

Idioms

Name: _____

An idiom does not mean what its words say. Write what each one really means.

1. It was raining cats and dogs by the time we reached the car.

2. Learning the trumpet was a steep learning curve.

3. Do not let the cat out of the bag about the party.

4. He was under the weather and stayed home.

5. That test was a piece of cake.

6. She let me off the hook for forgetting.

7. I was on the fence about joining the team.

8. You hit the nail on the head with that answer.

9. We will have to bite the bullet and start again.

10. He gave me the cold shoulder all afternoon.

11. Once you learn it, it is second nature.

Idioms — Answer Key

1. raining very heavily 2. hard to learn quickly at first

3. give away the secret 4. unwell

5. very easy 6. excused me from trouble

7. undecided 8. were exactly right

9. do the hard thing we have been avoiding 10. ignored me

11. automatic, done without thinking

Idioms are one of the hardest parts of English for a new speaker, because knowing every word is no help at all.