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Introduction

It is known that the realizing selfness, national consciousness and expression of thought, mental-spiritual dependence between generations is appeared according to the language [1,42]. The main objective of all our reforms in the field of economic policy is the individual. Therefore the task of education, the task of raising up a new generation capable of national renaissance will remain the prerogative of the state constitute a priority. At present great importance is attached to the study and teaching of foreign languages.

Actuality of the research: The work is based on learning the variation problems in English language. As linguistics developed in the 20th century, the notion became prevalent that language is more than speech-specifically, that it is an abstract system of interrelationships shared by members of a speech community. The main basic ideas of our morphonology have been to show how idioms influenced to English and formed new idiomatic expressions in American and Britain variants of English. During writing of this diploma paper, we have done our best to deal with some difficult problems. The field of Native American languages is so vast, the historical research so demanding, and the determination of vocabulary origins so complex that I more than once gave up in hopelessness. But the fascination of the topic and the need for writing this diploma paper drew us back. The following is an explanation of the principles that have finally formed our research. English is an international language, spoken in many countries both as a native and as a second or foreign language. It is taught in the schools in almost every country on this earth. It is a living and vibrant language spoken by over 300 million people as their native language. Millions more speak it as an additional language. First of all, let us define the problems which students face nowadays. Generally the number of students come across with the problems of sing idioms. Why is it such a big problem? Let us speak of this problem. In order to get a full insight into language, one has to consider its organization, its mechanism, or, as is accepted to term, its structure and system. Structure is sometimes related to the elements, forms,

constructions of language and their meanings. System is referred to as one complex unity of interrelated and interconnected elements, while structure represents inner relations between the elements, or the inner organization of the complex unity.

Aim of the research: to study language as a set of abstract rules that somehow account for speech, to take an interest in the field and to examine the variations of idioms in English. We analyzed the common names of English idioms, their types, features and structure. This paper will show the origins of the proper nouns used in idiomatic expressions. The following objectives of the research have been set:

- 1.To provide theoretical evidence and discuss on idiomatic English.
- 2.To study English idiomatic dictionaries.
- 3.To compare, analyze and classify idioms with personal and place names.

At different periods depending on the aims of teaching and learning a foreign language, new methods sprang up. In each case the method received a certain name; sometimes its name denoted logical categorize. In our attitude, the most sensible thing to do is to take as ones model the sort of English, which one can hear, and use most often, still trying to get familiar with the distinctive features of the other variants. Any linguistic description may have a practical or theoretical purpose.

Objects of the research: The development of morphonology in linguistic analysis make it possible to gain deeper insights into the very nature of language and to reveal more fully the conditions of its functioning and the dynamics of its development, thus forming new light on the ontological picture of language as a social phenomenon. English no longer belongs to Britain or to the United States; it is an increasingly diverse resource for global communication. The research is based on the collecting common names from idiomatic expressions. The term “common names” refers to proper names. Proper names are names of persons, places or certain special things. In the English language proper names are typically capitalized nouns. They have a number of certain features as well – they are not

used in the plural and are not preceded by adjectives, articles, numerals, demonstratives, or other modifiers. There are some kinds of proper nouns of place names, personal names, diacritics. This research includes a separate set of examples of different proper nouns and certain examples bear witness to regional variation as well. Hornswoggle, “to deceive,” is one of a small but intriguing set of words that first appeared in the 19th century in the American West, perhaps in deliberate, jesting opposition to East Coast words and mores. However, this is not a work of history American loanwords but a linguistics or sociolinguistics and the various ways Indian words have entered the English language, have been included by virtue of their etymology even they may not derive directly from Native American culture. The diploma paper has given the etymological background wherever feasible, relying on the best authorities. The main sources have been The Random House Dictionary of the English Language: Second Edition—Unabridged, The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language and others. The works of well-known linguist Charles L. Cutler, The Oxford English Dictionary, second edition; A Dictionary of Americanisms by M. M. Mathews, and the Dictionary of Canadianisms were most helpful in this research and has also been helpful in this respect offering encouragement at several points during writing the research.

Subject of the research: While studying English as a foreign language we come across with such skills as: vocabulary in context, listening and speaking, reading, writing.

Novelty of the research: The nature of grammar as a constituent part of language is better understood in the light of discriminating the two planes of language, the plane of content and the plane of expression. The plane of content comprises purely semantic elements of language. The plane of expression comprises the formal units of language taken by themselves, apart from the meaning rendered by them. The next planes are inseparably connected so that no meaning can be realized without some material means of expression. Giving learners something new does wonders in relieving boredom, speaking interest of learners on whom

you may have “tried everything”. Young learners tend to have short attention spans and a lot of physical energy.

Theoretical significance of the research: is to investigate unexplored aspects of Inter language variation behaviors. The influence of idioms to the context. An important thesis of this research is that the number and the kind of idiomatic expressions have generally reflected the cultural relations between Native Americans and others.

Practical significance of the research: is that references of the research, its theoretical principles and conclusions are eligible to apply by improvement of modern sphere of linguistics in Uzbekistan within a world linguistic area, by drawing up an educational – pedagogical projects on idioms, forming manuals to optimize higher educational institutions system within the task of the National Programme of the Personnel Training System. To gain a sociolinguistic knowledge of variations of English, which allow students and to communicate with English speaking people and societies, and also to establish close contacts within these societies. It will serve as a linguistic fence between peoples from differing systems and cultures.

Methods of inquire: Methods of foreign language learning is understood here as a body of scientifically tested theory concerning to the learning of foreign languages in HEIs. As noted by an increasing number of idiomatic scholars, it is clearly problematic to assume that idioms form a homogeneous class of linguistic items. Careful attention must be paid to the many syntactic, lexical, semantic and pragmatic differences that exist among words and phrases that are generally judged as idiomatic. The investigation of a wide range of idioms clearly demonstrates that many idioms are analyzable and have figurative meanings that are at least partly motivated. Many idioms have individual components that independently contribute to what these phrases figuratively mean as wholes. The views and approaches such scholars as A. Makkai, M. Everaert, R. Moreno helped to analyze idiomatic English topic in more detailed way.

The structure of the research: The paper consists of introduction, two chapters, conclusions, list of used literature, including local and international resources and examples with idioms.

Chapter I. Idioms and Idiomatic Expressions as a subordinate type of phraseme

1.1 The meaning of idioms

An idiom is taken from Latin: idioma, "special property, special feature, special phrasing", from Greek: idios, "one's own"- is a rendition of a combination of words that have a figurative meaning. The figurative meaning is comprehended in regard to a common use of the expression that is separate from the literal meaning or definition of the words of which it is made. The ultimate root of the term idiom is the Greek lexeme idioms, meaning "own, private, peculiar". It's an expression whose meaning is not predictable from the usual meanings of its constituent elements or from the general grammatical rules of a language and that is not a constituent of a larger expression. Knowing the meaning of idioms let understand the smallest refinements of the language. They are used in a wide variety of contexts and situations. English is a language particularly rich in idioms - those modes of expression peculiar to a language (or dialect) which frequently defy logical and grammatical rules. Without idioms English would lose much of its variety and humor both in speech and writing. 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. Idioms are words or phrases that have a figurative meaning that is different from the literal meaning of the words and is understood to be figurative by virtue of common usage and in relation to a specific culture. The list gives the Dothraki word in bold then the figurative meaning and then the literal meaning in parenthesis.

Idioms are usually rather informal and include the 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 of your feet . Instead say 'Do sit down' or 'Have a seat'. Idioms are numerous and they occur frequently in all languages. There are estimated to be at least 25,000 idiomatic expressions in the English language. The ultimate root of the term idiom is the Greek lexeme idioms, meaning "own, private, peculiar" In different dictionaries there could be found quite a lot different explaining what an idiom is. There are some of the definitions: an idiom is an expression whose meaning is not predictable from the usual meanings of its constituent elements or from the general grammatical rules of a language and that is not a constituent of a larger expression of like characteristics. The following sentences contain idioms:

- a. She is pulling my leg - to pull someone's leg means: to tease them by telling them something untrue.
- b. She took me to the cleaners - to take someone to the cleaners means: to cause them to lose a lot of money.
- c. When will you drop them a line? - to drop someone a line means: to phone or send a note to someone.
- d. You should keep an eye out for that - to keep an eye out for something means: to watch for it.
- e. I can't keep my head above water - to keep one's head above water means: to manage a situation.

