

TEACHING ENGLISH IDIOMS RELATED TO WEATHER

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Обучение английским идиомам, связанным с погодой

Abstract: *The article discusses the importance of learning and using English idioms related to weather in everyday life and how to teach them. What is an idiom? Idioms are English expressions that are quite unique because the meaning of the expression is different to the individual meaning of each word. Learning English idioms enriches the vocabulary of students, and also helps non-native students to speak more fluently, facilitate communication and better understanding of English culture.*

Аннотация: Бул макалада аба ырайына байланыштуу идиомаларды англис тил сабагында окутуу ыкмалары, күнүмдүк турмушта англис идиомаларын колдонуу студенттер үчүн пайдалуу экендиги каралды. Идиома деген эмне? Идиома - жалпы мааниси ошол сөздөрдүн жеке мааниси менен тике байланышпастан, көбүнчө өтмө мааниде колдонулуп, ошол тил үчүн гана мүнөздүү болгон, тутумундагы сөздөрдү ажыратып кароого мүмкүн болбогон туруктуу сөз айкаштары. Англис идиомаларынын окутуу - студенттердин сөз байлыгынын өсүшүнө, ошондой эле англис тили студентер үчүн өз эне тили болбогондуктан, идиомаларды колдонуу эркин жана жөнөкөй сүйлөөгө жана англис маданиятын туура түшүнүүгө жардам берет.

Аннотация: В этой статье рассматривается обучение английским идиомам, относящихся к погоде, а также важность употребления этих идиом в повседневной жизни. Что такое идиома? Идиома - это оборот речи, устойчивое сочетание слов, значение которого не определяется значением входящих в него слов, взятых по отдельности. довольно часто используются в переносном смысле. Изучение английских идиом обогащает словарный запас студентов, а также помогает студентам, для которых язык не является родным, говорить более свободно, упрощает общение и лучшее понимание английской культуры.

Key words: *weather, idiomatic expressions, learners, vocabulary, everyday conversation, English culture, knowledge*

Урунттуу сөздөр: *аба ырайы, англис идиомалары, студент, окуучу, күнүмдүк сүйлөшүү, англис маданияты, билүү.*

Ключевые слова: *погода, словарный запас, каждодневное общение, английская культура, знание, студент, учащиеся.*

Idioms are frequently used in formal and informal, spoken, and written discourse. They are common in movies, on television, in journalism, in books and literature, and

in advertising, as well as in everyday life. Most English speakers utter about 7,000 idioms per week. This means that about four idiomatic expressions are produced in every minute of speech. Erman and Warren calculated that “idioms make up a large portion of any discourse, constituting 58.6% of spoken English and 52.3% of written English” [1. p.31]. Thus, idiomatic expressions create a significant portion of our everyday communication.

An idiom can be defined as a phrase that has a different meaning from the meaning of its separate components. One of the characteristics of idioms is that you cannot change the words or their word order. In other words, idioms are basically fixed expressions. For example, the idiom, “*Are you feeling a bit under the weather?*” cannot be changed to “*Are you feeling a bit under the sun?*” Usually, the meaning is completely different, which is why they are so tricky for students. Idioms are specific to one culture and language and their meaning is peculiar to that language. Another example is the idiom “*It's raining cats and dogs,*” which means it is raining extensively, but learners usually get the meaning of “—dogs and felines are falling from the sky”. Usually, the learners first analyze the literal level.

The authors of the Oxford Dictionary of Current Idiomatic English said in the dictionary that “Familiarity with a wide range of idiomatic expressions and the ability to use them appropriately in context are among the distinguishing marks of a native-like command of English” [2.p.345]. Yu Ren Dong states, “Idioms are tools for insight – poetic, conceptual and cultural – and without acquiring knowledge about them, nonnative English-speaking students will always be cultural and language outsiders, despite advanced language and cognitive skills” [3.p.56].

There is a question about why teaching idioms is important to English language learners.

So we can answer that teaching English idioms is as an important part of language acquisition, the learning of idioms must be considered an essential part of vocabulary learning, idioms are an enjoyable way of using language and joy helps students learn more effectively. In addition, idioms are used daily and repeatedly by native speakers of English Language. Learning idiomatic expressions helps non-native speakers of a language become more fluent, and sound more native-like.

