
Student Worksheet

Exercise 1: Matching

Match the idioms on the left with their meanings on the right

1. as the crow flies	a. to spoil/destroy something that is beneficial or makes a lot of money
2. a bird brain	b. a view from above
3. a birds-eye view	c. to depend on or think that you will get something before you actually have it
4. chicken feed	d. by the most direct way, along a straight line between two places
5. to count your chickens before they're hatched	e. something to be proud of, an honour
6. to be a feather in your cap	f. an unsuspecting person who is easy to fool or attack
7. to kill the goose that lays the golden egg	g. something is learned from a secret source who you do not want to name
8. to spread your wings	h. a small sum of money
9. a little bird told me	i. to begin to be independent and try new things
10. to be a sitting duck	j. someone who you think is stupid

Exercise 2: Sentence completion

Fill each space with an idiom from the previous activity. You might have to make small grammatical changes to the form of the idioms.

1. We took a trip in a hot air balloon. We had the most amazing _____ of the city.
2. The tiny sum of money that I spent last night was _____, compared to the huge amount I usually spend.
3. _____ that my boyfriend has bought me a watch for my birthday.
4. She was sitting all alone in the park with her handbag open on the ground beside her. She was _____ for thieves.
5. _____ it is about 12 miles from here to my house.
6. She's always forgetting things and making mistakes. What _____!
7. _____. Just because the interview went well, doesn't mean that they will offer you the job.
8. They sold the most profitable part of the business. They got a lot of money for it, but the business will not survive without it: they have _____.
9. My son is eighteen years old now, and he's beginning _____ and try many new things.
10. He won first prize in the singing contest, which was _____.

The Teacher: Bird idioms – Student Worksheet
KEY

Exercise 1

1. as the crow flies	d. by the most direct way, along a straight line between two places
2. a bird brain	j. someone who you think is stupid
3. a birds-eye view	b. a view from above
4. chicken feed	h. a small sum of money
5. to count your chickens before they`re hatched	c. to depend on or think that you will get something before you actually have it
6. to be a feather in your cap	e. something to be proud of, an honour
7. to kill the goose that lays the golden egg	a. to spoil/destroy something that is beneficial or makes a lot of money
8. to spread your wings	i. to begin to be independent and try new things
9. a little bird told me	g. something is learned from a secret source who you do not want to name
10. to be a sitting duck	f. an unsuspecting person who is easy to fool or attack

Exercise 2

1. We took a trip in a hot air balloon. We had the most amazing **birds-eye view** of the city.
2. The tiny sum of money that I spent last night was **chicken feed**, compared to the huge amount I usually spend.
3. **A little bird told me** that my boyfriend has bought me a watch for my birthday.
4. She was sitting all alone in the park with her handbag open on the ground beside her. She was **a sitting duck** for thieves.
5. **As the crow flies** it is about 12 miles from here to my house.
6. She's always forgetting things and making mistakes. What **a bird brain!**
7. **Don` t count your chickens before they`re hatched.** Just because the interview went well, doesn't mean that they will offer you the job.
8. They sold the most profitable part of the business. They got a lot of money for it, but the business will not survive without it: they have **killed the goose that lays the golden egg.**
9. My son is eighteen years old now, and he's beginning **to spread his wings** and try many new things.
10. He won first prize in the singing contest, which was **a feather in his cap.**