

5. Idiomatic Expressions

An **idiom** is a **phrase** or **expression** whose meaning can't be understood from the ordinary meanings of the words in it. For example, "Get off my back!" is an idiom meaning "Stop bothering me!" The idiom "You hit the nail on the head" means "You're exactly right."

Here are some other idioms you might use in your writing.

Idiom

We're in hot water.

Drop me a line.

She gave him a dirty look.

The traffic was heavy.

We don't see eye to eye.

We're all in the same boat.

The boss just gave him the ax.

You really put your foot in your mouth.

The judge threw the book at her.

This car can stop on a dime.

I'm hung up on this problem.

It's in the bag.

I'm stumped.

He passed the test by the skin of his teeth.

Let's see which way the wind blows.

She let the cat out of the bag.

You can't pull the wool over my eyes.

He gave me a leg up.

Give me a hand with this assignment.

He thinks he's hot stuff.

She'll full of herself.

I gave the assignment my all.

Let's face the music.

The story really got to me.

Meaning

We're in trouble.

Write me a short letter or call me sometime.

She looked at him angrily.

There was a lot of traffic.

We don't agree.

We all have the same problem.

The boss just fired him.

You really said the wrong thing.

The judge gave her a severe penalty.

This car can stop very quickly.

I can't figure out this problem.

It will surely happen.

I can't figure this out.

He barely passed the test.

Let's see what happens.

She told the secret.

You can't fool me.

He helped me when I was in need.

Help me with this assignment.

He's conceited.

She's conceited.

I worked very hard on the assignment.

Let's admit we're in a difficult situation.

The story affected me strongly.