



Idioms and Phrases

Learning Outcomes

- Students will understand the meaning and context of common idioms and phrases.
- They will identify idioms and phrases in sentences.
- They will use idiomatic expressions to make their writing more engaging.

Here is a list of idioms and phrases.

A man of straw (a weak person) : He was accused by his opponents of being **a man of straw**.

A wolf in sheep's clothing (a dangerous person pretending to be harmless) : Don't believe the politicians; they are **wolves in sheep's clothing**.

ABC (very common knowledge) : He doesn't know the **ABC** of Physics.

Again and again (repeatedly) : One who tries **again and again** gets success in the end.

All in all (on the whole, most important) : **All in all**, the excursion was a pleasant one.

At sixes and sevens (persons having different opinions) : I don't want to be **at sixes and sevens** with you.

Bag and baggage (with all goods) : He returned to his village with **bag and baggage**.

Black and white (in writing) : It is always better to be informed of every thing in **black and white**.

Body and soul (entirely) : She devoted her **body and soul** to win the prize.

By hook or by crook (by any means) : He wants to win this match **by hook or by crook**.

By leaps and bounds (speedily) : The population is increasing by **leaps and bounds**.

Cats and dogs (heavy rain) : It has been raining **cats and dogs** for the last three hours.

Cock and bull story (untrue story) : All his excuses seem a **cock and bull story**.

Fair and square (honest) : We won the match **fair and square**.

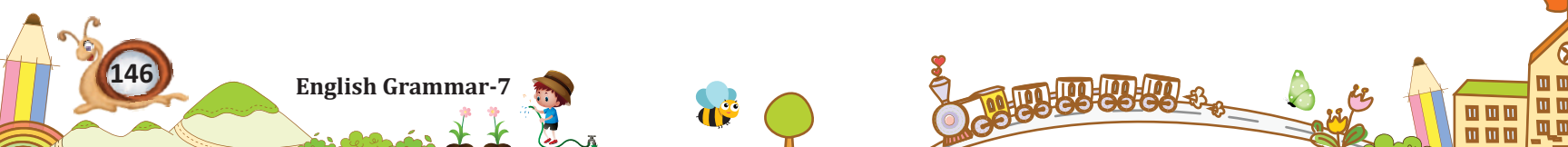
Far and wide (everywhere) : Many tourists come to see the Taj Mahal from **far and wide**.

First and foremost (highest priority) : To be honest and accountable are the **first and foremost** requirements of a good employee.

Hard and fast (certain) : There are no **hard and fast** rules to sanction loans in banks.

Heart and soul (with full devotion) : He sings with his heart and soul.

Hither and thither (here and there) : The refugees ran hither and thither in search of safety.





Hue and cry (great noise) : The workers raised a great **hue and cry** against the new rule.

Ins and outs (full detail) : Before starting a new business you must know the **ins and outs** of it.

Kith and kin (blood relatives) : All my **kith and kin** were invited to the marriage of my daughter.

Lock and key (in safe place) : She keeps her jewellery under **lock and key**.

Might and main (with all enthusiasm) : If you study with **might and main** you will surely pass.

Milk and water (weak) : The foreign policy of Sri Lanka is a **milk and water** policy.

Nook and corner (everywhere) : He searched for her in every **nook and corner** of the street.

Now and then (occasionally) : I visit the church **now and then**.

Null and void (of no use, without force of application) : The law passed by the legislature was declared **null and void** by the Supreme Court.

Once and again (repeatedly) : I have told you **once and again** that I have no money to purchase that car now.

One's Achilles' heel (a weak point) : The corrupt minister was the new government's **Achilles' heel**.

Out and out (completely) : Mahatma Gandhi was an out and out great leader.

Over and above (besides) : I paid him rupees fifty thousand **over and above** what he had demanded.

Pros and cons (merits and demerits) : Before signing this agreement you must understand all **the pros and cons** well.

Safe and sound (quite well) : She reached home **safe and sound**.

Sum and substance (the actual theme) : Courage in the face of extreme harding was of the issues concerned the **sum and substance** of the film.

Make sentences using the following idioms and phrases.



Skills/Level
WRITING/B2



1. At sixes and sevens : _____
2. Black and white : _____
3. Body and soul : _____
4. By hook or by crook : _____
5. Ins and outs : _____
6. Pros and cons : _____

