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## TYPES OF ENGLISH IDIOMS AND THEIR USAGE

## ТИПИ АНГЛІЙСЬКИХ ІДІОМ ТА ЇХ ВИКОРИСТАННЯ

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In the provision of a scientific article the author gives the classification of idioms according to their types and also describes the usage of idioms in contemporary English language. In this article we differentiate the following types of idioms: *similes*; *binominals*, *proverbs*, *cliches*.

We shall treat an *idiom* here as a fixed combination of words, the meaning of which is *different* from the meanings of its components, considered separately.

We consider *similes* as expressions which compare two things that are connected with linking words *as* or *like*, e.g., *as clear as crystal*; *fits like a glove*.

We consider *binominals* as types of idioms in which two words are joined by a linking word like *and*, *or*, *to*; e.g., *neat and tidy*; *give or take*; *bumper to bumper*.

We consider *proverbs* as short finished sentences which refer to some collective experience and wisdom of human society, e.g., *every cloud has a silver lining*.

We treat *cliches* as a comment that is often used in everyday situations. Cliches are frequently played with in advertising slogans and newspapers headlines, e.g., *under the weather*.

We shall examine here the three domains of the English idiom's usage: *sailing*, *transport* and *science and technology*.

Britain is an island nation, with the sea playing a major role in the country's history and its economy, it's not surprising that the language has developed many idioms from sailing and maritime business.

Transport is an everyday experience for many people, it is also unsurprisingly a rich source of idioms.

Science and technology dominate peoples' lives these days, so no wonder we have many idioms connected with this domain of contemporary English language.

**Key words:** idioms, similes, binominals, proverbs, cliches. sailing, transport, science and technology.

В матеріалі даної наукової статті автор наводить класифікацію ідіом згідно їх типам а також описує використання ідіом в сучасній англійській мові. У цій статті ми розрізняємо наступні типи ідіом: *порівняння*, *двоскладні вирази*, *прислів'я* та *кліше*.

*Ідіома* трактується тут як фіксована комбінація слів, значення яких *відмінне* від значення їх компонентів, якщо розглядати їх окремо.

Ми розглядаємо *порівняння* як вислови, що порівнюють дві назви, що об'єднуються сполучниками *as* or *like*, e.g., *as clear as crystal* (*прозора як скло*); *fits like a glove* (*щільно облягати*).

Ми розглядаємо *двоскладні вирази* як ідіоми, де два слова об'єднуються сполучниками *and*, *or*, *to*; e.g., *neat and tidy* (*охайний і акуратний*); *give or take* (*давай чи бери*); *bumper to bumper* (*дихати в спину, переслідувати*).

Ми розглядаємо *прислів'я* як короткі, завершені вислови, що посиляють до колективного досвіду чи мудрості людства, e.g., *every cloud has a silver lining* (*лихо не без добра*).

Ми трактуємо *кліше* як стійке словосполучення, що часто використовується в повсякденних ситуаціях. *Кліше* часто використовуються в рекламних слоганах та в газетних заголовках. e.g., *under the weather* (*погано себе почувати*).

Також у цій статті ми досліджуємо три сфери реалізації ідіом в англійській мові: *судноплавство*, *транспорт* та *наука та технологія*.

Британія є острівна країна, де море грало виключну роль у формуванні історії та економіки цієї країни, тому не дивно, що в сучасній англійській мові багато ідіом, що походять з *судноплавства та морського підприємства*.

*Транспорт* то є щоденний досвід для багатьох людей, тому не дивно, що цей лексикологічний шар є щедрим джерелом ідіом.

*Наука та технологія* домінує життя людей сьогодні, тому не дивно, що ми маємо багато ідіом з цього шару в сучасній англійській мові.

**Ключові слова:** ідіома, порівняння, двоскладні вирази, прислів'я та кліше, мореплавання, транспорт, наука та технологія.

**Problem definition.** Nowadays when we teach a foreign language, especially English marine ESP, it is necessary to concentrate not only on grammar rules and professional vocabulary, but also on contemporary colloquialisms and idioms, as English is very rich in metaphors, especially of nautical origin, since Britain is and always was a marine power. The analysis and description of the bulk of marine idioms will broaden the horizons of teaching and learning the English language.