Each of the word combinations has at least two meanings: a literal meaning and a figurative meaning. Pulling someone's leg means either that you literally grab their leg and yank it, or figuratively, it means that you tease them by telling them a fictitious story. Such expressions that are typical for a language can appear as words, combinations of words, phrases, entire clauses, and entire sentences. Idiomatic expressions in the form of entire sentences are called proverbs if they refer to a universal truth e.g:

The early bird gets the worm.

Break a leg. Waste not, want not.

The devil is in the details.

Proverbs such as these have figurative meaning. When one says "The devil is in the details", one is not expressing a belief in demons, but rather one means that things may look good on the surface, but upon scrutiny, problems are revealed. In linguistics, idioms are usually presumed to be figures of speech contradicting the principle of compositionality. [5,123] this principle states that the meaning of a whole should be constructed from the meanings of the parts that make up the whole. In other words, one should be in a position to understand the whole if one understands the meanings of each of the parts that makes up the whole. The following example is widely employed to illustrate the point: Fred kicked the bucket. Understood compositionally, Fred has literally kicked an actual, physical bucket. The much more likely idiomatic reading, however, is non-compositional: Fred is understood to have died. Arriving at the idiomatic reading from the literal reading is unlikely for most speakers. What this means is that the idiomatic reading is, rather, stored as a single lexical item that is now largely independent of the literal reading. Idioms can be grouped in a variety of ways. Grammatical, by meaning, by verb or other key word. Grammatical: get the wrong end of the stick- (verb+ object). By meaning: he's as dumb as a brush- (very stupid silly). By verb or other key word- I don't see why you have to make a meal out of everything- (exaggerate the importance of everything). It's 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 are barking up the wrong tree.

In phraseology, idioms are defined as a sub-type of phraseme, the meaning of which is not the regular sum of the meanings of its component parts. [18,218] John Saeed defines an idiom as collocated words that became affixed to each other

until metamorphosing into a fossilized term. [18,213] This collocation of words redefines each component word in the word-group and becomes an idiomatic expression. Idioms usually do not translate well; in some cases, when an idiom is translated directly word-for-word into another language, either its meaning is changed or it is meaningless. When two or three words are often used together in a particular sequence, the words are said to be irreversible binomials, or Siamese twins. Binomials are expressions (often idiomatic) where two words are joined by a conjunction (usually "and"). The order of the words are usually fixed. It's best to use them only in informal situations, with one or two exceptions. For instance: odds and ends - small or unimportant thing. Usage will prevent the words from being displaced or rearranged. For example, a person may be left "high and dry" but never "dry and high." This idiom in turn means that the person is left in their former condition rather than being assisted so that their condition improves. Not all Siamese twins are idioms, however. "Reading, writing, and arithmetic" is a frozen trinomial - clarification needed, but it is usually taken literally.

Idiom – an expression with a meaning that cannot be guessed from the meanings of the individual words. An idiom typical of the natural way in which someone speaks or writes when they are using their own language. Idiom – a group of words that has a special meaning that is different from the ordinary meaning of each separate word. Idiom – a form of expression, grammatical construction, phrase, etc., peculiar to a person or language; a phrase which is understood by speakers of a particular language despite its meaning's not being predictable from that of the separate words. [13,112].

An idiom is a phrase where the words together have a meaning that is different from the dictionary definitions of the individual words, which can make idioms hard for ESL students and learners to understand. According to Ifill T, idioms are as "those that speaker cannot work out simply by knowing the grammar and the vocabulary of a language"[11,123]. According to J. Saeed. [18,221] idioms

are “words collocated together happen to become fossilized, becoming fixed over time”. This is the reason why idioms are set out as non-compositional.

Idioms are used in a wide variety of contexts and situations. They are often used in spoken language, in situations that range from friendly conversations to business meetings. Idioms are used in written English as well, especially in journalism where writers frequently use them to bring their stories to life.

Knowing the meaning of idioms let understand the smallest refinements of the language. However, it is quite difficult to understand the exact meaning of the idiom of the foreign language because it is related with some kind of problems that are named in the further chapter.

An idiom is a sequence of words which has a different meaning as a group from the meaning it would have if you understood each word separately. Idioms add color to the language, helping us to emphasize meaning and to make our observations, judgments and explanations lively and interesting. They are also very useful tools for communicating a great deal of meaning in just a few words. Knowing whether an expression receives a literal meaning or an idiomatic meaning is important for natural language processing applications that require some sort of semantic interpretation.

Idioms are pervasive in all styles of language use. The problem they present to the theoretical and computational linguist is not the fact that their meaning cannot be worked out by the usual mechanisms, for if it were not for other factors this could be overcome by treating them as ‘big’ lexical items to be looked up in a list in a fairly straightforward way. Idiom is defined as expression that does not mean what it literally said. You cannot understand the meaning of whole idiom putting the meanings of each word from which consists idiom together. Put as simply as possible, an idiom is a fixed expression whose meaning cannot be taken as a combination of the meanings of its component parts. Thus, the common phrase kick the bucket has nothing to do with either kicking or buckets, but means simply,

“to die.” Idiom has the meaning only as a unit and has lexical and grammatical stability as well. If you look at the individual words, it may not even make sense grammatically. According to M. Everaert.[5,113] an idiom is an institutionalized expression which overall meaning does not correspond to the combined meanings of its component parts. Many idioms are intuitively nontransparent: their meaning is hard to guess without a special context or previous exposure. In spite of that, very few idioms are fixed in forms. These features we will discuss in our following chapter. Some idioms, in contrast, are transparent. [11,243] Much of their meaning does get through if they are taken or translated literally. For example, lay one's cards on the table meaning to reveal previously unknown intentions, or to reveal a secret. Transparency is a matter of degree; spill the beans (to let secret information become known) and leave no stone unturned (to do everything possible in order to achieve or find something) are not entirely literally interpretable, but only involve a slight metaphorical broadening. Another category of idioms is a word having several meanings, sometimes simultaneously, sometimes discerned from the context of its usage. This is seen in the mostly uninflected English language in polysemas, the common use of the same word for an activity, for those engaged in it, for the product used, for the place or time of an activity, and sometimes for a verb.

Idioms tend to confuse those unfamiliar with them; students of a new language must learn its idiomatic expressions as vocabulary. Many natural language words have idiomatic origins, but are assimilated, so losing their figurative senses, for example, in Portuguese, the expression “saber de coração”- to know by heart, with the same meaning as in English, was shortened to “saber de cor”, and later, to the verb decorar- meaning memorize.

1.2 The structure and categories of idioms

Idiom is defined as expression that does not mean what it literally said. You cannot understand the meaning of whole idiom putting the meanings of each word from which consists idiom together. Idioms are not mixed in form. One part of the

phrase can be let out, for example, somebody has been around the block (a few minutes) can be said without the words a few times, although the meaning remains the same. This technique is also used for idioms which have become popular and are therefore often shortened, such as you can lead a horse to water (but you can't make him drink). Some idioms can have any word inserted, depending on what the speaker is describing. For example, in the idiom the ____ of somebody's dreams the underline space indicates that the range of nouns, adjectives, etc which could be inserted is unlimited.[25,31]In addition to that, the main idiom can have several less popular versions. For example, sell like hot cakes (go like hot cakes). It shows that idioms are not frozen units. In internal structure of idioms there also could be found some changes. Let us begin with the most minimal way in which an idiom can be altered from its base form of morphology:

I. I will take them to task for their indolence.

I am taking them to task for their indolence.

I took them to task for their indolence.

I have taken them to task for their indolence.

II. George and Simon have their ups and downs.

George and Simon are having their ups and downs.

George and Simon had their ups and downs.

