

# Medically Speaking Idioms

## Idioms and American Slang

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**SAMPLE UNIT**

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## SAMPLE UNIT

**A pre - and post-training multiple choice idioms quiz is included in this book.**

Note: The italicized idioms are found in the dialogues or extra activities and are in addition to the idioms in the lesson. ▲ These idioms require discretion and may not always be appropriate.

### Lesson 1

All ears

All thumbs

Apples and oranges

Back to square one

Barge in

Basketcase ▲

Beat around the bush

Bite the bullet

Bite your tongue

*I give up*

*What's up?*

*on pins and needles*

*think straight*

*nerve-wracking*

*turn into*

*take it easy*

*task at hand*

*sounds good*

*break the bank*

*on duty*

*peevied*

*push your buttons*

*closed door meeting*

*on (someone's) mind*

*you've got me*

*the look on my face*

*stormed out of the room*

*blew her off*

*putting your foot in your mouth*

*popping in*

*one of these days*

*I'm lost*

*train of thought*

*get to the point*

*head is spinning*

*get the news*

*hiring freeze*

*a big blow*

*think up*

*it sounds like*

*brainstorming session*

*go ahead*

**Nine units of idioms and additional activities at the end of the book.**

**Unit quizzes for idioms are included in each lesson of this book.**

# Lesson 1

How well do you know these idioms? Check the answer before beginning this unit.

	Know this idiom	Not sure	Don't know this idiom
<i>All ears</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>All thumbs</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>(Comparing) Apples and oranges</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Back to square one</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Barge in</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Basketcase ▲</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Beat around the bush</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Bite the bullet</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Bite your tongue</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Lesson 1

### 1. **All ears**

Meaning: eager to listen

"You said you weren't feeling well. I'm **all ears**."

### 2. **All thumbs**

Meaning: awkward and clumsy

"I tried to insert the needle. I was **all thumbs**."

### 3. **(Comparing) Apples and oranges**

Meaning: comparing two completely different entities

"Now you're comparing **apples and oranges**."

### 4. **Back to square one**

Meaning: return to the beginning, start all over

"That diagnosis wasn't correct, so it's **back to square one**."

### 5. **Barge in**

Meaning: arrive or enter abruptly and unexpectedly, intrude

"I didn't mean to **barge in** on you."

### 6. **Basketcase ▲**

Meaning: overwrought; distressed, unable to function properly

"When she heard the diagnosis, she was a **basketcase**."

### 7. **Beat around the bush**

Meaning: to avoid answering a question, to be ambiguous or vague and withhold information or mislead the listener

"Don't **beat around the bush**. Tell me the test results."

### 8. **Bite the bullet**

Meaning: prepare for an unpleasant experience; brace yourself for something painful, but necessary

"It's your turn to present. Just **bite the bullet**."

### 9. **Bite your tongue**

Meaning: struggle not to say something you want to say, hold your tongue

"I know you are angry but you better **bite your tongue**."

Four dialogues are included in this unit.

SAMPLE UNIT

Lesson 1

Dialogue I

Track #1

- A: **I give up!**\* I can't believe I just dropped this entire carton of new syringes!
- B: You really seem to be **all thumbs** today! **What's up**\*?
- A: I'm **on pins and needles**\* about my certification exams. I can't even **think straight**\*.
- B: I know they're **nerve-wracking**\*, but try not to **turn into**\* a **basketcase!** ▲
- A: Alright. I'll try to **take it easy**\*, and focus on the **task at hand**\*.
- B: That **sounds good**\*. We can't afford to **break the bank** every time you're **on duty!**\*

\* *I give up (I am so frustrated)*

\* *What's up (What's happening?, What's the matter?, What's going on?)*

\* *on pins and needles (nervous)*

\* *think straight (focus, concentrate, think clearly)*

\* *nerve-wracking (stressful)*

\* *turn into (become)*

\* *take it easy (relax, refrain from becoming upset)*

\* *task at hand (current activity)*

\* *sounds good (good idea)*

\* *break the bank (spend a lot of money unnecessarily)*

\* *on duty (scheduled to work)*

**SAMPLE UNIT**

**Lesson 1, Dialogue I**

A: \_\_\_\_\_! I can't believe I just dropped this entire carton of new syringes!

B: You really seem to be \_\_\_\_\_ today!  
\_\_\_\_\_?

A: I'm \_\_\_\_\_ about my certification exams. I can't even \_\_\_\_\_.

B: I know they're \_\_\_\_\_, but try not to \_\_\_\_\_ (a) \_\_\_\_\_!

A: Alright. I'll try to \_\_\_\_\_ and focus on the \_\_\_\_\_.

B: That (is a) \_\_\_\_\_. We can't afford to \_\_\_\_\_ every time you're \_\_\_\_\_!

This page is on the right side of the opened book, so the student can look to the left, see the dialogue and then insert the definitions.

**SAMPLE UNIT**

**Quiz #1**

Directions: Place the correct letter to match up the idiom with the definition on the right.

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Bite your tongue____     | a. prepare for an unpleasant experience; brace yourself |
| 2. Basket case____          | b. arrive or enter unexpectedly                         |
| 3. Apples and oranges____   | c. eager to listen                                      |
| 4. Beat around the bush____ | d. overwrought; distressed; upset                       |
| 5. All ears ____            | e. awkward and clumsy                                   |
| 6. Bite the bullet____      | f. struggle not to say something you want to say        |
| 7. All thumbs____           | g. comparing two completely different entities          |
| 8. Barge in____             | h. avoid answering a question                           |
| 9. Back to square one____   | i. return to the beginning                              |

Select five of the idioms above and make up a sentence for each one:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



**SAMPLE UNIT**

**Answers**

- |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|
| 1. f | 4. h | 7. e |
| 2. d | 5. c | 8. b |
| 3. g | 6. a | 9. i |

	Know this idiom	Not sure	Don't know this idiom
<i>All ears</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>All thumbs</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>(Comparing) Apples and oranges</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Back to square one</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Barge in</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Basketcase ▲</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Beat around the bush</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Bite the bullet</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Bite your tongue</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>