

## Analyze Idioms

An **idiom** is an expression that has a meaning that differs from the usual meaning of the individual words. If you come across an idiom that you don't understand, you can use strategies to help you figure out the meaning.

Here is a sentence that has an idiom in it:

Sam didn't finish his project on time because he had too many irons in the fire.

If you were to draw a picture of what the words literally mean, you might draw a fire with a lot of iron bars sticking out of it.

Then you might think it out this way:

*"Irons in the fire" does not mean that someone has a fire with iron bars in it. When I think about the sentence, I see that Sam wasn't able to do something he was supposed to do. Maybe he was too busy. It looks as if Sam couldn't finish his project because he had too many other things to do. So "irons in the fire" must mean "things that need to be done."*





**A** Draw a picture of what the words in each idiom literally mean.

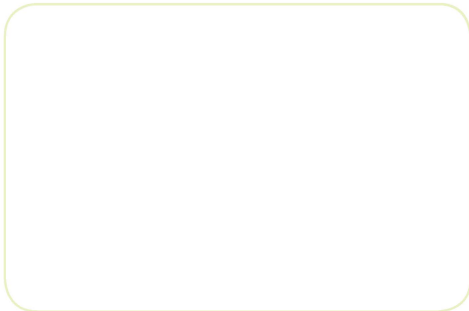
1. under the weather



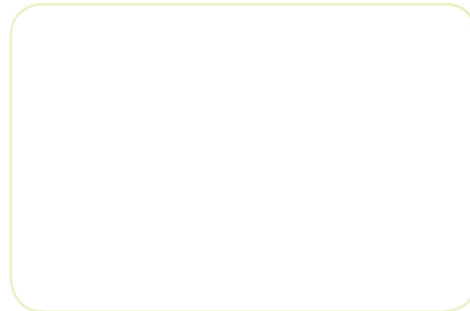
2. a fish out of water



3. apple of her eye



4. get his ducks in a row



**B** Now write what you think each idiom from above means as it is used in the sentence.

1. Roy didn't go to work because he was under the weather. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. I couldn't speak Spanish, so I felt like a fish out of water at the Cinco de Mayo party. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. I felt free to ask for anything I wanted from my aunt because I was the apple of her eye. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Thomas got to class early so that he could get his ducks in a row. \_\_\_\_\_

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