



B2

# IDIOMS

Part 1

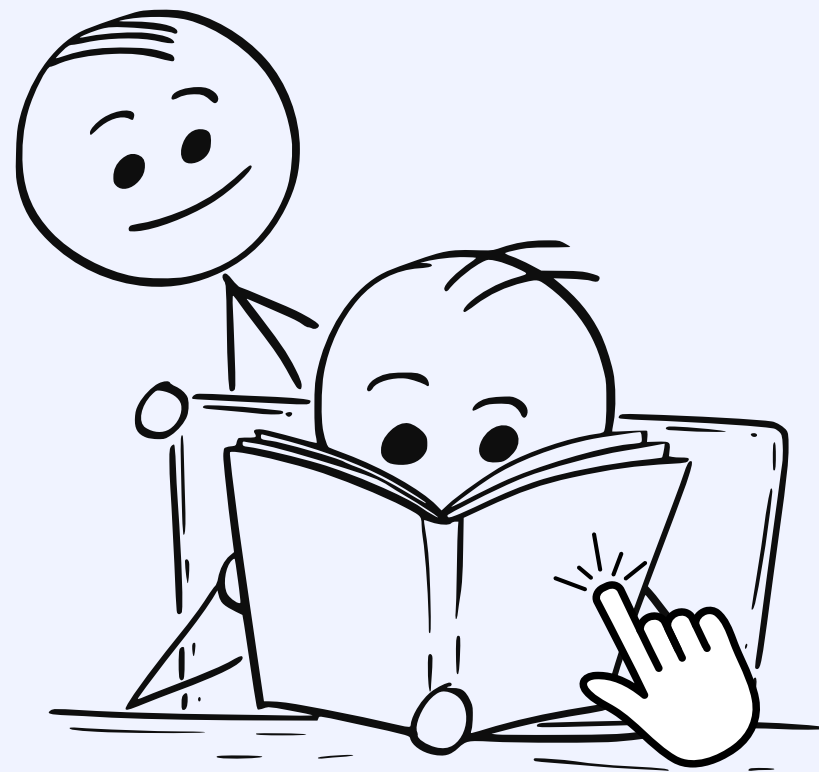


by @engmaterial.com

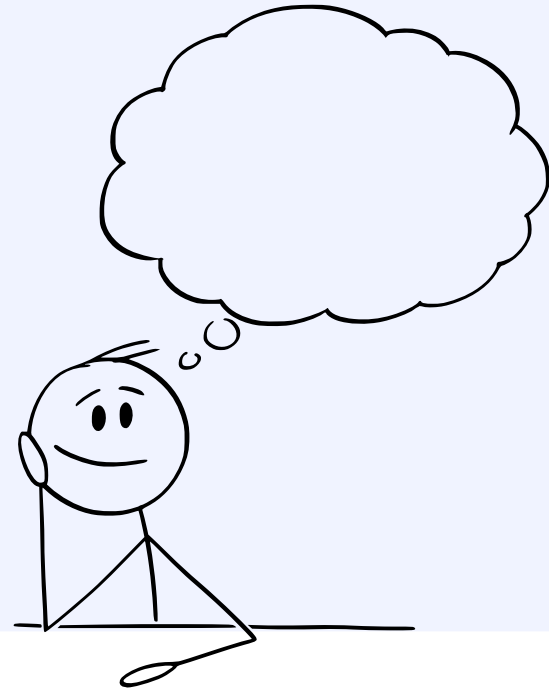


# STEP 1. LEARN

Click and read the flashcards. Write down the idioms.



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# STEP 2. PRACTICE

Match the idioms with the definitions.

- Think outside the box. \_\_\_
- In the loop \_\_\_
- On the same page \_\_\_
- The bottom line \_\_\_
- By the book \_\_\_
- Cut corners \_\_\_
- Up in the air \_\_\_
- Behind the scenes \_\_\_
- Pull strings \_\_\_
- Raise the bar \_\_\_

- a. To be in agreement or have the same understanding about a situation.
- b. To do something strictly according to the rules and procedures.
- c. The most important thing or final result.
- d. To think in a creative and unconventional way.
- e. To do something in the quickest or cheapest way, often sacrificing quality.
- f. To set a higher standard or a more challenging goal.
- g. Undecided, uncertain, or not yet resolved.
- h. To use one's influence or connections to get an advantage.
- i. To be informed and included in a group's communication.
- j. Happening privately or secretly, away from public view.



# STEP 2. PRACTICE

Complete the gaps with the correct idioms from the box.

