Main Purposes:
- International Educators become aware of the idiom and slang when speaking and writing
- International Educators notice when one does not understand the idiom or slang
- International Educators pause in the conversation to ask if one understands
- International Educators be able to explain the idiom or slang when one is used

Use of Presentation:
- International Student/Scholar Orientations
- ESL classes
- International Education Week
- Training of staff on issues surrounding international students/scholars
- Faculty when teaching and talking to international students/scholars

Idiom:
A group of words with a meaning of its own that is different from the meanings of each separate word put together.

I. Tease Your Brain with Pictures of Idioms.
II. Cover the Waterfront of the Idioms You Use (Groups of 3).
    Handout of Paragraph about Sam
IV. Come to the Point of What Each of the Idioms Mean.
V. Line up List of Idioms.
    Handout of Idioms
VI. Give Pause to Case Studies (in triads).
    Handout of Case Studies
VII. Spot Light the Case Studies With Entire Audience Present.
VIII. Look into the Lexical List of Iowa City.
    Handout of Lexical list
IX. Read Between the Lines of the Role-plays.
X. Wrap up of the Role-plays.
XI. Anything over Your Head?
XII. Food for Thought.
    Handouts:
    How To Use Idioms Correctly and Some Strategies and Cautions About Idioms and Slang
    There is No Egg in Eggplant
    References and Some Useful Web Sites to Help You Understand Idioms and Slang
XIII. Role up the Red Carpet and Close Shop.
    Evaluation
Divide into groups of 3. Choose someone to be number 1, number 2 and number 3. Keep these numbers throughout the entire exercise. We will give you about 5 minutes to talk about each scenario in your groups of 3. Two people will have the discussion while the third person observes and take notes of how many idioms are used during the conversation. This person will try to write them down as the conversation takes place. Talk at the pace that you normally do and use every day conversation style and tone.

Scenario 1

Friday afternoon at the NAFSA conference.
You are sitting next to someone you do not know but have seen them at the conference. You are going to talk to each other about what sessions you have been to, which ones you liked best and how you will take this information back to your campus. You may also want to talk about what part of the conference you have found most interesting. Also talk about what areas you would like to volunteer in at the next conference and why.
1 speaks to 2
2 speaks to 1
3 writes down the idioms

Scenario 2

Office birthday party
Your office is holding its annual get-together to celebrate the birthdays for that month. A friend of yours shows up that you have not seen in some time. You get come cake and coffee and sit down next to her/him. You start to talk about what you did on Halloween and how you celebrated the event. You also start to talk about what programs you did on campus for the international community to teach them about Halloween. You can also talk about your favorite Halloween.
1 speaks to 3
3 speaks to 1
2 writes down the idioms

Scenario 3

Dinner with friends
You have gone to dinner with a friend and you are talking about what you have been doing in your free time. You may also want to talk about work or family. You also talk about how your relationships are going and what you plan to do over the December break.
3 speaks to 2
2 speaks to 3
1 writes down the idioms
How to Use Idioms Correctly

• Wait until you hear the idiom used by a Native speaker
• Hear the idiom more than one time
• Make sure you fully understand the meaning of the idiom
• Notice if the idiom is used in an informal setting

The more idioms you use in the right context, the more at ease American speakers will feel with you and the more they will think of themselves, “Look how well this person communicates!”


Some Strategies and Cautions About Idioms and Slang

• Don’t be afraid to tell the person that you don’t understand.

• Isolate the part of the message that you don’t understand, and tell the person exactly what it is—(Is it a vocabulary word, an expression, a two-word verb, slang). This will help a lot since both of you will know where the difficulty is.

• Ask the person to explain it to you a different way or to paraphrase what was said.

• Ask the person to write down what he/she said to you. This will allow you to discuss exactly what you didn’t understand.

• If the person writes it down, you can then look up the expression in a dictionary or on line.

