

# “Prominence of Idioms in English Proficiency”

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## **Abstract**

This paper renders the clear information about the value of expressions to modify one's speaking and writing skills in English Language and Literature. And it aims to assist learners, especially to all the second language learners (English as L2). Because they are always aspirants to bring native touch/accent to their speaking skills and they hire for qualitative education techniques to improve themselves. And this paper also highlights the Idioms in pandemic period and how to use common expressions to talk about challenging periods, with examples. In the initial part it is elaborated clearly that the emergency or essentiality of fluency in English language, and how to use these in regular conversations. And later the concept takes a small turn towards prominent role of idioms, phrases in language and literature too with some suggestive examples, like English idioms, proverbs, phrases and some language chunks take an important part of daily English, so it is mandatory to teach and learn these expressions in regular basis. Idioms play the most prolific role to get fluency in English language.

**Key words: i) Emergency of fluent English language, ii) Idioms in Literature; Pandemic idioms  
iii) Idioms and phrases, iv) The usage of common idioms in daily conversations.**

### **Emergency of fluent English language**

Language fluency is one of the mandatory terms to give decency or colorful touch to one's speaking skills, moreover it is used to characterize or measure a person's language ability often conjugated with accuracy. Language fluency is sometimes contracted with accuracy or proper format of language use especially grammar, and pronunciation. And also we can find the complexity while encompassing knowledge of vocabulary and discourse strategies. Fluency, accuracy, and complexity are distinct but interrelated components of language acquisition and language proficiency.

Many non-native speakers or students who study English language as a second language often face difficulties in getting native accent to their English especially in few situations; like, while reading, writing, and speaking or even while finding compositional fluency, because an assessment of fluency is typically a measure or characterization of one's ability and dedication towards learning. Determining fluency is completely dependable aspect on one's confidence. This is the most challenging task for those who acquire it as second language. So there is a vital necessity of bringing accuracy in English language, because many of immigrants, employers from many multinational companies, in fact corporate world moreover the whole modern professional world is hiring skilled candidates, who have good soft skills like, effective communication skills, interpersonal skill, or inter cultural skills or etc.

Therefore learning English grammar, pronunciation, punctuation, or by soft skills training sessions or all parts of English language could lend huge assistance in perceiving accuracy to non-native speakers for their language with a proper regular practice of idioms, proverbs, phrases, and collocations. Because these expressions, or language chunks enriches one's confidence level to communicate more easily in the English language with other English speakers or with social media too.

### **Idioms and phrase**

We can find idioms in any languages, but when it applies to 'English' we need to put more effort while learning or practicing as non- native learners. The main aim if learning this topic is to find how different the characteristics of idioms affect their interpretation, how unanimous language learners recognize English idioms and finally how well second language learners recognize English idioms. Although the significance of vocabulary, and use of lexical phrases or language chunks in language learning is acknowledged. Studies on idioms have however concentrated on native speakers. Even these idioms are frequently used in everyday language, particularly in media. Therefore some knowledge and awareness of idioms is important to non-native speakers especially at most advanced level, so is a figurative multi-word expression whose meaning is different from the sum of the literal meaning with the help of trainers who ensure them proper

content regarding language parts which are important in improve communication skills. Because a teacher is the one who assists his or her students by understanding their capabilities and pleading voice in learning.

The term idiom refers to set expression or a phrase comprising two or more words. An interesting fact regarding the device is that the expression is not interpreted literally.

A phrase is a small group of words standing together as a conceptual unit, while an idiom is a group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words. So the difference is that an idiom as an established meaning not directly linked to the individual words. 'Any idiom can be a phrase, but we can find a tiny difference between idioms and literature. The phrase is understood to mean something quite different the phrase would individual words of the phrase is interpreted in a figurative sense. Further idioms vary in different cultures and countries.

Example: 'To be free,

Totally delicious food,

Running water.

As you can see one of the groups of words above are full sentences, but they still work together – which is why we have phrases. But Idioms are words or phrases that aren't meant to be taken literally. These idioms can't be deduced merely by studying the words in the phrases. If taken literally, you would think that. But after living with a certain group of time, you will start to pick up their expressions.

Example: 'Break a leg' it doesn't mean that you are suggesting someone, rather it means say/wish someone good luck!

### **Idioms in Literature; the usage of idioms to talk about pandemic year 2020**

There are thousands of idiomatic expressions in English. Many of these we use every day. Many authors may sometimes be the originator of idioms. This is especially true of William Shakespeare who coined many hundreds of new words in English and created phrases that are still in use today. Many English authors or scholars often use dialogues to show a character's nature and speech patterns. Here is collection of few idioms which are used in literature.