What is an idiom? Idioms are English expressions that are quite unique because the meaning of the expression is different to the individual meaning of each word. Now idioms exist in lots of different languages but the reason that they can be so difficult to understand and also to learn to use is that they have different meanings. It is also because learners get frustrated and confused the most of the time when they try to learn long lists of idioms in books and on websites. Some of them might have even heard before. The secret to learning English idioms is to focus on idioms that are often used in everyday conversations. Knowledge of English idioms will help learners not to get into stupid situations, make it easier to communicate and better understand English culture. Like

everything idioms come in another fashion. Sometimes they are popular; sometimes they are not really draggy.

I have chosen all of the idioms that I teach in each lesson specifically because they are currently in use. I am going to introduce to you a few really common English idioms right here, right now. When do I say the word weather what kinds of ideas come into your head? I think of *sunshine, thunder, clouds, wind, rain, storm, ice, lightning* and all sorts of words.

In this lesson plan, my students will practice using weather idioms through a series of activities. In each activity, they will speak, listen, write and read different weather idioms.

Level: Intermediate

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this lesson, students will be able to do the following:

Define the literal meaning of various weather idioms

Accurately use weather idioms for appropriate situations

Length

60-80 minutes

Vocabulary

To feel under the weather. If you *feel under the weather* you are not feeling very well at all. You might be sick, you might have a caught. F.ex. I said that I'd meet my friends for dinner tonight, but I'm *feeling a bit under the weather*, so I don't think I'll go. You look a bit *under the weather* today, are you feeling Ok?

- 1. When it rains it pours.** So when something goes wrong and a whole bunch of things go wrong at the same time that is the time to give this idiom.
- 2. Every cloud has a silver lining.** Your friend is having some problems, maybe they lost their job or the boyfriend brought up with them or the girlfriend. You can use this idiom to help them feel better and confident. It means it's possible to find a positive in a negative situation. I'm really sorry you lost your job, but you know *every cloud has a silver lining*. Perhaps this will give you the opportunity to work on your own business for a while.
- 3. To get wind of something** means to hear about something or to learn about something. Mostly when what you hear is actually support to the secret. For example: "Did you hear the rumors about our CEO resigning? Yeah. I did *get wind of* that yesterday? Do you think the rumors are true?"
- 4. Come rain or shine.** It means I will definitely be there, no matter what! For example, my cousin said to me: "Are you coming to my birthday party on Saturday night? Then I told her of course. Come rain or shine I'll be there, don't worry! So rain represents bad weather and shine represents the sun.
- 5. To have your head in the clouds** just means really, super-fast! Did you see that car? It was lightning fast! I just couldn't believe how early you left the room! You finished the exam lightning fast!
- 6. To take a rain check** You would like to accept an offer. You can't accept the offer (right now) but you would like to accept the offer in the future. **For example:** If your friend said to you I've got two spare tickets to the football match tonight. Do you want to come? Yeah, that sounds awesome! But it's my grandfather's birthday tonight. I can't. Can I take *a rain check* to come some other time?

7. **Brighten up the day** something that brightens to you, a day makes you feel really positive and happy. For example: you ran into an old friend on the street that you haven't seen in years that brightened up the day or if you are sick in a hospital and a good friend came to visit you that will brighten up the day. You say thanks for visiting. You really brightened up my day.
8. **Take a rain check.** We use this when we want *to refuse an offer in a polite way*, implying that we may accept it in the future.
9. **Example:** I'll have to take a rain check on that dinner tomorrow. I'm afraid I have to work late so let's make it another time. (note: This idiom has its origin in American baseball, where in the 1880s paying spectators were offered a piece of paper called "a rain check", entitling them to future admission for a game that was postponed or finished early because it was raining)
10. **The calm before the storm.** *A peaceful, quiet time* that comes before a busy or difficult time.

Example: The whole family is coming to stay for a week so I am trying to relax a little in the calm before the storm!

11. **Break the ice.** To do or say something to *remove tension* when you first meet someone, or after an argument

Examples: 1. After the argument, there was a bad atmosphere between them, until John broke the ice by offering her a cup of tea.

