

Activity Type

Vocabulary Game:
identifying, guessing
(pair work)

Focus

Business idioms

Aim

To practice commonly
used business idioms.

Preparation

Make one copy of the
cards for each pair of
students and cut as
indicated.

Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

Time

20 minutes

Introduction

In this business idioms game, students guess idioms commonly used in business from sentences that describe their meaning.

Procedure

To begin, write the business idioms in brackets from the cards on the board.

Next, divide the students into pairs.

Give each pair a set of cards.

Ask the students to shuffle the cards and place them face-down in a pile on the desk.

Students then take turns picking up a card from the top of the pile and reading the sentence on the card to their partner, signalling the words in bold that describe the idiom with air quotation marks.

Their partner then repeats the sentence back, changing the words in bold to a business idiom from the board.

If the student says the correct idiom, they win and keep the card.

If not, the student with the card reads out the correct idiom shown in brackets and removes the card from the game.

The student with the most cards at the end of the game wins.

Hit the Nail on the Head



The product launch is coming up soon. We need to **initiate** the new marketing campaign.

(get the ball rolling on)

We must always conduct our business **according to the rules** to avoid any compliance issues.

(by the book)

Because of our complex business procedures, it takes new employees time to **understand how to do things**.

(learn the ropes)

I wouldn't recommend investing all your money in one stock. It's risky to **concentrate all your investments in one place**.

(put all your eggs in one basket)

The reason she gets excellent reviews from her clients is that she always **makes more effort than expected** to ensure their complete satisfaction.

(goes the extra mile)

Doing things in the cheapest way in terms of quality might save us money in the short term but will lead to reputational damage if customers complain.

(cutting corners on)

After years of hard work, she was finally **given a better job in** the senior position of marketing director.

(promoted up the ladder to)

Landing the lucrative client contract might be **unlikely**, but it is worth pursuing nonetheless.

(a long shot)

In challenging market conditions, we need to **be creative** to develop effective solutions to our clients' problems.

(think outside the box)

Your suggestion to refine our customer service protocols **was a perfect solution**. It's simple yet effective.

(hit the nail on the head)

Before we advance on this project, let's make sure everyone is **in agreement** about the project goals.

(on the same page)

Before we submit the report, let's make sure we have **thoroughly checked for errors** to avoid any mistakes.

(dotted all the i's and crossed all the t's)

The basic and most important fact is we will need to either increase sales or cut costs to meet our financial targets.

(the bottom line)

I know it's difficult, but we will have to **make tough decisions** and lay off some employees to cut costs.

(bite the bullet)

I'll **be in contact** with you next week to discuss the progress of the negotiations.

(touch base)

We have several exciting new product launches **scheduled** for the upcoming year.

(in the pipeline)