In these example sets, we are analyzing the idioms take NP to task and have one's ups and downs to be the listed forms of the idioms in the 1-st and 2-nd. These examples clearly show that the verb tense can be changed in the internal structure of the idiom. We can make a conclusion that those idioms which were classified as "completely frozen" exhibit this kind of behavior (trip the light fantastic vs. tripping the light fantastic vs. tripped the light fantastic).[5,242]

It has been widely noted that the individual words in an idiom cannot be replaced by synonyms and still retain the idiomatic reading of the phrase. This is what qualifies them as fixed forms. In most non-idiomatic discourse, a speaker can use synonymy to create a new sentence with the same semantic meaning. That means that changing a word from the idiom with its synonym we will not get the synonymic idiom. In spite of that, idioms can be synonymous among themselves. For example: John kicked the bucket. John kicked the pail. One thing that is readily noticeable about idioms is that many seem to resist undergoing transformations that similar non-idiomatic constructions can readily undergo while retaining the same sense. For example: John kicked the bucket. The bucket was kicked by John.

In spite of that sentence is transformed its meaning remains the same. All these changes can be found in all categories of idioms.

Idioms have been classified into several groups. Many idioms are derived from the names of body parts and bodily functions, animal names, food and preparing it, etc. The category with common names in idioms is not the smallest one but it is not the most common one. Common name is a noun that is not normally preceded by an article or other limiting modifier, as any or some, and that is arbitrary used to denote a particular person, place, thing without regard to any descriptive meaning the word or phrase may have.

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

Idioms have been classified into several groups. Many idioms are derived from the names of body parts and bodily functions:

- cover one's back – do something to protect yourself from criticism or future blame;
- to get off one's chest – tell something that's been bothering you a lot;
- blood, sweat, and tears – great personal effort; in cold blood- without feeling;
- to pay through the nose – pay a huge amount;
- to get a finger in every pie – is involved in many different things;
- feel (something) in one's bones – sense something, have an intuition about something.

Other big group of idioms derived from animals names:

- as weak as a kitten – weak, sickly;
- I could eat a horse – very hungry;
- hit the bulls-eye – to reach the main point of something;
- it rains cats and dogs – heavy rain;
- dog-eat-dog – ready or willing to fight and hurt others to get what one wants;
- monkey see, monkey do – someone copies something that someone else does.

The third big group is idioms derived from food and preparing it:

- full of beans- to feel energetic, to be in high spirits;
- take the biscuit – is the extreme;

- grist for the mill- something that can be used to bring advantage or profit;
- take the cake- to be the best or worst of something;
- make a meal out of – exaggerate the importance of everything;
- cook (someone's) goose- to damage or ruin someone.

Those are three the most common groups of idioms in English language. All these idioms are based on daily life events. They have risen from daily routine, from following the animal's behavior as well as the human's body reaction to different situations. They are often used in every day's speech and they are quite intelligible.

Other idioms are quite rare in English language. For example, politics idioms:

- body politics – A group of people organized under a single government or authority (national or regional);
- fifth columnist – a member of a subversive organization who tries to help an enemy invade;
- on the stump – politicians are campaigning for support and votes.

One rarer group is idioms based on crimes and police as well:

- behind bars – to be in prison;
- new sheriff in town – a new authority figure takes charge;
- after the fact- after something (a crime etc.) has occurred.

These expressions are quite difficult to understand. For example, idiom new sheriff in town could be understood as a fact that a town has really got a new sheriff.

The category with common names in idioms is not the smallest one but it is not the most common one. We could say with some exceptions.

For example, idioms are widely known and understandable as well as common used in English language. This category we will analyze in our work.

- Achilles heel – a person's weak spot;
- Adam's apple – a bulge in the throat, mostly seen in men.

Specific uses for words

- The words *chomak* and *vichomerak* which means "one that is respected" is only used when addressing foreigners since respect between members of the Dothraki people is implied by default. If a Dothraki were to use one of these words when referring to another Dothraki it would be seen as an insult.
- There are two word for the pronoun "you", *yer* and *shafka*. *Yer* is used in most instances but when you address someone in a respectful way then you use *shafka* instead. This is usually in the presence of or when talking to foreigners who are not of the Dothraki people.
- *Shekhikhi* (which is the diminutive of *shekhikh* which means light) is a pet name that parents use for their kids.
- *Gwe* is an interjection that has various uses. You can use it to mean "Here!" when you are handing someone something. It can also mean "Let's go!" for example when you want someone to follow or if you are about to start something together. It can also mean "Go!" as in when you are playing something and it's the other persons turn to go so you let them know it's their turn.
- To express the word betray you use a specific construction using the word *holat*="to blow". *Me nemholanhoonkireklajak* meaning "He betrayed me for that warrior". Literally it means "He was blown from me by that warrior".

- Lekh, tongue, has an idiomatic extension: when you say of that x is y to the tongue, lekhaan, that means that x is y enough.

Jin arakhhasalekhaan. — "This arakh is sharp enough"

- Jaqqa is a word that is loosely translated as executioner but it doesn't hold the exact same connotation as the word does in English. In English the word executioner refers to someone who is killing in an official setting by for example carrying out a sentence. In Dothraki the word jaqqa has a more general application in that it applies to any killing. It can be seen as the opposite of the word victim in that if person A kills person B then person B is person A's victim but person A is person B's jaqqa.

1.3 Modern English Idioms

Modern linguists are not going to deny that plenty of those English idioms originating in bygone days when a horse was the main means of transportation are still very relevant these days. For instance, the idiom "*beat around the bush*" originates in 15th century but it's still used a lot in 21st century. Well, in case you've never heard it – it means to avoid the issue and keep talking about other topics. So whenever someone avoids answering your question directly, you can tell them to stop beating around the bush and answer the question they're asked!

Or this one – "*play by ear*" – which originates in the first part of 19th century but is still used in these days as a figurative way of saying that you're going to do things depending on how the situation develops and that you can't really plan for anything. As you can imagine, first they used this phrase only when discussing music related matters; at some stage the phrase went mainstream and they started using it in other aspects of life so it became an idiom, something that can't be taken literally. On the other hand, there are many idioms that have lost their relevance in modern times – like the one about the pot and the kettle, so I really don't think you

should focus on such phrases when building your vocabulary of figurative English language. “*Look a gift horse in the mouth*” is an idiom used in situations when someone criticizes something they got for free or very cheap, but tell me, when is the last time you heard this phrase? To be honest with you – We don’t think we’ve ever heard it during the last 75 years spent in our current job, and that’s something for you to think about! We are not saying you’re going to waste your time learning such old-fashioned idioms – most English speakers will understand you, of course.

The point we are trying to make here is that you should use your time and brain capacity *effectively*, and we don’t think that stuffing your head with English idioms of relatively small relevance is the best way of using your resources. This brings us to the next point.

Conclusion on chapter I

An idiom is a phrase where the words together have a meaning that is different from the dictionary definitions of the individual words, which can make idioms hard for ESL students and learners to understand. Idioms are words, phrases or expressions which are commonly used in everyday conversation by native speakers of English. They are often metaphorical and make the language more colorful. For instance, the idiom “*Till the cows come home*” means “for a very long time” so you should be certain to use this idiom **every now and then** when you want to emphasize futility of the action you’re discussing – “*You can try to please your boss’s every whim till cows come home, but you still won’t get that promotion.*”

Or this one – “*The pot calling the kettle black*”. This idiom is used to point out to a person accusing someone that he’s **not all that innocent** himself.

Is it true though? Do you really have to **go the extra mile** (you see – I just used another idiom so they have to be useful, right?) learning **such and similar** English idioms to sound fluent and be able to communicate easily with other English speakers? Well, I can’t actually give you a definitive answer to this question

without first discussing the nature of English idioms and how they're used. So let me bring up an example so that you can start **seeing the big picture**.

Chapter II. The importance of selecting and learning of English Idioms

Some phrases stick you even if you don't memorize them intentionally, and that's quite natural. If you decide to purposefully learn English idioms in order to improve your English fluency, however, you should learn the ones that are relevant in your personal circumstances – in other words – situations when you use the English language! Just think about this – is there any use for you to learn very specific English proverbs such as “*chickens come home to roost*” or “*talk the hind legs off a donkey*” if you haven't heard anyone use them? Don't make the mistake of learning something in English just because it sounds cool and it will allow you to **show off** in front of your work colleagues, fellow students or friends!