• If someone teaches you new expressions or slang, it is very important that you know in what situation you can use the expressions slang. For example, if someone in a University office uses an expression with you, you can safely assume that this expression can be used in all situations. However, if you are with other students and they are using a lot of slang, it’s important to find out in what situations you would use the expressions and slang. Students use lots of slang that they would not use around their parents, teachers, other adults.

Example: use of ‘can’ or ‘head’ for a bathroom. Using these expressions around your friends that you know well would not cause problems for you, but using them in other situations could make others think that you are a rude person. Do not use such expressions with anyone you don’t know very well, or with adults. If you were at your adviser’s house for dinner or at a departmental party, you would not ask the host where the ‘head’ was. You would not use a slang expression, but would use ‘bathroom’ or ‘rest room’. So, the bottom line is, “When in doubt, don’t use such expressions or any expressions that you don’t know about.”

• Keep a log (small notebook) with useful expressions/slang. You might also try to write a sentence with the words in it, which will help you remember. You should also make a note about what types of situations are appropriate to use the expression.

Taken from the presentation, The English You Don’t Learn in the Classroom, by Maureen Burke (ESL), Helen Jameson (OISS) and Scott Graves (OISS), 2005.

Tom, Dick and Harry Are Rolling Out the Red Carpet for American Idioms and Slang
Claire Cardwell Claire-Cardwell@uiowa.edu and Melissa Zuroff Melissa-Zuroff@uiowa.edu, University of Iowa
Line up List of Idioms

Stab in the back
It goes without saying
In a pickle
On a shoestring
Pass out
Up for grabs
Let the cat out of the bag
That’s the ticket!
Lemon
Nightcap
Blow it
Get the ball rolling
Red eye flight
For a song
Hanging low and easy
Tom, Dick & Harry
Yak Yak
Pull my hair out
Catch every word
Read between the lines
A run for its money
What it’s worth
Water under the bridge
The bottom line
Pretty penny in the bank
Here you are
Here we go
Is plastic okay?
What’s up?
Hold on
No way
Off the top of my head
On the other hand
It’s not a big deal
Make yourself at home
Take it easy
Holding up
Look forward to
Put money on
Pick out
Rave about
Put money into
In no time at all
Add a splash of color
Came out of the blue
Green with envy
Feeling Blue
In the red
Catching the flu
Little by little
To count on
To keep in mind
To give a ring
Behind the wheel
Take ones time
Map out
Got a break
To get through
Mixed up
To move ahead
As hungry as a horse
Sign up
It’s all the same to me.
Can I help you?
Take a load off one’s feet
Get cold feet
Sink one’s teeth into it
Get the final word
Keep you posted
Know the ABC’s
Lend an ear
Make a go of it
Pushing one’s luck
On a waiting list
First come first served
Going Dutch
Get the tab
Doggie bag
On the house
To open Pandora’s box
Out and about
Out of hand
Pressing one’s luck
Dollar to dollar
Pull someone’s leg
Chill out
Making a splash
Up for grabs
Walking on thin ice
Loaded
Under the weather
Stick one’s neck out
Hang on
Spread oneself too thin
In the hole
Get the show on the road
Stuck my foot in my mouth
Dressing down
Feel like a million dollars
When rubber hits the road
For the birds
Go to bat for someone
Shoot the breeze
Bite the bullet
Eager beaver
What’s cooking?
Pick one’s brains
Lay it on
Window dressing
Washed out
Get out of bed on the wrong side
Different strokes for different folks
Get a lump in ones’ throat
Get one’s head above water
Take the bull by the horns
Make your hair stand on ends
Make someone’s head swim
Pour money down the drain
Let something slide/slip by
Let grass grow under one’s feet
March to a different drummer
Have one’s cake and eat it to
Hang on someone’s every word
Putting our heads together
On its last leg
Let’s give it all we’ve got
We more or less have our hands tied
Put one’s money where one’s mouth is
Would you like to save 10% today?
One’s bark is worse than one’s bite
Get out of the wrong side of the bed
Saw the hand writing on the wall
That is the way the cookie crumbles
Look into the Lexical List

