NHS
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Idioms

Cut out the picture cards below. First put them face up on the table, and see how many of them the student has heard before. To help the student reflect, you can use the idiom in context, e.g. 'The teacher asks the class whether they are finding the work difficult, and one student says 'It's a piece of cake!'. What does the student mean?

You can then play a pairs game matching the idioms to their meanings to help the student learn idioms they are less familiar with.

Will you give me a hand?	Will you help me?
You're a bit over the hill	You're too old
Don't lose your head	Don't panic
Don't let the cat out of the bag	Don't tell my secret
You'll be in hot water	You'll be in trouble

I'm in over my head	This is too difficult for me
Can you shed some light on this?	Tell me about this
You'll be in the doghouse	You'll be in trouble
I'll blow my top	I'll be angry
I've got egg on my face	I feel like a fool
You blew it	You got it wrong
Shake a leg	Hurry up

Keep your eyes peeled	Look carefully
I'll have a nose around	I'll explore
I'm having a whale of a time	I'm having a good time
My eyes are bigger than my stomach	I've eaten too much
It's just sour grapes	She's jealous
A feather in your cap	Something to be proud of
Sick as a dog	Very upset

Raining cats and dogs	Raining heavily
Hold your horses	Slow down
Butterflies in my stomach 	Nervous/frightened
Keep it under your hat	Keep it a secret/keep quiet about it
I'm tied up at the moment 	I'm busy at the moment
Put a sock in it 	Be quiet
Pull yourself together	Control yourself/calm down

I shot myself in the foot	I did something that made the situation worse
I'm fed up	I'm bored
He's a pain in the neck	He's a nuisance
Break the ice	Get to know each other
Get lost	Go away
Don't jump down her throat	Don't be cross with her
His bark is worse than his bite	He may sound unfriendly, but he isn't

I'm shaking in my boots	I'm frightened
You're going to have to face the music	You will have to accept the consequences of what you've done