

THE BEST BOOK OF

IDIOMS

COLLOCATIONS

PROVERBS

For your
Monologue
Mediation
Interaction
& Writing

Divided into
Categories

Examples for
all Exam Topics

EOI

B2/C1

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About this book...

In this book you will find a collection of idioms/phrases/proverbs to use in your monologues, dialogues, informal mediations and informal written productions.

We have grouped the idioms into different topics/categories so that it is easier to use them.

It's all about context, and context, and context!

You will see that we have included the idioms/phrases in fragments of monologues, mediations and dialogues so that you can learn how to use them in specific contexts.

This book includes the following sections:

✓ Idioms and Phrases. How can I learn and use them?

What are "idioms"? Why is it important to use some idioms/phrases in your exam?

An idiom is a group of words or a phrase that means something different than what the words are literally saying.

Learning some key idioms and their usages can help with your score in writing and speaking tasks.

How do you memorize idioms and phrases easily?

One of the best ways to memorize idioms is taking into account the context.

This guide will provide you with different contexts in which you can use those idioms so that the learning process can be "a piece of cake" or "as easy as pie".

✓ A selection of **+110** Idioms/phrases/proverbs categorised into **30** different topics.



✓ An explanation/definition of each idiom/phrase.

Being nervous & tense about something

On tenterhooks about something

= waiting nervously for something to happen

Be a bundle of nerves (informal)

= a person who is very frightened, worried or nervous about something

Go out of business

= If a shop, firm or enterprise goes out of business, it closes down or goes bankrupt.

Keep your head above water

= to try to survive when you do not have enough money, try to stay out of debt

✓ Examples of the idioms/phrases in context (fragments of monologues + 2 sample mediations + a sample dialogue)

TASK 1 - MONOLOGUE

- Read the introduction to the topic and the suggestions.
- Choose three or four ideas to talk about. You may add your own ideas.
- Talk for between three and a half to four minutes.

CURRENT PROBLEMS

Most people would argue that our current world is far from perfect. Think of the top 3 important problems the world has to face today. Describe them in some detail and try to come up with some ideas to solve them.



Point the finger at

= say that someone should be blamed for a problem

Example:

"As regards the current issues we need to face today, it is fair to say that citizens are constantly **pointing their fingers at** the government and local authorities for every single problem there is without taking into account that the society as a whole should be in charge of solving the situation."

TOPIC 1: CYBERBULLYING

TASK 1 - MONOLOGUE

- Read the introduction to the topic and the suggestions.
- Choose three or four ideas to talk about. You may add your own ideas.
- Talk for between three and a half to four minutes.

CYBERBULLYING

While cybercrime is rapidly increasing due to extensive use of the Internet and IT-enabled devices, cyberbullying, which involves the use of electronic communication to intimidate a person via messages, is the new menace for those spending time on social media sites.

- What kind of person is usually affected by cyberbullying?
- What are its causes and consequences?
- How can we solve this problem?



Get to the bottom (of something)

= If you get to the bottom of a problem or mystery, you solve it by finding out the true cause of it.

Example:

"With reference to the rapid growth of cyberbullying, it is highly necessary to **get to the bottom of it** and try to figure out how all members of society can help."

- ✓ Monologue cards taken from real exams so that you can practise different topics/areas.

TASK 1 - MONOLOGUE

- Read the introduction to the topic and the suggestions.
- Choose three or four ideas to talk about. You may add your own ideas.
- Talk for between three and a half to four minutes.

SUCCESS

- What exceptional qualities are required to be successful in life.
- Advantages and disadvantages of becoming successful at a young age.
- Success and money.
- Success, work and stress.
- Power corrupts people.

TASK 1 - MONOLOGUE

- Read the introduction to the topic and the suggestions.
- Choose three or four ideas to talk about. You may add your own ideas.
- Talk for between three and a half to four minutes.

MASS TOURISM

Talk about mass tourism. It is said that global tourism is destroying the environment and cultural identities.

- Do you think mass tourism is sustainable?
- Is it cheaper or more expensive to travel abroad than it was



TASK 1 - MONOLOGUE

- Read the introduction to the topic and the suggestions.
- Choose three or four ideas to talk about. You may add your own ideas.
- Talk for between three and a half to four minutes.

SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING

With online sales expected to double in the next decade, large companies like Amazon are taking steps towards sustainable packaging. You are going to talk about sustainable packaging. Express your ideas and use arguments and examples to justify your opinion. Use the following questions as a help to prepare your monologue, but do not answer them directly:

- How do you think online shopping packaging is harming the environment?
- Can you suggest ways to reduce packaging?
- What can we do as consumers?



- ✓ Bonus Chapter: Vocabulary: Advanced collocations.

Collocations for noun "problem"

- a major
- a minor
- a potential
- a recurrent
- a tough
- an unexpected
- a trivial
- an urgent
- a pressing
- a severe
- a significant
- an acute

Problem

Collocations for noun "Measures"

- announce
- introduce
- outline
- adopt
- implement
- enforce
- impose
- oppose
- incorporate

Measures

Collocations for noun "Skills"

- acquire
- apply
- gain
- master
- sharpen
- develop
- enhance
- demonstrate
- assess
- require
- lack
- upgrade

Skills

✓ **A list of ready-made phrases to introduce ideas in your monologues.**

It is generally a good idea to learn phrases to introduce you different sections of your monologue.

