

SPECIAL ED

# IDIOMS UNIT

Rome  
wasn't  
built  
in a day

20  
GOOGLE  
SLIDES



Special Needs for Special Kids



*This unit was created with this guy in mind. He has autism and an intellectual disability. He is a non-reader. With some support this unit is a piece of cake for him. He is my tester!!*

## Table of Contents

Worksheet Pages	Title
4-28	Idioms book
29-31	Vocabulary board
32-38	Flashcards
39-45	Identify examples of idioms
46-50	Sorting examples
51-57	Matching activities: what does the idiom mean
58-61	Writing Prompt
62-65	Quiz
66-67	Terms of Use

In separate files, you will find:

- Lesson plan
- Voice recorded PowerPoint
- Links and directions to digital activities

*This unit contains over 60 pages of material. I have included a detailed lesson plan to help you make the most of everything in this unit including how to add some group activities.*

# Idioms Unit Lesson Plan

## Preparation

- Print out a vocabulary board for each student to use throughout unit
  - Laminate or place in page protector
- Book
  - Print out, laminate, and bind
  - OR your students can listen to the pre-recorded version
- Flash Cards
  - Print out a set of cards onto cardstock and laminate
  - Make one set for each student and one for the teacher to use in various games

## Preassessment (do day 1 before starting lesson)

- Choose the form of the assessment that best fits the learning level of your students
- Give the assessment to assess what your students may already know
- I cannot emphasize enough how important this step is. If you want to see growth, this preassessment is so important!!

## Teaching Tips

- *Color Coding:* this is a really easy way to add more structure to a matching activity. Outline or color in an empty box or sorting label. Outline or color in the corresponding picture symbols the same colors. Becomes a color matching task.
  - a. For more info, read more here:  
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2015/09/05/using-color-coding-for-differentiation/>
  - b. I also have a blog post on differentiating one activity 3 ways:  
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2018/10/22/differentiating-1-activity-3-ways-easily-and-effectively/>
- *Make your own copies of the activities:* Every day I review the activity we did yesterday. For that reason:
  - a. I often complete the activity myself and often laminated it for easy review that I could use year after year.
  - b. My copies were also helpful as either a model for students who needed more support or as a way for more advanced students to self-check their work.

The lesson plans contain:

Overall tips for teaching  
students with significant  
needs

## Quick Look

Day	Activity
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Flash card activity</li><li>• Identify examples</li></ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Flash card activity</li><li>• Identify examples</li></ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Flash card activity</li><li>• Sorting activity</li></ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Flash card activity</li><li>• Matching</li></ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Flash card activity</li><li>• Matching</li></ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Flash card activity</li><li>• Writing prompt</li></ul>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quiz</li></ul>

*The lesson plans contain:*

*A quick look at what you will do each day*

## Day 5

Activity	Notes	Materials
Read or listen to a recording of the book (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read through the story, asking lots of questions</li><li>• Continue to make connections between book and vocabulary board</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocabulary board</li></ul>
Flash card activity (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Look at the flashcards for ideas for activities to do with the flashcards</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• flashcards</li></ul>
Matching worksheet review (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review the matching worksheet completed yesterday</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Matching worksheet completed yesterday</li></ul>
Matching activity (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students will complete the matching activity finding the picture that the idiom literally means and the one it actually means</li><li>• Add color-coding if needed</li><li>• Make connections to the book as necessary</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Matching worksheet</li><li>• Scissors</li><li>• Glue</li></ul>
Sharing (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each student shares their finished sorting activity with the group using the communication method of their choice</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Completed activity</li><li>• Communication devices</li></ul>

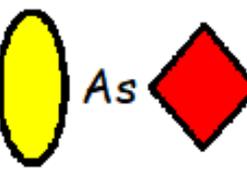
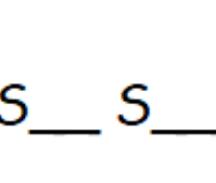
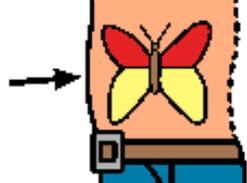
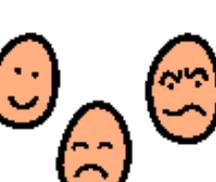
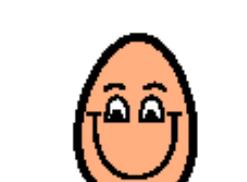
*The lesson plans contain:*

*Detailed instructions on how that day's lesson should run*

This unit comes with a vocabulary board.

Vocabulary boards are great for ALL students to assist with participation and engagement in group discussions.

Tips on how to use in the unit!!

 figurative language	 words	 pictures	 simile	 onomatopoeia
 alliteration	 hyperbole	 idiom	 personification	 allusion
 feelings	 better understand	 means to me	 poem	 story
 repeat that	 I like that	 I don't like that	 I don't know	 I need a break

Of course not. We know the phrase “raining cats and dogs” means that it is raining harder than normal.



