

The ESP eWorkBook (II)

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English for Specific Purposes

The ESP eWorkBook (II)

Continuous Evaluation Seminar Workbook



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UNIT 9

“Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: you don’t give up.”

Anne Lamott
Contemporary U.S. Writer

9.1. ESP Vocabulary Research

Reading Comprehension Skills: Article Link

.....

Listening Comprehension Skills: Video Link

.....

9.2. Grammar Skills - Practice and Exercises

Idioms and Fixed Expressions (General)

Idioms are fixed expressions with meanings that are usually not clear or obvious. The individual words often give you no help in deciding the meaning. The expression to feel under the weather, which means 'to feel unwell'- is a typical idiom. The words do not tell us what it means, but the context usually helps.

Tips for dealing with idioms

Think of idioms as being just like single words; always record the whole phrase in your notebook, along with information on grammar and collocation.

This tin opener has seen better days... [it is rather old and broken down; usually of things, always perfect tense form]

Idioms are usually rather informal and include an element of personal comment on the situation. They are sometimes humorous or ironic. As with any informal 'commenting' single word, be careful how you use them. Never use them just to sound 'fluent' or 'good at English'.

In a formal situation with a person you do not know, don't say:

- 'How do you do, Mrs Watson. Do take the weight off your feet.' - [sit down].

Instead, better say 'Do sit down' or 'Have a seat'.

Idioms can be grouped in a variety of ways. Use whichever way you find most useful to help you remember them.

Here are some possible types of grouping:

Grammatical

get the wrong end of the stick [misunderstand]

pull a fast one [trick/deceive somebody] verb + object

poke your nose in(to) [interfere]

be over the moon [extremely happy/elated]

feel down in the dumps [depressed/low]

be in the red [have a negative bank balance] verb + preposition phrase

By meaning

e.g. idioms describing people's character/intellect

He's as daft as a brush, [very stupid/silly]

He takes the biscuit, [is the extreme / the worst of all]

You're a pain in the neck, [a nuisance / difficult person]

By verb or other key word

e.g. idioms with *make*

I don't see why you have to make a meal out of everything,
[exaggerate the importance of everything]

I think we should make a move. It's gone ten o'clock. [go/leave]

Most politicians are on the make. I don't trust any of them.
[wanting money/power for oneself]

Grammar Tips for Dealing with Idioms

It is important when using idioms to know just how flexible their grammar is. Some are more fixed than others.

For instance, *barking up the wrong tree* [be mistaken] is always used in continuous, not simple form, e.g. I think you're barking up the wrong tree.

A good dictionary may help but it is best to observe the grammar in real examples.

Practice Exercises

Complete the idioms in these sentences with one of the key words given, as in the example. If you are not sure, try looking up the key word in a good dictionary.

clanger¹ shot ocean plate block handle² pie

1. All the promises these politicians make! It's just pie in the sky. (big promises that will never materialize)

¹ clanger = informal – something that you say by accident that embarrasses or upsets someone

² handle = the part of an object designed for holding, moving or carrying the object easily

2. The small amount of money donated is just a drop in the..... compared with the vast sum we need, (tiny contribution compared with what is needed)
3. You really dropped a..... when you criticized the Americans last night; that man opposite you was from New York! (said something inappropriate/embarrassing)
4. I can't do that job as well; I've got enough on my..... as it is. (have more than enough work)
5. When I told her she just flew off the.....and shouted at me. (lost her temper)
6. His father was a gambler too. He's a real chip off the old.....(just like one's parents/grandparents)
7. I wasn't really sure; I guessed it; it was just a..... in the dark, (a wild guess)

Use a good general dictionary or a dictionary of idioms to see if it can help you decide which version of these sentences is in the normal grammatical form for the idiom concerned, as in the example above. Check the meaning too, if you are not sure.

Example: You bark / (are barking) up the wrong tree if you think I did it.

1. Holland is springing / springs to mind as the best place to go for a cycling holiday; it's very flat.
2. That remark is flying / flies in the face of everything you've ever said before on the subject.