**Analysis of the latest research and publications.** The efforts of foreign linguists in researching the sphere of colloquialisms, idioms, slang so far were concentrated mostly at exploring and analyzing the lexicographic field of this metaphoric bulk of contemporary English language. Such profound publications as “A Dictionary of Nautical Words and Phrases” by Peter D. Jeans, published in 1998, [1] Oxford Dictionaries of Phrasal Words and Oxford Dictionary of Idioms [2] that appeared in 2020 are the vivid examples of the interest in the domain of marine language. As for the local Ukrainian linguistic research tradition, this article is the first attempt to describe and systematize the contemporary idioms of marine origin and the second of the kind after my article “Origin and Etymology of Marine Superstitions”, 2020 [3].

**The objects of the article.** The objects of this article were two-fold: firstly, to define the types of idioms used in the contemporary English language, and secondly, to study the usage of original maritime idioms of the studied types in two domains: everyday colloquial English language and in the contemporary maritime ESP. In the following article we shall describe the types of idioms and give the examples of their usage in the contemporary English language.

**Main part.** The contemporary English language is a very idiomatic conglomeration, and various idioms enter the English language from different people's activities and professions. Here we shall concentrate on the maritime/nautical aspect of idioms' usage. First, let's figure out what the *idiom* is. Different academic dictionaries give somewhat different interpretation of the term, e.g., “a group of words whose meaning is different from the meanings of the individual words” [4, p. 740]; “a phrase which means something different from the meanings of the separate words from which it is formed” [5, p. 655]; “a construction, expression, etc., having a meaning different from the literal one or not according to the usual patterns of the language: [6, p. 481]. Summing up the information presented in these authoritative sources we shall treat an *idiom* here as a fixed combination of words, the meaning of which is *different* (and that is the key-word in the quotations sighted above) from the meanings of its components, considered separately.

Many English idioms have deep roots in history and culture. They have their origins in traditional skills, like sailing, transport, games and sport, and in different areas of human activities, like literature, war, ancient myths and history, science and technology. They can also originate from observing humans' and animals' behavior.

In this article we shall examine the three domains of the English idiom's usage: sailing, transport and science and technology.

As Britain is an island nation, with the sea playing a major role in the country's history and its economy, it is not surprising that the language has developed many idioms from sailing and maritime business. Here we shall not only describe, explain and give examples of different types of idioms, we shall also dwell upon the usage of the idioms of marine origin.

As transport is an everyday experience for many people, it is also unsurprisingly a rich source of idioms.

Science and technology dominate peoples' lives these days, so no wonder we have many idioms connected with this domain of contemporary English language.

In this article we differentiate the following types of idioms: *similes*; *binominals*, *proverbs*, *cliches*.

### 1. Similes as idioms meant to compare two (or three) things.

We consider *similes* as expressions which compare two things that are connected with linking words *as* or *like*. For example:

*as thin as a rake* – extremely thin;

*as smooth as silk* – extremely smooth;

*as clear as crystal* – very clearly;

*as silent as the grave* – totally silent;

*fits like a glove* – fits extremely well;

In the examples above the comparison lies within the similar semantic meanings of the objects compared, – 'rake' is really thin; 'silk' is really very soft and smooth; crystal is clear and transparent; grave is silent and gloomy. But sometimes similes compare the two objects describing not their transparent meaning identity, but suggest a metaphorical comparison, which is typical to the characteristic of idioms. For example:

*as bright as a button* – extremely clever; not shining like a polished button, but being prominent in thinking qualities, – it's a metaphor;

*as fresh as a daisy* – fresh and full of energy; practically all flowers are associated with freshness, but not with energy, – here is a metaphor;

*run like the wind* – run extremely fast; not only winds in nature are fast, – it's a metaphor;

*as dry as a bone* – extremely thirsty: here is no connection with a bone as a body tissue, – the zest is in the word 'dry' which also means 'thirsty' – it's a metaphor;

*as dry as dust* – extremely boring: dust is really dry but in this idiom the word realizes its meaning as 'something routine, uninterested, boring, – it's a metaphor.

### 2. Binominals as idioms where two (or three) words are connected by a linking word: *and*, *or*, *to*.

We consider *binominals* as types of idioms in which two words are joined by a linking word like *and*, *or*, *to*. It is necessary to mention here that the order of the two words is always fixed and can never be changed, otherwise the spell of the idiom is ruined and the meaning is lost.

In the *binominals* the words can be:

- synonyms – words which mean the same: *neat and tidy* – actually neat or tidy; e.g., It's great to leave the *hustle and bustle* of the city and go to the country for a weekend.