Finally, authors like to use idioms because it keeps the reader engaged and paying attention. “The first-place medal was just the icing on the cake.”



There is a book with this unit using simple text and photos. It is 25 pages and is an overview of idioms.

Both come in pdf versions as well as a voice-recorded powerpoints (so you don't have to print it out.)

## Idiom Examples

Jerome gave us the cold shoulder.	That is going to cost you an arm and a leg.
	
He was a bull in a china shop.	Dad told me to hold my horses.
	
Make sure you don't let the cat out of the bag.	Boy are you moving a snail's pace today.
	

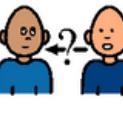
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## Idiom Examples

It is raining cats and dogs.	Go out there and break a leg.
	
That test was a piece of cake.	The lifeguard was cool as a cucumber.
	
Hmm, I am drawing a blank.	I have mixed feelings about going.
	

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## Idiom Examples

Be careful, he is a sheep in wolf's clothing.	I really got a kick out of that.
	
Curiosity killed the cat.	I see you are busy as a bee today.
	
I am all ears.	Don't worry, I am in the same boat.
	

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There are 18 flashcards that come in color and black and white.

Included are suggestions for group activities to do with these each day.

1. Circle or highlight the words that are an idiom.
2. Circle the picture that illustrates what the idiom means.

1. You are going to be in so much hot water when mom gets home.



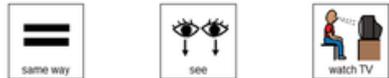
2. Don't tell anyone. You need to keep this under your hat.



3. Carl and I are in the same boat.



4. We see eye to eye on how to fix this?



5. Boy did he wake up on the wrong side of the bed.



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1. Circle or highlight the words that are an idiom.
2. Circle the picture that illustrates what the idiom means.

1. My driving test was a piece of cake.



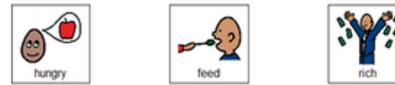
2. It was raining cats and dogs.



3. I told her to break a leg.



4. He was born with a silver spoon in his mouth.



5. We were all ears as the astronaut started to speak.



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1. Circle or highlight the words that are an idiom.
2. Circle the picture that illustrates what the idiom means.

1. Billy is just the class clown.



2. My new video game cost an arm and a leg.



3. I was so tired last night, I slept like a log.



4. Why don't you want to go into the cave? Are you chicken?



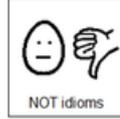
5. Just slow down and hold your horses.



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There are 3 worksheets where students identify idioms.

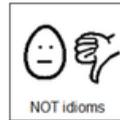
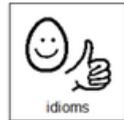
Sort the examples on the next page into those that are examples of an idiom and those that are not.



It is raining cats and dogs.	That pie was delicious.
A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.	I have so much laundry to do.
I want to go swimming.	Shawna and I were in the same boat.
That hike was a piece of cake.	He hit the winning homerun.
Boy are you going to be in hot water.	The sky was blue and clear.
The band sounded great.	I worked so hard; I will sleep like a log.
It is pouring rain.	My new bike cost an arm and a leg.
The teacher told us to stop monkeying around.	Her team won first place.

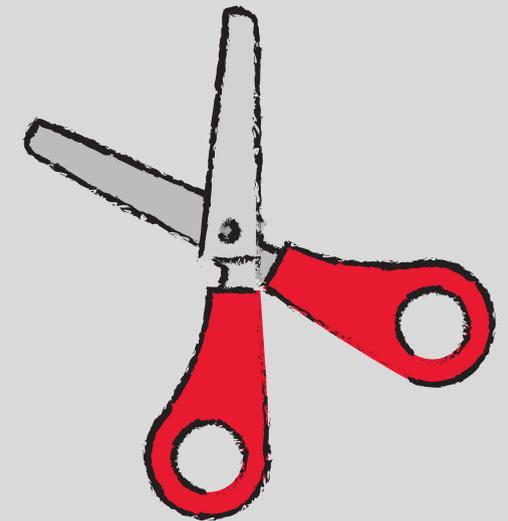
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Sort the examples on the next page into those that are examples of an idiom and those that are not.



hold your horses	cool as a cucumber	hit piñata	sleep like a log
drive a car	kick a ball	piece of cake	lay egg
busy as a bee	empty the trash	mow the lawn	strong as an ox
let cat out of the bag	tricked you	clean as a whistle	haunted house

There are 2 sorting activities identifying phrases that are and are not idioms.



In box 1 place the picture showing what the literal meaning of the idiom is. In box 2 place the pictures showing what the idiom actually means.

