

Nombre de la actividad	Sports Idioms
Idioma	Inglés
Nivel	Intermedio – Avanzado (6° semestre – 9° semestre)
Objetivo	Identificar el uso de expresiones idiomáticas en un contexto real.
Competencia lingüística a desarrollar	Vocabulario
Estrategias	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identificar información específica para conocer el significado de las expresiones idiomáticas. • Relacionar el significado de las expresiones idiomáticas con su significado en un contexto deportivo. • Crear una conversación similar a la del ejercicio, usando expresiones idiomáticas.
Actividades	<p>1. Relaciona las expresiones idiomáticas con su significado en un contexto deportivo. Apóyate de un diccionario si es necesario.</p> <p>2. Elabora una conversación, seleccionando al menos diez expresiones idiomáticas en un contexto deportivo. Puedes usar la conversación del ejercicio como apoyo.</p>
Feedback	Se anexa hoja de Respuestas.

English Sports Idioms



Have you ever read an article in *Newsweek* or *Time* magazine? If you have, I am sure that you noticed what an important role sporting events play in the creation of idiomatic language in American English. It is quite common to read statements like, "President Clinton informed reporters that he felt his environmental program was in the **home stretch** and that he had **hit a home run** with his appointment of Mr. X as the ambassador to Y." This language can confuse speakers of English as a second language. Therefore, this feature concerns such language because of the importance it plays in everyday usage in both spoken, and written English in the United States.

Below is a fictional conversation chock full of (idiom=containing many examples of) idioms taken from sporting events. In the repeat of the conversation, the idioms are highlighted and explained.

Closing a Deal

(In a typical office somewhere in New York)

- *Bob:* Well, is Trevisos **going to play ball**¹ or are we going to **strike out**² on this **deal**³?
- *Pete:* The latest **locker talk**⁴ is that our **game plan**⁵ is a real **contender**⁶ for the contract.
- *Bob:* Yeah, the other team has **two strikes against it**⁷ after they **fumbled**⁸ last week.
- *Pete:* They had a great chance of **scoring**⁹ but I think Trevisos thought they weren't **up to scratch**¹⁰ on some of the details.
- *Bob:* They pretty much put themselves into a **no-win situation**¹¹ by **stalling for time**¹² on the figures from Smith's and Co. If we can **get to home**¹³ at the next meeting I think that we should be able to **take the ball and run**¹⁴.
- *Pete:* If our numbers are right, we should be able to **call the shots**¹⁵ from here.
- *Bob:* We just need to **jockey ourselves into position**¹⁶ to close the deal.
- *Pete:* Make sure that you take along your **team players**¹⁷ next week. I want to be sure that everyone **is playing with a full deck**¹⁸ and that everyone **can field**¹⁹ any question asked.
- *Bob:* I'll take Shirley and Harry along. They are no **second stringers**²⁰, they can present **the ballpark**²¹ and then I will **bring it on home**²².
- *Pete:* Great, good luck with the **pitch**²³!

Could you guess the meaning of these idioms? It seems almost impossible to understand if you don't understand sports idioms! However, these and other idioms are common in daily usage.

Task 1: Based on the conversation above, match the idiom meaning with its sport context.

IDIOM MEANING	SPORT CONTEXT
1. do business with	a. the place where the game is played
2. fail	b. to stop a hit ball
3. contract	c. put yourself into a good position to win the race
4. gossip, rumors	d. score a run
5. plan of action	e. not capable of winning
6. person with a good chance of success	f. lose possession of the ball
7. close to not succeeding	g. plan which plays to make
8. make a serious mistake	h. go out
9. to succeed	i. commitment
10. not having the right qualities	j. to throw the ball to the batter
11. impossible to succeed	k. players who work together with other players
12. to delay information or a decision	l. second class members of the team
13. complete the desired action	m. having all the necessary cards
14. continue in the right direction	n. to decide who shoots
15. to make the decisions	o. continue to go forward, usually a long distance
16. to move into position to succeed	p. to delay the game
17. people who work together with other staff	q. impossible to win
18. having the correct mental abilities, not stupid	r. to make a point
19. to handle or deal with	s. lose possession of the ball
20. less important workers	t. very possible winner
21. general financial numbers	u. talk among the players
22. to finish with success	v. play a game
23. to present the subject	w. one step from going out or loosing

Answer sheet

1. Going to play ball: (v)

Baseball – play a game.

Idiom – do business with.

2. Strike out: (h)

Baseball – go out.

Idiom – fail.

3. Deal: (i)

General sports / idiom – contract/ commitment.

4. Locker talk: (u)

General sports – talk among the players.

Idiom – gossip, rumors.

5. Game plan: (g)

American football – plan which plays to make.

Idiom – plan of action.

6. Contender: (t)

Boxing – very possible winner.

Idiom – person with a good chance of success.

7. Two strikes against it: (w)

Baseball – one step from going out or loosing.

Idiom – close to not succeeding.

8. Fumbled: (f)

American football – lose possession of the ball.

Idiom – make a serious mistake.

9. Scoring: (r)

Any sport – to make a point.

Idiom – to succeed.

10. Up to scratch: (e)

Horseracing – not capable of winning.

Idiom – not having the right qualities.

11. No-win situation: (q)

Baseball – impossible to win.

Idiom – impossible to succeed.

12. Stalling for time: (p)

American football – to delay the game.

Idiom – to delay information or a decision.

13. Get to home: (d)

Baseball – score a run.

Idiom – complete the desired action.

14. Take the ball and run: (o)

American football – continue to go forward, usually a long distance

Idiom – continue in the right direction.

15. To call the shots: (n)

Basketball – to decide who shoots.

Idiom – to make the decisions.

16. To jockey ourselves into position: (c)

Horseracing – put yourself into a good position to win the race.

Idiom – to move into position to succeed.

17. Team players: (k)

General sports – players who work together with other players.

Idiom – people who work together with other staff.

18. Playing with a full deck: (m)

Cards – having all the necessary cards.

Idiom – having the correct mental abilities, not stupid.

19. Can field: (b)

Baseball – to stop a hit ball.

Idiom – to handle or deal with.

20. Second stringers: (l)

Team sports – second class members of the team.

Idiom – less important workers.

21. The ballpark figures: (a)

Baseball – the place where the game is played.

Idiom – general financial numbers.

22. Bring it on home: (d)

Baseball – to score a run.

Idiom – to finish with success.

23. Pitch: (j)

Baseball – to throw the ball to the batter.

Idiom – to present the subject.

Task 2: Create a conversation using at least 10 idioms taken from sporting events.