



PART 8  
*(30 minutes)*

**BELL Beyond's**  
**ONLINE TEACHER COURSE**  
**2018/19**

## 8 – Talk like a Native Speaker

In this final section, we will give you some hints and tips on how to improve your own English language, and how to talk like a native English speaker.

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First –

### IDIOMS

**IDIOMS** are expressions or phrases that don't mean exactly what the words say. Instead, they have a hidden meaning which all native speakers will understand.

**IDIOMS** are an important part of everyday English language and native speakers use them in many conversations every day.

In order to sound like a native speaker, it is necessary that you familiarise yourself with at least the most common **IDIOMS** in the English language.

Unfortunately, as **IDIOMS** don't mean exactly what the words say (they are not literal phrases), you must learn and revise the meaning of each separate idiom.

## MATCH THE IDIOM TO ITS MEANING

### IDIOM

### MEANING

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Beat around the bush                | a. Rarely                      |
| 2. To have butterflies in your stomach | b. To joke with someone        |
| 3. Break a leg                         | c. Something that is very easy |
| 4. A piece of cake                     | d. To not give up              |
| 5. To feel under the weather           | e. To be nervous               |
| 6. To pull someone's leg               | f. To calm down                |
| 7. To bite the bullet                  | g. Good luck                   |
| 8. Once in a blue moon                 | h. To feel sick                |
| 9. To hang in there                    | i. Avoid saying what you mean  |
| 10. To pull yourself together          | j. To get something done       |

Next –

## EXTREME ADJECTIVES

In both spoken and written English, native speakers rarely use the word “very”.

For example, a native speaker would never say or write:

“Yesterday I was *very hungry* so I bought a pizza. Unfortunately, the pizza tasted *very bad* and I was *very angry*.”

While this sentence makes sense, and is grammatically correct, it sounds very unnatural to a native speaker.

Instead of always using the word “very”, we can use **EXTREME ADJECTIVES**.

For example:

very hungry = **starving**

very bad = **awful**

very angry = **furious**

Therefore, we can change the first example to –

“Yesterday I was **starving** so I bought a pizza. Unfortunately, the pizza tasted **awful** and I was **furious**.”

This sentence sounds much more natural to a native speaker.

## MATCH THE IDIOM TO ITS MEANING

### ORIGINAL

### EXTREME ADJECTIVE

- |                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 11. Very tired       | k. Fantastic   |
| 12. Very happy       | l. Tiny        |
| 13. Very cold        | m. Fascinating |
| 14. Very small       | n. Terrifying  |
| 15. Very good        | o. Filthy      |
| 16. Very dirty       | p. Exhausted   |
| 17. Very hot         | q. Boiling     |
| 18. Very big         | r. Delighted   |
| 19. Very scary       | s. Enormous    |
| 20. Very interesting | t. Freezing    |

ANSWERS: 11 – p / 12 – r / 13 – t / 14 – l / 15 – k / 16 – o / 17 – q / 18 – s / 19 – n / 20 – m

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**PRACTICE** adding **IDIOMS** and **EXTREME ADJECTIVES** to your spoken English language – we know you will do a *fantastic* job, *break a leg!*

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