

Project: "English and Russian idioms: are they like 'chalk and cheese' or 'two peas in a pod'?"

is done by Stephanie Adams, a former teacher of the 11th grade, in her book, *Chalk and Cheese: English and Russian Idioms*.

This presentation includes the main points of the project in brief. Every part of the research is illustrated with pictures suitable for giving a better idea of every kind of idiomatic expressions. Five main groups of idioms studied during the process of doing the project are presented here. In order not to make it too complicated, this presentation involves only idioms with the illustrations, without examples and definitions.

Content of the project

1. Introduction

1.1. Purposes of the project

1.2. Actuality

1.3. The process of working and main phases

2. Research

2.1. Idioms, completely similar to Russian ones

- Idioms, including names of parts of the body
- Idioms including names of animals
- Idioms including types of food
- Idioms including common words

2.2. Idioms, which are slightly different from Russian expressions

- Idioms used for describing people
- Idioms, including names of parts of the body
- Idioms connected with emotions or feelings
- Other idioms

2.3. Idioms having more significant differences

2.4. Exceptional idioms

2.5. Purely English idioms widely spread

3. Conclusions

1. The main purposes of the project

- Finding and explaining important similarities between idioms of English and Russian languages.
- Suggesting ideas about the closeness between British and Russian cultures.
- Studying the adoption of some English idiomatic phrases.

2. The actuality

In the modern world much attention is devoted to the interaction of languages, to their integration and to the mutual penetration of words and whole phrases. The comparison of figures of speech, in this case, idioms, lets us give a definite answer to the one of sharp questions - do different languages, belonging even to various families of languages, have similarities and include the same constructions?

the results of the research in idiomatic expressions are not only the value for modern linguistics, but it is also important for other fields of the science and of our lives-
culturology, the Social Science, psychology and even the international political science.

3. How did I do this project?

Main stages:

- 1.** Working out the strategy how to find material for comparing;
- 2.** Studying Russian idioms in order to divide them into different groups;
- 3.** Collecting information;
- 4.** Distribution of the idioms into groups formed;
- 5.** Drawing conclusions;

Idioms

1st group:

Idioms completely similar to Russian ones

- Idioms including names parts of the body
- Idioms including names of animals
- Idioms including types of food
- Idioms including common words

3rd group:

Idioms having more significant differences

2nd group:

Idioms, slightly different from Russian expressions

- Idioms used for describing people
- Idioms, including names parts of the body
- Idioms connected with emotions or feelings
- Other idioms

4th group

Exceptional idioms do not have equivalents in the Russian language

5th group

Purely English idioms become widespread



To bury somebody's head into the sand

First group



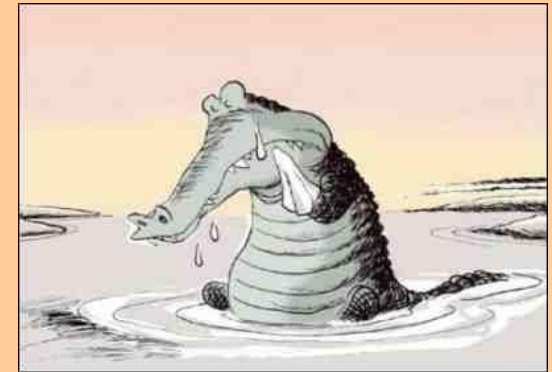
Two heads are better than one



Never look a gift horse in the mouth



To kill time

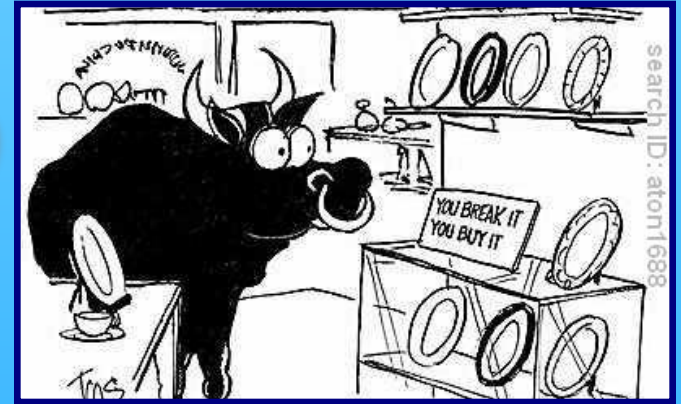


Crocodile tears



Second group

As blind as a bat



To be a bull in a china shop

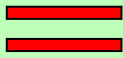


A storm in a teacup



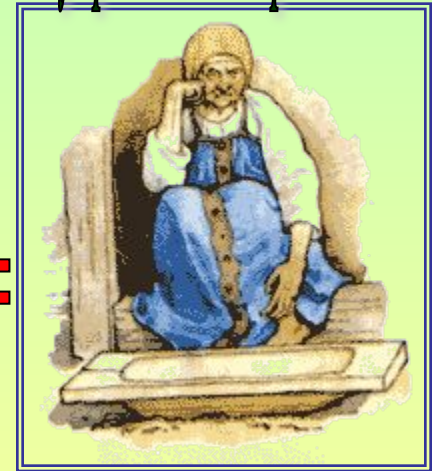
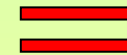
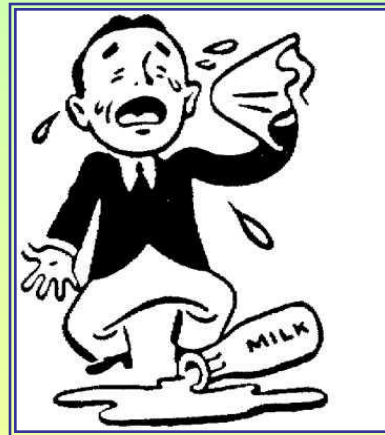
To have a whale of time

When pigs fly



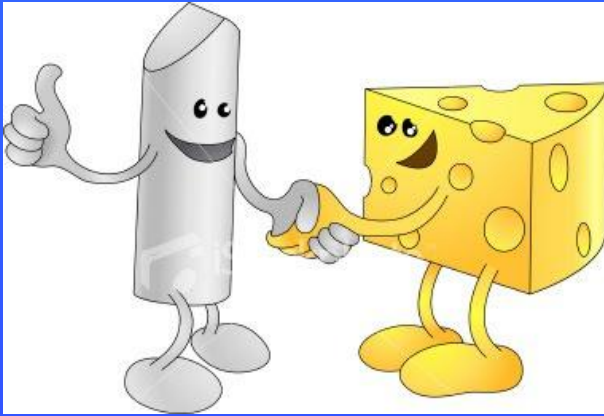
Third group

Когда рак на горе свистнет



Плакать у разбитого корыта

To cry over spilt milk



To be like chalk and cheese



To be as cool as a cucumber

Forth group

(My favourite)



To go bananas

Time is money



To grin like a Cheshire cat



Fifth group



To be or not to be?

Conclusions

1. The English and the Russian languages have a lot of points of contact. Some idiomatic expressions are completely the same. The group of such idioms mainly consists of figures of speech which include the names of parts of the body.
2. Although there are a lot of worldwide stereotypes of animals' characters, the expressions including the names of them are slightly different. Some Russian idioms seem to be more emphatic while the English ones are more neutral.
3. Studying idioms and comparing them, it is wiser to find their equivalents in the other language since it gives a better idea of their definitions. Simply translating them word by word we are in danger of getting very confusing definitions which are not connected with the correct meanings.
4. Studying figures of speech gives the opportunity to become closer to the culture of the country, the mentality of inhabitants, to its history and literature. Besides, it is a chance to learn some facts about the geography of the country.