Here is a list which you can take into account for that purpose

- As everyone knows...
- There can be no doubt that...
- It is imperative that...
- It is generally accepted that...
- It is a fact that...
- I'd like to bring focus to the fact that...
- I would like to draw attention to...
- It is worth highlighting that...
- Nobody will deny that...
- It goes without saying that...
- There is no denying that...
- It is broadly agreed that...
- It's vital/fundamental/crucial that..
- seems to be of paramount importance/significance.

✓ **A list of phrases to use in the Dialogue/Interaction.**

Asking for opinion

- ➔ Would you go along with that?
- ➔ What's your take on this?
- ➔ Don't you think that...?
- ➔ Do you see what I mean?
- ➔ Do you see what I'm getting at?
- ➔ Is this OK with you?

Disagreeing with your Partner

- ➔ Yes... I see what you mean but...
- ➔ Well... That's not the way I see it.
- ➔ I take your point but...
- ➔ I don't feel the same.
- ➔ I'm afraid I have to disagree with you there.
- ➔ Yes, but if we look at it from another perspective/angle...

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1. Having and Describing Problems

It is generally the case that in your monologue or writing task you need to describe or address a problem.

It is a very good idea to introduce or refer to the problem by using one of these idioms.

TOPIC 1: GLOBALISATION

TASK 1 - MONOLOGUE

- Read the introduction to the topic and the suggestions.
- Choose three or four ideas to talk about. You may add your own ideas.
- Talk for between three and a half to four minutes.

GLOBALISATION

- Language learning
- ☐ Immigration and social integration
- ☐ Globalisation of world economy: pros and cons
- ☐ Different problems the world faces today: social, economic, political...



Be in dire straits

= If a person or organisation is in dire straits, they are in a very difficult situation.

Example:

"As regards the issue of immigration and social integration, it is commonly the case that families who arrive in the host country **are in dire straits** and need to deal with economic and social difficulties."

Get out of hand

= get out of control, uncontrollable.

Example:

"With reference to the problem of social integration, it is of vital importance to deal with this matter responsibly before it **gets out of hand**. Schools and social assistance are believed to play a fundamental role in this regard."

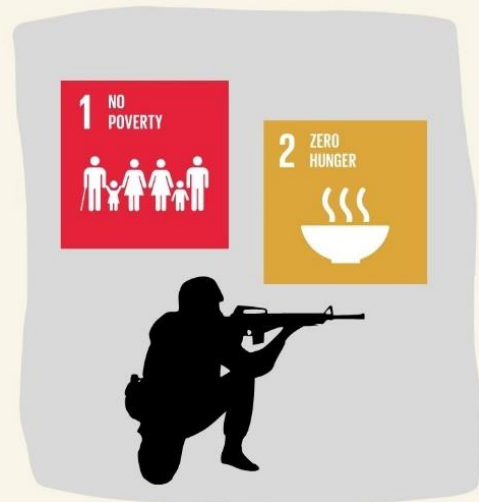
TOPIC 2: CURRENT PROBLEMS

TASK 1 - MONOLOGUE

- Read the introduction to the topic and the suggestions.
- Choose three or four ideas to talk about. You may add your own ideas.
- Talk for between three and a half to four minutes.

CURRENT PROBLEMS

Most people would argue that our current world is far from perfect. Think of the top 3 important problems the world has to face today. Describe then in some detail and try to come up with some ideas to solve them.



Point the finger at

= say that someone should be blamed for a problem

Example:

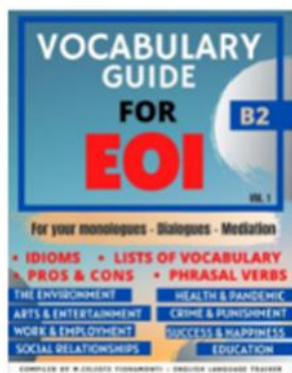
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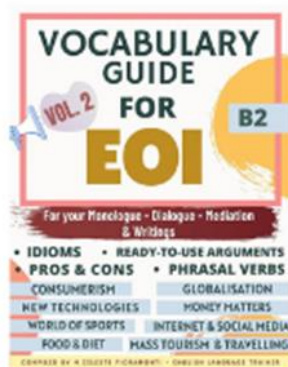
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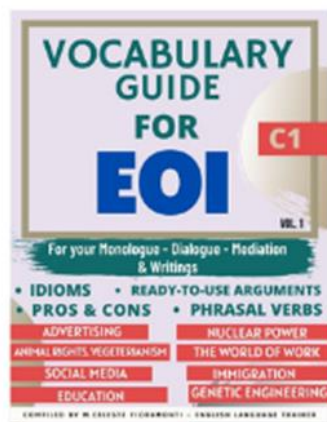
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