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Classified Idioms

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Preface

The Classified Idioms has been designed in order to meet the EFL learners' need for the most common and the handiest English idioms in daily use. The idioms here are presented in a categorized fashion to help the readers memorize them more easily. The categories are selected based on their attraction and use and graded according to their difficulty level. Meanwhile, the learners and the teachers do not need to stick to the order they appear in the book, since the units are not related to one another intently so that the readers may choose the ones which are most appealing to them.

Each lesson includes some idioms in the same category which are accompanied by some exercises both in the middle of the lessons and at the end. The exercises in the middle of the lessons, called "Stop to Check", are supposed to be done in the classroom after every 9 or 10 idioms taught and explained by the teacher. Teachers are advised to ask some daily-life questions using each idiom they come across. The exercises at the end of each lesson, called "Idiom Quizzes", are meant to be practiced at home.

As you know, idioms comprise a wide range of expressions, including slangs, proverbs, phrasal verbs, catchphrases, etc. Here in the current book, we are mainly concerned with the most frequent ones which are the idioms and idiomatic expressions. However, you might find some proverbs or phrasal verbs here and there. We hope the present book satisfies the EFL learners' need for everyday idioms in English.

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Medical Idioms

(A-G)

Which idiom does the picture depict?



at death's door

very near death

one foot in the grave

- Stop groaning! You are not at death's door yet.
- The old guy is so feeble that I strongly believe he has one foot in the grave.

back on one's feet

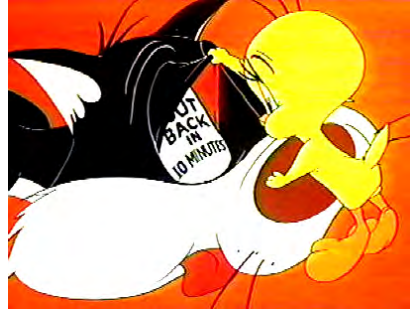
physically healthy again

- My mother is back on her feet again after being sick with the flu for two weeks.

black out

lose consciousness; faint (for other meanings, see Color Idioms)

- Sally had blacked out just before the crash.



break out

begin showing a rash or other skin disorder; (for one’s face) erupt in pimple

- Bob’s face has started breaking out badly after eating the pizza.

breathe one’s last

die; pass away; decease

- Mrs. Smith breathed her last this morning.

bring around

restore to health or consciousness; cure

- The medical workers were able to bring the man around after the accident.

bring to

restore to consciousness; wake from sleep, anesthesia, hypnosis, fainting, etc.

- The woman was brought to soon after the car accident.

Stop to Check

Match the two parts of the following sentences.

The old man was at death's door	after being hit by the other player.
After a serious disease,	the old man finally breathed his last.
The soccer player blacked out	with smelling salts after a long black-out.
I broke out in a terrible rash	the nurse brought the patient to.
After suffering a long illness,	after suffering a serious stroke.
The doctor brought Tom around	after eating the raw shrimp at the party.
After the surgery,	he is back on his feet again.

catch/take (a) cold

get a cold

- I caught a terrible cold last week and had to miss three weeks of work.

catch one's death of cold

become very ill (with a cold, flu, etc.)

catch one's death; take one's death (of cold)

- The little boy was told to be careful in the rain, or he would catch his death of cold.
- Dress up warm, or you'll catch your death.
- Put on your raincoat, or you'll take your death.

check-up

a periodic inspection of a patient by a doctor

- I went to have my annual check-up last week.



clean bill of health

a report or certificate that a person or animal is healthy

- The company required a clean bill of health for employing me.

come down with something

become sick with some disease; catch a disease

- I think I am coming down with a cold. I'm afraid I won't be able to go to work tomorrow.

couch-doctor

a psychoanalyst who puts his patients on a couch

couch-turkey; head shrinker; head peeper

- He was sent to see a couch-doctor after his continued problems at work.
- I finally walked out my couch-turkey. Now I'm getting it all together.

dose/taste of one's own medicine

being treated in the same way as one treats others (usually a negative meaning)

hair of the dog that bit one; fight fire with fire

- Our boss got a taste of his own medicine when people began to ignore him as he had always done to them.
- Sally is never very friendly. Someone is going to give her a dose of her own medicine some day.
- If he uses statistics, you use statistics. Fight fire with fire!

draw blood

make someone bleed; get blood from someone

- The doctor decided to draw some blood from the patient to check up on his blood sugar level.



fall ill

become sick or ill

- The man fell ill last winter and has not recovered yet.



feel on top of the world

feel very healthy; feel wonderful

sit on top of the world

- I have been feeling on top of the world since I quit my job.
- I've been sitting on top of the world all week because I passed my exams.

flare up

begin again suddenly (illness, etc.)

- My mother's skin problems flared up when she started to use the new laundry soap.

go under the knife

be operated on in surgery

- His wife went under the knife at the hospital last evening.



"Nurse, get on the internet, go to SURGERY.COM, scroll down and click on the 'Are you totally lost?' icon."

Stop to Check

Which word in the parentheses fits the idiom?

1. Please close the window, or we'll (have/make/catch) cold.
2. In this terrible weather, put on a coat, or you'll catch your (end/death/last) of cold.
3. Doctors recommend everyone a regular check-(up/on/in).
4. The doctor gave me a (neat/immaculate/clean) bill of health when I visited him last month.
5. My niece came (under/bed/down) with a bad cold and was unable to visit me last week.
6. You'd better see a (sofa/couch/chair) doctor before you go insane.
7. He received a (dosage/drop/taste) of his own medicine when his close friend cheated him.
8. The medical team (pulled out/drew/sucked) some blood from the patient in the laboratory.
9. I (fell/dropped/sank) ill right after that cold day last week, and I'm getting worse day by day.
10. George's mother has been feeling on top of the (globe/universe/world) since he graduated from college.
11. My hay fever usually flares (on/in/up) in August.
12. Mary didn't want to go (under/on/below) the knife, but the doctor insisted.

