

# Idiom Insights

Writing Lessons from English  
Expressions

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# Blog Posts

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- The expression (title)
- Explanation and related life lesson
- Devotional thought with Bible verse



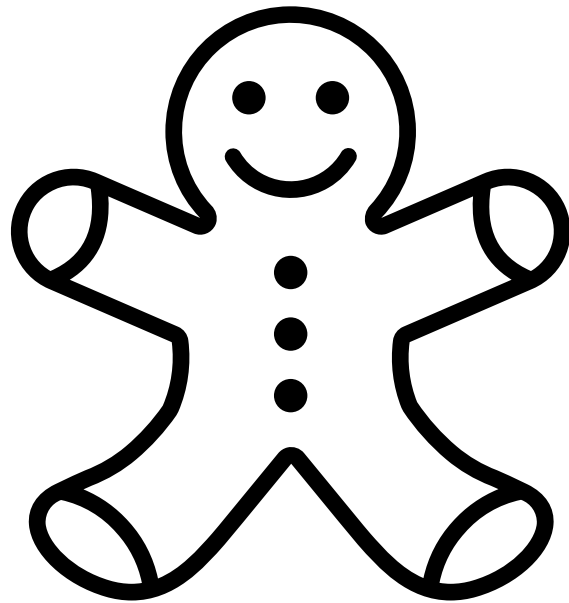
# Definitions

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Idiom: a word or phrase that has a figurative, rather than literal, meaning

Simile: a comparison, often using “like” or “as”

Proverb: a wise saying



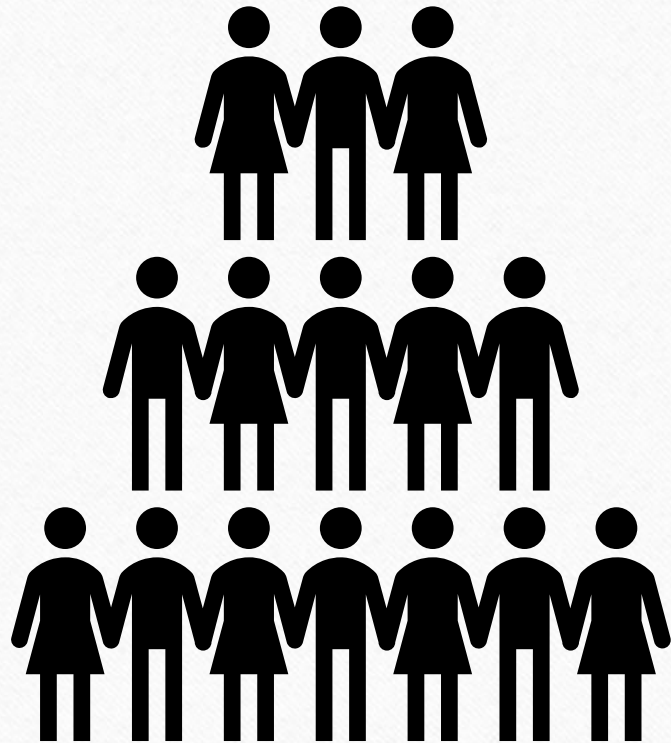
## Tough Cookie = A person not easily defeated

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- A tough cookie often has experienced a hard life.
- A tough cookie is a strong person.
- A tough cookie decides to make the most of life.
- A tough cookie is not perfect.

“I have learned to be content  
whatever the circumstances”  
(Philippians 4:11 NIV).





## A Right Smart = A lot

Writing requires a right smart of work.

- Research
- Rewriting

Writing provides a right smart of rewards.

- Release
- Resources
- Recognition
- Reminder

A right smart of work yields a right smart of rewards.

“Whatever you do,  
work at it with all your heart,  
as working for the Lord,  
not for human masters”  
(Colossians 3:23 NIV).