Lexical expressions used in Iowa City

Awesome- great, fantastic
Cool- great, appealing
Sweet- awesome, cool
Chill/chill out- to relax, rest, calm down; to hang out; to spend time in some place (doing nothing)
I’ve got to go (gotta go)- I have to go
Here we are- at least we have arrived, (when you are traveling some place)
Here we go- said when you give something to someone; information, food in a restaurant.
To pick somebody up- to take somebody from his place by car
To drop someone off- to stop the car and let someone out
To buckle up- put on your seat belt
To take a course- to attend a course
To drop a course- to stop attending a course
Oh no kidding (in reply)- are you serious; I can’t believe it
No way (in reply)- are you serious; I can’t believe it
Get out of here (in reply)- are you serious; I can’t believe it
Go for it (in reply to “should I do it?”)- go ahead; do it.
For here or to go (about food ordered in a restaurant)- to eat at a restaurant or to take it with you to eat someplace else; usually a fast-food restaurant
Wild game (food)- meat from non-domestic animals
You bet- you are welcome, sure, of course
Yucky- not good (e.g. bad weather) – often spoken by children or to children
Give me a break- stop talking nonsense, are you serious, I don’t believe you
Crabby person- the one in a bad mood
Slow down, hold on- wait a minute
What’s in your new resolution?- What’s your plan for the next year?
A bird’s brain- someone who is not very attentive; dumb
To have a ball- to have a good time
Armpit- dirty place or very humid (concerning weather)
Cheesy- goofy, silly; overdone, too much
Flashback- sudden memory
I’ve got it or Got it- I understand it
Hot- very popular, fashionable; very attractive, good-looking
To pull out- to refuse to participate in some event
To be in a jam- to be in a difficult situation
Jerk- a stupid or annoying person
To be nuts about something- to be passionate, mad, crazy about something
Pro- he is a pro (professional, mostly about athletes)
Dude- a person, especially a guy (replaces a name)
To be spread thin- to be involved in too many activities, enough to not show progress in any of them
Not to have much upstairs- not very smart
To pull over (a taxi)- to stop a taxi; to move to the side of the road with your car
Wrap it up- to finish it

Taken from the presentation, *The English You Don’t Learn in the Classroom*, by Maureen Burke (ESL), Helen Jameson (OISS) and Scott Graves (OISS), 2005.

Tom, Dick and Harry Are Rolling Out the Red Carpet for American Idioms and Slang
Claire Cardwell Claire-Cardwell@uiowa.edu and Melissa Zuroff Melissa-Zuroff@uiowa.edu, University of Iowa
The paragraph may not be of great literary style, but many Americans, especially when they converse among themselves, use expression of this sort. Now if you have learned the words cool to mean ‘not very warm,’ cat, ‘the familiar domestic animal,’ blow, ‘exhale air with force,’ stack, ‘a pile of something, or material heaped up, fly, ‘propel oneself in the air by means of wings,’ handle, ‘the part of an object designed to hold by hand’—and so forth, you will still not understand the foregoing sample of conversational American English, because basic dictionary information alone will not give you the meaning of the forms involved.

Below is the translation of the highly idiomatic paragraph we have been discussing.

Sam is really a calm person. He never loses control of himself; he hardly ever becomes very angry. Furthermore, he knows how to manage his business financially by using a few tricks... Needless to say, he is also getting older. His hair is beginning to turn gray, but he knows how to compensate for wasted time by relaxing. He rises early, exercises, and goes to bed early. He manages his frankfurter stand without visible effort, until it is someone else’s turn to work there. Sam is successful; he has reached his life’s goal.

