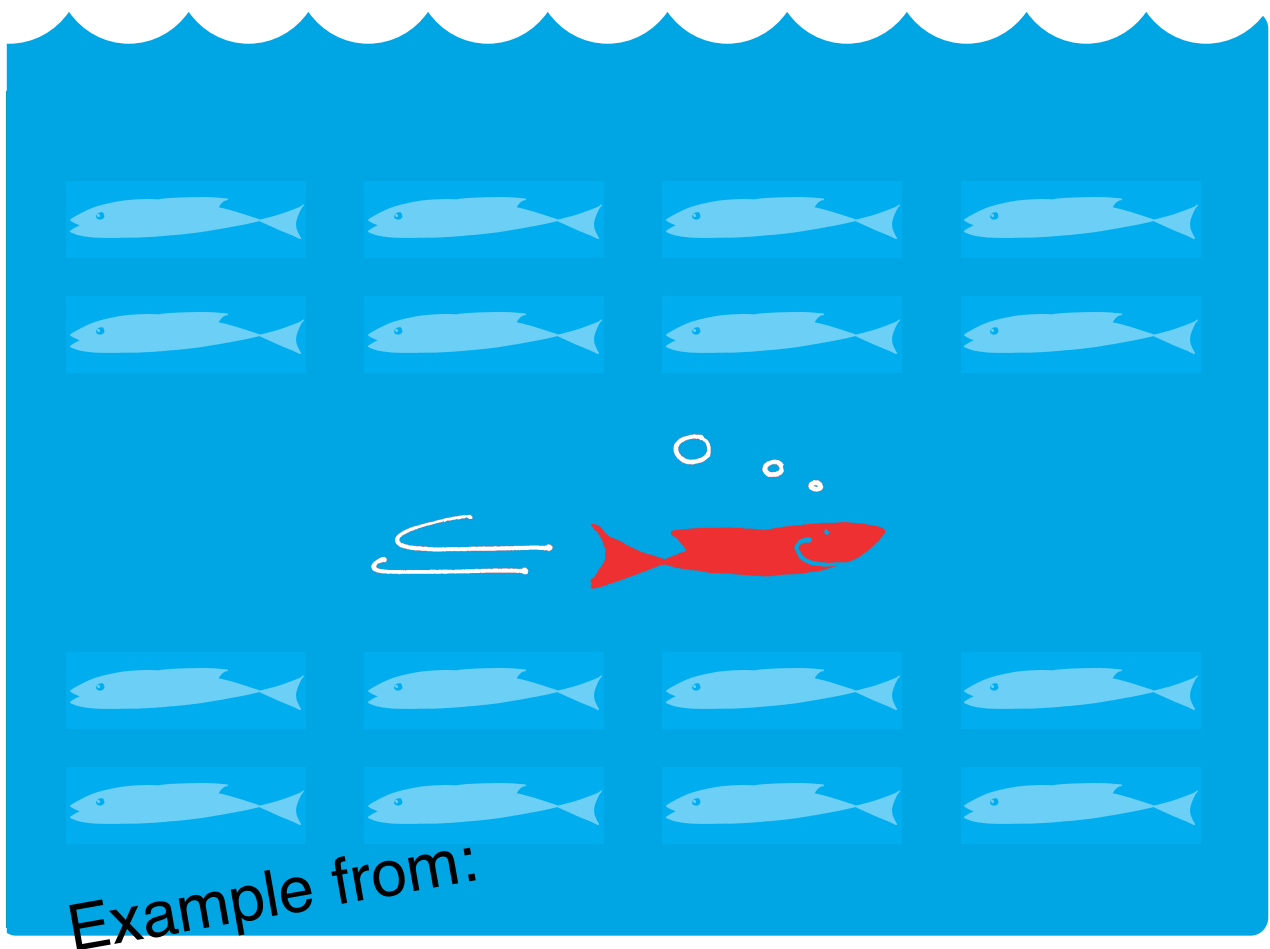




Red Herrings

Puzzle pages for Idioms

Intermediate



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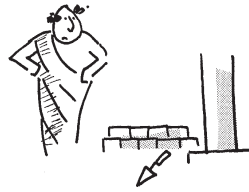
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Example from:

Teaching Notes

RED HERRINGS is for use either as a CLASS activity.

