

**COLEGIO MAYOR DEL CARIBE**  
**PLAN DE MEJORAMIENTO IV PERIODO**  
**INGLÉS- 11**  
**2020**

**Following you will find the improving plan, developed for those students which final grade for third period was under 3.5. This plan will be presented to the teacher on Thursday November 12, 2020 and send it to [classroom](#).**

A continuación, se presenta el Plan de Mejoramiento, desarrollado para aquellos alumnos cuya nota definitiva en el tercer periodo fue inferior a 3.5. Este plan deberá ser entregado al profesor, a más tardar el jueves 12 de noviembre de 2020, y también se debe enviar vía classroom.

Instructions:

Instrucciones:

- 1- Investigate about Idiomatic expressions and make a Power point presentation explaining the theme, you have to make a video doing the corresponding presentation in English. (Investigar sobre expresiones idiomáticas en inglés, realizar una presentación en power point y realizar un video exponiendo la presentación correspondiente del tema en **INGLÉS**.)
- 2- You have to solve the worksheet (debe realizar el taller adjunto en el plan)
- 3- Present to the teacher via video on the date mentioned. (Exponer al profesor vía video en la fecha mencionada)

Themes (Tema)

- Idiomatic expressions

# Worksheet

Here's a story about an accomplished businessman who happily gave advice to young people whom he mentored. Let's call him John. In his conversations he frequently used idioms to get his points across clearly and effectively.

You'll find numerous idioms in this story, which summarizes John's advice for success, followed by explanations of the idioms and a short quiz using some of them. Try reading the story once to understand the gist without consulting the idiom definitions. On your second reading, use the definitions to help you understand these idioms.

## Keys to Success

John is an accomplished, successful businessman who is quite popular as a mentor. He enjoys showing young professionals the ropes. The first thing he says is that his career has not always been smooth sailing. In fact, he learned a number of lessons along the way. "First and foremost," John said, "don't believe that success is ever manna from heaven." He has met many people with similar rags-to-riches stories and learned that a lot of hard work went into their success.

John believes in hard work but also in recognizing the right opportunities:

"It's absolutely essential to never spread yourself too thin. If you have too many irons in the fire, you'll certainly miss out on real opportunity. I've seen people as busy as a bee who never really seem to do anything."

You'll probably agree that it's impossible to really concentrate if you have to worry about 50 different things. Another good lesson is that it's important to know which side your bread is buttered on and to give that activity your full attention. In other words, you need to ride the gravy train. Don't start looking for new challenges if everything is working out for the best.

The most important ability of any successful entrepreneur, John stressed, is to have the presence of mind not to simply take advantage of an opportunity but also to keep your eye on the ball. Some people are quick on the uptake, but then they get bored. It's important to be consistent and not spread yourself too thin. Finally, make sure never to show your hand to your opponents.

That's how to be successful, according to John.

## Idioms

Here are some of the idioms used in the story:

**Smooth sailing:** An easy life with no problems

**Know which side your bread is buttered on:** Understand what is most important to you

**Ride the gravy train:** Make money by doing something that has already proved to be successful

**Keep your eye on the ball:** Concentrate on what's important

**Manna from heaven:** Surprise riches

**From rags to riches:** Going from poor to rich

**Show someone the ropes:** Explain and show by example how something is done properly

**As busy as a bee:** Very busy (also as busy as a beaver)

**Work out for the best:** End with the best possible result

**Quick on the uptake:** Understand very quickly

**Have the presence of mind to do something:** Be aware and be able to grasp an opportunity

**Show your hand:** Show others the advantages you have in a situation

**Spread yourself too thin:** Doing too many things at once

**Have too many irons in the fire:** Doing too many things at the same time

Test yourself on your understanding of a few of these idioms:

1. My friend is as \_\_\_\_\_ these days. He never gets time to relax.
2. We've been lucky in life. It's been \_\_\_\_\_ since the very beginning.
3. I'm sure the situation will improve. It will \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Alan accidentally \_\_\_\_\_ during the negotiations for his business deal.
5. Franklin went from \_\_\_\_\_ in his life. He started with nothing and ended up a very wealthy person.
6. Some artists are lucky and have a huge hit early in life. Then they \_\_\_\_\_ for many years afterward.
7. My boss \_\_\_\_\_ at work because it was my first week.

## SECOND READING

Learn new English expressions in this short story about what it takes to be successful in a small company focuses on the use of idioms in context. You'll find idiom definitions and a short quiz on some of the expressions at the end of the story.

### Young and Free: Prerequisite for Success

Let's face it: In today's business world you need to be young and free of attachments to strike it rich. It's a dog eat dog world out there and you're going to have to work quite a lot. Of course, not only will you have to work quite a lot, you'll need to be flexible and ready to take advantage of anything. That's where the "free" part comes in.

I've got a young friend, he's only 25, but he fits the bill perfectly. He's single and he's hungry. He's willing to start from scratch and, best of all, he isn't afraid of putting his nose to the grindstone for those 80 hour weeks. He decided to take the bull by the horns by going starting up his own business. He found a software developer who knew the internet inside out. This young man was also very ambitious. He left his safe job at the drop of a hat. They were both reaching for pie in the sky, and they were ready.

They also were lucky. They founded a startup and got into the whole social networking business in 2002. In other words, they were early birds and they were willing to sink or swim. Probably the most important ingredient in their success was that they were willing to play things by ear. They kept their ears to the ground, moved full steam ahead and drove hard bargains. Soon, their business was growing by leaps and bounds. Of course, they had some stumbling blocks along the way. Who doesn't? Still, they got the jump on the competition and by the year 2008, they were multi-millionaires. This sort of success for the young and free now has copycats around the world.

### Idioms Used in the Story

**at the drop of a hat** = immediately

**by leaps and bounds** = very quickly (used with improvement)

**copycat** = someone or a company who tries to do things like another person or company

**dog eat dog** = very competitive

**drive a hard bargain** = to make a business deal that is very advantageous for you

**early bird** = someone who takes early advantage of a situation

**fit the bill** = to have the right characteristics for something

**full steam ahead** = to continue with full commitment

**get the jump on someone** = to get the advantage over someone by starting early

**have one's ears to the ground** = to pay attention to rumors, news, and industry insiders

**know something inside out** = to have expert knowledge about something

**pie in the sky** = something very hard to achieve, a dream

**play something by ear** = to improvise in a situation, react to a situation as it occurs

**put one's nose to the grindstone** = to work hard and put in many hours

**sink or swim** = succeed or fail

**start from scratch** = to start from the beginning

**startup** = a small company that begins to do business, usually in technology

**strike it rich** = to become rich, often by creating a new product or service successfully

**stumbling block** = a difficulty or hurdle that stands in the way of success

**take the bull by the horns** = to confront a problem and deal with it

### Expression Quiz

1. I think Peter \_\_\_\_\_. He's perfect for the job.
2. It's \_\_\_\_\_ on the project. We have no time to waste.
3. Don't pretend you're like Kevin. Nobody likes a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The business person \_\_\_\_\_, but we had to accept her offer.
5. I think it's best to \_\_\_\_\_ the meeting \_\_\_\_\_. We need to consider everything.
6. He founded a \_\_\_\_\_ in 2008 and made millions.
7. Our business has grown \_\_\_\_\_. We're very happy.
8. I'm afraid I think that idea is \_\_\_\_\_. It will never work.