

## CAN YOU WALK ON EGGS?



**LEVEL:** Grades 4-6

**SUBJECTS:** Language Arts,  
Dramatic Arts, and Health

**AZ ACADEMIC STANDARDS:** LS-R5, LS-D4,  
PO 2,

### **MATERIALS**

Copy for each student:  
*Best Egg Idiom Phrases,*  
*Self Evaluation Rubric and*  
*Questions*

### **VOCABULARY**

idiom, phrase, image,  
dramatize, insult, literal,  
culture, figurative,  
expressions

### **RELATED LESSONS**

Which Came First, The  
Chicken or the Egg?  
The Day an Egg Solved  
The Mystery of The Cell.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

“Don’t be chicken”! We’re  
going to “let the feathers  
fly” as we learn how to  
speak and write more  
colorfully.

The new word to learn is  
**IDIOM:** An idiom is a  
clever way of expressing a  
thought or feeling. An  
idiom is a way of creating  
an image in the listener’s  
mind to expand the  
communication process.  
Example: “She pulled the  
information out of her  
head”, if we heard this  
sentence **LITERALLY**  
(*word for word*) we would  
be expecting to see a  
woman pulling paper  
covered with information  
out of the side of her head,  
like off of a roll of toilet  
paper. However, if we

hear this **FIGURATIVELY** (*like a  
mental image*) we would  
understand the woman knew a lot  
of information and she could  
share it without much effort.

English is the language most of  
us speak the easiest. However,  
the English language can be very  
confusing and even complicated,  
especially to people who speak  
other languages.

Idioms are one of the most difficult  
parts of the language; it even  
seems difficult trying to explain.  
However, when we understand  
about idioms we can be better  
friends and neighbors to people  
and schoolmates who are learning  
English. Plus, when we go to a  
foreign country and have trouble  
communicating we can remember  
that they also have idioms we  
must learn.

Here’s another situation: you’re  
telling a friend that they should  
“walk on eggs”, and they’re  
looking at you like you’re crazy.  
Why would anybody make a mess  
like that and waste all that food?  
But, that’s not what you mean, is  
it? No, you mean that you want  
them to be careful how they act in  
that situation or with those people.

### **GETTING STARTED**

The game in this lesson is similar  
to Charades, so the classroom  
may need to be re-arranged. Cut  
up an extra copy of the student  
handout *Best Egg Idiom Phrases*  
for game pieces.

### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

Figurative idiomatic  
phrases are some of the  
most colorful and difficult  
parts of any language.  
The words of an idiom,  
when used together,  
have a different meaning  
than when the words are  
used individually. While  
these phrases may be  
colorful and dramatic,  
they can also be  
confusing. This lesson  
takes the subject of the  
Arizona Grown Egg and  
has fun with popular egg  
idioms.

### **OBJECTIVES**

- To familiarize students with Arizona Grown fruits, vegetables, and eggs in an enjoyable fashion
- To introduce the vocabulary and concept of **IDIOMS**
- To become aware some people have difficulty learning a new language because of idioms
- To have fun with language

### **ESTIMATED TEACHING TIME**

1-2 hours, depending  
on how creatively the  
students respond.

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## PROCEDURES

### Session 1.

Introduce the lesson by using the *Supporting Information* to identify idioms.

Distribute the *Best Egg Idiom Phrases worksheet* to students. Read the “Eggs are Egg-cellent!” story. It contains lots of idioms. Then discuss what they mean. (All of the idioms are in quotation marks). Tell the students to listen carefully while the story is read aloud. When they hear an idiom in the story they should put a check mark on the worksheet.

After the story, discuss the idioms and how they made everybody feel. Have students discuss the literal and the figurative meanings of the idioms. Are there some idioms that are insulting or that could hurt people’s feeling? Is the communication better when an idiom is used?

Have the students write a brief explanation of each idiom on the worksheet.

### Session 2.

Introduce the Game:

Each group of 2-3 students can select an idiom and plan together how to dramatize either the literal or the figurative meaning. To do this the group must agree on what the idiom means. Then they can either:

1. Present by pantomiming the literal (actual) words, (no talking) or
2. Present by pantomiming the figurative phrase. (no talking)

Other class members will observe and try to interpret the dramatizations. All of the phrases are in the story and on the worksheet.

