Draw Idioms Literally: A Worksheet for Visual Vocabulary

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Idiom: 'raining cats and dogs'. Draw the literal scene in a box and write the figurative meaning below.

Answer: Literal drawing: clouds with cats and dogs falling downward, plus rain lines if desired. Figurative meaning: raining very heavily.

Reason: The words name cats, dogs, and raining, so the literal scene shows animals falling from clouds. The figurative meaning is heavy rain, not animals.

Check: Confirm the drawing shows animals falling from clouds and the sentence says heavy rain. Accept any recognizable cat and dog shapes.

Task 2

Idiom: 'piece of cake'. Draw the literal scene in a box and write the figurative meaning below.

Answer: Literal drawing: a slice of cake on a plate, perhaps with a fork. Figurative meaning: a task that is very easy.

Reason: The words name a piece of cake, so the literal scene is cake on a plate. The figurative meaning is ease, not food.

Check: Confirm the drawing shows cake and the sentence says very easy. Accept round or triangular cake slices.

Task 3

Idiom: 'under the weather'. Draw the literal scene in a box and write the figurative meaning below.

Answer: Literal drawing: a person or object positioned beneath a cloud or weather symbol such as rain. Figurative meaning: feeling ill or unwell.

Reason: The words name being under weather, so the literal scene places a subject beneath a cloud. The figurative meaning is illness.

Check: Confirm the drawing shows a subject under a cloud or rain and the sentence says feeling ill. Accept a person, animal, or object as the subject.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Idiom: 'let the cat out of the bag'. Draw the literal scene in a box and write the figurative meaning below.

Answer: Literal drawing: an open bag with a cat climbing or stepping out. Figurative meaning: reveal a secret.

Reason: The words name a cat, a bag, and letting out, so the literal scene shows a cat leaving a bag. The figurative meaning is revealing a secret.

Check: Confirm the drawing shows a cat exiting a bag and the sentence says reveal a secret. Accept any bag shape and any cat pose.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] 1 point: the drawing shows a recognizable literal scene matching the idiom's words.
- [ ] 1 point: the drawing includes the key nouns or verbs from the idiom.
- [ ] 1 point: the written sentence gives the correct figurative meaning.
- [ ] 1 point: the drawing and the written sentence do not contradict each other.
- [ ] Pass at 3 or 4 points. Style, color, and handwriting are not scored. Valid alternative depictions are accepted.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?