- make enough copies of the chosen exercise(s) for students to work in pairs
- set a time to complete the exercises, then check answers (using some of the 'BRAIN-friendly' tips below)

Or as a SELF-ACCESS activity

- students choose their exercise and, having completed it, check it themselves

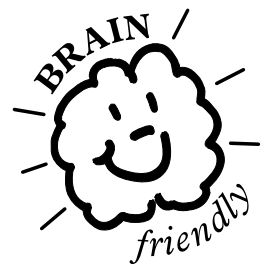
NOTE

- All the ANSWERS are on the inside back cover
- As well as the written exercises, each page has a match the "cartoon to the idiom" game

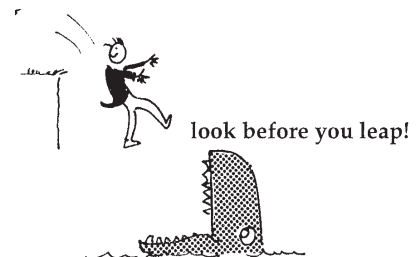
Example from:

10 'BRAIN-friendly' tips (you will think of others)

- Having completed the exercise, students take turns to mime one of the idioms for others to guess. This can be hilarious - and makes the language impossible to forget!
- Self-invest artistically. Especially with the 'wheel', 'crosswords' and 'snakes' use colours to create a brightly patterned end product. In every class there is someone whose talent for this will inspire others. People become proud of what they've done and the language activity achieves greater status.
- Do some colour coding to link idioms with their definitions by underlining them in the same colour.
- For each category, groups of students create a conversation which brings in three of the idioms. They act it out. The audience cheer when they recognize an idiom!
- 'Snake' exercises. Students draw and colour imaginative, eye-catching heads and tails on the snakes. Outstanding ones are displayed and become "peripheral reminders" of the idioms. (Award edible prizes to successful artists).
- Write the 'gap sentences' and the 'missing words' on different strips of paper. Play matching games.
- With the 'wheel' exercises one student calls out the missing word. The first class member to shout out the whole idiom correctly wins a 'sweet'.
- Groups draw a 'giant' on a large sheet of paper. Label 'nose' 'legs' 'clothes' etc with example idioms from those categories and leave him on display.
- Each person chooses a favourite idiom from their page and 'mingles' - teaching it to others in the class - with lots of exaggerated intonation and expression.
- Five minutes before the end of the lesson, let the students relax, put on some gentle music, and read through all the idioms in the exercise again, allowing time for them to echo in the memory.
- * If you are not familiar with the **6-point 'BRAIN-friendly package'** which explains the rationale for such activities fax **English Experience 44 1303 226702** for information.



* If you enjoy the curiosities of the English language make sure you get LIPS (Limericks Idioms Proverbs and Sayings) by Mark Fletcher.
Published by English Experience ISBN 1 898295 22 0.



Complete the idioms below:

(You may need some words more than once and some not at all.)

- apron cap gloves shirt sleeves
 armour clothing pants shoes suit
 belt collar knickers shoes trousers

1. It's time you *rolled up your* and got down to some serious work.
2. He can't make any decisions for himself because he's still *tied to his mother's* -strings.
3. If I were *in your*, I don't know what I'd do.
4. It's not easy to *step into someone else's*, but since she's taken over the job she's managed remarkably well.
5. It's not every day of the week we receive such important customers, so make sure you *treat them with kid*
6. Although he might look harmless, don't trust him. He's a *wolf in sheep's*
7. Getting promoted to Assistant Director must have been a real *feather in your*
8. The streaker at the football match was wearing nothing but his *birthday*
9. What are you getting so *hot under the* about? It's really not so serious.
10. You were *hitting below the* when you made such personal remarks about him in public.
11. I'm so sure that horse is going to win the race I'm prepared to *put my* on it!



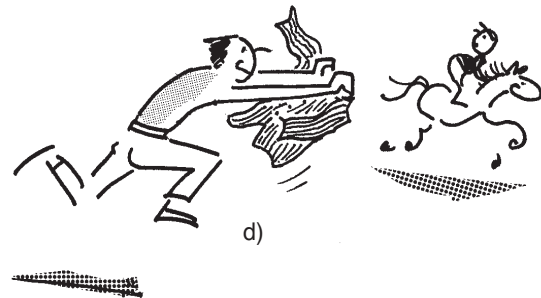
a)



b)



c)



d)

Which idioms do the pictures illustrate?

a	b	c	d

Which of the idioms above means...

- be especially careful? take unfair advantage?
 become angry? naked?