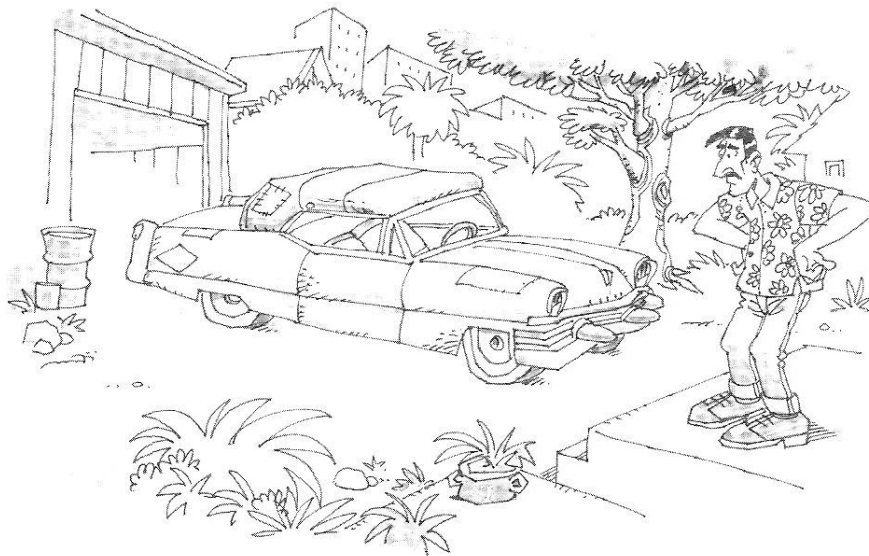


UNIT 2

Idioms from Food



Reading

Read the story. Then discuss the questions.

A Real Lemon

The used car I bought for three hundred dollars was a **lemon**. My friends said I was **nuts** to believe the **baloney** the seller gave. The seller said that the car was like new, with only ten thousand miles on it. She called it reliable transportation at a very low price. She said she was really selling it for **peanuts**.

Starting the engine of the car was a **piece of cake**. I just turned the key—no problem. However, soon I was **in a pickle**: the brakes didn't work! The owner of the Cadillac I hit **went bananas** when he saw the damage to the front of his car. He started shouting at me and wouldn't stop. Now I have to pay him two thousand dollars to repair his car. But my friend Nina was a **peach**. She took my car to the garbage dump so that I didn't have to see it again.

1. Does something that is a **lemon** work well? Have you ever bought a lemon?
2. Is something that is a **piece of cake** easy to do or hard to do? Name some things that are a piece of cake for you to do.
3. When someone **goes bananas**, what happens to the person?

Meanings

Each example has an idiom with a food word. Read the example carefully to find the meaning of the idiom. Then look at the definitions that follow the examples. Write the idiom next to its definition.

the apple of one's eye

The baby is **the apple of her grandfather's eye**. He thinks that she's wonderful.

baloney

His speech about the importance of helping the poor is **baloney**. He wouldn't even give his best friend a dime.

to cream someone

Our basketball team really **creamed** its opponent. Our team won by a score of 120 to 60.

fishy

On our return home, we found the front door open, and we suspected that something **fishy** was going on.

to go bananas

She **went bananas** when she heard she had won first prize in the talent contest.

in a pickle

Bill was **in a pickle**. After filling his car with gas, he could not find the money to pay.

a lemon

The new tape player I bought was **a lemon**, and I'm going to take it back to the store for a new one.

nuts

Tony must be **nuts** to pay over a hundred dollars for a shirt.

a peach

When I was sick last week, Susan visited me and bought groceries for me. She's **a peach**.

peanuts

Rose buys used clothes at secondhand stores, and she gets nice-looking clothes for **peanuts**.

a piece of cake

The math test was **a piece of cake** for Erik. He is very good at doing math problems.

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 1. _____ | in trouble |
| 2. _____ | something that is very easy to do |
| 3. _____ | something that does not work, usually an electrical appliance or mechanical item |
| 4. _____ | to totally beat someone in a game |
| 5. _____ | a very small amount of money |
| 6. _____ | nonsense |
| 7. _____ | suspicious, not right or honest |
| 8. _____ | to go crazy |
| 9. _____ | very crazy, very upset |

10. _____ a very nice person
11. _____ someone's favorite person

Practice

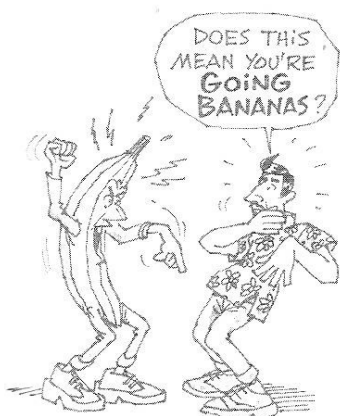
A. Answer each question with **yes** or **no**. Explain your answer.

1. When the president gave Lou her award, they shook hands, and the audience applauded politely. Did the audience go bananas?
2. Sokolovshy beat Splatski 11 to 1 in the chess championship. Did he cream Splatski?
3. Someone on the street offered to sell me a gold watch for five dollars. Was something fishy happening?
4. When dad was making breakfast, the bacon caught on fire. Was making breakfast a piece of cake for him?
5. My car has only three thousand miles on it and has already been to the garage five times for repairs. Is it a lemon?
6. The salesperson told me he could give a big discount, just for me. Was he probably talking baloney?
7. John has a good job and today he won a million dollars in the lottery. Is he in a pickle?
8. John just gave a million dollars to a stranger. Will people say that he's nuts?
9. Maria went to a fancy store and paid full price for her furniture. Did she buy the furniture for peanuts?
10. Bob Kent thinks his daughter is the best. Is she the apple of his eye?
11. Karen promised to spend Saturday helping me cook the food for the party. Is Karen a peach?

B. Each example has the correct idiom, but there is one error with each idiom. Find the error and correct it.

1. Using the computer was so easy, it was piece of cake.
2. Something fish must be happening. We're the only ones here, but I'm hearing strange noises.

3. That man doesn't know anything, but he talks as if he knows everything. Everything he says is the baloney.
4. My new TV is lemon. It has a very bad picture.
5. Millie was in pickle when the police officer stopped her for speeding.
6. The dog went nut when its owner came home.
7. In the soccer tournament, our team crammed its opponent 8 to 1.
8. The team went banana when it won the championship.
9. Norma is very nice. She's peach.
10. Jason bought a used stereo for a peanut, and it sounds really good.
11. I'm the apple of my grandmother's eyes.



Conversation

Practice each conversation with a partner.

SITUATION 1

Maria is talking to her neighbor.

MARIA: I'm in a pickle. I'm having a big party, and I don't have enough glasses or dishes.

KATE: Don't worry. I'll lend you some of mine.

MARIA: Thanks, Kate. You're a peach!

SITUATION 2

Tran is talking to his friend Ho about the basketball game.

TRAN: We won the game 110 to 58 last night.

HO: You guys really creamed the other team.

TRAN: We sure did.

SITUATION 3

Theo and Helen have just taken a test.

THEO: That test was so easy!

HELEN: Yes, it was a piece of cake. I'm sure I passed.

On Your Own

Work with a partner. Choose three idioms. Write a short conversation for each idiom. Then act out your conversations.

Discussion

Work with a partner or in a small group. Do the following activities.

1. The idioms in this unit all use words related to food. Do you know any other idioms in English that use food words?
2. Are there idioms with food words in your native language? Are any of those idioms like the ones in English?
3. **To be in a pickle** means to be in trouble. Tell about a situation in which you were in a pickle.