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In the Name of God

Common English Idioms, Slangs, Collocations, and Proverbs

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Introduction

Every language has its own collection of wise sayings. They offer advice about how to live and also transfer some underlying ideas, principles and values of a given culture/society. These sayings are called *idioms*. Idioms are a pert of the figurative language. They make a language sound very creative, and can also get others to think and figure out what the person who is using the idiom might mean. Using the Literal language (as in saying things directly without any creativity) sounds very common, and it seems a bit boring when they are used in story books. Idioms allow people to express complex things in a more simplified way, so that other people can relate to it. Also, the ridiculousness of these sayings allows the person saying them to really emphasize how they feel.

Idiomatic expressions have long played an important role in the English language. In fact, the use of idioms is so widespread that an understanding of these expressions is essential to successful communication, whether in listening, speaking, reading, or writing. The student may learn grammar and, with time, acquire adequate vocabulary, but without a working knowledge of such idioms as above all, to get along, on the whole, to look up, etc., even the best student's speech will remain awkward and ordinary.

Slangs are defined as the words and phrases used informally in any language. These expressions are usually formed and gain popularity locally before becoming accepted in informal speech all over.

A collocation is a combination of words that are commonly used together; the simplest way of describing collocations is to say that they *just sound right* to native English speakers. It is important to learn collocations, because they are important for the naturalisation of one's speech. Besides, they broaden one's scope for expression.

Every culture has a collection of wise sayings that offer advice about how to live your life. These sayings are called "proverbs". It's good to know the really common English proverbs because you hear them come up in conversation all the time. Sometimes people say the entire proverb to give advice to a friend. Learning proverbs can also help you to understand the way that people in English-speaking cultures think about the world. Proverbs can also give you good example sentences which you can memorize and use as models for building your own sentences.

Experienced EFL teachers will agree, for the most part, with the selection of items in this text. However, it should be recognized that any selection is somewhat arbitrary because the range is so great. Different items will be used in a novel or a news report or a scientific paper. Therefore, any lists will be different depending on the English corpus that is used to make that list. However, most corpora contain items that are common to all corpora and any list will include items that are found in all language material.

We would very much welcome the oral and written comments and constructive criticism with open arms. Correspondence concerning this book may be addressed to us at Kazemi.TEFL@Yahoo.com.

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