Just like I wrote in another chapter about which new English words to learn, you should rather engage in plenty of activities involving the English language so that you encounter new vocabulary naturally – and, of course, it includes idioms and idiomatic expressions as well! And if you decide to add more to your figurative language by finding more of such useful idioms, I'd suggest you browse through large idiom compilations – such as this one and see if any of them ring a bell with you. You see – I just used an idiom which is used in situations when you're reminded of something, and this idiom is quite relevant for any foreign English speaker.

So when you go through English idiom lists, you should make note of the ones you remember having heard previously. As you might remember from my earlier blog posts, passive and active vocabularies are different beasts and not everything you recognize is part of your active spoken English vocabulary. Let's say, you're reading an idiom “*have a sweet tooth*” (“*I have a sweet tooth*” means that you're fond of sweets, chocolate and pastries) and you have a feeling that you've heard it before. Well, I'd say it's worth memorizing this idiom! The best way to achieve it would be by writing the phrase “*I have a sweet tooth*” down into your dictionary and using spaced repetition to cement it into your active vocabulary.

Most likely you'd be getting the same impression of familiarity when coming across a bunch of other idioms – "*safe and sound*" (meaning that everything is fine with the person in question), "*far cry from*" (used to describe that something is far from being complete, or something is much different from what you describe further in the conversation) and similar idiomatic expressions, so it's worth noting them because you'd put them to good use in your daily conversations. I mean – once you've heard them at some stage, they must be used in real life spoken language, right?

2.1 Characteristics of Proper nouns

Common name – a noun that is not normally preceded by an article or other limiting modifier, as any or some, and that is arbitrary used to denote a particular person, place, thing without regard to any descriptive meaning the word or phrase may have, as Lincoln, Beth Pittsburgh. (<http://dictionary.reference.com>). Common names are also called proper names. There is another large group of idioms in English - with names of places (crossing the Rubicon, Himalayan blunder, New York minute, Shipshape and Bristol fashion, Dunkirk spirit, on Carey Street, not for all tea in China, Saigon moment, send someone to Coventry, coals to Newcastle. Considering the idioms with place names, we can find out the most common place name used in idioms is Rome(all roads lead to Rome, fiddle while Rome burns, Rome was not built in a day, when in Rome, do as the Romans do).

According to Valeika [20,200], "a proper noun is the name of a particular member of a class or of a set of particular members". Also Valeika [20,212] introduces to the idea that the function of a proper noun or name is the same as definite article, because both are particularizes: Smith means the man Smith/the Smith man. Thus, the presented idea reveals the difference between the definite article and proper noun, because the addition of the proper name cause to become the common name semantically unnecessary and it is dropped in the surface structure.

Another difference added by Valeika [20,218] concerns the way the two modes of naming explain the problem of the uniqueness of reference: proper names are not always proper, because they may refer to more individual. As the consequence, this shows that proper names may function as common names.

Next, when proper names have no unique reference they behave like common names. The common meaning of the word or words constituting a proper noun may be unrelated to the object to which the proper noun refers. For example, someone might be named "Tiger Smith" despite being neither a tiger nor a smith. For this reason, proper nouns are usually not translated between languages, although they may be transliterated.

For example, the German surname Knodel becomes Knodel or Knoedel in English (not the literal Dumpling). However, the transcription of place names and the names of monarchs, popes, and non-contemporary authors is common and sometimes universal. For example, the Portuguese word Lisboa becomes Lisbon in English; the English London becomes Londres in French; and the Greek (Aristotel3s) becomes Aristotle in English [<http://en.wikipedia.org>]. A proper noun is first of all a kind of noun. Like other nouns, a proper noun may label a person, place, or thing, and may label a concrete object or an abstraction. Most proper nouns refer to a specific person – Julius Caesar, a specific place – Istanbul, a specific institution or organization – the Red Cross, or a specific event – the Renaissance. [26,321]. In English, there are a few typical characteristics which permit proper nouns to be recognized. A proper noun typically:

1. ...has its initial letter capitalized?
2. ...is not used in the plural.
3. ...is not preceded by adjectives, articles, numerals, demonstratives, or other modifiers.

A philosophical consideration of proper nouns finds three properties:

- Uniqueness of referent. According to J. S. Mill [15,114] proper nouns identify a specific thing, one that is unique. The differentiation, therefore, between general names, and individual or singular names, is primal; and may be considered as the first grand division of names. A general name is closely praised, a name which is able of being truly affirmed, in the same sense, of each of an indefinite number of things. An individual or singular name is a name which is only able of being truly affirmed, in the same sense, of one thing.
- Specificity of label. J. Locke [12,216] noted that this property originates from the way in which proper nouns are used to separate one particular item from all other similar ones. Likewise persons, countries, cities, rivers, mountains, and other distinctions of place have usually found peculiar names, and that for the same reason ; they being such as men have often an occasion to mark particularly, and, as it were, set before others in their discourses with them.
- Does not impart connotation or attributes. According to J. S. Mill [15,321] proper nouns do not carry meaning other than as a label for a specific object and they are not translated. Thus, man is capable of being truly affirmed of John, Peter, George, and other persons without assignable limits: and it is affirmed of all of them in the same sense; for the word man expresses certain qualities, and when we predicate it of those persons, we categorically state that they all own those qualities. But John is only capable of being truly affirmed of one single person, at least in the same sense. For although there are many persons who bear that name, it is not conferred upon them to indicate any qualities, or anything which belongs to them in common; and cannot be said to be affirmed of them in any sense at all, consequently not in the same sense.

Proper names could be divided into several groups: place names, personal names and diacritics.

2.2 Toponyms and the idioms with personal names

Geographical or place names are the nouns that refer to specific places and geographic features. They are also called toponyms.

Toponyms can be both place names, real or imaginary, as well as names derived from places or regions. They can be found in many different arenas of industry, enterprise, culture, and current events. It is not unusual to find toponyms used for places that withdraw other places, as well as wars, treaties and agreements, bands, food, and fabric, among other items (<http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-a-toponym.htm>). For example, there are many places beginning with the word new that are toponyms named to recall or honor other places. In North America – New Hampshire named after Hampshire, England; New Jersey named for the Isle of Jersey in the English Channel; New Mexico, recalling the country to south; New York, after York, England; and the Canadian province Nova Scotia, which means “New Scotland.” Toponyms can be found in almost every sphere of our life.

Some modern-day bands have toponyms for their name. Chicago (the American rock band formed) takes its name from the city of Chicago. The Manhattan Transfer (an American vocal group) has a name that is a toponym once-removed: it is named after novel Manhattan Transfer by John Dos Passos, after Manhattan Transfer train station in Harrison, New Jersey. The rock group Styx, originally called The Tradewinds, drew their toponymic second name from the river in Greek mythology. The Shangri-Las, named after the Himalayan utopia in James Hilton’s novel, Lost Horizon, was an all-girl American pop trio.

A number of fabrics have toponyms that notice their place of origin. The shirt fabric called Oxford takes its name from Oxford, England. The two thick cotton materials used for pants, denim and jean, are both place names: the first derives from the fact that it came from Nimes, France – “de Nimes”, Jeans comes from the French pronunciation – Gknes – of its city of origin, Genoa.

There are toponyms of food as well. Hamburgers, named for Hamburg, Germany, and frankfurters or hotdogs, named for Frankfurt, Germany. Also, two nicknames

for coffee, Java and Mocha, referencing cities in Indonesia and Yemen. Tangerines are a popular fruit named for Tangiers, Morocco, but the Barbados cherry, Natal plum, and Java plum might be less familiar. Using the name "Champagne," a name for sparkling wine, is illegal in a number of parts of the world unless the product originates in the Champagne region of France.