## Labor of Love = A job with no pay or little pay

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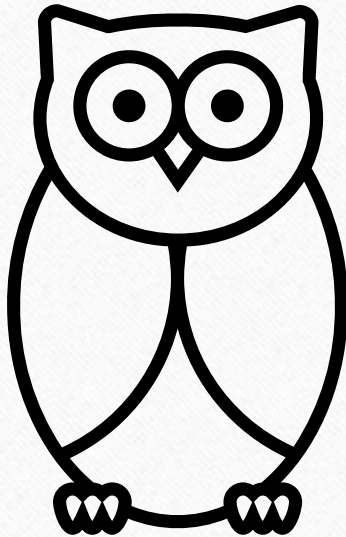
- A labor of love pays in pleasure more than money.
- Writing pay often falls below minimum wage.
- I occasionally write for no pay, if I believe in an organization's work.



“We remember before  
our God and Father  
your work produced by faith,  
your labor prompted by love,  
and your endurance inspired by hope  
in our Lord Jesus Christ”  
(1 Thessalonians 1:3 NIV).

# As Wise As An Owl – Very Wise

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- Learn new information.
- Use that information well.
- Share information with others.
- Listen more than talk.
- Never stop learning.
- Look at life from different perspectives.

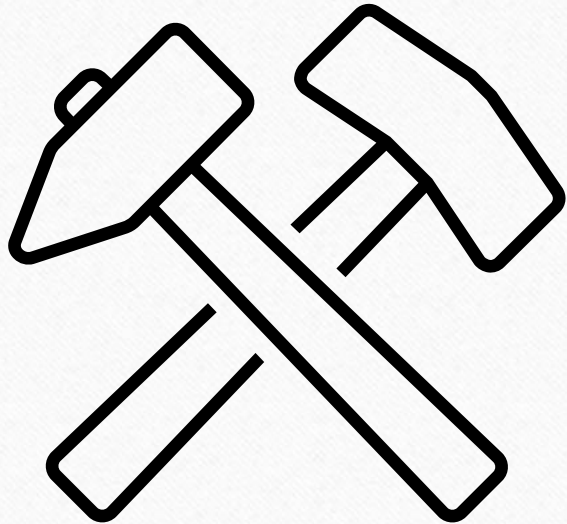
Watch. Listen. Learn.

“Instruct the wise  
and they will be wiser still;  
teach the righteous  
and they will add to their learning”  
(Proverbs 9:9 NIV).



# Strike While the Iron Is Hot = Act When the Time Is Right

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- Some tasks wait with no problem.
- Others demand immediate attention.
- A few opportunities come only once.

This applies to:

- Writing
- Submitting
- Relationship building

We don't want too many irons in the fire.

“As iron sharpens iron,  
so one person sharpens another”  
(Proverbs 27:17 NIV).



## On Our Toes = Ready to Act

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- Set specific goals.
- Stretch our minds.
- Stick to it.
- Stay flexible.



“Make sure you stay alert. Keep  
close watch over yourselves”  
(Deuteronomy 4:9 MSG).



## Watch Your Step = Be careful

We must watch our steps to get where we want to go.

Avoid these mistakes:

- Failure to focus (Instead, choose a plan. Work the plan.)
- Faulty fit (Read the guidelines. Write to fit them.)
- Flawed form (Find a publisher's slant. Conform to it.)
- Flights of fancy (Write what needs to be said. Then stop.)
- Fast and frenzied (Do it right. Or do it over.)
- Final fix (Make one last check. Collect more checks.)
- Fear of failure (Ignore fear and trembling. Boldly write.)

“Watch your step.  
Stick to the path and be safe”  
(Proverbs 4:26 TLB).