- opposites – words that mean different things: *hit and miss* – sometimes good, sometimes bad; e.g., Although the twins look the same, they are like *chalk and cheese* in character. (i.e., totally different).

- the same word, *neck and neck* – equal; e.g., He doesn't enjoy living in the countryside, he's a city person, *through and through*. (i.e., completely).

- rhyming words, *wear and tear* – damage through everyday use; e.g., The money for the charity appeal came in *dribs and drabs*, but we reached our target in the end. (i.e., small amounts at a time).

- alliterative, *black and blue* – very bruised; e.g., Her interest in painting *waxed and waned* over the years. (i.e., fluctuated).

- joined by words other than 'and':

- *bumper to bumper* – very heavy, esp. about traffic; e.g., The traffic was *bumper to bumper* all the way to the airport.

- *little by little* – gradually; e.g., *Little by little* she gained the horse's confidence.

- *give or take* – plus or minus. e.g., The house must be worth a quarter of a million, *give or take* a few thousand.

– **time after time** – many times, persistently; e.g., I've asked you **time after time** not to do that, but you still would.

Sometimes we can come across **trinominals**, i.e., a similar type of idiom, like binominals, in which three words are joined together, e.g., I've looked **here, there and everywhere** for my wallet, but I couldn't find it. (i.e., practically everywhere).

In the *marine* applications of idioms, we found quite a few which may not be frequently used by the native speakers in everyday speech, but they are understood and respected by bringing up the historical colour of the sailing traditions. For example:

- **cut and run** – avoid a difficult situation by leaving suddenly (the image comes from cutting mooring ropes in order to make a quick departure) e.g., The previous owners had decided **to cut and run**, but we loved the place and were sure we could make a go for it. As we can see in the example above, the situation is not connected with the sailing and sea at all.

- **by and large** – all things considered, generally speaking (originates from the sailor's way of describing a passage which included bad days of headwinds when the vessel would have to be sailed *by* the wind, and good days when the *large* or square sails could be used giving more comfort and a better speed) e.g., Taking everything into consideration, she would make a good manager, **by and large**.

- **off and on** – now and then, occasionally; (originally it referred to a vessel's deliberate tactic of alternately sailing toward the land (*on*) and then away from it (*off*). This was done most often at night when she was waiting for her pilot, or when entering an unfamiliar harbor) e.g., I see him **off and on** at the club.

- **touch and go** – metaphorically means a narrow escape, something that was precarious and risky, something that almost didn't quite come off (when sailing barges along the rivers and estuaries, the seamen had to run her aground and refloat her immediately not to cause the vessel any serious damage and check her progress along the water). e.g., It was **touch-and-go** whether the doctor would come in time.

- **spic and span** – a room, a house, completely tidy and clean; (in pristine condition it referred to a newly built ship. A *spic* was a spike or nail, a *span* a length of timber, both primary items of ship construction) e.g., When she came back after the holiday the flat was **spic and span**, and she understood her husband really missed her.

- **to be left high and dry** – to be put in a difficult situation which cannot be improved (the image of a boat stuck on a sandbank and unable to move).

- e.g., many holidaymakers **were left high and dry** when the tour company collapsed.

In the *transport* applications of idioms, we tracked the idioms associated with different types of transport, such as *trains, cars and planes*.

The 'railway' origin of the common idioms can be seen in the following expressions:

- **run out of steam** – to lose energy or interest; e.g., He worked extremely hard at first, but then **ran out of steam** and lost interest in his studies.

- **go off the rails** – start behaving in an unacceptable way, e.g., He spent much more time going out to parties than studying, so his tutor worried that he **had gone off the rails**.

- **down the line** – later.

- **back on track** – again on the way to achieving something, e.g., Now, six months **down the line**, he is **back on track** towards gaining an excellent degree.

The 'motorway' origin of the common idioms can be seen in the following expressions:

- **at/behind the wheel** – to be the driver at the steering wheel, e.g., I couldn't figure out who was **behind the wheel** in this situation because the two rivals in the debates were equal.

- **to be in the driving seat** – to be in control of the situation; e.g., Although the general manager is officially in charge, everybody knows his deputy is really **in the driving seat**.

- **life in the fast lane** – a life that is active, exciting and dangerous; e.g., I've had enough of **life in the fast lane**, so I'm giving up my executive sales job and moving to the countryside.

