

IDIOMS: ENVIRONMENT

1 PICTURE ROUND

Task 1: Match the idioms to any relevant pictures. Explain your reasoning.

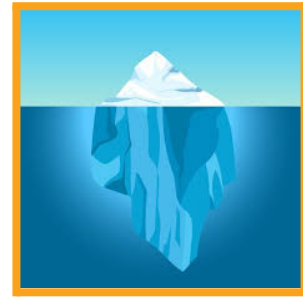
a drop in the ocean.

down to earth.

under the weather.

tip of the iceberg.

beat around the bush.



1. **down to earth**

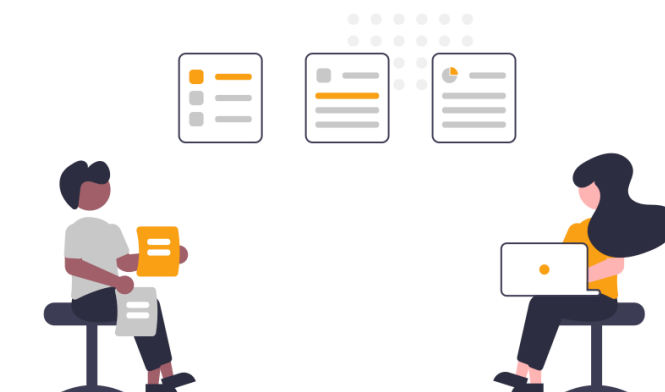
2. **under the weather**

3. **tip of the iceberg**



4. **beat around the bush**

5. **drop in the ocean**



2 EXAMPLE SENTENCES AND DEFINE

Task 1: Read the sentences below that use the idioms correctly.

a drop in the ocean. down to earth. under the weather.
tip of the iceberg. beat around the bush.

- The government's \$500 million rescue package is a **drop in the ocean** compared to what is needed.
- Despite his success, he's very **down to earth** and easy to talk to.
- I'm feeling **under the weather** today, so I'm going to work from home.
- The problems we're facing are just the **tip of the iceberg**; there's more going on beneath the surface.
- Instead of getting to the point, he tends to **beat around the bush**, which can be frustrating.

Task 2: Match the idioms in bold from task 1 to their meanings below.

- someone who is genuine and humble, often preferring simple pleasures. **b**
- an amount that is so small that it does not make an important difference. **a**
- a small, visible part of a much larger problem or issue. **d**
- to avoid the main topic or issue, usually by talking indirectly or vaguely. **e**
- to feel unwell or sick. **c**



3 COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Task: Use the idioms to complete the sentences, you may need to change the verb tense.

a drop in the ocean. down to earth. under the weather.
tip of the iceberg. beat around the bush.

1. Despite his fame, he remains **down to earth** and treats everyone with kindness.
2. The contribution I made to the charity was just **a drop in the ocean** compared to what's needed to solve the problem.
3. I'm feeling a bit **under the weather** today, so I think I'll stay home and rest.
4. The manager-employee problems in this company are just the **tip of the iceberg**.
5. Instead of getting to the point, he tends to **beat around the bush** and never directly addresses the issue.
6. Cleaning up one beach is like a **drop in the ocean** when there are countless others polluted worldwide.
7. The visible damage to the ecosystem is only the **tip of the iceberg**; the long-term effects are likely far more significant.
8. I decided to cancel my plans and stay in bed with a warm cup of tea because I'm feeling **under the weather**.
9. Despite her success, she remains remarkably **down to earth**, always willing to help others when needed.
10. Stop **beating around the bush** and tell me what you really want.



4 DIALOGUES

Task: Use the idioms to complete the dialogues, you may need to change the verb tense.

a drop in the ocean.

down to earth.

under the weather.

tip of the iceberg.

beat around the bush.

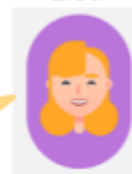
Dialogue 1:

John



Have you met Mark?

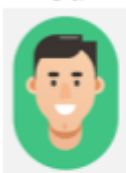
Lisa



Yes, I met him last week. He's really **down to earth** and easy to talk to despite being the CEO.

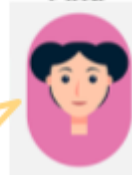
Dialogue 2:

Oli



I only donated \$100 to the charity because I couldn't afford to donate any more!

