

Improving Comprehension while Teaching Idioms





Kansas City Chiefs aim to avoid distractions vs. Philadelphia Eagles



"I've certainly seen teams where they play really good and they feel so good about themselves and walk into the next week and get smacked in the mouth," quarterback Alex Smith warned his teammates this week.

"I just think that if you play long enough you realize how quick things can change," Smith said in explaining his nonchalance. "One week everybody's raving about you and how quickly it can flip if you *drink the Kool-Aid*."

Interagency Language Roundtable



Reading 3+ (General Professional Proficiency, Plus)

“Able to comprehend a considerable range of intentionally complex structures, low frequency *idioms*....”

Reading 4+ (Advanced Professional Proficiency, Plus)

“Nearly native ability to read and understand ...a very wide variety of vocabulary, *idioms* ...”

Reading 5 (Functionally Native Proficiency)

“Reads and understands a wide variety of vocabulary and *idioms*...”

Idiom	<i>Never seen the idiom before.</i>	<i>Seen the idiom but am not sure what it means.</i>	<i>Seen the idiom and understand what it means.</i>	<i>Used the idiom, but am not sure if correctly.</i>	<i>Used the idiom confidently in either speaking or writing.</i>	<i>Used the idiom confidently in both speaking and writing.</i>
Drink the Kool-Aid						
Pay lip service						
Nothing to sneeze at						
Soup to nuts						
Cloak and dagger						
An arm and a leg						
Tongue in cheek						
Smoke and mirrors						
On the bubble						
Cracked up to be						
15 minutes of fame						
Back or front burner						
Bend over backwards						
Ballpark figure/estimate						
Red tape						
Short end of the stick						
In a pickle						
Bury the hatchet						
Grain of Salt						
Run of the mill						



Nothing to sneeze at

Nothing to sneeze at: explanation

- 17th and early 18th century
- A pinch of snuff could produce a sneeze on call
- Developed into something people did in the middle of a conversation as a sign of disrespect to the speaker or what was being said.



After 7 months, is Scott Kelly wondering what he's gotten into? – art technica

On Thursday, the NASA astronaut sets a record for single US spaceflight length.



“During his unprecedented mission for a US astronaut, Kelly has garnered much attention. Earlier in October, President Obama called him for Astronomy Night at the White House, saying, “You’re setting a record that’s *nothing to sneeze at.*”

Headlines in the News

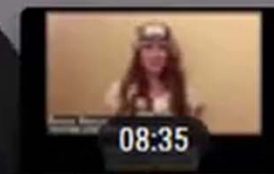
- **Allergy season *nothing to sneeze at*** – Daily Herald
- **Commentary: A bicycle mishap is *nothing to sneeze at*** – San Jose Mercury News
- **Latest Blue Jays injury *nothing to sneeze at*** – Toronto Sun
“Kevin Pillar sneezed and the Blue Jays wound up with a minor headache. The 26-year-old outfielder suffered a mild oblique strain on Saturday morning after stifling a sneeze.”

For Startups, Five Figures is *Nothing to Sneeze At.*



5 ways to go from dead-broke to 5 figures in 5 m...

5 ways to go from dead-broke to 5 figures in 5 months



A bird sitting on a tree is never

Run of the Mill



Run of the mill: explanation

- Originally this phrase referred to things manufactured in large numbers without special attention or extra work.
- An 1876 report by the State of Tennessee said, “Lumber is cheap. Ten dollars per thousand is the price for inch lumber, the run of the mill.”
- Today “run of the mill” means average, ordinary, unexceptional, or undistinguished.

The surprising origin of some *'run of the mill'* expressions

- “Back to the ol’ grind” : a miller would say this as he returned to work after taking a break
- “First come, first served”: law enforced by farmers since it could take days for them to have their wheat ground
- “Three sheets to the wind”: a windmill normally contains four “sheets” of canvas; when there are only three, the windmill is off balance
- “Rule of Thumb”: a miller would test the quality of his flour as it was ground by putting a pinch of flour between his thumb and finger and moving it around slowly

Newsworthy

- Rehoboth doesn't want to become *run-of-mill* beach town -Cape Gazette
- Not *run of the mill* summer weather -wsbradio
- For perennially exhausted women, advice on getting energized -Washington Post

“Holly Phillips...begins her new book with the premise that almost all women are exhausted pretty much all the time. Motherhood is tiring, work is draining, having it all is uber-exhausting. ‘We’re so accustomed to this shared weariness that we dismiss it like a *run-of-the-mill* windy day,’ she writes. “

Decades-old mystery shopping scam getting better at looking more authentic



IN FOCUS

MATTER FOR MALLORY

DECADES-OLD SCAM GETTING TRICKIER

CONSUMERS FOOLED INTO CASHING BAD CHECKS



Can you find these idioms in the news?

1. With a partner, search for the idioms you have been assigned.
2. Find at least two examples for each idiom either in online articles or in headlines.
3. Each group will share their examples with the class.

Post -test

- Barbara said that the blackberry jam isn't just any _____ jam. Apparently, she made it herself from the blackberries she picked.
- When someone is convicted of leaking sensitive information, it is _____.

Opening Activity: Students will review and discuss their familiarity with the idioms that will be discussed during the workshop.

5 Idioms with examples

Group Activity

5 Idioms with examples

Group Activity

Lunch

5 Idioms with examples

Group Activity

5 Idioms with examples

Group Activity

Post-Test

Questions

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