

# The Most Common idiomatic expressions (a worksheet)

## Activity 1

*Guess what the idioms on these papers mean. Categorize into "KNOW, DON'T KNOW" columns".*

blessing in disguise
It's not rocket science.
miss the boat
no pain, no gain
pull yourself together
so far so good
speak of the devil
That's the last straw!
Your guess is as good as mine.
Actions speak louder than words.
Don't count your chickens before they hatch.
Don't cry over spilt milk
Every cloud has a silver lining.
give someone the cold shoulder
Have bigger fish to fry.
It takes one to know one.
a piece of cake
take a rain check
watch one's step

## Activity 2

Match the phrases with the definitions.

blessing in disguise	a good thing that seemed bad at first
It's not rocket science.	It's not complicated.
miss the boat	It's too late.
no pain, no gain	You have to work for what you want.
pull yourself together	calm down
so far so good	Things are going well so far.
speak of the devil	The person we were just talking about showed up!
That's the last straw!	My patience has run out.
Your guess is as good as mine.	I have no idea.
Actions speak louder than words.	Believe what people do and not what they say.
Don't count your chickens before they hatch.	Don't count on something good happening until it's happened.
Don't cry over spilt milk	There's no reason to complain about something that can't be fixed.
Every cloud has a silver lining.	Good things come after bad things.
give someone the cold shoulder	ignore someone
Have bigger fish to fry.	Have bigger things to take care of than what we are talking about now.
It takes one to know one.	You're just as bad as I am.
a piece of cake	It's easy.
take a rain check	to politely decline an offer with a possibility to accept it later
watch one's step	Be careful

## Activity 3

Complete the sentences with one of the phrases below. In some cases, more than 1 option is possible. You may need to change the form of the phrase sometimes.

It's not rocket science  
miss the boat  
no pain, no gain  
pull yourself together  
so far so good  
speak of the devil  
The last straw!  
Your guess is as good as mine  
Actions speak louder than words  
Don't cry over spilt milk

Every cloud has a silver lining  
give someone the cold shoulder  
have bigger fish to fry  
It takes one to know one  
a piece of cake  
watch one's step  
don't count the chickens before they hatch  
take a rain check  
blessing in disguise

1. While it's sad that the results have not been as good as you expected, you should now focus on moving ahead and achieving better results next time; there is no use \_\_\_\_\_.
2. "My car broke down again, but maybe it was a \_\_\_\_\_; I've been wasting too much time driving around anyway."
3. My coach always said, "Basketball is \_\_\_\_\_. It's about putting the ball in the basket."
4. It's no use sitting and speaking of success, you have to act on it. Remember, \_\_\_\_\_.
5. I know that your job is not going well, and you are stressed out, but don't worry, things will be better soon. \_\_\_\_\_.
6. There are others waiting to take an opportunity like this; if you don't act fast, you are going to \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The road to becoming a good professional is long, hard and exhausting! But \_\_\_\_\_.
8. 'He's a complete idiot!' 'Well, \_\_\_\_\_!'
9. You may get the job, but \_\_\_\_\_; wait until you get the offer letter before you throw the party.
10. You're going to get into trouble again if you don't \_\_\_\_\_!
11. I thought she really liked me, but the next day she \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Though you've had a hard day, it would be better for everyone if you could \_\_\_\_\_ and get on with your work.
13. I'll have to work really hard for the interview. The practical exercises will be \_\_\_\_\_, because I've been practicing for so long.
14. A: "How's the project going?"  
B: "\_\_\_\_\_. We just need to finalize the user interface."
15. I want Chris to help me with this project, but he says that he \_\_\_\_\_ right now.
16. "Did you hear what happened to Mary today? - oh, \_\_\_\_\_, there she is."
17. Suzy lying to me about the money was \_\_\_\_\_. We broke up.
18. I'll \_\_\_\_\_ on the party tonight. I have a lot of work to finish right now.
19. "Do you think she'd go out with me if I asked her?" "Hmm, \_\_\_\_\_."

## Activity 4

Choose 3 situations, act out a role play using 5-7 idiomatic phrases.

1. 2 colleagues are discussing a recent project
2. The boss is warning the employee to work harder
3. 2 managers are discussing the performance of the employees
4. 1 colleague is trying to support the other one in a difficult situation
5. 1 colleague is advising the other one on customer interviews