## EVALUATION OPTIONS

1. Teacher evaluation of *Best Egg Idiom Phrases*, *Student self-evaluation Rubric* and *Questions*

2. Ask students - “What is an idiom?” Group of words or a phrase that adds color to our language and helps listeners visualize the event or subject we are talking about.

## EXTENSIONS AND VARIATIONS

1. Investigate other languages and cultures for popular idioms.
2. Students can query family members and neighbors for favorite idioms.

## RESOURCES

Education sites include:  
University of Illinois Extension Program

[www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/eggs](http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/eggs)

Education World

[www.education-world.com](http://www.education-world.com)

ThinkQuest

<http://tq/junior.thinkquest.org>

Pride Unlimited

[www.pride-unlimited.com](http://www.pride-unlimited.com)

Purdue University

[www.owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/esl](http://www.owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/esl)

Information about consumer safety, egg production, and business include:

Presidents Council on Food Safety - Egg Safety

Educating individuals

throughout the production to consumption continuum.

[www.foodsafety.gov/~fsg/cegs](http://www.foodsafety.gov/~fsg/cegs)

gs

United States Department of Agriculture

[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)

One of the most comprehensive information sources is:

Egg Nutrition Center

An all-encompassing center of research, safety, business, marketing for the egg industry and the consumer.

[www.enc-online.org](http://www.enc-online.org)

In Arizona be sure to check these websites:

State of Arizona Department of Agriculture - ARIZONA GROWN Program, 1688 W. Adams, Phoenix, AZ 85007 (602)542-4373

[www.agriculture.state.az.us](http://www.agriculture.state.az.us)

Hickman’s Egg Ranch  
Their website has some interactive kid activities. Arizona can be proud of this homegrown business.

[www.hickmanseggs.com](http://www.hickmanseggs.com)

## CREDITS

All of the websites listed above were helpful in the development of this unit. The new Harcourt TROPHIES Timeless Treasures (Teacher’s Edition) Theme 2, my district’s new reading program was especially helpful in providing an easy to understand definition of an idiom. While there are many university sites on the Internet that have excellent ESL language resources about idioms, none define this enigma of language called the IDIOM as well as Harcourt.

Inspiration for the story comes from the hoards of starving students that have passed through my classes. The only thing that saves us all is humor.

## EDUCATORS’ NOTES

<b>CURRICULUM DESIGN</b>
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## Interpret Best Egg Idiom Phrases

### Idiom Phrase

### What does it mean?

I'm *walking on eggs*.

That man is *hard-boiled*.

He's *a good egg*.

It's not bad to be an *egghead*.

I've *got egg on my face*.

Grandma is *fragile as an egg*.

That *stinks like rotten eggs*.

Don't *egg them on*.

*Last one in is a rotten egg*.

*Don't put all your eggs in one basket*.

*Happiness is egg shaped*.

*Don't be a chicken*.

*Let the feathers fly*.

*She's madder than a wet hen*.

*As sure as eggs*.

I'm *a good egg*.

# Teacher's Key: Interpret Best Egg Idiom Phrases

## Idiom Phrase

## What does it mean?

**I'm "walking on eggs".** *Be careful what you do and/or say because circumstances are critical and unsure; as if you walk on eggs and they break.*

**The man is "hard-boiled".** *The man doesn't show emotions or feelings.*

**He's "a good egg".** *He's nice, fair, dependable, and likeable.*

**It's not bad to be "an egghead".** *An egghead is a person who likes to think and learn; those are good qualities to have.*

**I've "got egg on my face".** *I'm embarrassed.*

**Grandma is "fragile as an egg".** *An egg can't be bumped around or it will break; we must be extra careful with Grandma so she doesn't get hurt.*

**That "stinks like rotten eggs".** *There is a situation, or a story, that is very bad, it's as bad as the smell of rotten eggs, and that is terrible!*

**Don't "egg them on".** *Sometimes there's a problem because troublemakers "egged-on" (challenged, dared, persuaded) somebody to do a bad thing.*

**"Last one in is a rotten egg".** *This is a dare or challenge, meaning if you're the last one then you're bad like a stinky rotten egg.*