2. The class of students felt a little uncomfortable at first, but then one of them broke the ice by starting a conversation and making a joke.

12. **A storm in a teacup** (*British English*)

A tempest in a teapot (*American English*)

Examples: This argument is just a storm in a teacup! It's not important at all! (*British or Australian English*)

This argument is just a tempest in a teapot! It will be forgotten by tomorrow.

(*American English*)

13. **A bolt from the blue.** Something that is totally unexpected.

Example: When he told me the news that he was emigrating, it was a bolt from the blue, because I thought he loved living here. (note: "A bolt from the blue" is a bolt of thunder that comes out of a blue sky. Usually, thunder occurs only during a storm, but sometimes it can also happen when the sky is blue – and in this case it is totally unexpected.)

14. **It's raining cats and dogs:** it's raining very hard.

Example: Take your umbrella and a jacket because it's raining cats and dogs outside

15. **It never rains but it pours:** when things don't just go wrong but very wrong and other bad things happen too.

Example: First he lost his keys to the house, then his wallet and then his car broke down.

It never rains but it pours.

16. **Steal my thunder:** when someone takes attention away from someone else.

Example: Don't wear that dress to the wedding; the bride won't like it because you'll be stealing her thunder. After teaching the vocabulary students are offered to do the following activities:

1. Write the correct idiom for each sentence.

1. I'd love to come to the party but I'll have to _____ as I have to start work very early the next morning.
2. We often make small talk to _____ at the beginning of a business meeting, so that everyone can feel more comfortable.
3. When I heard the news, it was _____ as I was not expecting it at all!
4. She often gets annoyed at very trivial things - but it's just a _____ and she soon forgets about it.
5. Just before all my relatives arrived for the festival, I relaxed for a few hours and made the most of _____

2. Choose the right idiom

1. When I heard the news that he had left his job, it was _____ as I thought he loved working there.
 - a) a storm in a teacup
 - b) a rain check
 - c) a bolt from the blue
 2. We have been so busy but now we are fully prepared for this event, so now let's enjoy _____ and take a few days off!
 - a) a rain check
 - b) the calm before the storm
 - c) a bolt from the blue
 3. It was a little awkward when we first met, but after we had _____ with some small talk, we found that we had a lot in common.
 - a) the calm before the storm
 - b) taken a rain check
 - c) broken the ice
 4. This argument is only a _____ so don't worry - it will soon be forgotten.
 - a) the calm before the storm
 - b) bolt from the blue
 - c) storm in a teacup/ a tempest in a teapot
- “a storm in a teapot is used in British and Australian English only
5. I'm sorry but I'll have to take _____ on the party tonight. I'm not feeling very well.
 - a) a tempest in a teapot
 - b) a rain check
 - c) a bolt from the blue

3. Playing interactive games to test idioms about the weather

This English vocabulary game is to help you learn idioms about the weather.

Choose the correct meaning for each idiomatic expression.

break the ice
to postpone for another day
to end a relationship
to say or do something to make someone feel relaxed
to try and complete something by using all of your strength and energy

NEXT QUESTION
be a breeze
to be very easy to do
something that smells a lot
to say that you will keep a secret
to have so much to do that you are having trouble doing it all
NEXT QUESTION
be snowed under
to be very cold and have numb fingers and toes
to be at home all day because of the bad weather
to save for the future when it might suddenly be needed (unexpectedly)
to have so much to do that you are having trouble doing it all
NEXT QUESTION
chase rainbows
you are very lucky right now
when someone tries to do something that they will not achieve
you have a very good imagination
it's going to rain heavily
NEXT QUESTION
every cloud has a silver lining
there is always something positive to come out of an unpleasant or difficult situation
you spend too much time thinking about things that are not going to happen
you are going to earn a lot of money soon
it's going to rain a lot
NEXT QUESTION
fair-weather friend
a person who is only your friend during good times or when things are going well for you but disappears when things become difficult or you have problems.
a friend who spends most of their time outside due to work
a person who has recently dyed their hair light color
a person who will call you at any time of night for a chat even though you don't have time for it
NEXT QUESTION
get wind of
there is a strange smell in the room
to be experiencing a very difficult moment in your life
to learn or hear of something that should be a secret
you are going in the right direction
NEXT QUESTION

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