

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

During the process of my fulfilling research paper, I have been fortunate to receive a great deal of assistance, guidance, and encouragement from many people.

First of all, I would like to show my deepest thanks to my supervisor - Ms Nguyen Thi Yen Thoa, M.A who supports me both knowledge and encouragement for useful advice, valuable guide to finish this study.

I also would like to give whole- hearted thank for all of teachers in foreign language Department of Hai Phong Private University, providing materials for this study and having taught me through four years at university.

Finally, my deep thanks are extended to my parents, my younger brother and all of my friends who always stand by and support me both materially and mentally. The completion and success of my research paper would not be achieved without their help. For my young experience and knowledge, I would like to receive from teachers more useful comments.

Hai Phong, June, 2010

Student

Pham Thi Viet Ha

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PART I: INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale

Nowadays, English is the most widely used in the world and plays an important role together with the development of society and technologies. English is not only the effective means of communication but also show its progressive effects in many aspects of life.

Idioms and proverbs are one of the most important parts of English. It was used in all kinds formal and informal, spoken and written to “ make our observation, judgment and explanations more lively and interesting ” (Horby, Idiom dictionary). “ Each country has its custom ” and it is the national character that distinguishes one nation from the other. This study of English idioms and proverbs has been traditionally associated with the study of literature, the use of idioms and proverbs is not restricted to this kind of language. A good understanding of how idioms and proverbs are used in everyday language is not only important for students of English to increase our vocabulary, but also to understand new and original idioms and proverbs when we hear or speak them. An idiom is a word, phrase, or expression that cannot be taken literally because the meaning is figurative. Idioms are a form of expression peculiar to a language. It is impossible to speak, read, or listen to English well without idiomatic language. Most native English speech is idiomatic. Furthermore, learning and using idioms helps us to remember well what we have learned. The wise men like using idioms so that their daily communication and speech become more natural, interesting and effective. For such these reasons the author decided to choose idioms and proverbs for the author’s study. There are many sources of English idioms including: animals, colors, money, names, numbers and so on; however, the author only takes fruits - related English idioms and proverbs into consideration. Thus, the author would like to study about it in my paper. The author hopes with this

study, readers can know them well and apply in communication successfully.

2. Purposes of the study

This study is done with the hope to reach some aims at :

- Providing the description of English idioms and proverbs
- Analyzing certain English idioms of fruits to help readers understand them better, from then they can apply to their writings or speeches.
- Perfecting the ability of applying right words setting expression to particular context and real communication.

3. Scope of the study

Idioms are very large and difficult aspect of each language. Furthermore, due to the limitation of time and the author's knowledge, the author could not go through all English idioms, the study just focuses on those relating to typical fruits because it is attractive and living. Added to this, there are valuable advice drawn from fruits -related idioms.

4. Methods of the study

During the researching process, there are many ways to find resources, such as dictionaries, articles, and internet for this study. I also read reference books and documents to find and collect essential information.

Collecting specific examples and dialogues for study.

Then, the author will analyze those idioms to find out certain expressions.

5. Design of the study

- Part I: Introduction

Introduces about the rationale, purpose of the study, scope of the study, method of the study, and design of the study.

- Part II: Development

Chapter 1: Theoretical background of English idioms and proverbs: Some definitions and common features of idioms and proverbs, the origins of idioms and proverbs as well.

Chapter 2: Fruits -related English idioms and proverbs; in this chapter some certain English idioms and proverbs are analyzed according to names of some fruits.

Chapter 3: Application: Some difficulties faced by learners in learning English idioms and proverbs. Some useful advice for English learners to overcome these difficulties. And some suggested exercises are introduced.

- Part III: Conclusion

+ Summarization: Summarizing what have been mentioned and some personal comments given

+ Suggestions for further study

PART II: DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER 1 : GENERAL THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

1. Idioms and Proverbs in English

English is a language particularly rich in idioms and proverbs – those modes of expression peculiar to a language (or dialect) which frequently defy logical and grammatical rules. Without idioms and proverbs English would lose much of its variety and humor both in speech and writing.

1.1 An overview of Idioms

1.1.1 What is an Idiom?

In our daily life, in order to express ourselves more effectively and clearly, we frequently need to call upon idioms. Idiom is a form of expression peculiar to a language. It is a kind of compendious language, reflecting culture and tradition of each nation in the most reliable way.

Each language has its own store of idioms; hence there are also many concepts of idiom. But in the scope of this paper, the author only mentions some concepts of idiom in English .

In English Oxford dictionary, Idiom is defined : “ *An idiom is a phrase which meaning is difficult or sometimes impossible to guess by looking at the meaning of the individual words it contains* “ (Oxford Press, 1955: 538).

For instance : Be in the same boat

If we look at each word of the idiom, we do not find anything except for information: two or a group of people sit in the same boat, a kind of traffic means in water. But its non-literal meaning refers to some people who have the same difficult or unfortunate situation.

