

Paper 1: Examples of all Categories of Idioms

Numbers of Idioms in Each Category as of October 29, 2016 with Examples of Each

Categorized by Source

Sports 617: Common: Hail Mary Play; Politics is a contact sport; Expanded: Party A served up a hanging curveball for Party B to smash onto the upper deck, if they manage not to whiff; Culturally specific/pun: (regarding whether Rubio was born a Canadian) Canadians give less than a hockey puck

Literature and written documents(allusions, quotes, all forms of print media), Writing, Documents 266; : Moby Dick; Expanded/Adapted (Whitman): Does the candidate contradict himself. Very well he contradicts himself. Convoluted and confusing: Blood sport that is more politics than theater, more street than River Avon; Culture specific: Express checkout infotainment.

Food, eating 238: Common: Pie in the sky; Expanded idiom; As people get ready to eat crow, helpings get bigger; Culturally specific: not a normal thing—like Sushi from Walgreens. ???-Chicken fried Marxism.

Gestures 233. Common: cringeworthy; Expanded: Figure is a giant middle finger; Confusing; arm-waving vs. hand waving; Culturally specific: Fingers crossed behind their back

War (military, arms, violent conflict) 233: Common: Finger on the button; Expanded: Wants to be the first boots on the ground. Culturally specific: No cavalry waiting over the hill.

Forces of nature (including plants) 230: Common: fault lines; Expanded idiom: Stop building molehills when there are mountains to conquer. Culturally specific reference: she's trying to swim upstream but there's a Hoover dam in front of her

Medicine, Death, Disease, Physiology 210 Common: knee jerk reaction; Expanded allusion (warts and all): but warts can grow bigger and are potentially cancerous; Pun: I have been feeling the Bern. Relax, I put cream on it.

Animals 196: Common: Dog whistle; Extended metaphor: Might as well study the mating habits of honey badgers (attitude of “experts” analyzing the mood of the “common folk”) Culturally specific: Miss Piggy

Business and Finance 194: Common: Give someone a blank check; Truncated reference to idiom: I have a bridge to sell you; Disrespectful mixed metaphor: Try to cheapen the brand of God; Culture specific: more Sam's club than country club.

Vehicles, Traffic, Roads 173: Common: Beyond his wheelhouse; Expanded: Speed bump in a full-throttle week); Culturally specific: policy by bumpersticker.

TV, Radio and Electronic, Show Biz. 173: Common: Reality show; Expanded: High-wire act with tens of millions of people watching; Culture specific: Truth, justice and the American Way

Theater and Movies 168: Common: Scripted; also hyperscripted. Expanded: This is her time on the world stage and it hurts to be a supporting actor. Altered culturally specific reference: Run don't walk to the nearest exit.

Religion (including Bible quotes) 160: Common: writing on the wall; Altered reference: traded his inheritance for no pottage; Culturally specific: The good Lord has given me a soapbox. Pun: bible-bungling.

Clothing 146: Common: seize the mantle; Extended metaphor: gone like a sensible sweater returned to the closet at the end of winter; Culturally specific: Trade his mom jeans for Lycra and a cape.

Childhood and Education 132; Common: Schoolyard bully; Extended: They were all moms and all wanted to give the Candidates a time out. Culturally specific: extended metaphor: I'm the girl who did the lab project and organized the whole group presentation and then let Chad give the speech

Science and Math 121: Common: Litmus test questions; Expanded: NASA scientists may have noticed a wobble in the Earth's atmosphere—Politician name expressed contrition. : Petri dish of crony capitalism.

Buildings, Rooms, Furniture 119: Common: firewall; Expanded: Breaking a glass ceiling doesn't mean that gender problems are solved, it just means there's a lot of glass on the floor. Culturally specific: measuring the oval office for drapes.

Music, Songs, Dance, Visual art 119: Common: A different tune; Expanded: Any time you have a blank canvas you have a lot of people standing around with paintbrushes. Culturally specific: Singing kumbaya

Tools and useful objects and materials-106: Common: Wrecking ball; Expanded/ mixed: whether Name is the sharpest knife in the drawer he leaves Occam's razor rusty from disuse; Culturally specific: On fire in the raging dumpster fire behind the Walmart in the middle of nowhere sense

Farming and Rural life 99 Common: Hitch one's wagon; Expanded: that is the way you talk when the mule you sold somebody dies on the way home; Culturally specific: continued planation life for DC citizens

Technology 81: Common: High wattage; Expanded: As lightning rods go she has no peer. Culturally specific: Like the Energizer Bunny.

Romance, Sex 80: Common: Bromance; Expanded: Not merely flirting with the fringes, French kissing them. Culturally specific: Bill Clinton's innovative intern program.

Crime, Criminal Punishment, Law Courts 68: Common: hit list; Expanded: The Salem witch trials had more respect for due process; Culturally specific: Makes one yearn for the good old days of gloved burglars with flashlights (not just any burglars, Watergate).

