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REPORT

IDIOMS USING “TO GET”



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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. The main objective of all our reforms in the field of economic policy is the individual. Therefore the tasks 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.

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 comes 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.

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 cleaner's 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 or 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.

1. 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 of somebody's dreams the underline space indicates that the range of nouns, adjectives, etc which could be inserted is unlimited. 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:

- 1 I. I will take them to task for their indolence.
- 2 I am taking them to task for their indolence.
- 3 I took them to task for their indolence.
- 4 I have taken them to task for their indolence.
- 5 II. George and Simon have their ups and downs.
- 6 George and Simon are having their ups and downs.
- 7 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).

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.

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- 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.

2. Idioms using “to get”

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.

In English there are some idiomatic expressions with verb **“to get”**. For example:

“Get to the heart of something”- to understand the most important to essential thing about something;

“Get along with someone”- to have a good friendly relationship with someone;

“Get back together”- to return to a relationship or marriage after separating;

“Get engaged”- to decide to marry someone;

“Get hitched”- To get married;

“Get a run for one's money”- to receive a challenge, to receive what one deserves;

“Get one's money's worth”- to get everything that one has paid for;

“Get off to a flying start”- to have a very successful beginning;

“Get one's feet wet”- to experience something for the first time, to get a little first time experience;

“Gets the ball rolling”- to begin something;

“Get to first base with”- to make an advance with someone or in some undertaking;

“Get on nerves”- to stop criticizing or nagging someone;

“Get back up”- to make someone become angry;

“Get under skin”- to bother or irritate someone;

“Get the cold shoulder”- to be ignored or rejected;

“Get off one's chest”- to tell something that has been bothering you.

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**.

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. There are some examples of idioms:

1. She has a heart of gold.
2. She's as hard as nails.
3. He's as good as gold.
4. He's rather a cold fish.
5. He's such an awkward customer.
6. She's a pain in the neck.
7. He gets on everyone's nerves.
8. He's very quick off the mark.
9. I was a bit slow off the mark.

10. You're a fast worker.
11. She's a bit of an odd-ball
12. He's round the bend, if you ask me.
13. He's really over the top.
14. He's as daft as a brush
15. He takes the biscuit
16. I don't see why you have to make a meal out of everything.
16. I think we should make a move.
17. This tin-opener has seen better days.
18. Most politicians are on the make. I don't trust any of them.
19. Time to hit the sack
20. This is just kid's stuff. I want something challenging.

The importance of selecting and learning of English Idiom

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 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 example 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 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?

1. Idioms with personal names

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. 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:

Aleksandr Sergeyevich Pushkin 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 (limo).
- 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 Calpurnius Bibulus 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.

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. 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 Marie 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.

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 Adam's apple – the Adam's apple is a bulge in the throat, mostly seen in men.

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- 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.

2. Idioms with place names

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 (Longman Idioms Dictionary: 1999:288).

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.

3. Idioms from famous books

There are a great number of idiomatic examples from famous foreign books:

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.

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 personal you do not know, don't say.

'How do you do, Mrs Watso. 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 verb examples **"to get"**.

"Get all dolled up"- to get dressed up in one's best clothes, **"Get the boot"**- to be fired from a job, **"Get a charley horse"**- to develop a cramp in the arm or the leg.

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