In addition to that, the well-known names are derived from toponyms:

- Event and agreements. For example, Jackson State (Mississippi) – the Jackson State killing in 1970; Maastricht (The Netherlands) – the Maastricht treaty of 1992; Potsdam (Germany) – the Potsdam Conference in 1945. [26,78]
- Cheese: Edam after town of Edam in the Netherlands; Parmesan, from Parma Italy; Roquefort after a village in southern France.
- Wine: Bordeaux, Chablis, Madeira wine, a fortified wine and Plum in Madeira, a dessert – Madeira islands of Portugal.
- Corporations: Nokia, Vaasa, Raisio – some corporations whose name is simply the same as their original location. Derivations from literary or mythical places: Eden, any paradisiacal area, named after the religious Garden of Eden; El Dorado, any area of great wealth, after the mythical city of gold; utopia, term for organized society – Utopia, fictional republic from the book of the same name. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/>).

Personal names are the names given to people, but can be used as well for some animals (like race horses) and natural or man-made inanimate objects (like ships and geological formations). As proper nouns, are almost always first-letter capitalized. Exceptions are made when the given individual does not want their name to be capitalized, and the lowercase variant has received regular and established use in reliable third party sources.[25,431] Personal names are

transcribed into English spelling but generally not Anglicized or translated between languages; it was also mentioned in the case with place names.

Let us look at the examples:

AleksandrSergeyevichPushkin was a ...

Canute (sometimes Cnut; Danish Knud) is the ...

Personal names are also called eponyms. An eponym is a word derived from the names of real, fictional, mythical or spurious character or person. One who is referred to as eponymous is someone that gives their name to something, e.g. Julian, the eponymous owner of the famous restaurant Julian's Castle.

In different cultures, time periods have often been named after the person who ruled during that period:

- One of the first recorded cases of eponymy occurred in the second millennium BC, when the Assyrians named each year after a high official (limmu).
- In Ancient Rome, one of the two formal ways of indicating a year was to mention the two annual consuls who served in that year. For example, the year we know as 59 BCE would have been described as “the consulship of Marcus CalpurniusBibulus and Gaius Julius Caesar”. Under the empire, the consuls would change as often as every two months, but only the two consuls at the beginning of the year would lend their names to that year.
- In the Christian era, many royal households used eponymous dating by regal years. Although The Roman Catholic Church finally used the Anno Domini dating scheme based on the birth of Christ on both the general public and royalty.
- Government administrations or political trends often become eponymous with a government leader. North American examples include the Nixon Era, Trudeaumania, Jeffersonian economics, Jacksonian democracy, McCarthyism, Thatcherism, Kennedy’s Camelot or Reaganomics.

- British monarchs have turned eponymous throughout the English speaking world for time periods, fashions, etc. For example, Elizabethan, Edwardian, Georgian and Victorian. [25,227]

Places and towns can also be given an eponymous name through a relationship (real or imagined) to an important figure. Peloponnesus, for example, was said to derive its name from the Greek god Pelops. In historical times, new towns have often been named after their founders, discoverers, or after notable individuals. In science and technology, discoveries and innovations are often named after the discoverer (or supposed discoverer) or to honor some other influential workers. Examples are Avogadro's number, the Diesel engine, meitnerium, Alzheimer's disease and the Apgar score. Some books, films, video, and TV shows have one or more eponymous principal characters: Robinson Crusoe, the Harry Potter series, Seinfeld and I love Lucy, for example.

There are thousands of eponyms in everyday use of English language today and study of them yields a fascinating insight into the rich heritage of the world's most popular language and its development (<http://users.tinyonline.co.uk/gswithenbank/eponyms.htm>). The list of themes where eponyms can be found is very long and various:

- Albums: David Bowie: David Bowie; Cher: Cher.
- Adages: Murphy's law – ascribed to Edward A. Murphy who stated “If there's more than one way to do a job, and one of those ways will end in disaster, then someone will do it that way.” (www.wikipedia.org)
- Adjectives: parkinsonian – James Parkinson (as in parkinsonian syndrome), Stalinist -Joseph Stalin.
- Cartoon characters: Baby Face Finlayson, from The Beano comic – Baby Face Nelson, Nero, Belgian comic character by Marc Sleen is named after the Roman emperor Nero.

- Chemical elements: curium (Cm,96) – Pierre and Marrie Curie, promethium (Pm,61) – Prometheus, a Titan from Greek mythology. (www.wikipedia.org)
- Human anatomical parts: Achilles tendon – Achilles, Greek mythological character, Adam's apple – Adam, Biblical character.
- Ideologies: Leninism – after Vladimir Lenin, Maoism – after Mao Zedong.
- Inventions: Braille – Louis Braille, diesel engine – Rudolph Diesel.
- Mathematical theorems: Ptolemaios theorem (geometry), Atkinson's theorem (operator theory).
- Prizes, awards and medals: Nobel Prize – Albert Nobel, O. Henry Awards – O. Henry.
- We have analyzed a lot of idioms with personal names and while analyzing the idiom we have noticed that they could be divided into groups according to their origins.[15,230] We distinguished the following groups:
 1. Names derived from mythology.
 2. Names derived from religion.
 3. Names based on characters of the books, films, cartoons etc.
 4. Names derived from folk mythology.
 5. Names of the real persons.
 6. Others

According to the results we made conclusions that religion and mass media influence people's language the most. Idioms with these names are quite popular and very often used in spoken language. For example, idioms based on religion characters:

1. Raise Cain – to complain a lot about something in an angry or noisy way because you are determined to get what you want (www.usingenglish.com).
2. Put the fear of God into somebody – to make someone feel frightened of doing something wrong by making them realize the bad things that could happen if they do it [24,219] Adam's apple – the Adam's apple is a bulge in the throat, mostly seen in men (www.usingenglish.com).

Let us see the origin of the name Cain –this person was the first murderer according to scriptural accounts in the Bible – Genesis 4 and in the Qur'an – 5:27-32. The biblical account, from the King James' Version, tells us how Cain and Abel, the two sons of Adam and Eve, bring offerings to God, but only Abel's is accepted. Cain kills Abel in anger and is cursed by God.

The next big group is idioms with personal names which are taken from famous books, songs, cartoons. For example:

1. Rip van Winkle – Rip van Winkle is a character in a story that slept for twenty years, so if someone is a Rip van Winkle, they are behind the times and out of touch with what is happening now [48,98]
2. Mickey Mouse – something that is intellectually trivial or not of a very high standard
3. Live a life of Riley – used in order to say that someone has a very comfortable, easy life without having to work hard or worry about money .
4. Let us look at the origin of the name Riley – this phrase originated in a popular song of the 1880s, “Is That Mr. Reilly?” by Pat Rooney, which described, what its hero would do if he suddenly came into a fortune).

Idioms with personal names that are related to real persons are also often used in the English language. We have found 13 idioms of this kind. For example:

1. Bob's your uncle – said after you tell someone how to do something, in order to emphasize that it will be simple and will definitely achieve the result they want.
2. Look a right Charlie – to look very strange or stupid, so that people laugh at you, or feel that people are going to laugh at you.
3. 50 million Elvis fans can't be wrong – used to say that something must be true because so many people think so.

Two well-known persons in our examples are Elvis Presley and Charlie Chaplin. Let us look at the example Bob's your uncle. It is a catchphrase dating back to 1887, when British Prime Minister Lord Salisbury decided to appoint a certain Arthur Balfour to the prestigious and sensitive post of Chief Secretary for Ireland. Not lost on the British public was the fact that Lord Salisbury just happened to be better known to Arthur Balfour as "Uncle Bob". In the resulting furor over what was seen as an act of blatant nepotism, "Bob's your uncle" became a popular sarcastic comment applied to any situation where the outcome was preordained by favoritism[44,176]

The smallest group found in our research was idioms with personal names originated from mythology. In spite of that, we could not say that those idioms are unknown or used very rarely. We have selected 10 idioms of this kind. Let us look at the examples:

1. Achilles' heel – a weakness of someone's character that causes them problems, or the weak part of a place, system, argument where it can easily be attacked or criticized.
2. Midas touch – the ability to earn money very easily .
3. A sword of Damocles – something bad that may affect your situation at any time and make it much worse.

All these persons are well-known from Greek mythology. The death of Achilles was not mentioned in Homer's Iliad, but appeared in later Greek and Roman poetry and drama concerning events after the Iliad, later in the Trojan War. According to a myth arising later, his mother, Thetis, had dipped the infant Achilles in the river Styx, holding onto him by his heel, and he became invulnerable where the waters touched him -- that is, everywhere but the areas covered by her thumb and forefinger -- implying that only a heel wound could have been his downfall.