Beauty, Grooming, Hygiene. 51 Common: Put lipstick on a pig. Expanded: alphabetizing the soap in the bathroom; Culture specific: the debate that has people buying Purell by the gallon

Types

Phrasal Verbs 661: Easy to interpret: walk away; From very specific context: paper over; Turns noun to verb: gavel down; Verb becomes adjective: go-to guy; Only used in meaning in past participle: Fed up; Seeming opposites have same meaning: Slow up & slow down. Adjective becomes a verb: cozy up to

New metaphors: 239:

- 1.. If you're ahead in the third quarter of the Super Bowl, you don't get to decide who gets the Lombardi trophy
2. The nomination process is a multilevel Rubik's Cube, but Candidate thought it was a golf ball and you just had to whack it.
3. She'll get ankle deep in Palmolive for you.
4. You'd think they were cave dwellers trying to map the human genome.
5. wheel spinning argle-bargle of a middle school student trying to fill the blank space under an exam question

Mixed metaphors 174: Do not cohere enough to be considered new metaphors

1. You can turn an ankle getting from premise to conclusion in that tangled thicket of weasel speak
2. As the stable of (Party name) navigate the quagmire
3. trolls turned his comments into a fever swamp
4. brushed off the daylight between him and the other candidate
5. mad scramble for the exit throwing off a blizzard of statements

Expansion of idiom or combination of idioms (allusions) with original meaning more or less intact-148

1. although we were not able to shatter the glass ceiling, it had about 18 million cracks in it
2. clip clop of the Four Horsmen
3. he burns some bridges by the way he crosses other
4. More like a rock behind Door 1 and a hardplace behind Door 2.
5. hottest potato on her department's plate

Truncated references to idiomatic phrases or allusions where the meaning of the whole is needed for understanding. 94

1. the hand that feeds Candidate name (don't bite the hand that feeds you)
- 2.. if you want the moon, he will throw a lasso over it (reference to promise someone the moon)
- 3 Stone's throw is probably as close as he will get. (double reference to throwing stones at and a stone's throw away)
4. bandaid has been ripped off (bandaid measures + pain)
5. Other than that, Mrs. Lincoln? reference to joke punch line

Modification or even perversion of sense of idiom or allusions. Includes antiproverbs. 110

1. You say tomahto, I say Mexicans are rapists.

3 Pitfalls of Translating Idioms in the News SL-3

2. healthy as a horse—the one Putin rides around on
- 3..Take a stroll down memory-impaired lane.
4. Justice may be blind, but judges are not deaf.
- 5.. It's always darkest before it's totally black.

Puns 75

1. as a protest it was a doobie (reference to protesters smoking grass)
2. What's a nice guy like him doing in a race like this
3. Grand Old Potty (reference to Republican disagreement about school bathroom use)
4. Come down of the pique
- 5.go off the veep end (veep is slang for vice president)

CONVERSATIONAL IDIOMS used in print (with explanation of tone) 56

1. **hello?** is listener or person being spoken of paying attention; or has someone done something or so dumb the speaker doubts if he or she was conscious at the time
2. **so yesterday** (statement that something is outmoded, while using irony /teenspeak tone/ to say that you really do not think that because something is less talked about than last year you think it is the equivalent of the horse and carriage)
3. **um, OK.** In conversation, indication that you accept what someone is saying to the extent it is the speaker's opinion, but you actually think it is wrong or more likely nuts).
- 4 **What's up with that?** ironically mild suggestion that you think whatever you are asking about is peculiar, inexplicable or nuts.
5. **What was he (I, you etc.) thinking?** Meaning: how could a carbon based life form do anything that stupid?

Non standard register 33 + 58 foreign words some with no particular tone

1. *aw shucks governor-* use of the mildest and most inoffensive possible explanation-intimation that the person in questions is someone who makes a point of his simple down-home style and old fashioned moral values
2. *Yo momma.* Catchphrase originally used by African American youth in insult exchange directed at the participants mothers with either a crudely jocular tone or as fighting words. Refers to highly indecorous to offensive insult exchange.
3. *This bodes ill for.* Archaism used always with some degree of irony. May be a way to avoid a phrase such as *they will suffer as a result of this*, which may sound either like a threat or like an overly sententious prophecy.
4. *Nobody has been able to lay a fingah on.* Imitation of Boston accent, invocation of rabid Red Sox fans. Article about Boston working class election preferences with implicit equation of devotion to team and to particular candidate.
- 5 *Details-shmetails. Yiddishism.* Typical Yiddish device to diminish significance of something being discussed—well known at least by Jews and anyone who has lived in the NYC area a population well represented among journalists. In this case used implicitly to refer to an attitude of disdain for the details of policy
6. *Consigliere-*Italian for counselor, made particularly well-known by use in Godfather movies, unmissable unsupported suggestion of nonuprightness on the part of the candidate and the newly appointed adviser

ALLUSIONS

Known internationally (83) 1) quisling 2)philosopher kings 3) Kafkaesque 4) Potemkin village 5) Hailey's Comet

U.S. Specific but important or at least not ephemeral 144: 1) witch trial 2) Rosa Parks 3) My personal Vietnam 5) long hot summer

U.S. Specific, trivial, ephemeral or entertainment related (240): 1) couldn't get elected dogcatcher 2) after the chads have been unhung 3) Borsht Belt 4) downright Energizer Bunny 5) Evel Knievel