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0521774365 - Meanings and Metaphors: Activities to Practise Figurative Language

Gillian Lazar

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Meanings and **Metaphors**

Activities to practise figurative language

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521774369

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First published 2003
3rd printing 2006

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN-13 978-0-521-77436-9 Resource book
ISBN-10 0-521-77436-5 Resource book

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Thanks

I would like to acknowledge my debt to the following books which proved to be invaluable references when writing these materials:

Deignan, A. (1995) *Collins Cobuild English Guides 7: Metaphor*, London: Harper Collins; Lakoff, G. and Johnson, M. (1981) *Metaphors We Live By*, Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press.

At Cambridge University Press I would like to thank Nóirín Burke for her generous support and guidance, and Frances Amrani and Brigit Viney for their patience, resourcefulness and meticulous editing skills. I am also grateful to Jane Cordell for her perceptive comments on an earlier draft of some of the units of the book, and Giles Davies of Giles Davies Design for his suggestions. Finally, I would like to thank my family for their generosity and patience.

The author and publishers would like to thank the following students and staff at various institutions in different parts of the world who provided us with valuable feedback on the initial manuscript: Maureen Andrade, Laie Hawaii, Paul Atkins, Eastbourne, UK; Pamela Boelche, Yvette, France; Kenneth A. Crown, Shinjuku-ku, Japan; Frau Elisabeth de Lange, Beckum, Germany; Susi Dobler, Surrey, UK; Philippa-Louise Dralet, Paris, France; Monika Garlbarczyk, Warsaw, Poland; Magdalena Grabowska-Julke, Warsaw, Poland; Eryl Griffiths, Cambridge, UK; Cristina Lima, São Paulo, Brazil; Peter Lucantoni, Nicosia, Cyprus; Andrea McMahon, London, UK; Hanna Mrozowska, Warsaw, Poland; Tina Ottman, Cambridge, UK; Jean Rudinger, St Gallen, Switzerland; Sarah Schechter, Anglia Polytechnic University, Cambridge, UK; Nick Shaw, La Coruña, Spain; Diane Slaouti, University of Manchester, UK; Brendan Smith, Madrid, Spain; Avril Solomon, Regent Brighton, Hove, UK; Bridget Stap, Lyon, France; Joanne Steporowska, Warsaw, Poland; Olga Vinogradova, Moscow, Russia; Clare West, Hove, UK.

Development of this publication has made use of the Cambridge International Corpus (CIC). The CIC is a computerised database of contemporary spoken and written English, which currently stands at over 500 million words. It includes British English, American English and other varieties of English. It also includes the Cambridge Learner Corpus, developed in collaboration with the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate. Cambridge University Press has built up the CIC to provide evidence about language use that helps to produce better language teaching materials.

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Cover illustration by Matilda Harrison

Concept and text design by Giles Davies Design

Illustrated by Mike Atkinson, Adrian Barclay, John Batten, Kathy Baxendale, Colin Brown, Dominique Cordonnier, Giles Davies, Stephen Dew, Sophie Grillet, Paul Hess, Frances McKay, Ed McLachlan, Julian Mosedale, Gary Wing

Map of the book

LI: Lower-intermediate; MI: Mid-intermediate; UI: Upper-intermediate; A: Advanced

Unit	Topic	Example language	Level	Extension/revision activity
1 What is figurative language?	Metaphors and similes	Figurative meanings for <i>diet, path, oasis</i> , metaphors from poetry	LI+	Project work
2 The heart of the matter	Parts of the body	<i>the head of a school, to have a good eye for, heart-broken</i>	LI	Matching collocations
3 Playing the game	Games and sports	<i>gamble, key player, to play by the rules</i>	LI	Writing rules
4 Time to spare	Time and money	<i>to save time/money, to have time/money to spare</i>	LI–MI	Brainstorming
5 A warm welcome	Weather	<i>hazy memory, stormy relationship, to not have the foggiest idea</i>	MI	Brainstorming Writing poems
6 Taking steps	Life is a journey	<i>positive step, to be at a crossroads, to take a path</i>	MI	Brainstorming
7 A recipe for success	Cooking and tastes	<i>to be a recipe for, to go sour, Don't put all your eggs in one basket</i>	MI	Brainstorming Writing 'recipes'
8 Fabulous fables	Stories with metaphorical meanings	<i>bat, hare, fox, to hiss, holy</i>	MI	Writing fables 1 and 2
9 Ups and downs	Describing feelings	<i>to cheer up, to melt somebody's heart, a slap in the face</i>	MI	Poster presentations

