



Topic

Conversation for Idioms

Lesson 41 Decision

Lead-in

Guess the correct words based on the pictures.

1



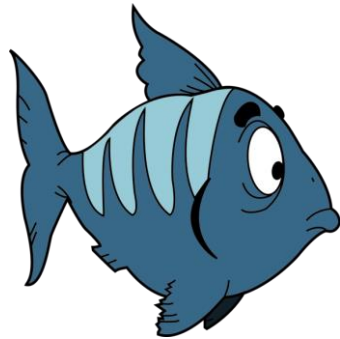
up in the _____

2



on the _____

3



_____ or cut bait

4



make up one's _____

1. My teacher hasn't decided whether to give an exam or not. His decision is still **up in the air**.

Q What are some examples of difficult life decisions that we have to make?

Origin

The precise origin of this idiom is unknown, although its figurative use is easy to understand. It may allude to a coin toss, since as long as the coin is still in the air, the outcome is unknown.



2. I'm still **on the fence**, trying to decide which school I want to study at.

- Q** When do we use the idiom?
- when someone is unable to decide
 - when someone has to practice balancing before getting what they want



Origin

The idiom “on the fence” has been in use since the 1820s, and is taken from the image of a person straddling a fence, unable to decide whether he should jump down to the left or to the right.

3. You promised to help me with my homework, but I've been waiting for hours. Now, it's time to **fish or cut bait**.

- Q Why do some people take too long to decide?
- Q Do you prefer to make your own decisions or do you like to ask for ideas from other people?



4. I've **made up my mind** that I would become an astronaut when I grow up.

- Q What is the meaning of the idiom?
- a. to make a decision about something
 - b. to have a headache because of thinking too much

Q What things do you consider when making a decision?



Quick Review

up in the air
not yet decided



on the fence
to be undecided
between 2 options



fish or cut bait
to either proceed
with an activity or
abandon it completely



**make up
one's mind**
to decide what
to do or choose



Practice

Choose the correct word that completes the sentence.

1. My brother is still on the **(fence, bridge)** whether to buy a new phone or not.
2. Robin missed football practice, so his coach told him to **(fish, start)** or cut bait.
3. Things are still **(up, down)** in the air. I don't know what to do with my life.
4. I still have to decide if I want to go to London. I can't make up my **(mind, brain)**.

Practice

Choose the appropriate idioms. Change the form if necessary.

fish or cut bait

up in the air

on the fence

make up one's mind

1. She hasn't said if I passed the interview, it's still all for now.
2. He doesn't know whether he'll quit his job or not. He's .
3. It's time to . Either we stay at home or go to the park.
4. You have to on what to do after college.
I can't force you to decide on something that you don't like.

Discussion

Choose 2 doors and answer the questions.