# Can't Win for Losing = Constant Failure

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## Quotes of Encouragement:

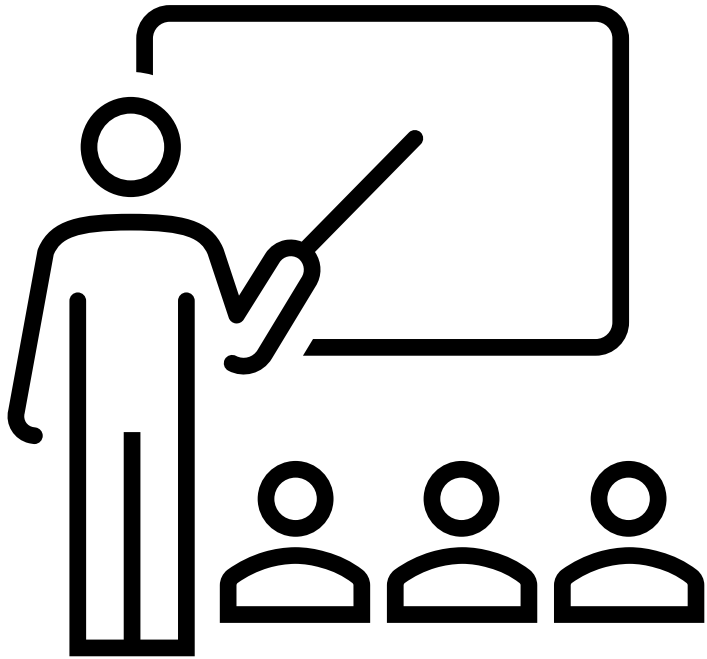
“I’ve failed over and over and over again in my life and that is why I succeed.” —Michael Jordan

“It’s fine to celebrate success but it is more important to heed the lessons of failure.” —Bill Gates

“I have not failed. I have just found 10,000 ways that won’t work.” —Thomas A. Edison

“If you learn from defeat, you haven’t really lost.” —Zig Ziglar

“My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart  
and my portion forever”  
(Psalm 73:26 NIV).

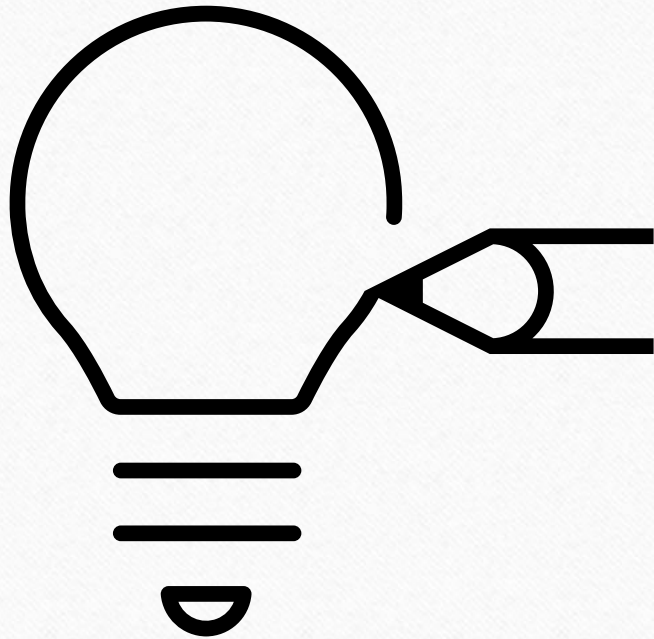


## Takeaways

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- Use idioms in your writing. How might they apply to your current or future works in progress?
- Choose your own interest. What appeals to you or is a regular part of your life that you never considered for writing material?
- Learn and share from all your experiences.





## What's the Lesson?

- Rise and Shine
- Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained
- Nip It in the Bud
- Back to the Drawing Board
- Beyond the Call of Duty
- Reach for the Sky

# Cold Feet = Afraid to Act

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Fear says: You can't do it.

You're no good.

No one will like your work.

God says: You can do it.

I gave the gift.

Write your best for me.

“Have I not commanded you?  
Be strong and courageous.  
Do not be afraid;  
do not be discouraged  
for the LORD your God  
will be with you  
wherever you go”  
(Joshua 1:9 NIV).



# Contact Information

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