Below are the definitions of each idiom used in the paragraph.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Idiom</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To be a (real) cool cat</td>
<td>to be a really calm person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To blow one’s stack</td>
<td>to lose control over oneself, to become angry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To fly off the handle</td>
<td>to become excessively angry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What’s more</td>
<td>furthermore, besides, additionally?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To get away with something</td>
<td>to perpetrate an illegitimate or tricky act without repercussions or harm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of course</td>
<td>naturally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to be getting on</td>
<td>to age, to get older</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pepper and salt</td>
<td>black or dark hair mixed with streaks of gray or white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to make for something</td>
<td>to compensate for something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lost time</td>
<td>time wasted, time spent in fruitless labor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to take it easy</td>
<td>to relax, to rest, to avoid worry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to get up</td>
<td>to rise from bed in the morning or at other times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to work out</td>
<td>to exercise, to do gymnastics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to turn in</td>
<td>to go to bed at night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to take care of (a need)</td>
<td>to see to the needs of, to manage something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>like a breeze</td>
<td>without effort, easily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time off</td>
<td>period in one’s job during which one is not performing one’s services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to have got it made</td>
<td>to be successful, to have arrived</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>this is it</td>
<td>to be in a position of, in a place, or to have possession of an object, beyond which more of the same is unnecessary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An interesting fact about most of these idioms is that they cannot easily be identified with the familiar parts of speech. Thus some idioms are clearly verbal in nature, such as *get away with*, *get up*, *work out*, *turn in*, etc. An equally large number are nominal in nature. Thus *hot dog*, “frankfurter in a bun” or *White House*, “official residence of the President of the United States” serve as nouns. Many serve as adjectives, as in the example *pepper* and *salt*, meaning “black hair mixed with gray.” Many are adverbial, as the examples *like a breeze*, *hammer and tongs*, “violently” (as in *they went at it hammer and tongs*). These idioms that correlate with the familiar parts of speech can be called *lexemic idioms*.

The other most important group comprises longer idioms. Often they are an entire phrase, as in our example *to fly off the handle*, “lose control over oneself,” and *to blow one’s stack*, “to become very angry.” There are many of these in American English. Some famous ones are: *to kick the bucket*, “die”; *to be up the creek*, “to be in a predicament or a dangerous position”; *to be caught between the devil and deep blue sea*, “to have to choose between two equally unpleasant alternatives”, *to seize the bull by the horns*, “to face a problem and deal with it squarely,” Idioms of this sort have been called *tournures* (from the French), meaning “turns of phrase,” or simply *phraseological idioms*. What they have in common is that they do not readily correlate with a given grammatical part of speech and usually require a paraphrase longer than a word.

The form of these phrase-length idioms is set and only a limited number of them can be said in any other way without destroying the meaning. Consider the idiom *kick the bucket*, for example…..

The next largest class of idioms is that of well-established sayings and proverbs. …..Many of these originate from well-known literary sources or come to us from the earliest English speakers of the North American Continent.

Interestingly, there are also one-word idioms, which occur when a single word is used with a surprisingly different meanings form the original one.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verbal in nature</th>
<th>Ex: Get away with, get up, work out, turn in</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nominal in nature (serve as nouns)</td>
<td>Ex: Hot dog, White House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjectives</td>
<td>Ex: Pepper and salt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adverbial</td>
<td>Ex: Like a breeze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entire phrases</td>
<td>Ex: <em>to fly off the handle</em>, <em>to blow one’s stack</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well- established sayings</td>
<td>Ex: <em>don’t count your chickens before they hatch</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-word idioms</td>
<td>Ex: Lemon or Dog</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WHY IS AMERICAN ENGLISH, so heavily idiomatic?**

As we develop new concepts, we need new expressions for them, but instead of creating a brand new word, we use already existing words and put them together in a new sense. This, to a degree, is true of all known languages. There are, in fact, no known language that do not have some idioms. Consider the Chinese expression for “quickly,” for example. It is *ma shang*; translated literally it means “horseback.” Why should the concept of “quick” be associated with the back of a horse? The answer reveals itself upon a moment’s speculation. In the old days, before the train, the automobile, and the airplane, the fastest way of getting from one place to other was by riding a horse, i.e., on horseback. Thus Chinese *ma shang* is as if we said in English *hurry up!* We must go “on horseback” i.e., “Hurry up! We must go quickly.” Such a form would not be unintelligible in English, though the speaker would have to realize that it is an idiom, and the foreigner would have to learn it.


