

Idioms | Lesson 14

for a song | a bitter pill | draw the line | off one's trolley | hear straight from the horse's mouth

Example Dialogue

Lin : Have you heard, Amy? Sam got a new car!

Amy : Really?

Lin : I heard it straight from the horse's mouth!

Amy : Okay, then, what's all the fuss about?

Lin : He crashed his last one, the one he bought for a song. But this new car is very expensive!

Amy : So what car is it?

Lin : A brand new Mercedes!


Amy : He's off his trolley! How can he possibly afford that?

Lin : I have no idea. Everyone on campus is talking about it.

Amy : I guess this draws the line. Now he is one of the rich and we are the poor.

Lin : (*chuckle*) Yeah, I guess. It's a bitter pill to be poor!

Amy : True! (*chuckle*)

 **Try to figure out the meaning of these idioms.**

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Example Dialogue

A few years ago, I went to my high-school prom. A lot of people told me I was **off my trolley** when I told them that I had bought a dress from a second hand (thrift) store. People who **heard** about it **straight from the horse's mouth** then went on to tell everyone else. It was **a bitter pill** to hear my friends telling me things like: "You must be joking" or "You should have gotten a dress sewn."

To be honest, I bought the dress **for a song**, and my mom just helped me tailor it. In the end, I looked great. In fact, I looked much better than some of the girls who bought expensive designer pieces.

Sometimes you just have to **draw the line** between your opinion and everyone else's.



Fill in the blanks with the correct idioms (in the correct form) to complete the dialogue.

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Definitions

for a song | very cheap(ly)

*I bought this mp3 player years ago **for a song** and it still works.*

*No one else has stumbled upon it, so I picked it up **for a song**.*

a bitter pill | something unpleasant that must be accepted

*Moving to another city was **a bitter pill**; however, I was happy to get a promotion.*

*Losing that game was **a bitter pill** for him to swallow.*

draw the/a line | set/decide a limit for something

*There is a need to **draw the line** between work and personal life.*

*I **draw the line** when it comes to lending money to friends!*

off one's trolley (BrE) / rocker (AmE) | crazy or insane

*Did he just eat a spider?! He's **off his trolley**!*

*Have you gone completely **off your trolley**? You can't say that in public!*

hear something straight from the horse's mouth | hear information from a dependable or authoritative source

*I **heard it straight from the horse's mouth**: Elizabeth is pregnant.*

Make sure you can understand the meaning of these idioms.

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Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct *idioms* (in the correct form) to complete the dialogue.

1 | I bought an old table from a garage sale _____. It will look just like new once I've renewed it.

2 | I'm telling the truth! I _____.

3 | I got this tea _____, but it tastes amazing!

4 | Sometimes people need to _____ between what is real and what is fiction.

5 | The research helped scientists _____ between these two swan species.

6 | Losing all my friends was _____.

7 | She must be _____ wearing flip-flops in winter!

8 | Sally has a new boyfriend! I _____, so it's true.

9 | Our break-up was _____ for me. I'm still getting over it.

10 | I'm probably _____. I thought I just saw a huge dog, but it was just a pile of garbage.



APPLICATION: Create your own sentences using these idioms.

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 **Exercise**

Fill in the blanks with the correct **idioms** (in a correct form) to complete the dialogue.

(Hannah and Jason are discussing the latest news.)

Hannah : Hi!

Jason : Hi, Hannah! You look great! Did you get a haircut?

Hannah : It's _____ : you never notice the right thing!

Jason : Sorry...

Hannah : It's my new coat. I got it _____. It looks expensive, doesn't it?

Jason : It does.

Hannah : Enough about my coat! Did you hear? Charlie is starring in a sitcom!

Jason : No way!

Hannah : I _____!

Jason : I don't believe you! He's _____! He has *never* done any acting before.

Hannah : He may be talented. I haven't seen the show yet.

Jason : It's so hard to imagine him acting!

Hannah : Well, we'll just have to _____ between the real Charlie and his character.

(chuckle)



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