- **life in the slow lane** – lacking in excitement and danger.
- **to do a U-turn** – to change direction, esp. when talking about politics; e.g., Initially, the minister was against increasing the road tax, but he has now *done a U-turn* and is defending the plan.
- **to go/move/step up a gear** – to start doing things more effectively and quickly than before, e.g., After half-time the team stepped up a gear and managed to score three goals.

The ‘aircraft’ origin of the common idioms can be seen in the following expressions:

- **to be flying high** – to be very successful; e.g., The company had some initial problems but now *it is flying high*.
- **to do something on autopilot** – to do something without thinking; e.g., I’ve written so many references now that I can more or less *do it on autopilot*.
- **to take a nosedive** – to go down suddenly and fast; e.g., Share prices *took a nosedive* last week.
- **to be on a collision course** – to behave in such a way that is likely to cause a major disagreement or fight; e.g., The two countries are *on a collision course*, and it seems that nothing could be done to prevent a serious trouble.

- **to come to a standstill** – to stop; e.g., Production *has come to a standstill* because of the strike.

The idioms from the field of *science and technology* are mostly used to evaluate things in a positive way. Consider the examples below:

- **at the cutting edge** – at the most recent stage of development; e.g., The recent English coursebook is called “*Cutting Edge*” and it really give the latest fresh ideas of teaching English.
- **hot off the press** – having just been printed and containing the most recent information; e.g., *Hot off the press*, this article about the new strategic weapons was met by public approval.
- **the brainchild of** – a clever or original idea, plan or investigation; e.g., This new web search engine is *the brainchild of* X, who originally developed Workseek software.
- **push the right buttons** – to do exactly what is necessary to get the result you want; e.g., With its modern design and functionality the new USB *pushes the right buttons*.
- **to be light years away from** – to be a long way away from; e.g., We’re *light years away from* developing good software for our customer database.
- **to be on the blink** – not to work correctly; e.g., The main computer is *on the blink* and needs replacing.
- **to throw a spanner in the works** – to do something that may prevent a plan from succeeding; e.g., He *threw a spanner in the works* when he found some faults in its design.
- **it’s not rocket science** – used to say when something is not difficult to do or to understand; e.g., to mend a shelf is pretty easy for a man, *it’s not a rocket science*.
- **to reinvent the wheel** – to try to invent something that has been already invented; e.g., When he says he can ride a bicycle, he isn’t *reinventing the wheel*.
- **if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it** – if something works well, there is no reason to try to change it; e.g., The hardware system is not working properly, but as they say, *if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it*.
- **set the wheels in motion** – to do something which will cause a series of actions to start; e.g., The government had *set the wheels in motion* for a complete reform of the tax system.
- **to oil the wheels** – to make it easier for something to happen; e.g., Government investment *has oiled the wheels* of economic development in the poorer regions.

### 3. Proverbs as idioms meaning a short wise saying.

We consider *proverbs* as short finished sentences which refer to some collective experience and wisdom of human society, they may also give advice or warnings. Like with idioms their form is fixed and cannot be changed without the affecting of their meaning. Some proverbs have positive connotation, like in the examples below:

- **When there is a will there is a way.** (meaning if we really want to achieve something, we’ll find a solution to the problem).

- **Every cloud has a silver lining.** (i.e., there is always some hope/good in every bad situation).
- **Variety is the spice of life.** (i.e., change makes life interesting).
- **Nothing ventured, nothing gained.** (i.e., one needs to take risks to achieve something).
- **Necessity is the mother of invention.** (i.e., if people really need to do something, they will find a way to do it).

Some proverbs have negative connotation, like in the examples below:

- **All is fair in love and war.** (i.e., all behavior is acceptable in extreme situations, especially in romantic situations and competitions).
- **It never rains but it pours.** (i.e., problems always happen together).
- **It takes two to tango.** (i.e., two people are equally responsible).

Some proverbs don't cling to positive or negative connotation, they just speak for themselves:

- **Rome was not built in a day!** (i.e., it takes a long time to do important things properly).
- **Better safe than sorry.** (i.e., it is better not to take risks, even if it seems boring or hard work).
- **No pain no gain.** (i.e., there must be some suffering in order to succeed).
- **First come, first served.** (i.e., the first to arrive will get something).

