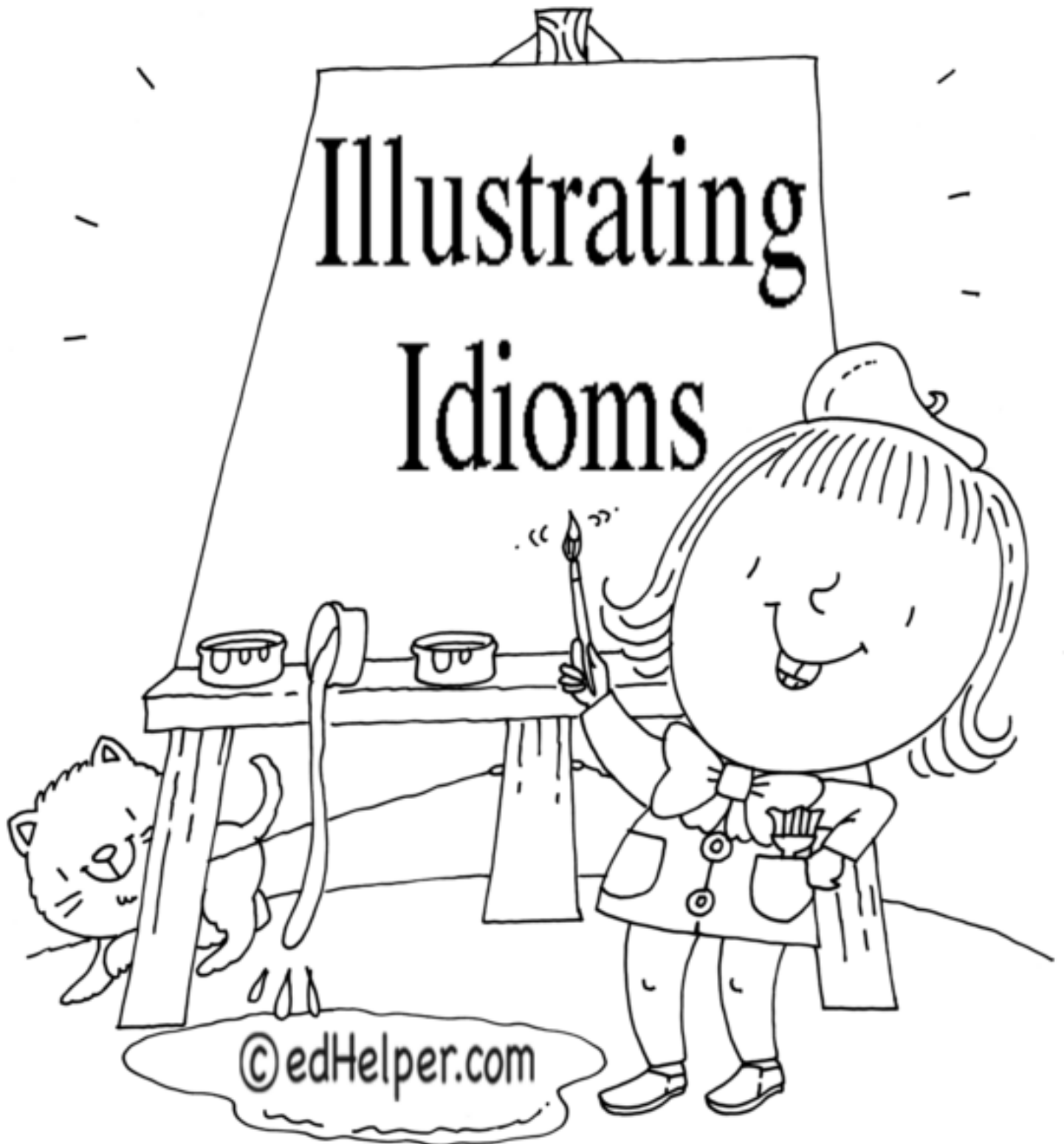


Illustrating Idioms





There's a "frog in my throat." Would you "give me a hand"? Do these phrases have meanings you don't understand? We won't "go overboard" with a long explanation, but idioms are often sprinkled into our conversation.



An idiom is an expression that may not make good sense when you take the phrases literally, but don't take offense. These expressions don't exactly mean what they propose to say; they express common sayings in a different way.

