

Vocabulary Strategy

IDIOMS

An **idiom** is an expression in which the overall meaning of the phrase is different from the individual words in it. For example, in the selection the author notes that Captain Childs took Matthew Henson “under his wing.” This doesn’t mean that Captain Childs had wings. It means that Childs took care of Henson and watched out for him. Often, you can figure out what an idiom means from its context. If not, look in a dictionary.

A. Directions: Underline the idiom in each sentence, and write a definition for it.

1. Jake had a bird’s eye view of the baseball game from his seat behind home plate.

2. The bad thing playing at Kate’s house is that she likes to call all the shots.

3. Toni was going to go on the camping trip, but then she had a change of heart.

4. Phil found himself in hot water with his mother after he didn’t clean his room.

5. The committee wanted to explore all avenues before deciding on the best fundraiser.

6. Hank felt like a fish out of water on his first day at his new school.

B. Directions: Use each idiom below in a sentence that shows its meaning.

7. get the ball rolling

8. go with the flow

9. head in the clouds

10. in one ear and out the other