3. He was innocent after all. It just goes / is just going to show that you shouldn't believe what you read in the papers.
4. You sit / 're sitting pretty! Look at you, an easy job, a fantastic salary, a free car!
5. His attitude is leaving / leaves a lot to be desired. I do wish he would try to improve a little.

How would you organize this selection of idioms into different groups?

Use some of the ways suggested above, plus any other ways you can think of.

be in a fix child's play rough and ready be up to it
hold your tongue be out of sorts hold your horses
a fool's errand odds and ends stay mum give or take

.....

Without using a dictionary, try to guess the meaning of these idioms from the context:

- 1 It is almost midnight. Time to hit the sack.
- 2 This is just kid's stuff. I want something challenging!
- 3 He was down and out for two years, but then he got a job and found a home for himself.

9.3. Boost Your Vocabulary!

Letter I

impromptu *adjective*

done or said without earlier planning or preparation
an impromptu party/performance

incessant *adjective*

never stopping, especially in an annoying or unpleasant way
incessant rain/noise/complaints

incidental *adjective*

less important than the thing something is connected with or part of
Try not to be distracted by incidental details.

incisive *adjective*

expressing an idea or opinion in a clear and direct way which shows good understanding of what is important
incisive questions/comments

indictment *noun*

1. a reason for giving blame

*This seems to me to be a **damning** indictment of education policy.*

2. LEGAL a formal statement of accusing someone

The charges on the indictment include murder and attempted murder.

indie *adjective*

describes music or films made by small companies which are not owned by larger companies

an indie movie/film/record label

The popularity of indie bands has soared in recent years.

inquisitive *adjective*

wanting to discover as much as you can about things,
sometimes in a way that annoys people

an inquisitive child

an inquisitive mind

*She could see inquisitive faces looking out from the
windows next door.*

intrepid *adjective*

extremely brave and showing no fear of dangerous
situations

a team of intrepid explorers

intricate *adjective*

having a lot of small parts or details that are arranged in a
complicated way and are therefore sometimes difficult to
understand, solve or produce

*The watch mechanism is extremely intricate and very
difficult to repair.*

intrude *verb*

to go into a place or situation in which you are not wanted
or not expected to be

*I didn't realize your husband was here, Dr. Jones: I hope
I'm not intruding.*

Letter J

jeopardy *noun*

in jeopardy

in danger of being damaged or destroyed

*The lives of thousands of birds are in jeopardy as a result of
the oil spillage.*

jerk *verb*

1. to make a short sudden movement, or to cause someone or something to do this

*The car made a strange noise and then jerked **to a halt**.*

2. to (force or cause someone or something to) suddenly behave differently, usually by understanding something or becoming active again

*The shock of losing his job jerked him **out of** his settled lifestyle.*

jest *noun* FORMAL

1. something which is said or done in order to be funny

His proposal was no jest - he was completely sincere.

2. **in jest**

intended as a joke and not said seriously

I only said it in jest - you're obviously not fat.

jettison *verb*

1. to get rid of something or someone that is not wanted or needed

The station has jettisoned educational broadcasts.

2. to decide not to use an idea or plan

We've had to jettison our holiday plans because of David's accident.

3. to throw goods, fuel or equipment from a ship or aircraft to make it lighter

The captain was forced to jettison the cargo and make an emergency landing.

jibe, US USUALLY **gibe** *noun*

an insulting remark that is intended to make someone look stupid

*Unlike many other politicians, he refuses to indulge in **cheap jibes** at other people's expense.*

jiffy *noun* INFORMAL

a very short time

*I'll be with you **in a jiffy**.*

jigger *verb*

to change something, especially unfairly or illegally

*The ruling party **jiggered** the election results to stay in power.*

jihad *noun*

1. a holy war which is fought by Muslims against people who are a threat to the Islamic religion or who oppose its teachings

2. a spiritual fight against the evil in yourself

jocular *adjective* FORMAL

1. funny or intended to make someone laugh

*a **jocular** comment*

2. describes someone who is happy and likes to make jokes

*Michael was in a very **jocular mood** at the party.*

jostle *verb*

to knock or push roughly against someone in order to move past them or get more space when you are in a crowd of people

*As we came into the arena, we were **jostled** by fans pushing their way towards the stage.*

juxtapose *verb*

to put things which are not similar next to each other

*The exhibition **juxtaposes** Picasso's early drawings **with** some of his later works.*

9.4. Vocabulary Exercises

Synonyms

1. A cut in the budget put 10 percent of the state employees' jobs in jeopardy.

- a) range
- b) review
- c) perspective
- d) danger

2. When baseball players became impatient with their contracts, they went on strike, causing most of the 1981 season to be lost.

