

Activity Type

Vocabulary Game: gap-fill (group work)

Focus

Idioms

Aim

To practice common idioms by using them to complete sentences.

Preparation

Make one copy of the game board and gap-fill sentences sheet for each group of three or four. Fold the answers on the sentences sheet so they are hidden. You will also need a dice and counters for each group.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this idioms board game, students practice common idioms by using them to complete sentences.

Procedure

Divide the students into groups of three or four. Give each group a copy of the game board, a dice, counters, and a gap-fill sentences sheet with the answers folded so they are hidden.

Players take it in turns to roll the dice and move their counter along the board.

When a player lands on a letter square, the student to their right picks up the sheet and reads the gap-fill sentence that corresponds to the letter on the square and the number they rolled to reach it, using the word BLANK for the missing idiom in the sentence.

The player listens to the sentence and then uses one of the idioms shown in the idiom bank on the game board to complete the sentence, repeating the full sentence with the correct idiom.

If the player answers correctly, they move forward one space. If they answer incorrectly, they move back one space.

The first player to reach the finish is the winner.

As a variation, you can have an extra student in each group who acts as the quizmaster and is responsible for asking all the questions.

Example:


Player 1 rolls a three and moves to the square marked D.

The student on their right reads sentence D3, "I like maths, but history just goes BLANK."

Player 1 looks at the idiom bank and chooses the best idiom that replaces the word BLANK and answers, e.g. 'over my head' or 'I like maths, but history just goes over my head'.


The student then unfolds the sheet to check the correct answer. If it's correct, the student replies with 'That's right'. Player 1 then moves forward one space. If the answer is wrong, the student says 'Sorry, that's incorrect' and Player 1 moves back one space.

Then, Player 2 begins their turn.

B	D	A		A	B	D
E		C		E		Go forward two spaces
Finish		C	D	Oh no! Go back		B

Idiom bank

- call it a day on the ball give me a hand
- miss the boat hang in there I'm beat over my head
- piece of cake stay in touch take it easy

Start		E	D	C		A
E		A		B		E
C		B		E		C
D	A	Super skip! Move ahead		C	Go back two spaces	B
						A
						E
						C
						A
						B
						D

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Just BLANK. No need to get angry.	I'm sorry, that went BLANK. Can you explain it again?	Because Sally is always BLANK, her boss gave her a pay rise.	I don't understand this problem. Can you BLANK?	BLANK. There are only five minutes left until the lesson ends.
2	Let's BLANK after graduation! Friends forever!	I need to take a nap because BLANK.	These are selling fast. Buy now and don't BLANK.	I can't study any more today. Time to BLANK.	This job is a BLANK. There's almost no work to do.
3	In the exam, be sure to BLANK and follow the instructions carefully.	The other team is good, but BLANK. We can still win!	I don't have any homework this weekend, so I'm going to BLANK.	I like maths, but history just goes BLANK.	The lesson will end in two minutes, so let's BLANK early.
4	BLANK with this box. It's too heavy for me.	That test was a BLANK. I got 100%.	Don't BLANK. Take the opportunity now!	BLANK after that three-hour soccer practice.	My friend is moving, but I promised her I would BLANK.
5	His joke went BLANK. I didn't understand it at all.	I think I'll BLANK and go home.	I call my grandma every week to BLANK.	I know it's difficult, but BLANK. You can do it!	It's a BLANK to play this game, but not so easy to win.
6	I'll take a break from studying because BLANK.	This summer, I'm going to relax and BLANK on the beach.	I'm afraid that I am not BLANK today. I have made many mistakes.	He left it very late to submit his work. He may BLANK.	Can you BLANK cleaning up this mess?

FOLD

	A	B	C	D	E
1	take it easy	over my head	on the ball	give me a hand	Hang in there
2	stay in touch	I'm beat	miss the boat	call it a day	piece of cake
3	on the ball	hang in there	take it easy	over my head	call it a day
4	give me a hand	piece of cake	miss the boat	I'm beat	stay in touch
5	over my head	call it a day	stay in touch	hang in there	piece of cake
6	I'm beat	take it easy	on the ball	miss the boat	give me a hand