

Use the provided phrase to identify what the idiom means

The early bird catches the worm

I always try to get to the office early. After all, the early bird catches the worm.

Context clues: “get to the office early”

Meaning: People who wake up early or take action early have an advantage or are more likely to succeed.

Interpretation: Taking initiative or acting promptly leads to success or better opportunities.

This idiom emphasizes the benefits of being proactive and starting tasks early!

Idioms

Bite the bullet

I don't want to go to the dentist, but I'll have to bite the bullet and get it over with.

Break the ice

At the party, John told a funny joke to break the ice with the new guests.

Burn the midnight oil

She had to burn the midnight oil to finish her project before the deadline.

Catch someone red-handed

The police caught the thief red-handed as he was stealing the wallet.

Cry over spilled milk

It's no use crying over spilled milk; we just have to find a way to fix the problem.

Don't count your chickens before they hatch

I know you're excited about the job but they haven't offered it to you yet, so don't count your chickens before they hatch.

Hit the nail on the head

When Susan suggested improving the website design, she really hit the nail on the head.

Let the cat out of the bag

They were planning a surprise party for her, but Tim told her about the cake. He let the cat out of the bag.

Miss the boat

I missed the boat on applying for the job; the deadline was last week.

Once in a blue moon

I only eat fast food once in a blue moon, usually when I'm too tired to cook.

Out of the blue

Out of the blue, my old friend from college called me after years of no contact.

Piece of cake

The exam was a piece of cake; I finished it in 30 minutes when it was supposed to take an hour.

Put all your eggs in one basket

Don't put all your eggs in one basket by investing in just one stock.

Spill the beans

I accidentally spilled the beans about their engagement before they could announce it.

Under the weather

I'm feeling a bit under the weather today, so I think I'll stay home and rest.

A penny for your thoughts

You've been so quiet. A penny for your thoughts?

The ball is in your court

I've done my part of the project; now the ball is in your court to finish it.

To burn bridges

Be careful with your words—you don't want to burn bridges with your colleagues.

Take it with a grain of salt

I heard some gossip about the company, but I'm taking it with a grain of salt until I hear the facts.

Throw in the towel

After hours of trying to fix the computer, I had to throw in the towel and call a technician.

Answers

Bite the bullet

Meaning: To do something unpleasant or difficult that you've been avoiding.

Context: *I don't want to go to the dentist, but I'll have to bite the bullet and get it over with.*

Interpretation: Accepting and enduring an uncomfortable situation.

Break the ice

Meaning: To initiate conversation in a social setting to ease tension.

Example: *At the party, John told a funny joke to break the ice with the new guests.*

Interpretation: To make people feel more comfortable in a new or awkward situation.

Burn the midnight oil

Meaning: To work late into the night.

Example: *She had to burn the midnight oil to finish her project before the deadline.*

Interpretation: Working late or staying up to complete tasks.

Catch someone red-handed

Meaning: To catch someone in the act of doing something wrong or illegal.

Example: *The police caught the thief red-handed as he was stealing the wallet.*

Interpretation: To be caught doing something wrong or illegal.

Cry over spilled milk

Meaning: To be upset about something that cannot be undone or is trivial.

Example: *It's no use crying over spilled milk; we just have to find a way to fix the problem.*

Interpretation: Worrying about something that can't be changed or regretting past mistakes.

Don't count your chickens before they hatch

Meaning: Don't assume something will happen before it actually does.

Example: *I know you're excited about the job but they haven't offered it to you yet, so don't count your chickens before they hatch.*

Interpretation: Avoid assuming success before it happens; don't get ahead of yourself.

Hit the nail on the head

Meaning: To be exactly right about something.

Example: *When Susan suggested improving the website design, she really hit the nail on the head.*

Interpretation: To say or do something exactly correct or accurate.

Let the cat out of the bag

Meaning: To accidentally reveal a secret or surprise.

Example: *They were planning a surprise party for her, but Tim told her about the cake, he let the cat out of the bag.*

Interpretation: To unintentionally disclose something that was meant to be kept secret.

Miss the boat

Meaning: To miss an opportunity.

Example: *I missed the boat on applying for the job; the deadline was last week.*

Interpretation: To miss a chance or opportunity, often due to delay or negligence.

Once in a blue moon

Meaning: Something that happens very rarely.

Example: *I only eat fast food once in a blue moon, usually when I'm too tired to cook.*

Interpretation: A very rare event or occurrence.

Out of the blue

Meaning: Something happening unexpectedly or without warning.

Example: *Out of the blue, my old friend from college called me after years of no contact.*

Interpretation: Something that happens suddenly, with no prior indication.

Piece of cake

Meaning: Something that is very easy to do.

Example: *The exam was a piece of cake; I finished it in 30 minutes when it was supposed to take an hour.*

Interpretation: A task or activity that is very simple or easy to accomplish.

Put all your eggs in one basket

Meaning: To risk everything on one plan or opportunity.

Example: *Don't put all your eggs in one basket by investing in just one stock.*

Interpretation: Relying too heavily on a single venture or option, which is risky.

Spill the beans

Meaning: To reveal a secret or information unintentionally.

Example: *I accidentally spilled the beans about their engagement before they could announce it.*

Interpretation: To reveal confidential or secret information.

Under the weather

Meaning: To feel ill or unwell.

Example: *I'm feeling a bit under the weather today, so I think I'll stay home and rest.*

Interpretation: Feeling sick or not in good health.

A penny for your thoughts

Meaning: A way to ask someone what they are thinking.

Example: *You've been so quiet. A penny for your thoughts?*

Interpretation: Asking someone to share their thoughts or what's on their mind.

The ball is in your court

Meaning: It is now your responsibility to take action or make a decision.

Example: *I've done my part of the project; now the ball is in your court to finish it.*

Interpretation: The next move is up to you; it's your responsibility now.

To burn bridges

Meaning: To destroy relationships or opportunities, making it difficult to go back.

Example: *Be careful with your words—you don't want to burn bridges with your colleagues.*

Interpretation: Damaging relationships or making it impossible to reverse a decision.

Take it with a grain of salt

Meaning: To be skeptical or not take something too seriously.

Example: *I heard some gossip about the company, but I'm taking it with a grain of salt until I hear the facts.*

Interpretation: To doubt the truth of something or treat it cautiously.

Throw in the towel

Meaning: To give up or quit, often after repeated attempts.

Example: *After hours of trying to fix the computer, I had to throw in the towel and call a technician.*

Interpretation: To admit defeat or surrender after a struggle or failure.