They were like <b>two peas in a pod.</b>	Make sure you don't <b>drop the ball.</b>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">1</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">2</div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">1</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">2</div> </div>
He was <b>mad as a hornet.</b>	I feel like I am <b>walking on eggshells</b> around you.
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">1</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">2</div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">1</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">2</div> </div>
It is <b>not rocket science.</b>	Boy, do I <b>have a sweet tooth.</b>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">1</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">2</div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">1</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">2</div> </div>

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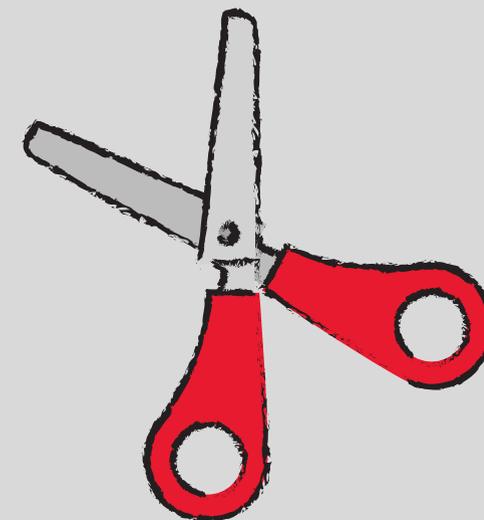
In box 1 place the picture showing what the literal meaning of the idiom is. In box 2 place the pictures showing what the idiom actually means.

She was <b>pretty as a picture.</b>	The test was a <b>piece of cake.</b>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">1</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">2</div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">1</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">2</div> </div>
We are <b>in the same boat.</b>	I hope you <b>break a leg</b> tonight.
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I was <b>cool as a cucumber.</b>	It was <b>raining cats and dogs.</b>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">1</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">2</div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">1</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">2</div> </div>

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There are matching activities where students find images that match the literal and actual meaning of the idiom.



# A Piece of Cake

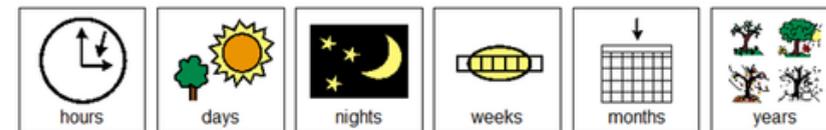
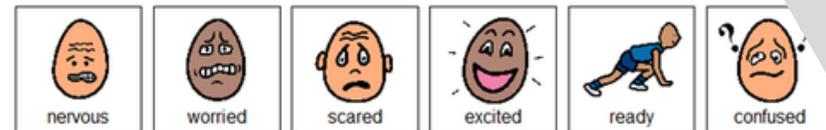
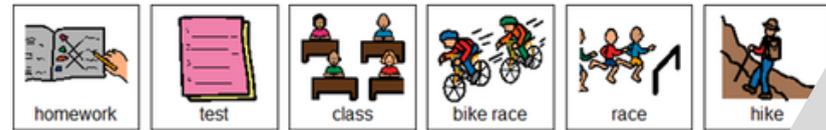
I thought that  was a piece of cake.

So did my . We are two peas in a pod.

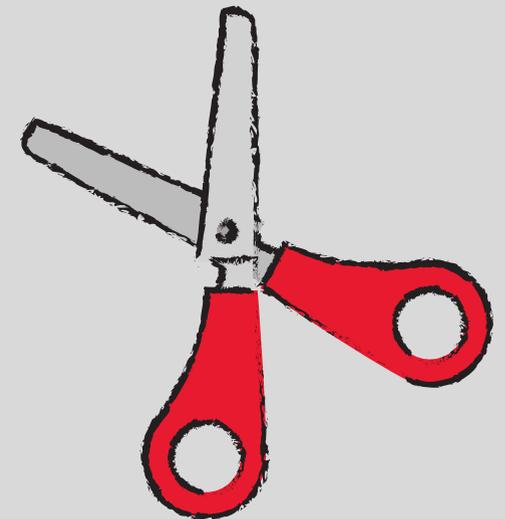
Of course, I was  I had butterflies in my stomach.

But I knew I was ready. I had prepared for 5 .

Tonight, I will sleep like a log. I am so .



There is a writing prompt that uses idioms. This is an errorless activity.



## Idiom Quiz

1. Idiom is a form of:



2. Idioms are often expressions that have been around for:



3. Circle all the idioms:



4. Do idioms mean exactly what they say?



5. Idiom help to keep the reader:



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## Idiom Quiz

1. Idiom is a form of:

- A. Poetry
- B. Figurative language
- C. Fairy tale

2. Idioms are often expressions that have been around for:

- A. Short time
- B. Long time
- C. I don't know

3. Circle all the idioms:

- A. Ice fishing
- B. Piece of cake
- C. Busy as a bee
- D. clean windows
- E. 2 peas in a pod
- F. Hold your horses

4. Do idioms mean exactly what they say?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. I don't know

5. Idiom help to keep the reader:

- A. Bored
- B. Sleepy
- C. Excited

FINALLY there is a 5 question quiz. It comes in this version with pictures and one that is traditional multiple choice.

Answer key included.



**[Click Here to read more!!](#)**

I realize there will be some students out there unable to do cutting activities. I have a blog post with ways to complete activities without a pair of scissors!!

*All of the activities (except the book) come in color and black and white.*