#### **"The Merchant of Venice" –by William Shakespeare**

'The Prince of Moroco chooses' "the golden casket and inside he finds the message beginning 'All that glitters is not gold.'- this idiom mean that not everything superficially attractive is valuable. These words are not exactly meant so but Shakespeare has created it in his own idiomatic way".

“Old Black Joe started crowning out in the henhouse. Then mother’s rocking chair cricked for all the world like she was sitting in it. You know I don’t take truck with that but it set me minding backwards, you know how you do sometimes”.

In this short excerpt from John Stainbeck’s east of Eden, though it may not appear that way at first glance. ‘For the entire world, means definitely seeing a certain way.’ ‘I don’t take truck, means to not have a problem with something,’ and ‘set me minding backwards, means to remember something.’ Stainback’s usage of idioms portrays his state of mind and every day speech patterns.

It costs an arm and a leg – it’s an expensive

You are close, but no cigar- you are close to solution but not quite there

Don’t put all your eggs in one basket- don’t put all your hope in one thing as it may not lose out.

Excuse my French- excuse my curse word

Hold your horses!- wait

I am on pins and niddles – I’m waiting anxiously

It’s raining cats and dogs – it is raining a lot.

### **Pandemic idioms**

The present environment is occupied with ‘Corona virus, this dangerous crisis is having great unbeatable impact on our way of life and created another pandemic history. Many people self-isolation and in lock down its understandable that in order to save their lives all over the world, people are adjusting to a new way of living as a result of COVID-19. At the time of writing, around a third of the world is on lockdown, permitted to leave home only for such reasons as to shop essential basic things for our lives like, food and medicine, etc. Even those of us who are lucky enough to be well and virus-free may be finding the sudden changes to our lifestyles challenging. With this in mindset, I thought we’d focus on idioms and phrases around the theme of dealing with difficult situations. Let’s focus on the following few eminent examples, which demonstrates that one could not deduce the meaning of idioms without meaning what they mean actually. The following paragraph included few expressions and phrases.

### **Example**

“As we all know that this COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered Corona virus. Most people with the Covid-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. So we need be home and follow quarantine and isolation. “Don’t worry dear citizen ‘Every cloud has its silver lining’, things can only improve from here, please ‘hang in there’, we can fight against this pandemic period. ‘If you look on the bright side’ you think about the advantages of a difficult situation, it’s not an ideal situation but, ‘looking on the bright side’, we can spend a quality time with our family. So

let's 'rise to the challenge', because we need to fight with our strength and patience with this dangerous situation. 'To count your blessings' is to feel grateful for the good things in your life during a period in which there are lots of difficulties. We're all healthy and we have food in the cupboard. You've just got to count your blessings".

### **The proper usage of common idioms in daily conversations: How to use idioms in sentences?**

The proper usage of common idioms plays prominent role to have an effective conversations. Most probably or many often few students or learners get confused with a common doubt i.e. 'How to affix these idioms in sentence?' So the following idioms may clears that how appropriately the idioms have to be used in sentences.

1. Barrel of laugh – means someone who is very funny

e.g. - Sam really believes that Julius Caesar is a barrel of laughs.

2. Round the bend – means Crazy, insane

e.g. - The bus came round the bend too fast.

3. All wet - completely mistaken

e.g. – You are all wet on this topic

4. Second banana- A person in a subservient position

e.g. - Raghu always play second banana in the cricket matches.

5. Hang in there - Don't give up

e.g.- I know that you are going through rough time, but I suggest you to hang in there atleast for your baby, because things can only improve from here.

6. On the nose – precisely

e.g. - The conference will begin at 8.00a.m on the nose. Don't miss it.

7. Lend me a hand - help some one

e.g.- Could you lend me a hand while lifting up these heavy boxes?

8. No pain, no gain - you have to work for what you want

e.g.- If you want to fulfill your desires and reach goal then work on it otherwise no pain no gain!

9. Pull someone's leg -To joke with someone

e.g. – Hey buddy, don't take my words seriously what I have told just now, because I was just pulling your legs

10. Get a taste of your own medicine - get treat of the way you've been treating others (negative)

e.g.- He is always late for his appointments and keeps people waiting, so I have decide to give him a taste of his own medicine.

## Conclusion

Thus idioms are used specifically to a particular region, culture, language, or dialect, and they are often difficult to recognize immediately from one language to another, but gaining its value day by day unremittingly and being popularized through everyday spoken language, but they are used in language and literature (writing too) compulsively on regular basis. So I suggest to students, or language learners or even trainers to use these idioms in their conversations to have an effective conversations in everyday business world or professional world. Apart from this practice, some other practical classes involving and conducting debates, group discussion on audio and video or web based learning or even online classes or some other innovative new strategies in teaching and learning. At the same time teaching and learning process should be and assiduous process.

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