



Topic

Conversation
for Idioms

Lesson 11
Success and Failures

Lead-in

Complete the idioms using the pictures as hints.

jackpot

dust

ropes

ascendant



hit the _____



on the _____



bite the _____

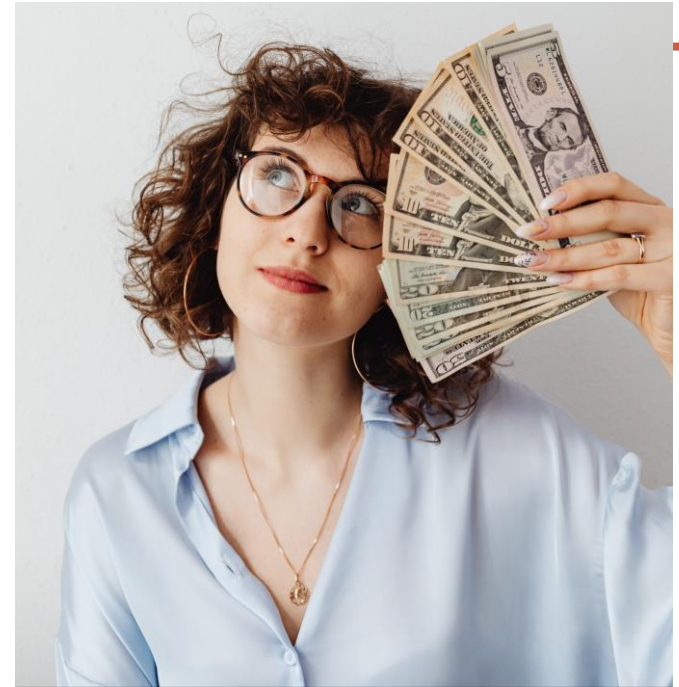


in the _____

1. Anna **hit the jackpot** with her new job.
It pays big time.

Q Which is **true** about the statement?

- Anna is successful in finding a good job that pays a lot.
- Anna has to pay a large amount of money to get the job.

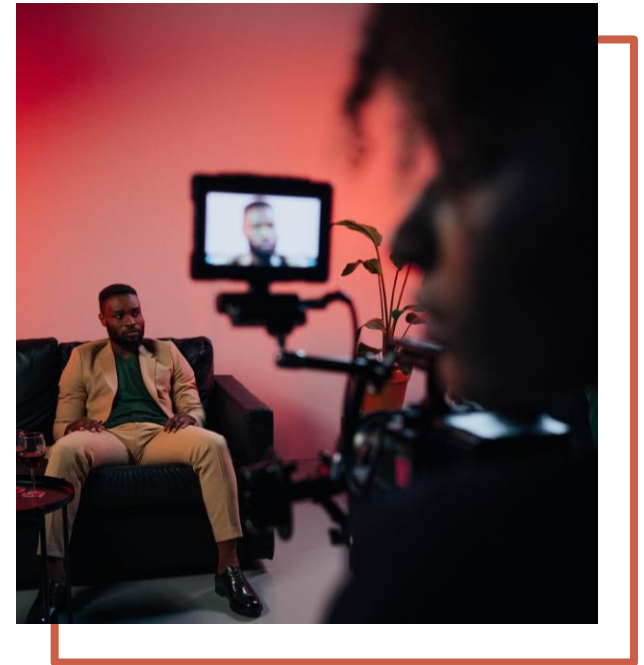


2. The new actor is **in the ascendant** in Hollywood.
He is getting more movie projects.

Q What is the meaning of the idiom?

getting more power, influence or popularity

to be in the highest building in Hollywood



3. My business is **on the ropes** due to the pandemic.

Q What should be done to avoid being on the ropes?

Origin

The idiom on the ropes comes from the world of boxing. A boxing ring is enclosed by large, heavy ropes. When a boxer has backed into the ropes, that opponent has no means to fight.



4. His plan to win the competition **bit the dust** when he met a very strong opponent.

Q What were your plans that bit the dust?

Origin

This expression was popularized in movies about the old west or 'Westerns,' where cowboys or Indians were shot or thrown from their horses to land on the dusty ground, thus “biting” the dust.



Quick Review

hit the jackpot

to have a big success or make a big profit, usually through luck



in the ascendant

getting more power, influence, or popularity than other people or things



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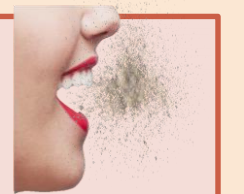
on the ropes

in a desperate position; in a state of near collapse or defeat



bite the dust

emphasizing that something no longer exists or that it has failed



1. The school's basketball team is at the ropes.

2. Pop music has slowly been on the ascendant these days.

3. Unemployed Johnny hate the jackpot when he won the lottery.

4. The clothing business bited the dust last year because of bad service.

Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct idioms.
Change their form if necessary.

hit the jackpot

in the ascendant

bite the dust

on the ropes

1. The dancers made their competitor _____ by having a great routine.
2. The family _____ with their new nanny. She is very hardworking.
3. The son of the CEO is _____ as he is going to replace his dad soon.
4. My studies are _____ because I was caught cheating during the exam.



When should we try to do our best: when **we hit the jackpot or when we are **on the ropes**?**