



Want to make a splash?

Expressions whose meanings, as a whole, are not predictable from those of the individual words, are called idioms. English has thousands of idioms, and many are so common that we don't think of them as anything out of the ordinary.

Even though English speakers may not be conscious of using such idioms, they can on one hand be a source of confusion to English learners, while on the other hand they add colour and richness to conversations and written work.

Have you heard of these?

A Blessing In Disguise

What at first appears to be a misfortune turns out to be a boon:

"My car broke down again, but maybe it was a blessing in disguise; I've been wasting too much time driving around anyway."

A Piece Of Cake

Something very easy to do, requiring little or no effort:

"Do you think you will win your tennis match today?" Answer: "It will be a piece of cake."

A Shot In The Dark

A wild, random guess, one that has little or no chance of being right as hitting a target in the dark:

"That was such a difficult question! How did you get it right?"

Reply: "I just took a shot in the dark."

A Wolf In Sheep's Clothing

Someone who looks respectable and harmless but who's behaviour is quite the opposite:

"Don't trust the salespeople at that store; they are all wolves in sheep's clothing!"

Against The Grain

To go against convention:

"I jog at this track everyday and there is always that one guy who has to go against the grain and run in the opposite direction."

All In The Same Boat

To suffer the same predicament as somebody else:

"We can't fight against each other; we need to work together. We're all in the same boat!"

All Thumbs

To be clumsy, as if each finger were a thumb, which would result in a loss of dexterity:

"Hey! You are pouring my coffee on the table!"

Reply: "Oh, I'm so sorry! I have been all thumbs today."

As Blind As A Bat

Completely blind:

"Without his glasses, my father is as blind as a bat."

Back To The Drawing Board

To try something again, right from the beginning:

"It looks like my plan to kill the weeds in the garden has failed. Back to the drawing board."

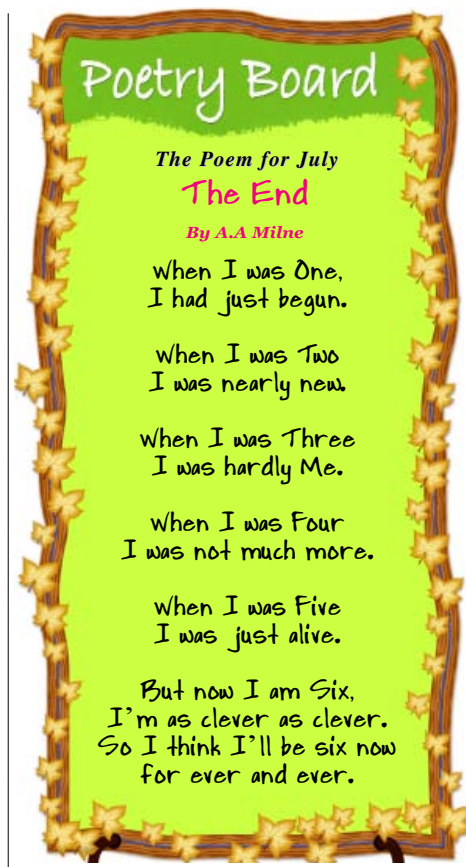
Caritas-UNHCR Project

The Caritas-UNHCR Project is thankful to have Ready To Learn support refugee children who are enrolled in Hong Kong's Public School system.

During their waiting period in Hong Kong for resettlement, refugee minors are allowed to enrol into a public school after passing a six month initiation programme. They are then allowed to continue and advance their learning regardless of their current refugee status.

As refugees are not allowed to earn a salary in Hong Kong, they rely heavily on charity organisations for help and support. Caritas offers refugees a place to stay at their hostels, basic medical care and a meagre living allowance.

Due to the lack of funding, Caritas has decreased a refugee's monthly allowance of \$1500 (same as Hong Kong's Social Security support) to \$1200. This includes transportation, food and general living expenses. However, as Hong Kong's standard of living improves, their limited 'pocket money' is insufficient to support themselves and their family. The



Poetry Board

The Poem for July

The End

By A.A Milne

When I was One,
I had just begun.

When I was Two
I was nearly new.

When I was Three
I was hardly Me.

When I was Four
I was not much more.

When I was Five
I was just alive.

But now I am Six,
I'm as clever as clever.
So I think I'll be six now
for ever and ever.

money collected from Ready To Learn's donation box will help pay for the children's books, uniform, stationary and transport expenses.

Therefore, Caritas and UNHCR rely heavily on outside funding to help sustain their programme. Your generous contribution towards this cause is greatly appreciated and needed.

September time changes

The application forms for September time changes have been handed out by the centres.

Please return the forms as soon as possible to ensure that your child gets a place in the new term. If you are waiting to see what extra curricular activities your child's school will be offering, please schedule your child's time and day with RTL before 28th July. If changes to your child's schedule need to be made after this date, RTL staff will do their best to accommodate these changes. In order to keep our information up to date, we would appreciate it if you could up-date your contact details on the September Time Change form and return them at your earliest convenience. We look forward to seeing you all in the new term.



New Staff

Please welcome our newest member of staff Jed Mathis. Mr Jed comes from America and has been living in Hong Kong for six months. He has been enjoying exploring the many sights in the region and loves the local culture. He is eager to learn Cantonese and is excited about the teaching opportunities at RTL. Jed is TESOL/TESL certified.

Spotlight on Mr Oliver and some of his students



Mr Oliver really enjoys teaching this class as he has seen a big improvement in each student and also, they have a genuine desire to learn. The students are currently studying course four, unit three (Fox).

Charlotte Tang Wan Yin likes to sing, read and socialise with her friends. She has strong conversation skills and she takes great pride in her class presentations, which are interesting and full of detail.
(A photograph of Charlotte was not available at the time of publication.)



Casey Lee Ka Chun loves to play games, both on his PSP and on his computer. He would like a laptop computer to help him with his work and to play more games. Casey enjoys the challenge of learning new phonic sounds and using them to read and spell new words.



Steffi Loh Sin Yue enjoys practising the piano and cello. In her spare time, she likes to watch television. Her favourite thing about RTL is learning the phonic sounds as she considers this to be one of her strengths.