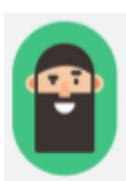
Ana



It may feel like a **drop in the ocean** but every contribution counts.

Dialogue 3:

Duke



Did you ask your manager for a pay raise?

Laura



Yeah, but she just kept **beating around the bush**, avoiding giving a clear answer.

Use the idioms to complete the dialogues, you may need to change the verb tense.

a drop in the ocean.

down to earth.

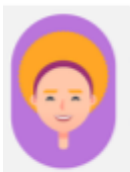
under the weather.

tip of the iceberg.

beat around the bush.

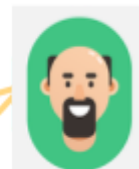
Dialogue 4:

Beth



Do you know if Peter is coming to the office today?

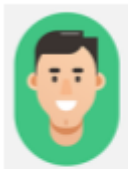
Joe



He's working from home because he's feeling a bit **under the weather**.

Dialogue 5:

Oli



I'm feeling burnout at work because the issues we're facing are overwhelming.

Ana



Yeah, me too, and what we're seeing is just the **tip of the iceberg**. I think the company is facing a lot of financial problems.



5 QUESTION TIME

Task: Answer the questions below, each of the questions uses an idiom.

1. How effective do you think individual actions are in addressing climate change—are they significant or just a **drop in the ocean**?
2. How do you view the impact of donating \$10 to charity—do you see it as a significant contribution or just a **drop in the ocean** in addressing societal issues?
3. Have you ever met a celebrity who was **down to earth**? Describe your experience.
4. Do you believe that being **down to earth** is something people are born with, or something that can be learned? Why?
5. Have you ever had to work or study while feeling **under the weather**? How did it affect your productivity and well-being?
6. How do you help yourself feel better when you're **under the weather**?
7. Can you think of a personal experience where a small issue turned out to be **the tip of the iceberg** for a larger problem? How did you address it?
8. In what ways does the concept of the **tip of the iceberg** apply to societal issues or global challenges we face today?
9. Can you think of a time when someone **beat around the bush** when giving you feedback or criticism? How did it make you feel?
10. Do you think there are situations where **beating around the bush** is necessary or beneficial? If so, when and why?



6 CASE STUDIES

Task: Read each study below, then apply an idiom to each case study.

a drop in the ocean.

down to earth.

under the weather.

tip of the iceberg.

beat around the bush.

At work, Sarah's humility and genuine interest in others made her very popular. Despite her senior position, she actively listened and helped colleagues with all types of issues, creating a collaborative and caring environment.

Down to earth.

The manager avoided addressing the change in the company's work from home policy. Instead, he'd schedule endless meetings, discussing other topics. Colleagues grew frustrated by his reluctance to discuss the new policy. Productivity decreased even more until a brave team member confronted him, demanding clarity and action.

Beat around the bush.

At the office, Mark seemed different this week. He arrived late each day and didn't chat much. His work wasn't as good as usual, and he looked tired. People noticed he wasn't himself, quieter and less lively.

Under the weather.

Mike's car seemed fine—just a few scratches and a small dent. But when he took it to the mechanic, they found major issues with the engine and brakes. What seemed like minor damage was just the beginning of bigger problems hidden inside the car.

Tip of the iceberg.

The bridge in the town was damaged during a storm. The government's donation of just \$1 million left the community feeling disheartened and frustrated, as many experts stated that the repairs would cost \$5 million.

A drop in the ocean.

HOMEWORK

1 IDIOMS: WRITING TASK

Follow the guidelines to write a story using the idioms presented in the class.

Guidelines

1. Write a short story (500-800 words) that incorporates some or all of the following idioms:
 - a. a drop in the ocean.
 - b. down to earth.
 - c. under the weather.
 - d. tip of the iceberg.
 - e. beat around the bush.
2. The story can be set in any time period and location, but it should have a clear beginning, middle, and end.
3. In your story, be sure to clearly show how each of the idioms is used and what it means. You can do this by including dialogue or descriptive passages that highlight the idioms in action.
4. Make sure that your writing is clear and concise, and that your story flows smoothly from beginning to end.
5. Be creative and have fun with this writing task!
6. Once you have completed your story, read it over and make any necessary revisions to improve it. Then share it with your teacher for feedback.