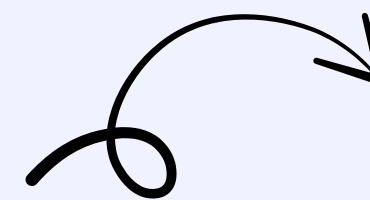
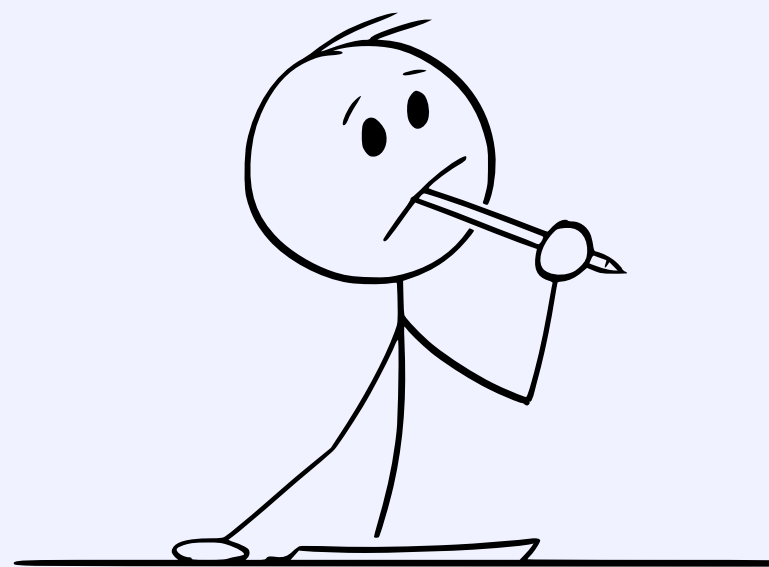
- Raise the bar
- Behind the scenes
- Pull strings
- In the loop
- Up in the air
- On the same page
- The bottom line
- By the book
- Think outside the box
- Cut corners

- 1) Before we start the new project, let's have a quick meeting to make sure we're all \_\_\_\_\_ on the timeline and budget.
- 2) I don't have time for all the details. What's \_\_\_\_\_? Did we win the contract or not?
- 3) The final decision about who will be promoted is still \_\_\_\_\_. We should know more by Friday.
- 4) The success of the play was due to all the hard work that happened \_\_\_\_\_, from the set designers to the costume crew.
- 5) We need a fresh approach to this problem, so let's try to \_\_\_\_\_ and come up with some creative solutions.
- 6) The company was heavily criticised for \_\_\_\_\_ with their safety procedures, which resulted in several workplace injuries.
- 7) The new management team is determined to \_\_\_\_\_ and improve product quality across the board.
- 8) I'm not part of the main group, but I would really appreciate it if you could keep me \_\_\_\_\_ with any major developments.
- 9) To get a ticket to the sold-out concert, she had to ask her friend, who works for the promoter, to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10) The government inspector insisted that the factory follow all health and safety regulations strictly \_\_\_\_\_, with no exceptions.

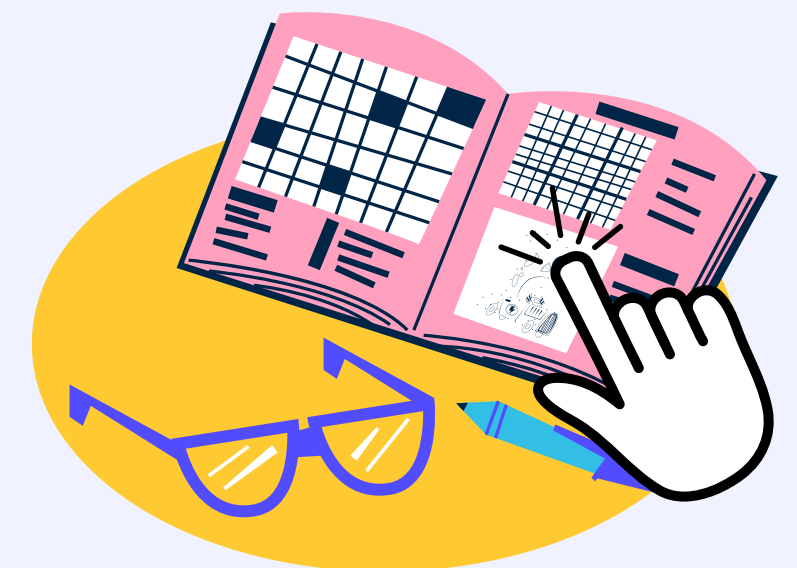
# STEP 2. PRACTICE

Replace the underlined phrases with the correct idioms.