Tom, Dick and Harry Are Rolling Out the Red Carpet for American Idioms and Slang

Claire Cardwell Claire-Cardwell@uiowa.edu and Melissa Zuroff Melissa-Zuroff@uiowa.edu, University of Iowa
Read Between the Lines of the Role-plays

Student and TV

Two roommates are talking about getting a TV for the apartment.

Reza: Man, out of the blue this ad came to the apartment that “Save a Buck” was having a sale on TVs for $200.00. You know how I had finally made up my mind that I was going to get a TV but wanted to wait for a good deal.

Marl: Oh, that is such a good buy. I am really glad you are my roomie as I knew that I could count on you. So where is this great buy?

Reza: Well, I went to the store and you know what the sales guy said. That sale was for only one day and one day only. We have another TV which is much better for $350.00 but we just sold out. So I can give you a rain check.

Marl: That bites the big one. I would love to help you out but my checking account is in the red. I will put money into the kitty for food this month.

Reza: Oh, it gets worse. I then asked the sales guy what was going on. He said I needed to read the fine print as that sale was only for one day but we have others that are on sale with a great rebate. He then tried to get me to buy another TV saying something about a 5 year warranty and 90 days guarantee. He then said they had one that had been sitting in the back for a couple of months and they did not have the box, instructions and I had to take it like it was for $325.00

Marl: Oh, he might be trying to sell you a lemon. We can find you a really cheap TV at a garage sale, second hand store or at Goodwill.

New Student and Winter

Student is from Kenya and it is January. She is talking to her daughter while her daughter gets ready for Jr. High.

Mother: Virginia, you will need to layer your clothes when you go to school today and take your mittens, boots and wool coat and put on the longjohns we bought you at the garage sale. This weather is going to take some getting used to.

Daughter: Mom, it looks really cold and maybe there will be a blizzard causing a white out. I saw on TV when this happens you do not know which way to turn and you get all mixed up about the directions. If this happens I am worried I will catch the flu and I did not get the flu shot everyone is talking about as I hate to get stuck. You know Suzie has a TV and she can tell us about the weather so I am going to give her a ring. I wonder if we will have to break our engagement for tonight.

Mom: It is almost time to go so we need to get this show on the road. You do not need to worry as I road tested the tires and they are good as new so we will get through the winter. It was funny the sales guy said our old ones were on their last leg. I just love being behind the wheel.

Daughter: Mom you need to keep in mind that there may be ice. This weather is so hard to get used to.

Mom: I know how you start missing home and begin to feel blue.
Read Between the Lines of the Role-plays

Student Meeting a Friend for Lunch

Alice is meeting her old friend Isabel for lunch in a restaurant near campus. Alice went back to Russia 3 years ago and just came back to the U.S. again, this time to open up a Vodka business.

Alice: Oh, you’re here. I was outside waiting and thought maybe I got mixed up on the time. This rat race is really getting to me. I am on the road most of the time and it seems like I can never take it easy.

Isabelle: I have been looking forward to seeing you. I was already downtown and thought I would cool my heels so I came on in.

Alice: It is great to see you and I really like keeping in touch with you. Before we catch up let’s order as I’m hungry as a horse.

Isabell: You look great! I really like that splash of color you have put together with those black pants. I hear that you and your husband are really moving ahead.

Alice: Oh, yes. We have been giving all we got and we spent 2 years really pounding the pavement as we hope to move ahead in the business. We finally made up our minds to move back to the U.S. so we made the plunge. We were really having a hard time making ends meet so we thought we would start up the business in the US.

Isabell: Wow, in no time at all you made a business here. I heard that the vodka you sell is out of this world. How has this month been for you?

Alice: It’s been a wicked crazy month. Between the business and family life I can hardly keep anything straight anymore. I’m starting to think that maybe I’m spreading myself too thin.

Isabell: Oh I am so green with envy. I do not know how you balance work, family and school and are not tired out all the time. I think of you as a superwoman. I know you had your share of difficulties and it is wonderful to see you moving ahead.