Idiom is also defined as “ *Idiom is a phrase or sentence whose meaning is not*

clear from the meaning of its individual words and which must be learnt as a whole unit “ according to Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary

For example:

“ To let the cat out of the bag “.

(To reveal a secret)

We also can know it more clearly by reviewing the following definition from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia:

“ An idiom is an expression (i.e.term or phrase) whose meaning can not be deduced from the literal definitions and the agreement of its parts, but refers instead to a figurative meaning that is known only through conventional use. In linguistic, idioms are widely assumed to be figures of speech that contradict the principle of compositionality, however some debate has recently arisen on this subject”.

For instance: In the English expression “**to kick the bucket**” a listener knowing only the meaning of **kick** and **bucket** would be unable to deduce the expression’s actual meaning, which is **to die**. Although it can refer literally to the act of striking a bucket with a foot, native speakers rarely use it that way. It can not be directly translated to other languages – for example, the same expression in Polish is “**to kick the calendar** “, with the calendar being as detached from its usual meaning as the bucket in the English phrase is.

On the other hand, idiom is defined: " An idiom is a figurative expression that usually can be interpreted literally but that takes a nonliteral meaning when used in a specific context ” (Cain & Oakhill and Lemmon, 2005:66)

In short, the above ideas are in common, it is difficult to define idioms exactly but we can confirm that they are fixed expressions and their meanings are understood indirectly through visible words in each.

1.1.2 Some common features of Idioms

There are many different concepts of idiom; however, we still find some similarities between them.

- An idiom is a multiword expression. Individual components of idiom can often inflect in the same way. Words in a phrase can be inflected. This inflection usually follows the same pattern of inflection as the idiom's literal counterpart.

Example: Have a bee in one's bonnet.

- An idiom has a non-productive syntactic structure, it has an unusual grammatical structure; however, proverbs are a particularly interesting class of materials for psycholinguistic research, since most proverbs have both literal and a figurative level a meaning.

Example: By and large gives meaning when everything about a situation considered together.

- An idiom behaves as a simple semantic unit.

It tends to have some measures of internal cohesion such that it can often be replaced by a literal counterpart that is made up of single word.

For instance: kick the bucket (die)

It resists interruption by other words by other words whether they are semantically compatible or not.

Example: Pull one's leg

It resists meaning of its component parts

For instance: Let the cat

1.2 An overview of Proverbs

1.2.1 What is a Proverb?

Proverbs are used by speakers for a variety of purposes. Sometimes, they are

used as a way of saying something gently, in a veiled way (Obeng,1996:89). In other cases, they are used to carry more weight in a discussion, a weak person is able to enlist the tradition of the ancestors to support his position.

Proverbs are popular sayings which contain advice or state a generally tradition. They are generally worded in such a way as to be remembered easily and tend to change little from generation to generation, so much so that sometimes their specific meaning is no longer relevant.

For example: the proverb ” penny wise, pound foolish” is a holdover from when America was British colony and used the pound as currency.

Proverbs are used to support arguments, to provide lessons and instructions and to stress shared values. According to Oxford Advanced Learner Dictionary(1995: 98): ” *Proverb is a short well-known sentence or phrase that states a general truth about life or gives advice* “

For example: “All cats are grey in the dark “

(tat den nha ngoi cung nhu nha tranh)

Or “ Pay a man back in the same coin”

(di voi but mac ao ca sa,di voi ma mac ao giay)

Proverb is also defined in Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia as follows: A proverb is a simple and concrete saying popularly known and repeated, which expresses a truth, based on common sense or the practical experience of mankind. They are often metaphorical. A proverb that describes a basic rule of conduct may also be known as a maxim. If a proverb is distinguished by particularly good, it may be known as an aphorism.

Proverbs are often borrowed from different languages and cultures, and sometimes come down to the present through more than one language.

Currently, the foremost proverb scholar in the United States is Wolfgang Mieder, who defines the term Proverb as follows: "A proverb is a short, generally known sentence of the folk which contains wisdom, truth, morals, and traditional view in a metaphorical, fixed and memorizable form and which is handed down from generation to generation".

(Mieder 1985:119)

To sum up, the definitions of proverbs are many in linguistics. According to the author's opinion, the proverbs consist of set phrases and short sentences, which are peculiar to the language in question and steeped in the national and regional culture and ideas, thus being colorful.

1.2.2 Some common features of Proverbs

Proverbs are passed down through time with little change in form.

- Proverbs are often used metaphorically and we can understand them in the metaphorical nature meaning.

For instance: *Lies have short legs*

- Proverbs often make use of grammatical and theoretical devices that help to make them memorable, including alliteration, rhyme, parallel structure, repetition of key words or phrases, and strong imagery
- Proverbs are able to transcend the situation of its origins to illuminate situations in the lives of contemporary hearers.