Analyzing the idioms with proper names we have found idioms with place names. We have discovered that all the place names mentioned in idioms were real. In spite of that some of them were mentioned in the Bible, for example, Road to Damascus -- if someone has a great and sudden change in their ideas or beliefs, then this is a road to Damascus change, after the conversion of Saint Paul to Christianity while heading to Damascus to persecute Christians, place Damascus is real. The most common place name used in idioms is Rome. For example:

- All roads lead to Rome -- This means that there can be many different ways of doing something.
- Fiddle while Rome burns -- used when you disapprove because someone is spending too much time or attention on unimportant matters instead of trying to solve bigger and more important problems.
- Rome was not built in a day -- this idiom means that many things cannot be done instantly, and require time and patience.

Idioms with personal names are more frequently used than idioms with place names.

There are 6 main groups of the origin of the personal names used in idioms. The distinguished groups are the following ones:

Names derived from mythology:

1. A sword of Damocles – something bad that may affect your situation at any time and make it much worse.
2. A Pyrrich victory – used about a situation in which you are successful, but you suffer so much that it was not worth winning.
3. Achilles' heel – a weakness of someone's character that causes them problems, or the weak part of a place, system, argument where it can easily be attacked or criticized.
4. Before you can say Jack Robinson – used in order to say that something happens very quickly.
5. Between Scylla and Charybdis – in a situation in which there two possible choices or actions both of which are equally bad .
6. Cut the Gordian cut – to solve a very complex problem in a simple way.
7. Davey Jones' locker – Davey Jones' locker is the bottom of the sea or resting place of drowned sailors.
8. Midas touch –the ability to earn money very easily.
9. Pandora's box – If you open a Pandora's Box, something you do causes all sorts of trouble that you hadn't anticipated.
10. Peeping Tom – A peeping Tom is someone who tries to look through other people's windows without being seen in order to spy on people in their homes

Names derived from religion:

1. Not know somebody from Adam – used in order to say that you do not know someone at all, or have never seen them before (Longman Idioms Dictionary: 1999:2).
2. Adam's apple – the Adam's apple is a bulge in the throat, mostly seen in men (www.usingenglish.com).

3. Be hand of God – very good luck, or a bit of cheating that helps someone to succeed, especially in a game of football (www.dictionary.com).
4. For Pete's sake – this is used as an exclamation to show exasperation or irritation.
5. God willing and the creek don't rise – a humorous expression used in order to say that you hope you will not have problems doing something.
6. God's gift to – if someone thinks they are God's gift to a group of people or an activity, they behave in an annoying way that shows they think they are more important to that group or activity than they really are.
7. Is Saul also among the prophets? – It's a biblical idiom used when somebody known for something bad appears all of a sudden to be doing something very good.
8. Jumping Judas! – An expression of surprise or shock.
9. Mohammed must go to the mountain – used in order to say that if someone you want to see, especially someone important, will not or cannot come to you, you have to make effort to see them, even if it is difficult .
10. Painted Jezebel – a scheming woman.
11. Patience of Job – If something requires the patience of Job, it requires great patience.
12. Put the fear of God into somebody – to make someone feel frightened of doing something wrong by making them realize the bad things that could happen if they do.
13. Raise Cain – to complain a lot about something in an angry or noisy way because are determined to get what you want (www.usingenglish.com).
14. So help me God – used in order to emphasize that you really mean what you are saying or promising.

15. Work all the hours God sends – used in order to say that someone spends all their time working very hard.

Names derived from real persons:

1. 50 million Elvis fans can't be wrong – used to say that something must be true because so many people think so.

2. Bob's your uncle – said after you tell someone how to do something, in order to emphasize that it will be simple and will definitely achieve the result they want.

3. Freudian Slip – if someone makes a Freudian slip, they accidentally use the wrong word, but in doing so reveal what they are really thinking rather than what they think the other person wants to hear.

4. Happy as Larry – very happy.

5. Heath Robinson – used to say about a system, machine etc that does something ordinary in a way that is very complicated and not at all practical .

6. Hobson's choice – a situation in which there is only one thing you can possibly do, unless you do nothing (www.usingenglish.com).

7. In like Flynn – refers to Errol Flynn's popularity with women in the 40's. His ability to attract women was well known throughout the world .

8. Look a right Charlie – to look very strange or stupid, so that people laugh at you, or feel that people are going to laugh at you (www.dictionary.com).

9. Murphy's law – used to say that the worst possible thing always seems to happen at a time when it is most annoying, preventing you from doing what you are trying to do.

10. Real McCoy – used in order to say that something is real, and not a copy.

11. Rich as Croesus – very rich.

12. Rube Goldberg – used about a system, machine etc that does something ordinary in a way that is very complicated and not at all practical.

13. Smart Alec – A smart Alec is a conceited person who likes to show off how clever and knowledgeable they are.

Names derived from folk etymology:

1. Any Tom, Dick or Harry – an expression meaning everyone, used especially when you disapprove because there is no limit on who can do a particular activity.

2. Be robbing Peter to pay Paul – to take money from one part of a system or organization that needs it and use it for another part of the system or organization, so that you deal with one difficulty but still have problems.

3. Benjamin of the family – the Benjamin of the family is the youngest child.

4. For the love of Pete – usually used in exasperation, as in 'Oh, for the love of Pete!'.

5. Great Scott – an exclamation of surprise.

6. Home, James – (UK) this is a clever way of telling the driver of a vehicle to start driving.

7. Jack-of-all-trades – -trades is someone that can do many different jobs .

8. Jane Doe – Jane Doe is a name given to an unidentified female who may be party to legal proceedings, or to an unidentified person in hospital, or dead. John Doe is the male equivalent.

9. Joe Bloggs – a name used to represent all ordinary people and their thoughts, feelings and situation.

10. Johnny on the spot – A person who is always available; ready, willing, and able to do what needs to be done.

11. Uncle Sam – the government of the USA.

Names based on characters of the books, films, cartoons:

1. An Aladdin's cave of something – a place where a lot of particular type of thing can be found, especially something interesting or unusual .
2. Aunt Sally – used about someone or something that is often blamed or criticized by a particular group of people, even when there is no reason.
3. Be like Darby and Joan – used to talk about old husband and wife who live very happily together.
4. Brahms and Liszt – drunk.
5. Do a Lord Lucan – (UK) if someone disappears without a trace or runs off (Lord Lucan disappeared after a murder).
6. Even Stevens – if everything is equal between people, they are even Stevens.
7. I'm all right Jack – used in order to show disapproval when someone's attitude shows that they do not care about a problem that other people are having, because it does not affect them.
8. Jekyll and Hyde – used about someone who has two totally different parts to their character, one very good and the other bad.
9. Keep up with Joneses – to try to have all the things that your friends and neighbors have, and do all the things that they do.
10. Live a life of Riley – used in order to say that someone has a very comfortable, easy life without having to work hard or worry about money .
11. Mickey Mouse – something that is intellectually trivial or not of a very high standard.
12. Rip van Winkle – Rip van Winkle is a character in a story who slept for twenty years, so if someone is a Rip van Winkle, they are behind the times and out of touch with what's happening now.

13. Smile like a Cheshire cat – to have a big smile on your face, so that you look silly or too pleased with yourself.
14. Take the Mickey – to you tease someone.
15. Vicar of Bray – (UK) A person who changes their beliefs and principles to stay popular with people above them.
16. A doubting Thomas – used about someone who does not believe that something is true, or says that it has not been proved to them.
17. Barkus is willing – this idiom means that someone is willing to get married .
18. Be whistling Dixie – to be saying that something is untrue.
19. Buggles' turn – when someone gets promotion through length of service rather than ability, especially in the British civil service.
20. Clever Dick – used about someone who is annoying because they are always right or always think they are right.
21. Going Jesse – (USA) if something is a going Jesse, it's a viable, successful project or enterprise.
22. Jack the Lad – A confident and not very serious young man who behaves as he wants to without thinking about other people is a Jack the Lad.
23. John Q Public – (USA) John Q Public is the typical, average person.
24. Nervous Nellie – Someone excessively worried or apprehensive is a nervous Nellie (or Nelly).

