

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## WORKSHEET 1: IDIOMS ACTIVITY

1. apple pie
2. bacon
3. beans
4. beet
5. butter
6. cake
7. clam
8. cookie
9. cucumber
10. fish
11. grape
12. hotcakes
13. molasses
14. noodle
15. peas
16. pickle
17. pie
18. potato
19. sardines
20. tea
21. pancake

**Directions:** Choose a word from the list of foods that best completes each expression. Cross off each word after using it.

1. Without daily exercise it's easy to become a couch

\_\_\_\_\_.

2. The people on the subway were packed like \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Riding a bike is a piece of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. On vacation I was as happy as a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The child could not keep the surprise party a secret and spilled the \_\_\_\_\_ to his friend.
6. It was up to the parents to bring home the \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Even in an emergency the first responder was as cool as a \_\_\_\_\_.
8. After the car ran over a nail, the tire was as flat as a \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Running a marathon is not my cup of \_\_\_\_\_.
10. When you think hard you are using your \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Having more important things to do means that you have bigger \_\_\_\_\_ to fry.
12. The turtle was as slow as \_\_\_\_\_.
13. To be in trouble is to be in a \_\_\_\_\_.
14. The teenager tried to \_\_\_\_\_ up his parent so his father would let him use the car.
15. The storekeeper told us that the new toys were selling like \_\_\_\_\_.

16. A goal that is hard to achieve is like reaching for \_\_\_\_\_ in the sky.
17. The identical twins were like two \_\_\_\_\_ in a pod.
18. To keep things neat is to put them in \_\_\_\_\_ order.
19. When the waiter dropped his tray, his face was as red as a \_\_\_\_\_.
20. After the student answered a difficult question the teacher told her she was a smart \_\_\_\_\_.

## Answer Key for Idioms Worksheet Activity

1. Potato
2. Sardines
3. Cake
4. Clam
5. Beans
6. Bacon
7. Cucumber
8. Pancake
9. Tea
10. Noodle
11. Fish
12. Molasses
13. Pickle
14. Butter
15. Hotcakes
16. Pie
17. Peas
18. Apple pie
19. Beet
20. Cookie

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## WORKSHEET 2: RETRIEVAL HELP LIST FOR OVERUSED WORDS

### **got**

retrieved  
bought  
borrowed  
found  
lifted  
brought back  
discovered  
grabbed  
reached for  
shared  
won

### **said**

explained  
whispered  
whined  
complained  
shouted  
asked  
replied  
answered  
joked  
informed  
insisted

stated  
cried  
muttered  
moaned  
bragged  
ordered  
scolded  
suggested  
admitted  
giggled  
confessed

### **went**

skipped  
raced  
hopped  
skipped  
hiked  
streaked

slid  
galloped  
stampeded  
bounced  
leaped  
tiptoed

dashed  
sprinted  
hurried  
jogged  
scurried  
bolted

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### WORKSHEET 3 HINTS FOR INSTANT SUCCESS IN WRITING!

1. Substitute more precise verbs from the retrieval list to spice up your writing instantly!
2. Too often, sentences begin with the words **a** or **the**.
3. Add an interesting character (characters) and a place, time, reason, or explanation to describe the action.

#### Examples:

- At 2:00, the hair stylist hurried down the street to the salon.
- After the show, the ventriloquist scolded the dummy on his lap for misbehaving.
- Four construction workers lifted the heavy beams up to the roof in order to finish the job before the storm arrived.

Directions: Write an action-packed sentence for each of the characters below.

competitive volleyball player-

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bicyclist-

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lifeguard-

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fire fighter-

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astronaut-

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fitness instructor-

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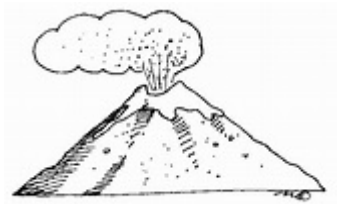
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## Open-ended Creative Writing:

### *Action Story*

Directions: Write a story of your own that is packed with action! Begin with an opening sentence that captures your reader's attention. Decide on a place and time to set your story. Give your story a boost with descriptive and action words. Retrieval lists that are included with this lesson to spark your creative thinking!



### **Settings: (or a combination of these)**

city	factory
country	campground
island	state fair
dessert	farm
mountains	fishing boat
ocean	another planet
rain forest	archaeological dig
arctic	highway





other \_\_\_\_\_

**Time: specific or general**

morning    late night

noon        era

evening    year

**Personality traits (partial list)**

courageous

adventurous

fearful

serious

silly

curious

mysterious

talkative

outgoing

shy

sensible

irresponsible

daring

resourceful

athletic

confident

weak

strong

other \_\_\_\_\_