


Lesson 19

Idioms, Adages, and Proverbs

LAFS.5.L.3.5b: Recognize and explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, and proverbs.

 **Introduction** English, like all languages, is full of odd expressions and old sayings. When you learn their meanings, you'll find that much of what you read becomes more interesting.

- An **idiom** is a common saying with a meaning different from that of its individual words.

Example	Meaning
Ivan looked at the wobbly wheel on my bike. "That will be a piece of cake to fix!" he said.	very easy

- **Adages** and **proverbs** are well-known sayings that have been used for a long time. Proverbs usually give practical advice about ways to behave and live.

Example	Meaning
Adage: "I'll help you repair the wheel because two heads are better than one. "	It's easier for two people to solve a problem than for one person to do so.
Proverb: "Let's fix that wheel now. After all, a stitch in time saves nine. "	It's best to solve a small problem now before it turns into a bigger problem later.

Guided Practice

Read the passage. Underline each idiom, adage, or proverb. Then, above each phrase you underlined, tell what you think it means. One has been done for you.

feeling bad

I was down in the dumps when my new bike broke. The bike had

cost an arm and a leg, and it had taken me forever and a day to save

the money to buy it. I hoped that Ivan could fix my bike. He spends

day and night repairing things and says that practice makes perfect.

That's why he can fix almost anything. When Ivan fixed my bike,

I was on cloud nine!

HINT If the literal meaning of a phrase doesn't make sense, use context clues to help you understand what the words might mean.

Independent Practice

For numbers 1–4, answer the questions.

1 Read these sentences.

Ivan and his dad like to fix things. Ivan said, "I guess the apple doesn't fall far from the tree."

What does the underlined adage mean in the second sentence?

- A** Ivan and his dad have similar interests and abilities.
- B** Ivan and his dad spend their time together fixing things.
- C** Ivan and his dad are slowly becoming very similar people.
- D** Ivan and his dad climb trees to pick and toss down apples.

2 Read this sentence.

I was afraid to tell Mom that I broke the TV, but I know that honesty is the best policy.

What does the underlined proverb mean in this sentence?

- A** Telling the truth is difficult to do.
- B** Telling the truth is the right thing to do.
- C** Honesty does not come naturally to most people.
- D** Honesty causes problems for people who are close to each other.

3 Read this sentence.

Mom hit the roof when I told her that I broke the TV.

What does the underlined idiom mean in this sentence?

- A** Mom thought that the TV had fallen off the roof.
- B** Mom jumped happily about the TV being broken.
- C** Mom thought the story of the broken TV was a joke.
- D** Mom was angry when she heard that the TV was broken.

4 Read these sentences.

Ivan fixed our TV, so I am planning a surprise party to thank him. If you see Ivan, don't let the cat out of the bag.

What does the underlined adage mean in the second sentence?

- A** Nobody else should plan another party to thank Ivan for fixing the TV.
- B** Nobody should tell Ivan about the party being secretly planned for him.
- C** Only those people specifically invited to the party should come to the party.
- D** People should keep the cat away from the party because Ivan is allergic to cats.