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# **AMERICAN IDIOMS IN CONTEXT**

Od autora.

Materiał zawarty w niniejszej książce obejmuje około trzystu idiomów – głównie amerykańskich. Idiomy wplecione zostały w dwadzieścia trzy teksty o różnej tematyce. W każdym tekście znajdziemy co najmniej dziesięć wyrażen idiomatyczny. W niektórych przypadka o kilka więcej. Każdy tekst opatrzony został nie tylko objaśnieniami zarówno po angielsku jak i po polsku, ale również praktycznymi ćwiczeniami na zastosowanie omówionych w danym rozdziale idiomów.

Na końcu książki znajduje się klucz do ćwiczeń i lista zastosowanych wyrażen.

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## 1. JOHN BROWN

John Brown, a *respectable* pensioner, was watching the news again. And again he said aloud: it really **takes the cake**. The news presented was so *unnerving* that his plan to **hit the sack** early that night was sure to fail. The way the government *larked about* was simply *unbearable*. That was **the last straw** for him and he decided to call the Prime Minister's office. He had a clear idea of what to say to the Prime Minister. He wanted to tell him that the method to *remedy* the economic problems the country was experiencing was very wrong. In his opinion the *entire* government should **go back to the drawing board** and *devise* a different economic policy. The Prime Minister's claims that in terms of development, the country is getting **the best of both worlds**, John Brown found *utterly* outrageous and that was exactly what he was going to tell them.

The call was answered by a young man, as John guessed from the *timbre* of his voice. John Brown right away demanded to be put through to the head of the government. To his surprise and utter amazement he got a blunt "no" *upfront*. He was informed that the Prime Minister was busy and by no means would find the time to talk to a regular citizen. Although unexpected, John Brown was not going to let go at it. Most probably the young man thought the *intrusive* caller would **bite the bullet** and would end the conversation at that. However, the young man did not understand that John Brown was not to be discouraged so easily. He felt he was **getting the short end** and was certainly determined to make the youth understand that John Brown should not be regarded as **a dime a dozen**. He thought very high of himself, which meant he demanded to be treated *accordingly*. The young man was pretty sure he was **on the ball** and doing the right thing but John Brown thought just the opposite.

All in all, the conversation that followed made John's blood pressure rise considerably. When his wife saw him she immediately called an ambulance. All John remembered was a doctor *bending over* him and shouting: **hang in there!** Then he woke up in the local hospital. There he had more than enough time to think about the recent events. He **wrapped his head around it**. The conclusion seemed quite clear: calling the Prime Minister may be *detrimental* to one's health.

### VOCABULARY

*Respectable* – szacowny

**Take the cake** – *to be worse than anything else you can imagine* - wprawiać w osłupienie; przechodzić ludzkie pojęcie

*Unnerving* – wyprawdzający z równowagi

**Hit the sack** - *to retire for the evening and go to sleep* – iść do łóżka, iść spać.

*Lark about* – wyprawiać hece

*Unbearable* – nie do zniesienia

**That's the last straw** - *your patience is wearing thin or you are completely out of patience with something or someone* – kropla, która przelewa czarę goryczy.

*Remedy* – uzdrowić

*Entire* – cały

**Go back to the drawing board** - *to begin all over because something wasn't done right the first time* – zaczynać wszystko od początku, jeszcze raz.

*Devise* – wymyślić

**The best of both worlds** - *an ideal situation or scenario* – idealna sytuacja w różnych aspektach.

*Utterly* – całkowicie, zupełnie

*Timbre* – tembr, brzmienie

*Upfront* – otwarty, wyraźny

*Intrusive* – namolny

**Bite the bullet** – *to accept that something inevitable is about to happen, usually something negative* – stawić czemuś czoło, zacisnąć zęby

**Get the short end** – *be treated unfairly* – zostać niesprawiedliwie potraktowanym

**A dime a dozen** - *something or someone is common and not unique* – na kopy, na pęczki.

*Accordingly* – odpowiednio

**On the ball** - *you are doing what you are supposed to be doing and you are doing a good job* – mieć łeb na karku, ogarniać co się dzieje dookoła.

*Bend over* – nachylać się nad

**Hang in there** – *to keep going, keep moving forward and to not give up with things get difficult* – nie poddawaj się, trzymaj się

**Wrap your head around it** - *you are taking the time to understand something or you have already taken the time to understand something* – dobrze coś rozumieć; przemyśleć.

*Detrimental* – szkodliwy

**PRACTICE**

**I. Fill in the blanks with the right idiom from the text:**

1. He said he was going to \_\_\_\_\_ because he had an exhausting day.
2. I don't believe he's really doing it. It just \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I suggest that you \_\_\_\_\_ and then you'll understand why we took the actions.
4. If you ask me what the situation is like, I'll tell you that we're getting \_\_\_\_\_. You should congratulate us on our performance.
5. Our sales team is \_\_\_\_\_. I don't think we could find a better one.
6. She is so disappointed because she \_\_\_\_\_ again.
7. She said his flirting was \_\_\_\_\_ and she decided to file for a divorce.
8. There was nothing else to do but to \_\_\_\_\_ and pretend that we were not really affected.
9. We won't have problems selecting a good candidate. There are \_\_\_\_\_ of them.
10. You have to \_\_\_\_\_ because the plan you presented is full of mistakes and completely useless.

**II. Choose the best reaction:**

**1. He looks depressed.**

- a) He's on the ball.
- b) He hit the sack.
- c) He got the short end.
- d) He wrapped his head around it.

**2. How are you doing in your new job?**

- a) Hang in there.
- b) I go back to the drawing board.
- c) I wrapped my head around it.
- d) I'm on the ball.

**3. How many options do we have?**

- a) A dime a dozen.
- b) Getting the short end.
- c) On the ball.
- d) The last straw.

**4. I don't think the plan can be improved.**

- a) It's the best of both worlds.
- b) So we'd better go back to the drawing board.
- c) It takes the cake.
- d) We hit the sack.

**5. I think I'm dying.**

- a) Take the cake.
- b) Bite the bullet.
- c) Get the short end.
- d) Hang in there!

**6. It looks hard.**

- a) Bite the bullet.
- b) Hit the sack.
- c) Get the short end.
- d) Wrap your head around it.

**7. What do you think about her performance?**

- a) That's the last straw.
- b) Get the best of both worlds.
- c) It really takes the cake.
- d) A dime a dozen.

**8. What do you think we can do with this problem?**

- a) Hit the sack.
- b) Just bite the bullet.
- c) Take the cake.
- d) Be on the ball.

**9. What's your evaluation of his performance?**

- a) A dime a dozen.
- b) The best of both worlds.
- c) Getting the short end.
- d) Hang in there.

**10. Why were you so harsh on him for the mistake?**

- a) It was the last straw.
- b) We hit the sack.
- c) He got the short end.
- d) He went back to the drawing board.

**III. Transform the following sentences using the right idiom. Make sure their meaning remains the same.**

1. After he committed another offence the police lost patience and arrested him.

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2. I don't think the way you treat her in this office is right.

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3. I'm afraid we have to start all over again.

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4. It's high time you went to sleep, kids.

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5. She had to accept the failure and live with it.

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6. She's doing great in her new position.

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7. The situation we are in is just great.

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8. The things that he is doing are just unbelievable.

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9. There are a lot of such products.

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10. Think hard and you'll solve the problem.

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