### A Comprehensive Guide to Idioms: Understanding and Speaking English Like a Native



The 80 Best American Expressions: Idioms for Understanding and Speaking English by Alice Scordato

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Idioms are an essential part of the English language. They are expressions that have a figurative meaning that is different from the literal meaning of the words that make them up. Idioms can be tricky to understand, but they are also a great way to add color and personality to your speech. In this article, we will provide a comprehensive guide to idioms, including how to understand them, how to use them in your own speech, and a list of common idioms and their meanings.

#### What are Idioms?

An idiom is a phrase or expression that has a figurative meaning that is different from the literal meaning of the words that make it up. For example, the idiom "kick the bucket" literally means to kick a bucket, but it figuratively

means to die. Idioms are often used to add color and personality to speech, and they can also be used to express emotions or ideas in a concise and effective way.

#### Why are Idioms Important?

Idioms are important because they are a part of the English language. They are used by native speakers every day, and they can be found in all forms of writing, from literature to journalism. If you want to speak and understand English like a native speaker, it is important to be familiar with idioms.

#### **How to Understand Idioms**

Understanding idioms can be tricky, but there are a few things you can do to make it easier. First, try to look at the idiom as a whole. What is the overall meaning of the expression? Once you have a general idea of the meaning, you can start to break down the idiom into its individual words. What do the words mean literally? How do they come together to create the figurative meaning? Finally, try to think of a situation where you could use the idiom.

Here is an example of how to understand the idiom "kick the bucket":

Overall meaning: to die

Literal meaning: to kick a bucket

Figurative meaning: to die

Situation where you could use the idiom: "My grandfather kicked the bucket last week."

**How to Use Idioms in Your Own Speech** 

Once you understand idioms, you can start to use them in your own speech. Here are a few tips:

- Use idioms sparingly. Idioms can be fun, but if you use them too much, your speech will sound unnatural.
- Use idioms correctly. Make sure you understand the meaning of an idiom before you use it. There is nothing worse than using an idiom incorrectly!
- Use idioms to express yourself. Idioms can be a great way to add color and personality to your speech. Use them to express your emotions or ideas in a concise and effective way.

#### **Common Idioms and Their Meanings**

Here is a list of common idioms and their meanings:

- A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush It is better to have something certain than to risk it for something better.
- Actions speak louder than words What you do is more important than what you say.
- All bark and no bite Someone who talks tough but does nothing.
- An apple a day keeps the doctor away Eating healthy foods can help you stay healthy.
- As easy as pie Something that is very easy to do.

Idioms are an essential part of the English language. They can be tricky to understand, but they are also a great way to add color and personality to your speech. In this article, we have provided a comprehensive guide to

idioms, including how to understand them, how to use them in your own speech, and a list of common idioms and their meanings. We hope this article has helped you to improve your understanding of idioms and your ability to use them in your own speech.



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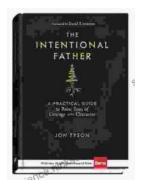
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