- a) alarmed
- b) enthusiastic
- c) exasperated
- d) organized

3. In the past, energy sources were thought to be boundless.

- a) without limits
- b) inexpensive
- c) natural
- d) solar

4. It will be necessary for the doctor to widen the pupils of your eyes with some drops in order to examine them.

- a) massage
- b) treat
- c) dilate
- d) soothe

5. Several theories of evolution had historically preceded that of Charles Darwin, although he expounded upon the stages of development.

- a) found fault with
- b) explained in detail
- c) outlined briefly
- d) offered in published form

6. Cruel treatment of inmates instigated a riot in one of the Indiana prisons.

- a) Tolerant
- b) Reliable
- c) Brutal
- d) Dubious

7. A laser beam is used to penetrate even the hardest substances.

- a) light up
- b) repair
- c) identify
- d) pass through

8. Ralph Nader always speaks out about everything.

- a) declares his opinion
- b) agrees
- c) quarrels
- d) has an interest

9. If the teams were not so evenly matched, it would be easier to foretell the outcome of the Superbowl.

- a) argue
- b) predict
- c) discuss
- d) influence

10. Keep two pencils handy while taking the examination.

- a) extra
- b) secret
- c) near
- d) sharp

9.5. Writing Skills: Writing a Report

Writing a **report** is a little more than the summary we just discussed in the previous unit. In a report, or a reaction paper, you are expected to do two things: summarize the material and detail your reaction to it.

The **main points of writing a report** might be the following:

1. Identify the author and the title or the work, and include in parentheses the publisher and the publication date; with magazines, give the date of the publication;
2. Write an informative summary of the material, condensing its content by highlighting its main points and key supporting points;
3. Express your reaction to the material you read, by focusing on some of the following questions:
 - How is the assigned work related to ideas and concerns discussed in class?
 - How is the work related to the world nowadays?
 - How is the work related to your life, experiences, feelings, ideas, etc?
 - Did it increase your understanding of an issue or change your perception of it or your perspective?
4. Evaluate the merit of the work you are writing about: the importance of its points, its accuracy, completeness, and organization, and so on and so forth. You should also indicate here if you recommend the work to others, and why.

Don't forget to:

- **To apply the basic standards of effective writing:** unity, support, coherence, and error-free sentences.

- Make sure that each major paragraph presents and then develops a **single** main point;
- Support with specific reasons and details any general points or attitudes you express;
- Organize the material in the paper following your basic organization plan (**the map of your essay**);
- Use transitions / connectors to link the parts of your paper;
- Proofread the paper for grammar, mechanics, punctuation and words use.
- Document quotations from all works you cited by giving the page number in parentheses after the quoted material. Use quotations sparingly, only to emphasize key ideas.

Portfolio 9: Choose one of the articles (or books) you recently read and liked and write a report on it. Include an introductory part, a one paragraph summary, a reaction (consisting of one or more paragraphs), and a brief conclusion.

You may, if you like, quote briefly from the article. Be sure to enclose the words that you take from the article in quotation marks and put the page number in parentheses at the end of the quoted material.

Prepare your Portfolio for peer review and final revision!

9.6. Building ESP Vocabulary

A. Choose 5 (five) ESP terms you have learned during class and write their definitions below, using the ESP Glossary:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

B. Research and find a recent online publication / article, written by a native English speaker, in which **at least one of the ESP terms** selected above is used. Share the link of the article below, in the workbook, for further reference and post it on Moodle activity zone as well.