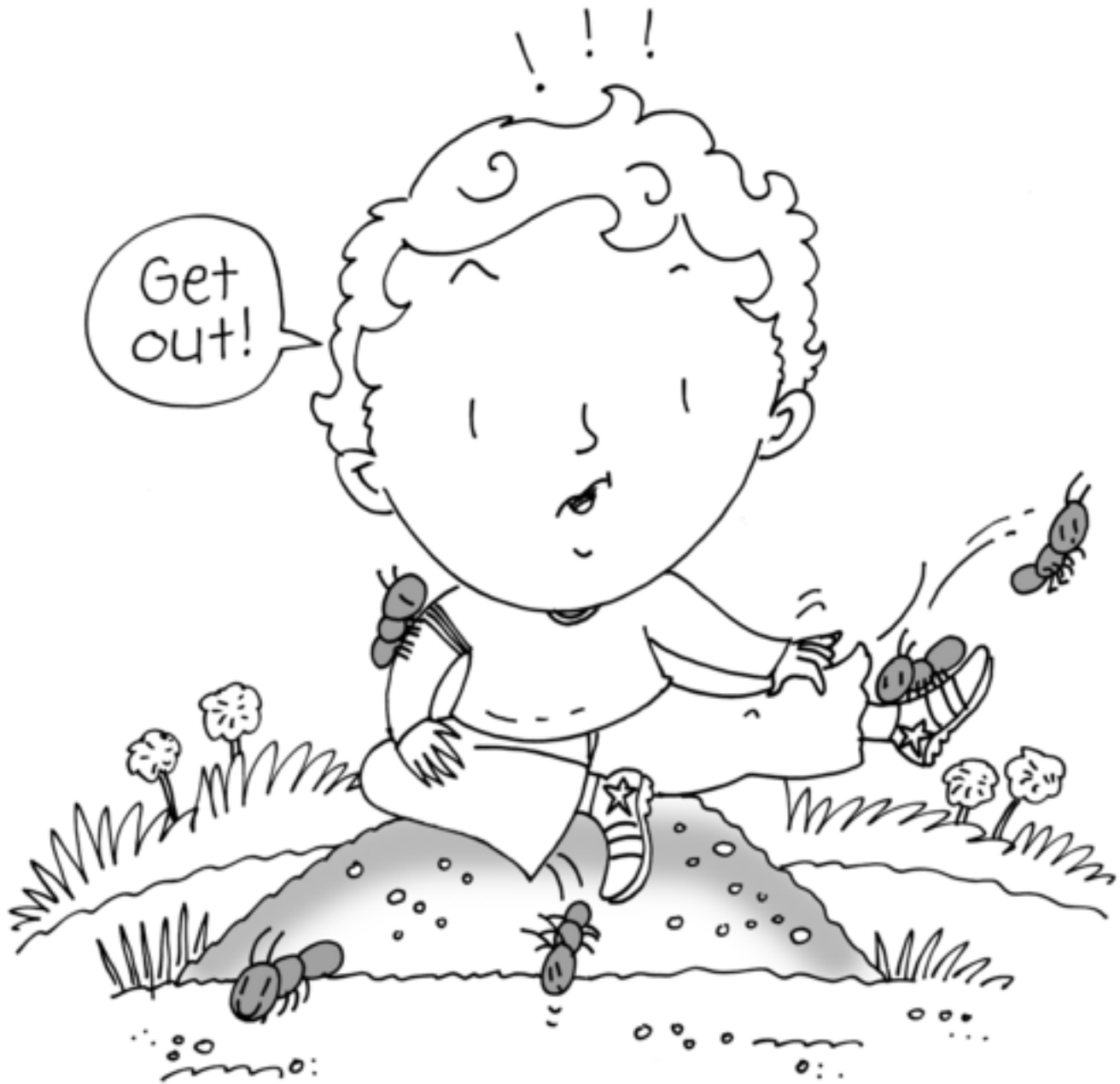


When you say, “face the music,” you don’t stand in place in front of a band that plays right in your face.

“Face the music” is an idiom meaning that you accept the results of your actions, yet your honor you’ve kept.



“Playing music by ear” doesn’t mean your ears play.
It means playing music from memory with no notes in the way.
“I’m all ears” doesn’t mean that you have many ears on your head.
It means that you are listening. You want to hear what’s being said.



The phrase “I am all thumbs” doesn’t mean you have thumbs everywhere. It means you think you’re clumsy, so slow down and take care.
“Ants in your pants” means you’re excited and that you can’t keep still. It doesn’t mean that you’ve been sitting a long time on an anthill.



“Beating around the bush” isn’t beating a bush that’s near; it means that you are talking but not making things clear.
“Getting your ducks in a row” doesn’t mean ducks quacking in a line. It means that if you get organized, then things will turn out fine.



Idioms are common phrases that many people use in polite conversation. They're not said to confuse. Idioms are "a piece of cake," which mean's that they're easy, even though sometimes the idioms can be a bit "cheesy."



So if you hear an idiom like “playing second fiddle,” you should know that it’s an idiom and that it’s not a riddle. Idioms are common phrases that can be “cool” or a “real breeze.” So “go bananas” when using idioms. You can use idioms with ease.

1. What is an idiom?
 - a. a type of profanity
 - b. a common expression that is not taken literally
 - c. an unanswered question
 - d. a riddle

Answer: _____

2. What does the idiom "face the music" mean?
 - a. You accept the results of your actions.
 - b. You are standing in front of a band.
 - c. You are standing in front of a radio.
 - d. You have your face in a sheet of music.

Answer: _____

3. What does the idiom "I'm all thumbs" mean?
 - a. I have extra thumbs.
 - b. I have four thumbs.
 - c. I am clumsy.
 - d. I have no fingers.

Answer: _____

4. What does the idiom "Get your ducks in a row" mean?
 - a. Get four ducks and put them in a row.
 - b. Row a boat out to the ducks in the lake.
 - c. Plant a row of duckweed.
 - d. Get yourself organized.

Answer: _____

5. If something is "a piece of cake" what does it mean?

- a. It is round.
- b. It is soft.
- c. It is easy.
- d. It is sweet.

Answer: _____

6. What do you think the idiom "It's cool" means?

- a. really neat
- b. freezing
- c. not very nice
- d. mean

Answer: _____