



# Topic

Conversation  
for Idioms

Lesson 37  
Weather (2)

# Lead-in

Fill in the blanks to complete the idiom.



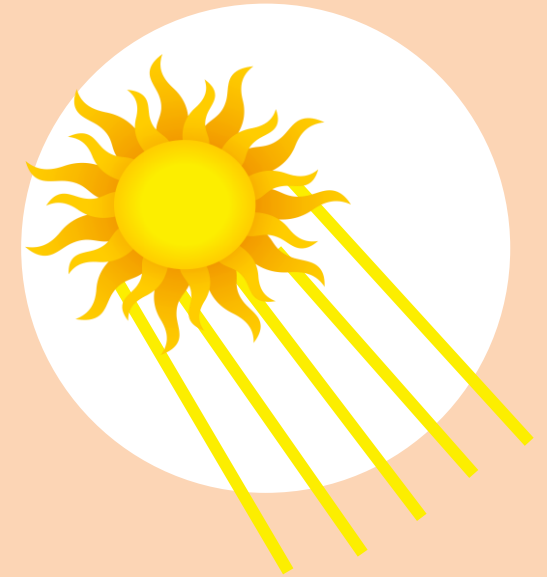
break the \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ cats and dogs



\_\_\_\_\_ in a teacup



ray of \_\_\_\_\_ shine

## 1. I tried to **break the ice** by talking to him.

- Q Why do people feel nervous when they meet someone for the first time?
- Q How do you break the ice with someone you just met?

### Origin

People broke the ice to let ships move through the water, just like breaking the silence in a conversation.



## 2. It was **raining cats and dogs** yesterday.

- Q** When do we use the idiom?
- a. when we get very wet because of rain
  - b. when it is raining heavily

### Origin

It originated in England in the 17th century. City streets were then filthy, and heavy rain would occasionally carry along deceased animals.



### 3. The whole idea is just a **storm in a teacup**. The argument is nothing.

**Q** How do you deal with people who argue about things that are not important?

#### Variations

The following are variations of storm in a teacup:

- British = storm in a teacup
- American = tempest in a teapot
- French = a storm in a glass of water



## 4. I consider my friends as my **ray of sunshine**.

- Q** When do we use the idiom?
- a. when someone brings you happiness
  - b. when someone gives you problems
  - c. when someone talks bad about other people
- Q** Who do you consider your ray of sunshine?



# Quick Review

## break the ice



to ease the nervousness in a situation

## rain cats and dogs

to rain very hard



# Weather

## storm in a teacup



to get angry about something unimportant

## ray of sunshine

a cheerful person who makes you feel happy



# Practice

Match the idioms in column A with their meanings in column B.

A

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. storm in a teacup
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. ray of sunshine
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. break the ice
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. rain cats and dogs

B

- a. to ease the nervousness in a situation
- b. to get angry about something unimportant
- c. to rain very hard
- d. a cheerful person who makes you feel happy



## Practice

Choose the appropriate idioms. Change their forms if necessary.

storm in a teacup

break the ice

ray of sunshine

rain cats and dogs

1. I suggest we play a game to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Peter and Sam's argument about which movie to watch was just a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Michelle is a cheerful person, so she is my \_\_\_\_\_.
4. I did not go out today. It was \_\_\_\_\_.

# Discussion



What do you do if it's raining cats and dogs?

What are some good ways to break the ice in a conversation?

How do you stop a storm in a teacup?

