

Lesson ideas and materials

William Shakespeare

The language

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Teaching aims

Students will learn about the meaning of idioms. By reading examples from different Shakespearean plays, students will be able to understand and examine meanings of idioms that are still used in today's language.

Description of materials

The material following material consists of:

- Understanding Shakespeare's idioms (Worksheet 1, adapted from the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust: <https://www.shakespeare.org.uk/education/teaching-resources/understanding-shakespeares-idioms/>)
- Shakespeare's interesting idioms (Worksheet 2, adapted from the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust: <https://www.shakespeare.org.uk/education/teaching-resources/shakespeares-idioms-b2/>)
- Solutions to the activities
- Comprehension quiz on learningapps.org: <https://learningapps.org/38877660>

Overview of lesson design:

Phase / Teaching activity / Impulse	Material
<p>Activity 1 [individual work/partner work]</p> <p>Teacher hands out WS 1 and explains the tasks.</p> <p>Students begin by reading the plot summary for Act 2, Scene 7 of <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> along with a short excerpt from the play. They encounter an idiom in the excerpt and try to discover the meaning.</p> <p>Following this, students write a first draft of a definition of what an idiom is.</p>	<p>WS 1: <i>Understanding Shakespeare's idioms</i></p>



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Phase / Teaching activity / Impulse	Material
<p>Activity 2 [individual work/partner work]</p> <p>Teacher hands out WS 2, explains the tasks.</p> <p>Students learn more about idioms by encountering further examples from Shakespeare's plays.</p>	<p>WS 2: <i>Shakespeare's interesting idioms (A2 + A3)</i></p>
<p>Activity 3 [individual work/partner work]</p> <p>Students are asked to make cross-references to the German language and to find equivalent idioms. The last sentence is a German idiom which the students are asked to find the English equivalent to. Looking up the origin of this idiom can be a fun bonus activity.</p> <p>Afterwards, students fill in the gaps with idioms they have learned in the previous activities. In the last sentence, students can be creative and write their own sentence with one of the idioms.</p>	<p>WS 2: <i>Shakespeare's interesting idioms (A4 + A5)</i></p>
<p>Activity 4 [individual work]</p> <p>Students work on their vocabulary by completing a quiz on <i>learningapps</i>.</p> <p>Available here: https://learningapps.org/38877660</p>	<p>Quiz on <i>learningapps.org</i></p>