Nautical English produced a fundamental bulk of proverbs which people frequently use nowadays never realizing their origin. Consider the examples below:

- **Between the devil and the deep blue sea** – to have no real choice; to be placed between two alternatives, each of which is equally precarious or hazardous; (the devil was the outermost seam on the deck, it was so called because it allowed almost no room for the seaman to hammer the caulking in to make the seam watertight. From the point of view of the sailor, all that lay between the disaster of plunging into the deep blue sea and his present position was the thickness of the planking that stood between the devil on the deck and the sea alongside.) e.g., When choosing the University, she was really *between the devil and the deep blue sea*, because she couldn't decide between medical and biological sciences.

- **Dutch courage** – the courage to do something that one gets from drinking alcohol; (dates back to the time of Anglo-Dutch Wars at their peak and the gossip was circulating that Dutch crews were so cowardly that they had to be primed with schnapps before they would come out and fight).

- **Rats from a sinking ship** – to walk out on a project because it seems doomed. (sailors believed that the sight of rats coming out of the ship's holds was a portent of disaster. The rats frequently inhabited the bilge which was the first place to be flooded.

- **No room to swing a cat** – a confined space, a room, house or any area, restricted or too small for a particular purpose. (*Cat* is a sailor's abbreviation for the *cat-o'-nine-tails*, a whip for punishment on deck, between the poop and mainmast. This area was quite restricted and to swing a cat effectively required some skill of the bosun). E.g., The lobby was so crowded, there was *no room to swing a cat*.

- **Out of the blue** – unexpectedly, short for '*out of a clear blue sky*' (analogy to a sudden change of the weather when, from a good breeze under a cloud dappled blue sky, a demon squall can appear and wreak havoc on the ship). E.g., He came to the party *like a bolt from the blue*, nobody invited or expected him.

#### 4. Clichés as idioms meaning a very common and often used expression.

We treat *clichés* as a comment that is often used in everyday situations. Cliches are frequently played with in advertising slogans and newspapers headlines. Functionally clichés are similar to proverbs, but they are a younger formation of the language and don't have such prestige. Usually, they are used in informal speech. For example:

- **There are plenty more fish in the sea.** (i.e., there are plenty more people or possibilities. Often used to cheer up someone who has found one person or opportunity unsuccessful).
- **Look on the bright side.** (i.e., try to see something good in a bad situation).
- **It's easy to be wise after the event.** (i.e., when you know what happens next, it's easy to say what should have been done).

- ***It's not over until the fat lady sings.*** (you cannot be sure what will happen until the very end of something, like a sports event. The expression refers to a long opera which ends with a female, usually fat, singing the final aria).

- ***You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink.*** (you can give someone the opportunity to do something, but you cannot force them to do it. The second part of the idiom is usually omitted).

The examples of *clichés* of the nautical origin are pretty frequent in the everyday colloquial English:

- ***Under the weather*** – to feel unwell, out of sorts, as a result of illness or untoward weather (connected with seasickness, a state of people suffering nausea on board because of heavy seas). e.g., *I felt under the weather*, so I called my boss and asked for a day-off.

- ***Fly-by-night*** – a shifty person, here today and gone tomorrow (a large square sail which could be set and handled easily and quickly, especially suitable for night sailing) e.g., He is only interested in making quick profits in business, using slightly dishonest methods, – a typical *fly-by-night*.

Sometimes the authors distinguish ***fixed statements*** separately, but we think that functionally and structurally they are the same clichés. For example:

- ***I'll believe it when I see it.*** – I'm doubtful that it will happen.

- ***Take it easy!*** – calm down, relax!

- ***So far, so good.*** – things are going well to this point.

- ***Get your skates on!*** – Hurry up!

- ***Give me a break!*** – Stop criticizing me!

Usually there is such a subtle frontier between the types of the idioms, that if you don't find any specification in the reliable dictionaries, you tend to treat the expressions as just idioms. And this is not a mistake at all, because such types as: *similes*; *binominals*, *proverbs*, *cliches*, *fixed statements*, are *types* of idioms. Here we suggest some examples of the marine origin idioms with their interpretation and usage in the contemporary English language.

- ***on the rocks*** – in serious difficulty (literally, when a ship is stuck on the rocks); e.g., When we decided to buy a hotel five years ago, the business was *on the rocks*.

- ***to give a wide birth*** – to avoid (literally, to leave a safe distance, birth, between the ship itself and a potential danger, like rocks); e.g., The economy was doing badly and luxury hotels *were given a wide birth*.

