

Name:

Idioms, similes and proverbs

Idioms

An **idiom** is an expression whose meaning cannot be deduced (härledd) from the literal (bokstavlig) definitions and the arrangement of its parts, but refers instead to a figurative (bildlig) meaning that is known only through common use.

Combine the following Swedish idioms with the English ones in the box by writing the correct one on the line.

1. Sätta näsan i vädret (göra sig märkvärdig) _____
2. Det kvittar vad du säger _____
3. Tjäna ihop till brödfödan _____
4. Få blodad tand (ge mersmak) _____
5. Inte lägga sig i, lämna någon i fred _____
6. En tickande bomb _____
7. Det var nära ögat _____
8. Se genom fingrarna (att låtsas inte se) _____
9. Jämföra äpple och päron _____
10. Ta någon på bar gärning _____
11. Ha tomtar på loftet (vara dum eller tokig) _____
12. Kom till saken! _____
13. Vara hård i affärer _____
14. I maskopi med (stå i förbund med) _____
15. Ansvaret vilar här _____

Put on airs
Whet your appetite
Turn a blind eye
The buck stops here
In cahoots with
Get off someone's case
Drive a hard bargain
Have bats in the belfry
An accident waiting to happen
Save your breath
Be caught with your hand in the cookie jar (Am.)
Compare apples and oranges
Bring home the bacon
That was a close call
Cut to the chase!



BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE...

Idioms 2

Combine the following explanations with the idioms in the box by writing the correct one on the line.

1. Shun (undvika) someone _____
2. Exaggerate a minor difficulty. _____
3. Obey orders/accept the policy or the ideas of the group _____
4. Get along very well _____
5. Always do/buy what your friends and neighbours do/buy in order to seem as rich as they are. _____
6. Pay a high price for something which isn't worth it. _____

7. Wait anxiously for something. _____
8. A brief summary _____
9. Be unaffected by an unpleasant experience. _____

Get along like house on fire
Give someone the cold shoulder
In a nutshell
Like water off a duck's back
Make a mountain out of a molehill
Toe the line
Pay through the nose
Be on tenterhooks
Keep up with the Jones's



"When I said 'feel my muscle' I meant the weight of my opinion, not my bicep."

Similes

A **simile** is a juxtaposed comparison of two or more objects to draw attention to their similarities. In English, similes are typically marked by use of "like" or "as" or "than". Combine the following Swedish idioms and similes with the English ones in the box by writing the correct one at the line.

Combine the following Swedish similes with the English ones in the box by writing the correct one at the line.

1. Full som en kaja _____
2. Svart som natten _____
3. Spritt språngande galen _____
4. Torr som fnöske _____
5. From som ett lamm _____
6. Urtrist _____
7. Lugn som en filbunke _____
8. Skinande ren, lekande lätt _____
9. Lätt som en plätt _____

As black as pitch
As easy as pie
As cool as a cucumber
As drunk as a lord
As dry as dust
As mad as a hatter
As meek as a lamb
As clean as a whistle (squeaky-clean)
As dry as a bone



It wasn't so bad that her foot went to sleep, nor the elbow grease, or even giving a friend a hand. But paying through the nose was a real bummer after putting it to the grindstone.

Proverbs

A **proverb** is a simple and concrete saying popularly known and repeated, which expresses a truth, based on common sense or the practical experience of humanity.

1. Man ska inte spänna vagnen framför hästen (börja i galen ända) _____

2. Lika barn leka bäst _____
3. Ta inte vatten över huvudet _____
4. Livet är inte bara en dans på rosor _____
5. Om man ger henne ett lillfinger tar hon hela handen (gör man eftergifter tar hon snart alltihopa) _____
6. Bättre en fågel i handen än tio i skogen _____

Birds of a feather flock together Don't put the cart before the horse Life isn't all beer and skittles Don't bite off more than you can chew A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush Give her an inch and she'll take a mile

Task 2

In groups of two or three write a dialogue using as many idioms, similes and proverbs as you can (at least 15). Practise the dialogue once and then perform it to the class.

