

## TIPS FOR TACKLING IDIOMS

### LEVEL UP YOUR LANGUAGE

- ★ If a preposition, gerund, or infinitive is underlined, check for idiom errors.
- ★ The question may be testing idioms if the answer choices are all prepositions.
- ★ Practice answering idiom questions and keep a list of idioms that appear on your practice tests.
- ★ Review and familiarize yourself with a list of common idioms.
- ★ Go with your gut!



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### How to Play

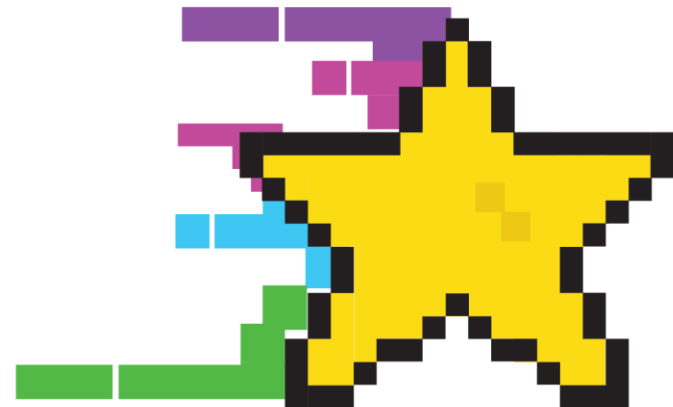
Recognizing Idioms on the Test:

- Read the full sentence and identify the verb or adjective.
- Check if the preposition or verb form "sounds right."
- Eliminate choices that use awkward or incorrect pairings.
- Trust your ear and practice with common idiomatic patterns.

### Item Inventory

Idioms Collected from ACT Practice Tests:

- |                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| • come to a conclusion          | • in the dusk   |
| • come to a halt                | • modeled on    |
| • come to an end                | • principles of |
| • earned a living from/by doing | • such as       |



SAY WHAT YOU MEAN

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# GERUND IDIOMS VS. INFINITIVE IDIOMS

## VERBS FOLLOWED BY A GERUND

- accuse of
- admire for
- allow
- appreciate
- capable of
- complete
- concentrate on
- confess to
- consider
- delay
- describe
- discourage from
- discuss
- dislike
- effective at
- enjoy
- escape
- finish
- forbid
- imagine
- insist on
- permit
- plan on
- postpone
- refrain from
- report
- resent
- resume
- stop
- tolerate



## PREPOSITIONS FOLLOWED BY A GERUND

- before
- after
- without

## VERBS FOLLOWED BY A GERUND

- agree
- attempt
- choose
- condescend
- dare
- decide
- deserve
- encourage
- expect
- fail
- intend
- love
- mean
- neglect
- offer
- plan
- prepare
- promise
- refuse
- scramble
- seem
- strive
- swear
- tend
- threaten
- want

# PREPOSITIONAL IDIOMS

## ABOUT

- anxious about
- ask about
- bring about
- curious about
- hear about
- think about
- talk about
- worry about

## AGAINST

- advise against
- argue against
- count against
- decide against
- defend against
- go against
- rebel against

## AS

- celebrate as
- regard as
- see as
- view as

## AT

- aim at
- arrive at
- laugh at
- look at
- succeed at

## BY

- accompanied by
- amazed by
- confused by
- followed by
- go by
- impressed by
- organized by
- struck by

## FOR

- advocate for
- ask for
- blame for
- famous for
- known for
- last for
- meant for
- named for
- necessary for
- pay for
- ready for
- responsible for
- tolerance for
- strive for
- wait for
- watch for

## FROM

- abstain from
- different from
- excuse from
- far from
- obvious from
- protect from

## INTO

- enter into
- look into
- inquire into
- read into



## IN

- engage in
- fall in love
- in A as in B
- interested in
- succeed in
- take in

## ON

- base on
- draw on
- focus on
- impose on
- insist on
- move on
- prey on
- rely on

## OVER

- argue over
- rule over
- talk over
- think over

## OF

- approve of
- capable of
- certain of
- characteristic of
- combination of A and B
- cure of
- deprive of
- die of
- a fan of
- in danger of
- in the hope of
- in recognition of
- made up of
- a model of
- an offer of
- on the border of
- remind of
- a selection of
- a source of
- suspicious of
- take advantage of
- an understanding of
- a wealth of

## WITH

- agree with
- bargain with
- correlate with
- familiar with
- identify with
- in keeping with
- interfere with
- sympathize with
- trust with

## TO

- able to
- accustomed to
- adapt to
- adhere to
- admit to
- adjacent to
- agree to
- as opposed to
- belong to
- central to
- come to
- contribute to
- devoted to
- in addition to
- in contrast to
- listen to
- object to
- prefer A to B
- partial to
- reluctant to
- reply to
- see to
- similar to
- a threat to
- try to (NOT try and)
- unique to