Alice: Yes, you know we worked ourselves to the bone but little by little we made it work.

Isabell: You really mapped out things.

Alice: It’s been great to see you again. We’ll have to do this more often.

Isabell: Indeed! Should we split the tab, even steven?
Student and a Basketball Game

Two students attend a basketball game.

John: It’s crummy that we didn’t make it out sooner. We could have tailgated before the game.

Raj: The guy next to us was really raving about this game. He said it was going to be blast so I was really looking forward to this evening.

John: You can say that again. I would put money on the Lakers. I wish they would get this ball rolling.

Raj: I had to think twice about whether to come as I had a lot of homework. I put my nose in the books and bit the bullet to get most of it done.

John: Did you see that shot? That guy totally traveled. The ref didn’t even catch it.

Raj: He should have zeroed in on that. He is just taking his time on what to call and is holding up the game.

John: Hungry? I move that we both get a hot dog and a cold one. What do you think?

Raj: Right on.

John: This game is just a blowout. These guys sure aren’t letting the grass grow under their feet.
Read Between the Lines of the Role-plays

For each role-play list out the slang and idioms you hear.

Student and TV

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New Student and Winter

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Tom, Dick and Harry Are Rolling Out the Red Carpet for American Idioms and Slang
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There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple or pine in pineapple. And while no one knows what is in a hotdog, you can be pretty sure it isn’t canine.

English muffins were not invented in England nor French fries in France.

Sweetmeats are candies, while sweet breads, which aren’t sweet, are meat.

We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square, and guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write, but fingers don’t fing, grocers don’t groce, and hammers don’t ham?

If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn’t the plural of booth, beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, two meese? Is cheese the plural of choose? One mouse, two mice. One louse, 2 lice. One house, 2 hice?

If teachers taught, why didn’t preachers praught?

If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?

Why do people recite at a play, and play at a recital? Ship by truck or car and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell? Park on driveways and drive on parkways?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?

How can the weather be hot as heck one day and cold as heck another? When a house burns up, it burns down. You fill in a form by filling it out and an alarm clock goes off by going on. You get in and out of a car, yet you get on and off a bus. When the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

And why, when I wind up my watch, I start it, but when I wind up this essay, I end it?

English is a silly language…it doesn’t know if it is coming or going!!!
Sam is a real cool cat. He never blows his stack; he hardly ever flies off the handle. What’s more, he knows how to get away with things... Well, of course, he is getting on, too. His hair is pepper and salt, but he knows how to make up for lost time by taking it easy. He gets up early, works out, and turns in early. He takes care of his hot dog stand like a breeze until he gets time off. Sam’s got it made; this is it for him.

With a Fine Tooth Comb List Idioms Found in the Paragraph.

Come to the Point of What Each of the Idioms Mean.

Over All What is This Paragraph Trying to Say?


Tom, Dick and Harry Are Rolling Out the Red Carpet for American Idioms and Slang

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References on American Slang and Idioms

Althen, Gary (Editor), Office of International Students and Scholars, University of Iowa *Handbook for Foreign Students and Scholars, A Guide to Life and Culture in the United States and at The University of Iowa*, 2001


Longman Advanced American Dictionary


Some Useful Web Sites to Help You Understand Idioms and Slang


http://dictionary.cambridge.org/results.asp?dict=I

http://iteslj.org/links/ESL/Idioms_and_Slang/

http://www.english-zone.com/idioms/main.html

http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/catalog/titledetail.cfm?titleNumber=H00591

http://www.longman.com/dictionaries/which_dict/idiom.html

http://www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~wrader/slang/h.html

http://www.slangsite.com/

http://www.eltweb.com/liason/Slang/

Adapted from the presentation, *The English You Don’t Learn in the Classroom*, by Maureen Burke (ESL), Helen Jameson (OISS) and Scott Graves (OISS), 2005.

Tom, Dick and Harry Are Rolling Out the Red Carpet for American Idioms and Slang

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