Not known whether you are Arthur or Martha-to feel very confused, especially because you have too much to do.

Other idioms:

Idioms describing people

She has a heart of gold - very kind, generous.

He's very quick off the mark - he always gets things before everybody else.

She's a bit of an odd-ball - very strange, peculiar, strange.

I was a bit slow off the mark - the job had been filled by the time.

Idioms describing feeling or mood

Joe's as happy as the day is long - extremely content.

He had a face as long as a fiddle - looked very depressed/sad.

I could eat a horse - very hungry.

She was scared stiff - very scared.

Idioms connected with problematic situations

To take a back seat - not do anything; let others act instead.

To lay one's cards on the table - be very open, state exactly what your position is.

This has to be done by next week - we must get our act together before it's too late
- organize ourselves to respond; informal.

The government and the unions have buried the hatchet for the time being. [made
Peace/stopped fighting each other].

Idioms connected with praise and criticism

Marry is head and shoulders above the rest of the girl or She's miles better than the
other girls - used usually of people.

She's a dab-hand at carpentry, just like her father - usually for manual skills.

She thinks she's the cat's whiskers/the bee's knees - thinks she's wonderful.

When it comes to unreliability, he really takes the biscuit - is the epitome/most
striking example of some negative quality.

Idioms connected with using language

The boss always talks down to us - talks as if we were inferior.

My work-mates are always talking behind my back - saying negative things about me when I'm not there.

It was just small talk, nothing more, I promise - purely social talk, nothing serious.

It's gone too far this time. I shall have to give him a talking to – reproach, scold him.

Idioms – miscellaneous

I've got that song on the brain - just can't stop myself singing it.

He's made quite a bit of headway with his maths lately - make progress.

We had to pay through the nose for those tickets - pay a huge amount.

Oh, he's got a finger in every pie - is involved in many different things.

Conclusion

An idiom is a phrase where the words together have a meaning that is different from the dictionary definitions of the individual words, which can make idioms hard for ESL students and learners to understand. It is a sequence of words which has a different meaning as a group from the meaning it would have if you understood each word separately. All these expressions add color to the language, helping us to emphasize meaning and to make our observations, judgments and explanations lively and interesting. They are also very useful tools for communicating a great deal of meaning in just a few words.

Idioms are defined as a sub-type phrase, the meaning of which is not the regular sum of the meanings of its component parts. John Saeed defines an idiom as collocated words that became affixed to each other until metamorphosing into a fossilized term. This collocation of words redefines each component word in the word-group and becomes an idiomatic expression. Idioms usually do not translate well; in some cases, when an idiom is translated directly word-for-word into another language, either its meaning is changed or it is meaningless. English is a language particularly rich in idioms - those modes of expression peculiar to a language (or dialect) which frequently defy logical and grammatical rules. Without idioms English would lose much of its variety and humor both in speech and writing. 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. Idioms are words or phrases that have a figurative meaning that is different from the literal meaning of the words and is understood to be figurative by virtue of common usage and in relation to a specific culture. They are fixed expressions with meanings that are usually not clear or obvious. The individual words often give you no help in deciding the meaning. Think of idioms as being just like single words; always record the whole phrase in your notebook, along with information

on grammar and collocation. 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 say 'Do sit down' or 'Have a seat'.

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.

The aim of the research work is to analyze the use of proper names in English idioms and to identify origins of these names. Idioms were classified into two groups: with personal names and with place names. The definitions of the collocated idioms were presented as well and they were illustrated with examples.

Research methods employed in the work are as follow:

- Descriptive-theoretical literary analysis provided a possibility to review numerous issues concerning features of proper nouns.
- Statistical method – was salutary for the processing of the results of the empirical part of the research.

The English language has quite a long list of idioms. Colloquial idioms with personal and place names among all the idioms are not the prevailing ones. To compare both idioms with personal and place names researched in our work we can draw a conclusion that idioms with personal names are used more frequently in the English language. In our sources we have found only 24 ones with place

names and even 73 idioms with personal names, in percent style, accordingly 25 % and 75 %. For example:

- Be robbing Peter to pay Paul – to take money from one part of a system or organization that needs it and use it for another part of the system or organization, so that you deal with one difficulty but still have problems. Idiom with personal names.
- New York minute – (USA) if something happens in a New York minute, it happens very fast. (www.usingenglish.com). Idiom with place name.

The analyses presented in this study are an answer that proper names are quite often used in English idioms. We have analyzed many idioms: 73 from them are with personal names and 24 with place names. The origin of personal and place names in English idioms are of different types. In spite of this we identified the following six groups of the origin of personal names:

- Mythical
- Derived from religion
- Based on characters of the films, books, cartoons.
- The real persons.
- Folk etymology.
- And many more others.

The analysis showed that idioms with personal names are used in English language more frequently than idioms with place names. Almost all the place names are authentic, not made-up. Among personal names the most frequent were names derived from religion and characters of books, films etc. Number of idioms with personal names that derived from mythology was the smallest one.

It is really important to know the meaning of idioms of the language, you translate on. It is needed to avoid a ridiculous situation.

For instance, "Every Tom, Dick and Harry knows how it works". If you translate: "Том, Дики Гари знают, как это работает", it would not be right.

In English these names mean "всякий, первый встречный" or "обычный, заурядный человек". It is better to translate: "Каждый знает, как это работает".

It is interesting fact, that "Uncle Sam" is the nickname of the government of the US (derives from U.S). It is known that only native speakers can perfectly learn and understand the meaning of some idioms. Do you agree with this statement?

Examples with idioms

1. All roads lead to Rome – This means that there can be many different ways of doing something [www.usingenglish.com].
2. Big Easy – (USA) The Big Easy is New Orleans, Louisiana [www.usingenglish.com].
3. Coals to Newcastle – (UK) Taking, bringing, or carrying coals to Newcastle is doing something that is completely unnecessary [www.usingenglish.com].
4. Crossing the Rubicon – When you are crossing the Rubicon, you are passing a point of no return. After you do this thing, there is no way of turning around. The only way left is forward [www.usingenglish.com].
5. Dunkirk spirit – (UK) Dunkirk spirit is when people pull together to get through a very difficult time [www.dictionary.com].
6. Fiddle while Rome burns – used when you disapprove because someone is spending too much time or attention on unimportant matters instead of trying to solve bigger and more important problems.
7. From Missouri – (USA) If someone is from Missouri, then they require clear proof before they will believe something [www.usingenglish.com].
8. Himalayan blunder – a Himalayan blunder is a very serious mistake or error [www.usingenglish.com].
9. Lie back and think of England – a humorous expression used when someone has sex without wanting it or enjoying it, and often used when someone has to do another activity or job that they do not want to [Longman Idioms Dictionary:1999:106].

10. Man on the Clapham omnibus – (UK) The man on the Clapham omnibus is the ordinary person in the street (www.usingenglish.com).
11. More front than Brighton – (UK) If you have more front than Brighton, you are very self-confident, possibly excessively so [www.usingenglish.com].
12. New York minute – (USA) If something happens in a New York minute, it happens very fast [www.usingenglish.com].
13. Not for all tea in China – used in order to emphasize that you do not want to do something, and no reward would be big enough to make you to do it [Longman Idioms Dictionary: 1999:340].
14. On Carey Street – (UK) If someone is on Carey Street, they are heavily in debt or have gone bankrupt [www.usingenglish.com].
15. Road to Damascus – If someone has a great and sudden change in their ideas or beliefs, then this is a road to Damascus change, after the conversion of Saint Paul to Christianity while heading to Damascus to persecute Christians [www.usingenglish.com].
16. Rome was not built in a day – This idiom means that many things cannot be done instantly, and require time and patience [www.usingenglish.com].
17. Saigon moment – (USA) A Saigon moment is when people realize that something has gone wrong and that they will lose or fail [www.usingenglish.com].
18. Somebody met his/her Waterloo – used in order to say that someone has finally met a person or thing that can defeat them.
19. Send someone to Coventry – (UK) If you send someone to Coventry, you refuse to talk to them or co-operate with them [www.usingenglish.com].
20. Set the Thames on fire – If you do something remarkable, you set the Thames on fire, though this expression is used in the negative; someone who is dull or undistinguished will never set the Thames on fire [www.usingenglish.com].

