

21 Academic Idioms: Worksheet

Video name: **21 Idioms for Academic English**
 Link to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6SEB4Nemms>
 Alternate link: https://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XNTEwOTkxODAzNg==.html

Task 1: Before watching

Answer the following questions *before* watching the video.

i) What is an *idiom*? Write a short definition. Use a dictionary if you need to.

ii) Below are some common *informal* idioms. Do you know what they mean? Try to match the idiom with the meaning. Use a dictionary to check. An example has been done.

Idiom	Meaning
a piece of cake	to give away a secret
hit the nail on the head	to ignore someone
let the cat out of the bag	to be exactly right
give someone the cold shoulder	something that is very easy to do
speak of the devil	to achieve two things with one action
kill two birds with one stone	said when someone spoken about unexpectedly appears

iii) Does your language use idioms? If so, how do these translate into English.

Task 2: What are idioms?

1. According to the video, an *idiom* is an expression which is:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

2. Which of these three example idioms, from the first part of the video, is *academic*?

- i. Raining cats and dogs
- ii. Break a leg
- iii. Beg the question

Task 3: Idioms in Academic English

3. Complete the following tables with data from the video.

List	Coverage of texts
Academic Idioms (speaking)	_____ %
Academic Collocation List	_____ %
Academic Word List	10%

Type of academic idiom	Total number
Spoken	_____ 170 _____
Written	_____ 36 _____

4. According to the video, why is it helpful to study academic idioms for:

- writing/speaking? _____

- reading/listening? _____

Task 4: 21 Academic Idioms

5. Complete the following academic idioms from the video by adding *one* missing word for each.



in the _____ of



go hand in hand _____

on the _____ hand



on the _____ hand



on the _____ of it



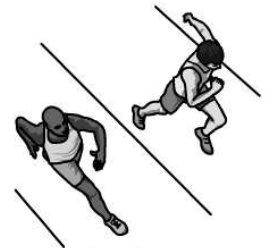
_____ of thumb



_____ in mind



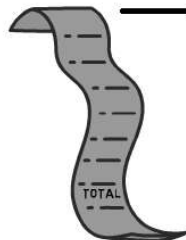
in the _____ run



in the _____ run



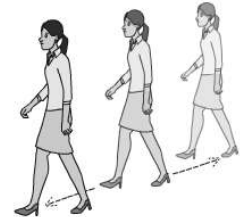
in (the) _____ of



the _____ line



_____ into play



a _____ further/back



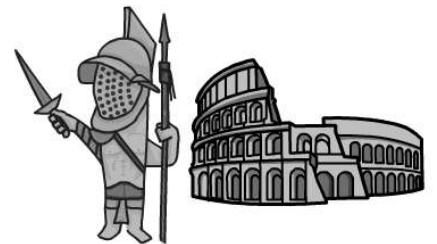
the _____ of power



_____ force



bad _____



golden _____



_____ the lines of



last _____



in its own _____



gold _____

6. Match the idioms from Q4 to the definitions below. Each idiom should be used once. An example has been done.

Idiom	Meaning
<i>along the lines of</i>	<i>roughly similar to something</i>
	to become an important factor
	something that is the best example of its kind
	the most important aspect of something
	someone or something unpleasant
	on its own and not because of something else
	because of (some new information)
	a solution chosen only if there are no other options
	to make an improvement/to make things worse
	someone/something with the power to make things happen
	the way power is distributed between rival groups or countries
	from one point of view
	over a long period of time
	over a short period of time
	be closely related to something
	from a different point of view
	an approximate way of doing/measuring something
	controlled/owned by someone
	remember/consider when making a decision
	seemingly, based on the evidence
	a period of time when a particular art etc was very successful

7. Complete the following sentences by using one of the idioms. There are 21 gaps in total, so you should use each idiom *exactly once*. You may need to change the form of any idioms which use verbs.
- Coal and steam were the _____ behind the industrial revolution.
 - When learning moved out of the classroom and online because of Covid-19, there were many different teaching techniques which _____.
 - They were forced to discontinue the product _____ the extremely negative publicity it received.
 - As a _____, the older a child is, the more they will benefit from doing homework.
 - Most employers hold _____ in the workplace, and may force their employees to do unpleasant or stressful work tasks.
 - Reading ability often _____ writing ability.
 - It is widely known that half of the world's wealth is _____ only 1% of the population.

- viii. Although the research unit was originally part of the physics department, it is now a department _____, with completely separate funding and staffing.
- ix. _____, academic writing may seem like an impossible skill to master. However, it is possible to improve with enough practice and patience.
- x. This method of preparing the substance is very hazardous and should only be used as a _____ when no other methods are possible.
- xi. The eighteenth century is considered to be the _____ of music, since it coincided with the lives of many great composers such as Bach, Beethoven, Haydn and Mozart.
- xii. Although citing sources and avoiding plagiarism is difficult, _____ is that it is essential for students to do these things in order to achieve academic honesty.
- xiii. Profits in the fourth quarter were extremely low. This was _____ for the company, which bankrupt early the following year.
- xiv. The double-blind, randomised controlled trial is considered to be the _____ in medical research, since it produces completely unbiased results.
- xv. Although the apparatus was new, it operated _____ of previous apparatuses and was therefore fairly straightforward to use.
- xvi. Although it was meant to improve the popularity of the company, the new product line took it _____.
- xvii. _____, studying at an overseas university can provide an excellent experience. _____, it can be extremely expensive.
- xviii. Although smoking may seem enjoyable _____, its effects can be very harmful _____.
- xix. Parents should _____ that their actions may have a lasting impact on their children, and they should therefore behave responsibly.

Further reading/viewing

The following page gives more information about academic idioms.

<https://www.eapfoundation.com/vocab/academic/other/idioms/>