

'Teaching Idioms and Their Meaning in a Fun and Interactive Approach'

Presenter: Agnes Dodge

About this Activity: High Intermediate and Advanced students can easily learn idioms and how to use them with this simple and consistent activity. It has worked very well for me over the last two years. Students feel confident about using idioms after this activity. One of the reasons is that they are the ones who figure out the meaning of the idioms, and they also come up with examples of how to use them.

Materials Needed: Index Cards or Any Kind of Card with no more than 5 idioms.

Steps of the Activity:

- 1- T forms groups of 3 or 4 students and gives each group ONE index card with ONE idiom only. On the front of the card, Sts can read the idiom. On the back, they can read an example.

COST AN ARM AND A LEG

Ex: I just paid \$1500 for my son's tuition. His college is going to cost me an arm and a leg.

???

- 2- Sts try to give the idiom a definition after reading the example. T checks if Sts found the meaning of the idioms.
- 3- T asks Sts that once they understand the meaning of the idiom, they should come up with their OWN example. (Ex: I bought these beautiful shoes. But they cost me an arm and a leg.)
- 4- While Sts work in groups, T writes the 4 or 5 idioms assigned to Sts on the board (Ex: 'Cost an arm and a leg, 'to be under the weather, 'to be as easy as pie', etc).
- 5- T calls the groups and asks each group to share their idioms with the class. One student of each group can tell the class the definition of the idiom and give an example.
- 6- T checks if everybody understands the idioms and encourages Sts to take notes. Sts are also encouraged to keep an Idiom Journal, and that activity can be repeated once a week or every other week. At the end of the session Sts will have learned an average of 30-40 new idioms.

To view or print a list of the most commonly used idioms in English, please visit:

<http://www.smart-words.org/quotes-sayings/english-idioms-commonly-used.pdf>