21. Shipshape and Bristol fashion – If things are shipshape and Bristol fashion, they are in perfect working order [www.dictionary.com].
22. The black hole of Calcutta – used about a place that is very dark and very hot and too full of people or things [www.dictionary.com].
23. When in Rome, do as the Romans do – This idiom means that when you are visiting a different place or culture, you should try to follow their customs and practices [www.usingenglish.com].
24. ____ for England – a humorous way of saying that someone does a lot or too much of a particular activity [Longman Idioms Dictionary: 1999:106].

Colloquial English Idioms

Accidentally on purpose If you do something intentionally, but pretend it was an accident, you do it *accidentally on purpose*.
I accidentally-on-purpose erased his email address, so I couldn't contact him again.

add fuel to the flames If you *add fuel to the flames*, you do or say something that makes a difficult situation even worse.
He forgot their wedding anniversary, and his apologies only added fuel to the flames.

all ears To say that you are *all ears* means that you are listening very attentively.
Of course I want to know - I'm all ears!

answer call of When a person *answers the call of nature*, they go to

nature **nature's** the toilet.

call

I had to get up in the middle of the night to answer the call of nature.

backseatdriver

A passenger in a car who gives unwanted advice to the driver is called a *backseat driver*.

I can't stand backseat drivers like my mother-in-law!

badgersomeone

If you *badger someone* into doing something, you persistently nag or pester them until you obtain what you want.

Sophie badgered her parents into buying her a new computer.

balancingact

When you try to satisfy two or more people or groups who have different needs, and keep everyone happy, you perform a *balancing act*.
Many people, especially women, have to perform a balancing act between work and family.

bareyourheart

soul

/ If you *bare your soul* (or heart) to someone, you reveal your innermost thoughts and feelings to them.

Mike couldn't keep things to himself any longer. He decided to bare his soul to his best friend.

barkupwrongtree

A person who is *barking up the wrong tree* is doing the wrong thing, because their beliefs or ideas are

incorrect or mistaken.

The police are barking up the wrong tree if they think Joey stole the car - he can't drive!

Beata retreat (hasty) Someone who *beats a (hasty) retreat* runs away or goes back hurriedly to avoid a dangerous or difficult situation.

The thief beat a hasty retreat as soon as he saw the security officer.

one's best bet The action most likely to succeed is called one's *best bet*.

Your best bet would be to try calling him at home.

Bide your time If you *bide your time*, you wait for a good opportunity to do something.

He's not hesitating, he's just biding his time, waiting for the price to drop.

Binge drinking This term refers to heavy drinking where large quantities of alcohol are consumed in a short space of time, often among young people in rowdy groups. *Binge drinking is becoming a major problem in some European*

ring a bell If something *rings a bell*, it sounds familiar, but you don't remember the exact details. *John Bentley? The name rings a bell but I don't*

remember him.

chime in

If you *chime in*, you interrupt or join a conversation, especially to repeat or agree with something.

While I was explaining to the bus driver what had happened, the other passengers chimed in and gave their version.

***drum (smth) into
someone's head***

If you teach something to someone through constant repetition, you *drum it into their head*.
When we were kids at school, multiplication tables were drummed into our heads.

as fit as a fiddle

A person who is *as fit as a fiddle* is in an excellent state of health or physical condition.

My grandfather is nearly ninety but he's as fit as a fiddle.

Play second fiddle

If you *play second fiddle* to someone, you accept to be second in importance to that person, or have a lower position.

When Charles became chairman of the family business, his brother declared that he would rather leave than play second fiddle to him.

fiddling while Rome

If you say that someone is *fiddling while Rome burns*, you mean that they are doing unimportant

burns things while there are serious matters to be dealt with.

His visit to the trade fair was "fiddling while Rome burns" according to the strikers.

Jazz something up If you *jazz something up*, you add something to try to improve it or make it more stylish.

The dress needs a scarf or a necklace to jazz it up.

allthat jazz This expression means 'all that stuff', 'other similar things', or 'everything of that kind'.

Let's get out the tinsel, the fairy lights and all that jazz to decorate the Christmas tree.

music to one's ears To say that something is *music to your ears* means that the information you receive makes you feel very happy.

His compliments were music to my ear.

Face the music When a person has to *face the music*, they have to accept the unpleasant consequences of their actions.

He was caught stealing. Now he has to face the music.

strike a false note If you *strike a false note*, you do something wrong or inappropriate.

He struck a wrong note when he arrived at the

cocktail party wearing old jeans.

strike (or hit) the right note If you *strike (or hit) the right note*, you do something suitable or appropriate.

He struck the right note with his future mother-in-law when he brought her a book on gardening - her favourite hobby!

(sound) like a Broken record Someone who says the same thing again and again sounds *like a broken record*.

Dad! Stop telling me to be careful when I drive. You sound like a broken record!

go for a song If something *goes for a song*, it is sold at an unexpectedly low price.

tickle their vanes This is a humorous way of talking about playing the piano.

My grandfather loves playing the piano. He tickles their vanes whenever he gets the chance.

Call the tune The person who *calls the tune* makes all the important decisions and is in control of the situation.

He shows a lot of authority but in fact it's his wife who calls the tune.

sing a If someone *sings a different tune*, they change their opinion about something or their attitude towards

different *tune*

something.

He had no consideration for people out of work until he lost his own job; now he's singing a different tune.

fine *tuning*

Small changes to something to improve it or make it work better are called fine-tuning.

We are still fine tuning our new website and appreciate your patience.

Blow the *whistle*

If you report an illegal or socially-harmful activity to the authorities, and give information about those responsible for it, you *blow the whistle*, or you are a *whistle-blower*.

He refused to blow the whistle on his boss for fear of losing his job.

Clean as a *whistle*

Something *as clean as a whistle* is extremely clean. This can also mean that a person's criminal record is clean.

Bob spent the afternoon washing and shining his car until it was as clean as a whistle.

Below the belt

An action or remark described as *below the belt* is considered to be unfair or cruel.

Politicians sometimes use personal information to

hit their rivals below the belt.

Tighten your belt

If you need to *tighten your belt*, you must spend less money or be careful how you spend it because there is less available.

Another bill? I'll have to tighten my belt this month!

Under one's belt

If you have something *under your belt*, you have acquired experience or have satisfactorily achieved something.

You've got to have some work experience under your belt before you can hope to get a permanent job.

**Die with
one's bootson**

A person who *dies with their boots on* dies while still leading an active life.

He says he'll never retire. He'd rather die with his boots on!

**too big for
your boots(or
britches)**

To say that a person is getting *too big for their boots* (or britches) means that you think they are behaving as if they were more important than they really are.

Tom is really getting too bit for his boots since he got a promotion - he hardly says hello any more!

Hang up one's boots

When a sports player *hangs up their boots*, they

stop playing and retire. (This expression is often used to refer to retirement in general.)
Dad says he's going to hang up his boots at the end of the year.

**Lick
someone's boots**

To say that one person is *licking another's boots* means that they are trying to please that person, often in order to obtain something.
Sam is licking the manager's boots in the hope of obtaining a pay rise.

Toug has old boots

If something, specially meat, is *(as) tough as old boots*, it is hard to cut and difficult to chew. (This can also refer to a person who is strong either physically or in character.)

I was served a steak as tough as old boots.

Cap in hand

If you do something *cap in hand*, you ask for something in a very respectful manner.

They went to the teacher, cap in hand, and asked for more time to complete their project.

**if the cap fits wear
it**

You can say '*if the cap fits, wear it*' to let someone know that the critical remark they have just heard applies to them.

"Are you referring to me?" "If the cap fits, wear it!"

**put on your
thinking cap**

If you tell someone to *put their thinking cap* on, you ask them to find an idea or solve a problem by thinking about it.

Now here's this week's quiz; it's time to put your thinking caps on!

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