Idioms, similes and proverbs

Idioms

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Combine the following Swedish idioms with the English ones in the box by writing the correct one on the line.

16. Sätta näsan i vädret (göra sig märkvärdig) **put on airs**
17. Det kvittar vad du säger **save your breath**
18. Tjäna ihop till brödfödan **bring home the bacon**
19. Få blodad tand (ge mersmak) **whet your appetite**
20. Inte lägga sig i, lämna någon i fred **Get off someone's case**
21. En tickande bomb **An accident waiting to happen**
22. Det var nära ögat **That was a close call**
23. Se genom fingrarna (att låtsas inte se) **Turn a blind eye**
24. Jämföra äpple och päron **Compare apples and oranges**
25. Ta någon på bar gärning **to be caught with the hand in the cookie jar**
26. Ha tomtar på loftet (vara dum eller tokig) **have bats in the belfry**
27. Kom till saken! **Cut to the chase**
28. Vara hård i affärer **drive a hard bargain**
29. I maskopi med (stå i förbund med) **in cahoots with**
30. Ansvaret vilar här **the buck stops here**

Idioms 2

Combine the following explanations with the idioms in the box by writing the correct one on the line.

10. Shun (undvika) someone **give someone the cold shoulder**
11. Exaggerate a minor difficulty. **Make a mountain out of a molehill**
12. Obey orders/accept the policy or the ideas of the group **toe the line**
13. Get along very well **Get along like house on fire**

14. Always do/buy what your friends and neighbours do/buy in order to seem as rich as they are. **Keep up with the Jones's**
15. Pay a high price for something which isn't worth it. **Pay through the nose** _____
16. Wait anxiously for something. **Be on tenterhooks**
17. A brief summary in a nutshell
18. Be unaffected by an unpleasant experience. **Like water off a duck's back** _____

Get along like house on fire
Give someone the cold shoulder
In a nutshell
Like water off a duck's back
Make a mountain out of a molehill
Toe the line
Pay through the nose
Be on tenterhooks
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"When I said 'feel my muscle' I meant the weight of my opinion, not my bicep."

Similes

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Combine the following Swedish similes with the English ones in the box by writing the correct one at the line.

10. Full som en kaja as drunk as a lord
11. Svart som natten as black as pitch
12. Spritt språngande galen as mad as a hatter
13. Torr som fnöske as dry as a bone
14. From som ett lamm as meek as a lamb
15. Urtrist as dry as dust
16. Lugn som en filbunke cool as a cucumber
17. Skinande ren, lekande lätt as clean as a whistle
18. Lätt som en plätt as easy as pie

As black as pitch
As easy as pie
As cool as a cucumber
As drunk as a lord
As dry as dust
As mad as a hatter
As meek as a lamb
As clean as a whistle (squeaky-clean)
As dry as a bone



It wasn't so bad that her foot went to sleep, nor the elbow grease, or even giving a friend a hand. But paying through the nose was a real bummer after putting it to the grindstone.

Proverbs

A **proverb** is a simple and concrete saying popularly known and repeated, which expresses a truth, based on common sense or the practical experience of humanity.

7. Man ska inte spänna vagnen framför hästen (börja i galen ända) _____
Don't put the cart before the horse
8. Lika barn leka bäst Birds of a feather flock together
9. Ta inte vatten över huvudet Don't bite off more than you can chew
10. Livet är inte bara en dans på rosor Life isn't all beer and skittles
11. Om man ger henne ett lillfinger tar hon hela handen (gör man eftergifter tar hon snart alltihopa) Give her an inch and she'll take a mile
12. Bättre en fågel i handen än tio i skogen _____
A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush

Birds of a feather flock together
Don't put the cart before the horse
Life isn't all beer and skittles
Don't bite off more than you can chew
A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush
Give her an inch and she'll take a mile

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