The Learning Centre

Speaking Skills
Idiom Usage Practice

Instructions

Read the following sentences and identify the intended meaning of the sentence with the idiom. The idiom will be bolded.

Ex. When I was eight, I was walking with my mom to Dean’s Grocery and I started running along the sidewalk. “Hold your horses,” she yelled. “You’re going to get hit by a car!”

Intended Meaning: “Slow down,” she yelled.

Sentences

1. I better hit the books soon; I have a Sociology test on Monday.

   Intended Meaning:

2. I was feeling pretty down in the dumps yesterday, but my mom told me to keep my chin up.

   Intended Meaning:

3. Raine was extremely disruptive in class today. However, Mrs. Lee only gave him a slap on the wrist, as usual. She’s always been so passive.

   Intended Meaning:

4. I want to buy a new car, but I’m scared that I might buy a lemon. Does anyone have any suggestions for reliable car brands?

   Intended Meaning:

5. Want to go to Starbucks and grab a cup of Joe?

   Intended Meaning:
6. My granddaughter came to visit me today. That’s something that only happens **once in a blue moon**.
   Intended Meaning:

7. I have been having an extraordinary day. First, I got called for a job interview in the morning and received an “A” on my paper in the afternoon. The **icing on the cake** was when I got engaged to my boyfriend tonight at dinner.
   Intended Meaning:

8. “I don’t trust Kianna,” said Joanie. “She’s been a **loose cannon** lately.”
   Intended Meaning:

9. There were Kitchen Aid mixers on sale at Canadian Tire, but the store didn’t have any in stock. Therefore, they gave me a **raincheck**.
   Intended Meaning:

10. Don wanted to work hard to get a raise in his job; however, he was **running out of steam**.
    Intended Meaning: