

Idioms: In Context

Name _____

Date _____

An **idiom** is a figure of speech that uses culturally understood metaphors. In each sentence below, use context clues to determine the meaning of the underlined idiom.

1. "I'll never figure this out," sighed Jake. "After all, you can't teach an old dog new tricks."

It's hard for people to learn new things as they get older

2. "I'm not sure if we can come to your party next week," I said. "Let's play it by ear."

Improvise or wait to see what happens

3. We were all sitting around feeling bored when, out of the blue, Lamont ran into the room shouting, "Hooray!"

With no warning

4. When Nailah saw someone carrying three heavy grocery bags, she rushed over to give them a hand.

Help them

5. After telling me her big secret, my sister warned me not to let the cat out of the bag.

Tell a secret

6. "Hold your horses!" Shouted my mom, as I jumped out of the car. "It's not time to go yet!"

Wait or be patient

7. "Oh no! Meat surprise again?" groaned Mia at lunchtime. "I'm sick and tired of eating that."

I hate or I'm annoyed by

★ **Challenge:** The idioms above are all commonly used in the United States. Find an idiom from another culture and write it below.

Idiom: _____

Meaning: _____

Culture/Country of Origin: _____