Unit	Topic	Example language	Level	Extension/revision activity
10 Running like clockwork	Machines	<i>chain of events, to hammer somebody, to run like clockwork</i>	MI	Designing a machine Creating cartoons
11 Branching out	Plants	<i>the roots of a problem, to bear fruit, to blossom</i>	MI	Poster presentations
12 Getting the green light	Colours	<i>black look, white lie, to see red</i>	MI	Poster presentations
13 Opening doors	Parts of buildings	<i>wall of silence, to open doors for somebody, in ruins</i>	MI	Poster presentations Crossword
14 As free as a bird	Common similes	<i>to shake like a leaf, as quick as a flash</i>	MI	Making similes
15 Marketing your metaphors	Advertising	<i>mouse, to have a memory like a sieve, balanced</i>	MI+	Project work Inventing advertisements
16 A bird in the hand	Proverbs	<i>Birds of a feather flock together, Every cloud has a silver lining</i>	MI+	Putting proverbs back together Inventing catchy names
17 Mix me a metaphor	Poems	<i>'The fog comes on little cat feet', 'The sun is a glowing spider'</i>	MI+	Project work Poem dictation
18 Selling with similes	Inventing similes	<i>'Think of it as an illuminated savings bank'</i>	MI+	Project work

Unit	Topic	Example language	Level	Extension/revision activity
19 Shedding light on the matter	Light and dark	<i>to shed light on something, dark thoughts, light relief</i>	UI	Dictating gapped sentences
20 Plain sailing	Games and sports	<i>stalemate, to angle for something, against all odds</i>	UI	Brainstorming
21 Rising to the top	'Up' and 'down'	<i>to be down in the dumps, to perk up, rising star</i>	UI	Picture discussion Writing a news story
22 Infectious laughter	Health and illness	<i>headache, to be wounded by, healthy relationship</i>	A	Brainstorming
23 Facing up to it	Parts of the body	<i>backbone of an organisation, not to be able to stomach something, spineless</i>	A	Matching collocations
24 Horsing around	Animals	<i>to ape somebody, sheepish, You can't teach an old dog new tricks</i>	A	Discussion about animal words Creating a cartoon strip
25 Food for thought	Cooking and food	<i>to let somebody stew, half-baked, in the soup</i>	A	Brainstorming
26 In a nutshell	Origins of idioms	<i>a white elephant, to bury your head in the sand, in a nutshell</i>	A	Dictating gapped sentences
27 Keeping your cool	Temperature	<i>to get hot under the collar, heated argument, cool as a cucumber</i>	A	Dictating gapped sentences
28 Rough diamonds	Describing people	<i>as hard as nails, a bright spark, a Jekyll and Hyde</i>	A	Writing poems

Unit	Topic	Example language	Level	Extension/revision activity
29 Persuasion	Advertising	<i>cell, to aspire, a fresh start</i>	A	Project work Inventing advertisements
30 Breezing through	Weather	<i>hail of abuse, to be snowed under, to breeze through a situation</i>	A	Poster presentations
31 Pictures in the mind	Descriptive writing	'the birds still drooped, like dead fruit'	A	Project work
32 Ripples and sparks	Water and fire	<i>flicker of interest, burning ambition, to flare up</i>	A	Brainstorming
33 Learning is juggling	Analogies	<i>juggling, to cope, global</i>	A	Completing metaphors
34 The long night of captivity	Metaphors in rhetoric	'the long night of captivity', 'the chains of discrimination', 'the bank of justice'	A	Project work Discussion about speeches