- To solve this problem, we need a solution that is completely new and will break the mold. \_\_\_\_\_
- I'm not sure what to tell you about the new project; all the details are still undecided. \_\_\_\_\_
- We need to increase expectations for the team to improve our overall performance. We need to set a higher standard. \_\_\_\_\_
- I hope everyone is in agreement with the new plan for the event. \_\_\_\_\_
- I don't need to hear all the minor details. What's the main point of your proposal? \_\_\_\_\_
- The director was able to get a famous actor for the lead role because he had to use his influence with the casting director. \_\_\_\_\_
- The documentary showed all the amazing work that happens privately to create a blockbuster film. \_\_\_\_\_
- The company was fined for taking shortcuts with their safety procedures, which endangered their employees. \_\_\_\_\_
- Make sure you keep me up to speed with any new information about the merger. \_\_\_\_\_
- The company's policy is to follow all regulations according to the rules, without any exceptions. \_\_\_\_\_



Click for more practice

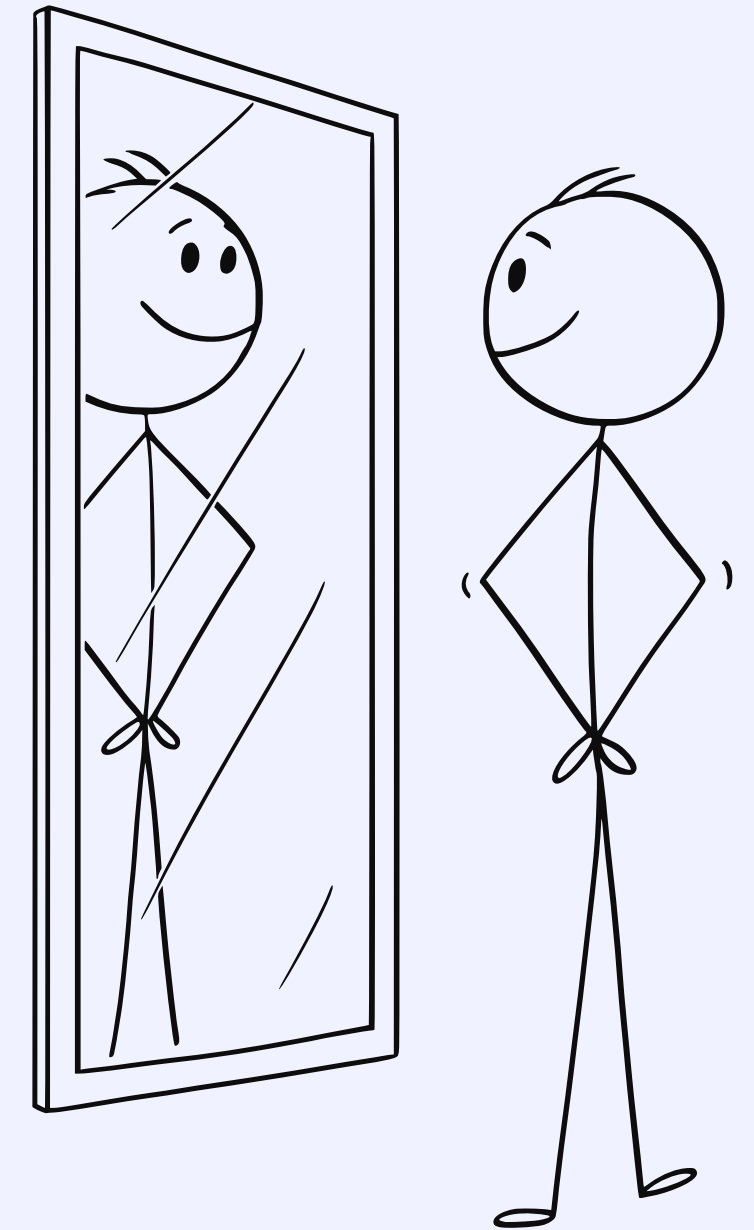




# STEP 3. SPEAK

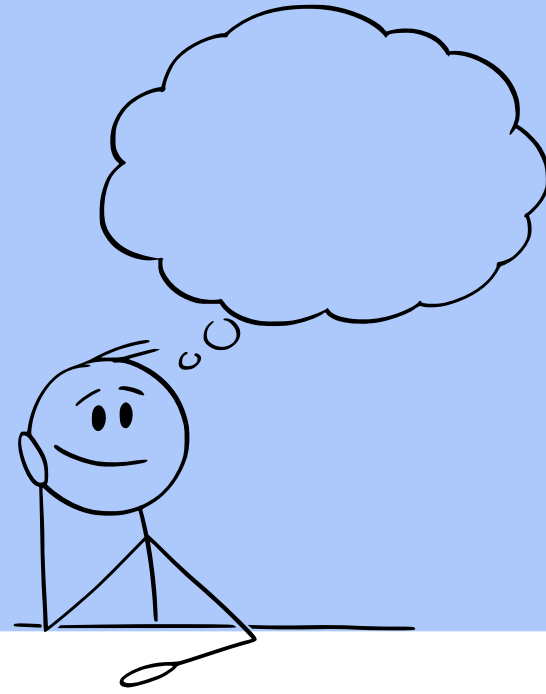
Answer the questions and use the idioms while speaking.

1. What's the best way to stay **in the loop** with your friends' lives if you're all very busy?
2. Have you ever had a misunderstanding with a friend or family member because you weren't **on the same page** about something? What happened?
3. If you could only give one piece of advice to people, what would be **the bottom line** of your message?
4. Do you think police officers should always handle every situation **by the book**, or are there times when it's better to be flexible? Give an example.
