

Access English Centre Immigrant Centre Manitoba

English Idioms: What Is Bugging You in Your Life? (What is bothering you in your life?)

Intermediate Level

Facilitator Notes:

Properly using idioms in daily life and comprehending the real meanings have been a big challenge to new comers, especially when they know every word of the idiom but it doesn't make any sense to them. It is very critical and important to assist new comers to understand and use idioms properly in their daily conversation.

Here are some steps suggested through group activities.

Step One: Brainstorm on “What bugs me ...”, “How do you feel when you see a bug in your kitchen – Do you like it?” See Step One Pictures.

Suggestion: Use a picture of a roach, a beetle, or a spider and place them on the board and ask the learners how much they like the bugs. You can use your facial expressions to show how you feel about them.

Step Two: Place the learners into smaller groups of 3-4 people, and ask them what they see in the pictures and what happened in the picture. See attached the pictures.

Step Three: Story sharing: Place people into smaller groups of 3-4 people, and share your life stories, how you were bugged by something.

Step Four: Additional idioms and exercises

Step One: Pictures of Bugs – What are those bugs? Have you seen them in your kitchen? If someone places one of the bugs on your shoulder, how do you feel?



Spider



Cockroach



German Roach



Large Beetle

Questions to the group:

1. What bugs you when you turn on the kitchen light at night?
2. What do you do when you see spider on your shoulder?
3. What bugs you most when you are trying to sleep at night?
4. How do you feel when you see someone is eating bugs?
5. What do you do when you see a fly flying in the house?
6. What do you say if you are bothered by something in your own language?
7. Do you have similar expressions in your language?
8. What do you say in your language when you are disturbed by someone or something?

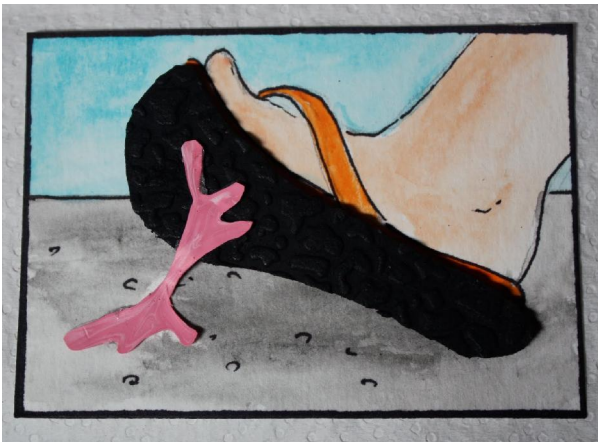
Step Two: Look at the pictures below and describe your feelings. If you were the cat, what bugs you?



If you were the mother in the picture, what bugs you?



1. If you stepped on a piece of gum, how do you feel?



Step Four: Additional idioms and exercises:

The following expressions have the similar meaning as “What bugs me ...”

1. It gets on my nerves when ...
2. I can't stand it when ...
3. It bothers me when ...
4. It pisses me off when ...
5. It makes me angry when ...
6. It drives me crazy when ...
7. It annoys me when ...

Examples: What Bugs Me - What bothers me most is ...

1. What really bugs me most is when people don't keep their words.
2. What really bugs you most at home?
3. What really bugs you most at work?

Exercises on those idioms – finish the following sentences:

1. *It bugs me most when* I'm on the plane and someone

_____.

2. *It bothers me most when* I am sleeping and somebody

3. *It gets on my nerves when* I'm reading my book and

4. *It pisses me off when* someone

_____.

5. *It annoys me when* some women

6. *It really makes me angry when* friends

7. It really pisses me off when my sister / brother

8. It drives me crazy when my son _____

9. It drives me crazy when my friend _____

10. It bugs me when my best friend

How about you? What bugs you most in your life right now?