**"Don't put all your eggs in one basket".** *Be careful how you plan things, it's good to have a backup plan, rather than putting everything (all resources or hopes) on one thing.*

**"Happiness is egg shaped".** *Happiness can be difficult to explain or describe. An egg shape is different from basic geometry shapes; however, like an egg, happiness is healthy and good for you.*

**"Don't be a chicken".** *This is a taunt or dare comparing a hesitant person to a chicken. A chicken scares easily and usually runs away.*

**"Let the feathers fly".** *When chickens run and get excited feathers fly off of them, when people have an argument that's going fast and furious it can be compared to chickens flying, losing their feathers, and sometimes getting hurt.*

**She's "madder than a wet hen".** *Chickens don't like to get in water and when wet they act huffy and mad. Sometimes people act the same way.*

**"As sure as eggs".** *Eggs are a dependable food source. We can depend on eggs having a certain structure and healthy content. You can compare good things to eggs.*

**I'm a "good egg".** *If I am a "good egg" then I am nice, helpful, likeable, and good to have around, just like the basic food source of an egg.*

## **Eggs are Egg-cellent!**

In a school, in a town in Arizona, there was a classroom of hungry children. One morning it seemed that everything went wrong and nobody had time to eat breakfast. That means that when they got to school there were a lot of grumpy kids. Now none of them were really “bad eggs,” but some of the boys were causing trouble by “egging on” the little kids to misbehave. Well, soon “the feathers were ready to fly.” Ah-oh, the playground monitor shows up and she’s “madder than a wet hen.” Finally the bell rang and the little kids yelled, “last one in is a rotten egg.” Well, things didn’t get much better in the classroom. The teacher began talking about food. She said it was important that we knew about the food that is grown right here in Arizona. It sounds great! Whenever we buy Arizona Grown food we not only get really fresh food, we also help the economy of our state. So we should look for food that says Arizona Grown. Ugh! Doesn’t the teacher know how hungry we are? All this talk about food “stinks like rotten eggs.” Don’t get me wrong. We were trying to “be good eggs”, but it was really hard because our stomachs were shinking and we were getting “fragile as an egg.” Oh My! The teacher talked about delicious Arizona Grown Eggs. She said they are so rich in protein and good vitamins; things that are essential for our bodies. The whites are so white and the yolks are so gold....o-o-o. How could she talk like that? Is she “hard boiled” or what? The Arizona Grown eggs come from Hickman’s Egg Ranch near Glendale. The Hickman family “put all their eggs in one basket” and started their business in 1944. Great! Bet their kids never went hungry. They always had eggs to eat and they were happy. Yeah, that’s because “happiness is egg shaped.”

R-R-Ring-g-g...OH! It was perfect! The lunch bell rang. Some of us just lost control and yelled, “come on “you egg heads,” “don’t be a chicken,” let’s get some food!!! Yeah, you’re right, in fact, we had “egg on our faces.” We were sent to the back of the line. Success at last! We finally made it into the lunchroom and guess what, we were having Breakfast for Lunch. We had delicious Arizona Grown eggs to eat. Great! “As sure as eggs,” after griping about having to learn about Arizona Grown Eggs, we’re getting eggs to eat.

Wow! These Arizona Grown eggs taste good! In fact, we all agree that the eggs are EGG-CELLENT!

## Can You Walk On Eggs?



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Work: \_\_\_\_\_

	Criteria				Points
	1	2	3	4	
<b>Creativity</b>	I don't like to perform. I did not understand the idioms.	It was okay. I'm not comfortable performing. I kind of understand about idioms.	It was fun. The charades were fun and I understand about idioms.	I enjoyed the entire lesson. I understand the concept of idioms.	—
<b>Presentation Skills</b>	Very little eye contact. No use of hand gestures or body movements to illustrate idioms.	Some eye contact. Small hand gestures or body movements were used to illustrate idioms.	Very good eye contact with audience. Good hand and body movements were used.	Excellent eye contact with audience. Hand gestures and body movements were used effectively.	—
<b>Team Member</b>	I didn't help my team at all.	I helped my team some. I was off task a lot.	I did everything I could to help my team and demonstrate the idioms.	I enjoyed this activity and helped my team a lot.	—
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					—
<b>Total---&gt;</b>					—

**Teacher Comments:**