- ***batten down the hatches*** – to get ready for a difficult situation by preparing in every way possible (the image comes from closing the ship's hatches securely when a storm is coming); e.g., We *battened down the hatches* by cutting costs.

- ***to run a tight ship*** – to control a business or organization firmly and effectively; e.g., We did everything we could to survive the business. We *ran a tight ship*.

- ***to go by the board*** – to be abandoned (the image comes from something being thrown overboard into the sea; e.g., Holidays and any other luxuries for our family *went by the board*).

- ***weather the storm*** – survive difficult times. The meaning is pretty transparent, – if you can stand the storm, you will survive. E.g., In spite of all, we managed to weather the storm.

- ***making good headway*** – making good progress. The meaning is: if you can make your sailing ahead, if there is no wind, and the ship can really beat the waters fast. e.g., he is now making good headway through the business.

- ***in the offing*** – likely to happen soon (historically *offing* was a term used to refer to the part of the sea on the horizon). e.g., We have lots of major bookings *in the offing* and are confident of making excellent profits.

**Conclusions.** The object of the article was to study and describe the types of idioms which are used in contemporary English language and their usage in different professional domains of English. During our research we subdivided the bulk of studied linguistic material into four structural groups:

1) similes

- 2) binominals
- 3) proverbs
- 4) clichés

In the first group, **similes**, we consider the expressions which compare two things that are connected with linking words *as* or *like*, e.g., *as thin as a rake* – extremely thin; *as smooth as silk* – extremely smooth; *as clear as crystal* – very clearly; *as silent as the grave* – totally silent;

This comparison may lie within the similar semantic meanings of the objects compared, – ‘rake’ is really thin; ‘silk’ is really very soft and smooth; ‘crystal’ is clear and transparent. Sometimes similes compare the two objects suggesting a metaphorical comparison, which is typical to the characteristic of idioms, e.g., *as bright as a button* – extremely clever; not shining like a polished button, but being prominent in thinking qualities; *as fresh as a daisy* – fresh and full of energy; practically all flowers are associated with freshness; *run like the wind* – run extremely fast; not only winds in nature are fast.

The second group, **binominals**, we observed the expressions in which two words are joined by a linking word like *and*, *or*, *to*. In the binominals the words can be: synonyms – words which mean the same e.g., neat *and* tidy – actually neat or tidy; opposites – words that mean different things: *hit and miss* – sometimes good, sometimes bad; the same word, *neck and neck* – equal; rhyming words, *wear and tear* – damage through everyday use; alliterative, *black and blue* – very bruised; joined by words other than ‘and’ – bumper *to* bumper – very heavy, esp. about traffic; time *after time* – many times, persistently.

In the third group, **proverbs**, we treated *proverbs* as short finished sentences which refer to some collective experience and wisdom of human society, they may also give advice or warnings. e.g., *When there is a will there is a way*. (meaning if we really want to achieve something, we’ll find a solution to the problem. *Every cloud has a silver lining*. (i.e., there is always some hope/good in every bad situation. Some proverbs have negative connotations, e.g., *All is fair in love and war*. (i.e., all behavior is acceptable in extreme situations, especially in romantic situations and competitions). *It never rains but it pours*. (i.e., problems always happen together). *It takes two to tango*. (i.e., two people are equally responsible).

Some proverbs don’t cling to positive or negative connotations, they just speak for themselves: e.g., *Rome was not built in a day!* (i.e., it takes a long time to do important things properly); *Better safe than sorry*. (i.e., it is better not to take risks, even if it seems boring or hard work); *No pain no gain*. (i.e., there must be some suffering in order to succeed)

The fourth group is **clichés** which we treat as a comment that is often used in everyday situations. Usually, they are used in informal speech. For example: *There are plenty more fish in the sea*; i.e., there are plenty more people or possibilities. *Look on the bright side*. (i.e., try to see something good in a bad situation). *It’s easy to be wise after the event*. (i.e., when you know what happens next, it’s easy to say what should have been done). *I’ll believe it when I see it*. – I’m doubtful that it will happen. *Take it easy!* – calm down, relax! *So far, so good*. – things are going well to this point. *Give me a break!* – Stop criticizing me!

The article also considers and describes the usage of contemporary English idioms in such domains as: sailing, maritime business; transport; science and technology.

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