

Idioms related to... Books & Reading

Exercise 1: Read the example sentences below, and try to guess the meaning of the phrases.

a bookworm

You can always find Jane in the library.
She's a total **bookworm**.

hit the books

Dave: Have you started studying for the exams yet?
Seth: No, I'm gonna **hit the books** this weekend.

book-smart

Juliana is really **book-smart**, but she's not street-smart at all. I think she needs to travel more.

don't judge a book by its cover

Maria: Look at the panda bear. He's so cute.
David: **Don't judge a book by its cover**. Given half a chance, a panda would attack you, kill you, and eat you for breakfast.

read between the lines

She says she doesn't fancy him, but **reading between the lines**, I think she definitely has a thing for him.

be on the same page

I don't think it's going to work out with Geoff. He wants to travel the world, and I want to settle down and have kids. We're just **not on the same page**.

have your nose in a book

Mary: What's Jake doing?
Greg: Oh he probably **has his nose in a book** as usual.

the oldest trick in the book

Dan: A stranger offered to take a photo of us, and then he ran away with my camera.
Sue: Oh Dan! That's **the oldest trick in the book**.

Exercise 2: Match the phrases above to the correct definition below.

- _____ = with knowledge coming from reading/studying, rather than experience.
- _____ = know sth, although it's not explicitly stated/in contrast to what is stated.
- _____ = agree with, or think in the same way as another person.
- _____ = someone who loves reading.
- _____ = a trick which is so predictable that you would be a fool to be deceived by it.
- _____ = don't form an opinion of sb/sth based on appearance/the first impression.
- _____ = start studying eagerly, especially for an exam.
- _____ = be absorbed in a book you are reading or be studying intently.

Exercise 3:

Let's practise!

Work with your partner and write three or four mini-dialogues using some of the expressions you have learnt. See the example below:

- A:** Did Franco go to the party on Saturday?
B: No. He's not really a fan of parties. He prefers to stay in **with his nose in a good book**.



Teacher's Notes

Lesson: Idioms related to... Books & Reading

Level: B1 – C1

Time: 30 minutes +

Preparation:

- Print/display the handout.

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Teaching Method:

Step 1:

- Put students into pairs and display/give them exercise 1. (hide exercise 2 or ask students to cover this part of the page).
- The students must read the example sentences and try to guess the meaning of each phrase from the contexts. Depending on the level, you may wish to pre-teach *fancy*, *have a thing for sb*, *work out*, *settle down*, *street-smart*, *given half a chance*, and *run away*.
- Gather feedback from the class but do not correct answers at this stage.

Step 2:

- Move on to exercise 2, and ask the students to work individually, matching the definitions with the correct phrases from exercise 1. Depending on the level, you may wish to pre-teach *rather than*, *explicitly*, *trick*, *fool*, *deceive*, *eagerly*, *be absorbed in*, and *intently*.
- Go through the answers together as a class.

Step 3:

- Students work with a partner or in a small group and write three or four mini-dialogues using some of the expressions they have learnt.
- Go through the example as a class explaining any new vocabulary.
- Monitor, giving correction where required.
- Students read their mini dialogues aloud for the class.

Answers

Exercise 2:

1. book-smart
2. read between the lines
3. be on the same page
4. bookworm
5. the oldest trick in the book
6. don't judge a book by its cover
7. hit the books
8. have your nose in a book

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