5. What's one thing you would never **cut corners on**, even if it meant saving time or money?
6. If you had the chance to interview a professional in any field, what kind of **behind-the-scenes** questions would you ask them?
7. What's a recent movie or book that you think **raised the bar** for its genre?
8. Are your plans for this weekend still **up in the air**, or do you have something specific planned?
9. If you could **pull strings** to get a reservation at any restaurant in the world, which one would it be?
10. If you were given a blank canvas and told to create something that represents your personality, what would it look like? **Think outside the box!**





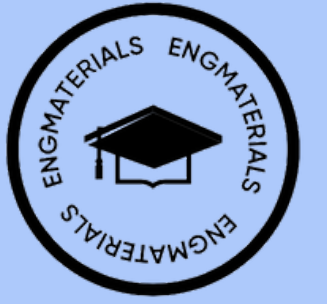
# ANSWERS



Match the idioms with the definitions.

- Think outside the box. **d**
- In the loop **i**
- On the same page **a**
- The bottom line **c**
- By the book **b**
- Cut corners **e**
- Up in the air **g**
- Behind the scenes **j**
- Pull strings **h**
- Raise the bar **f**

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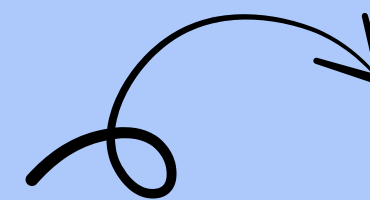
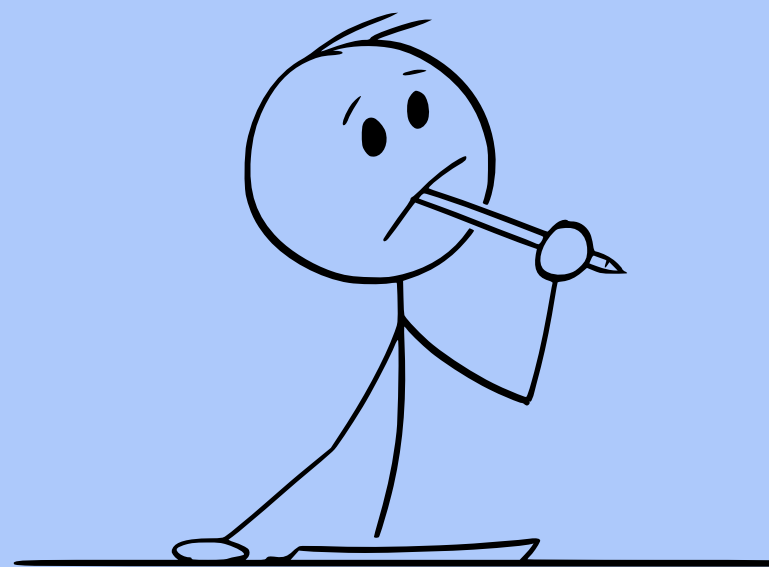
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- I don't need to hear all the minor details. What's the main point of your proposal? **The bottom line**
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- The company was fined for taking shortcuts with their safety procedures, which endangered their employees. **Cutting corners**
- Make sure you keep me up to speed with any new information about the merger. **In the loop**
- The company's policy is to follow all regulations according to the rules, without any exceptions. **By the book**



Click for more practice