Idiom Quizzes

I. Choose a, b, c, or d to fill in the blanks.

- Please close the window, or we'll**
 - catch a cold
 - flare up
 - breathe our last
 - bring to
- I'm going to give him on his birthday by buying him something cheap on a sale.**
 - a clean bill of health
 - a couch-doctor
 - a dose of his own medicine
 - a check-up
- The girl had in sight of blood on the doctor's hands, but she was**
 - flared up – broke out
 - blacked out – brought to
 - fell ill – brought around
 - broken out – checked up
- She has been since she got a new job at a big company.**
 - breathing her last
 - feeling on top of the world
 - going under the knife
 - catching her death of cold
- I believe you've been eating too much sugar recently. You're face is**
 - bringing to
 - bringing around
 - breaking out
 - blacking out
- Mr. Thompson has been terribly sick recently. He's I think.**
 - back on his feet
 - blacking out
 - at the death's door
 - breaking out
- It's one of the most professional tasks to after a surgery.**
 - bring one around
 - breathe one's last
 - catch one's death of cold
 - draw one's blood

II. Match the symptoms with their outcomes.

- He's been sneezing a lot.
- He has a fever and a running nose again.
- His face has a few red spots.
- He's possibly breathing his last.
- He has a tumor in his brain.
- He wants to check blood cholesterol.
- I can't see his pupils.
- He is too nervous and bad tempered.
- He has no physical problems.
- All his symptoms have vanished.
- He has a clean bill of health.
- He's blacked out.
- He's catching cold.
- He'd better see a couch-doctor.
- His face is breaking out.
- He's back on his feet.
- His sinusitis has flared up.
- He's at the death's door.
- He has to go under the knife.
- They have to draw some blood from him.

III. Fill in the blanks with the following idioms. There's one extra.

<i>come down with</i> <i>brought to</i> <i>felt on top of the world</i> <i>check-up</i>	<i>a dose of her own medicine</i> <i>brought her around</i> <i>broke out</i> <i>blacked out</i>
--	--

1. She's too scared of any injections. At the sight of the shot, she just
2. My grandma has a terrible flu and can't attend the party.
3. After receiving his results, he He had passed all.
4. I have to have a complete before going under the knife.
5. Her friend was able to give her by coming late all the time.
6. The doctors after the operation, or she'd meet her fathers.
7. He was after a total black-out at the accident.

IV. Complete the following dialogues using the idioms depicted by the pictures.



Tom: How did Jane solve her problem with her family?

Jim: She visited a, and he gave him some advice.



Tom: What's wrong with you, Jimmy? You don't seem to be yourself!

Jim: Yeah, my migraine has It's driving me crazy.



Tom: What has happened to our dear neighbor, Mr. Peterson?

Jim: I believe he's
after a long disease of greed.

Tom: Why is Ms. Tempelton absent today?

Jim: I think she has
and can't come to class.

V. Discuss the following questions in groups. Try to use the idioms you have just learned in this lesson.

1. Have you ever *blacked out*? When and why? How were you *brought to*?
2. How often does your skin *break out*? What's the reason?
3. Can you imagine what would happen if you suddenly *breathed your last*? Talk about your feelings. How would others feel?
4. What are the symptoms of *catching cold*? How often do you come down with a cold? How do you try to treat it?
5. How often do you have a *check-up*? How important do you think it is?
6. What has been the worst disease you have *come down with*? How long did it take you to get *back on your feet*? How were you *brought around*?
7. Do you believe in 'tit-for-tat' policy? That is, do you try to give others *a taste of their medicine*? Why/not?
8. When was the last time you *felt on top of the world*? What was the reason?
9. Have you ever *gone under the knife*? Why?
10. Have you ever visited a *couch-doctor*? Why? What did he/she advise you to do?

VI. Try to find an appropriate equivalent in Persian for each idiom.

Idioms	Suggested Equivalents
At the death's door	
Back on one's feet	
Black out	
Break out	
Breathe one's last	
Bring around	
Bring to	
Catch one's death of cold	
Catch/take (a) cold	
Check-up	
Clean bill of health	
Come down with something	
Couch-doctor	
Dose/taste of one's own medicine	
Draw blood	
Fall ill	
Flare up	
Go under the knife	



"There's nothing wrong with your reflexes ..."

Medical Idioms

(H-U)

Which idiom does the picture depict?



hang out one's shingle

give public notice of the opening of a doctor's office, etc.

- Doctor Smith hung out his shingle after he'd moved to this neighborhood.

have a physical (examination)

get a medical check-up

- Our company sent all the employees to have a physical last week.
- The coach asked all of the players to get a medical check-up before the semifinal match.

head shrinker

(Slang.) a psychiatrist

head peeper; couch-doctor; couch turkey

- The man was told to go and see a head shrinker after he threatened the woman in the store several times.
- You, lousy head peeper, don't understand anything at all.

just what the doctor ordered

exactly what is needed or wanted

- That meal was delicious, Bob. Just what the doctor ordered.

look the picture of health

be in good health

- The old man living next-door is still looking the picture of health.

on the mend

healing; becoming better

- What you need is some hot chicken soup. Then you'll really be on the mend.

out cold

unconscious; in a faint

out like a light

- As soon as the patient entered the operating room, he was out cold because of the anesthesia.
- Tom fainted! He is out like a light!



over the worst

recovering from an illness

- My brother is over the worst since his skiing accident last month.

pull through

recover from a serious illness

- The car accident was very bad, and I don't think that the driver will pull through.



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