2. The Origins of Idioms and proverbs

Idioms as a special form of language carried a large amount of cultural information, such as history, geography, religion, custom, nationality, psychology, thought pattern and so on, and therefore are closely related to culture. They are the heritage of history and the product of cultural evolution. Generally speaking, English idioms came from society, culture and history; they included in everything and related to our society's life and

played an important role in culture. In English-speaking countries, idioms and proverbs are heard and read everywhere from debates to everyday conversations. A good mastery of idioms becomes a significant symbol of a person's command of the language. However, because of a low level of linguistic competence in the target language, people who learn English as a second language are at a distinct disadvantage in understanding English idioms. We must know the origins of English idioms so that we can learn English well.

2.1 Idioms from cognition of historical allusion

Britain as an ancient country passes a long history, which mainly comprises allusion, myths, poem, ancient books and records etc. Among them, allusion is the most important, it reflects the national characteristic. Idioms from history culture are the gems of human cultural heritage. It is worthwhile for us to learn them well. English idioms have their legends and anecdotes about historical figures which have provided rich and varied materials, and consequently give a national color to the idioms. It is necessary for us to learn and use the English allusion, it can enlarge our scope of knowledge, widen our field of vision, and it is useful to learn about the idioms' origin. Maybe we can learn it by its historical events, fables, mythologies and literary works.

2.2 Idioms and proverbs from cognition of animals

Human beings are not the only animated objects in the world. There are all kinds of animals throughout the world. Some animals live far away from human beings, such as polar bears. Because they live so far that common people are not familiar with them, the unfamiliar animal terms are seldom used in languages. But some other animals live near to human beings, such as domestic animals. Human beings raise them as pets, keep them for food or make them guards to protect people. As a result, relatively, human beings clearly know their habits and characteristics. Such animal terms occur in human language more frequently as in "*cats and dogs*", "*kill two birds with*

one stone”, “*as wise as an owl*”. It is clear that people often associate certain qualities with certain creatures.

These qualities often arouse certain reactions or emotions. For example, the beaver is chiefly a North American animal. Its constant activity, its habit of gnawing down trees and building complex “homes” and its skill and ingenuity in doing this have earned for the animal the name eager beaver, which describes a person who is anxious to get something done, works hard, and is somewhat impatient.

2.3 Idioms from cognition of traditions and customs

Culture is long acquired from customs and habits. These customs and habits are representative of the way of living of a certain speech community and they are mirrored in the habitual speaking of the language. Food is one of the aspects of cultural tradition that are reflected in English idioms. In most European countries, bread, butter, jam, cheese, etc, are usual kind of food in daily meals. On the other hand, animals, sporting and daily life are also made so many idioms. So in English ,there are some idioms like: “bread and butter”, “hard cheese”, “to butter both sides of one’s bread”, “clever dog” means a clever boy or guy. “To help a lame dog over a stile”, “love me, love my dog”, “dog days”, “as strong as an ox”, “birds of a feather”, “in the money”, “off and running”, “chuck in one’s cards”, “throw in the towel”, “jump the gun”, “toe the line”, etc. Others ,we can learn some new idioms from Walt Disney, for example, “Mickey Mouse”: Small, insignificant or worthless person. This is a name of a mouse-like cartoon

2.4 Idioms and proverbs from cognition of natural environment

The natural environment also left deep imprints in culture. Britain is an island; it is located on the British Isles. To its south, it is the English Channel and the Straits of Dover. To its east, it is the North Sea.

There are many idioms connected with sea, fish, sailor, trade and navigation,

for example, “*go by the board*”. This idiom originated from the Boat Age. “The board” refers to the side of a boat. In the storm, if the rail is broken, the captain will have two choices. One is to fix it, and the other is to let it go by the board and fall into the water. The former will offer people the slim chance of survival but the later will lead to death. Now people use this idiom to mean “failure of a plan”. There are other examples: take someone down a peg; steer clear of; tide over; as close as an oyster; cast an anchor to windward; hoist sail while the wind is fair; like a ship without a rudder; between the devil and the deep blue sea.

2.5 Idioms from cognition of living circumstance

Language is a reflection of one country’s cultural background. The natural environment including geographical position, climate, and ecological condition is something that plays contributory role in the formation of language. Certainly, their special way of living, thinking and behaving is formed as a side-product of their relationship with the environment.

Idioms are closely related to people’s labor and life, people in particular culture need words to name and explain objects in their culture. Because Britain is an island country, people who live along seacoast and whose livelihood is dependent on the sea will have idioms about water, sailing, island and fish. For example, “to take the wind out of somebody’s sail”, “at sea”, “to trim one’s sail to the wind”, “never offer to teach fish to swim”, “full fish”, “sail under false colors”, etc. What’s more, climate, agriculture are also another factor in the living condition. While Britain is located in western hemisphere, with North Temperate Zone and marine climate, so “west wind” is the symbol of spring. The west wind blows from the Atlantic Ocean is warm and gentle, so that Britain abounds in rain can be proved in some idioms concerning rain: “to make hay while the sun shines”, “to rain or shine”, “rainy day”, “as right as rain”, etc...

The British people are good at hunting and fishing; they often use horses

working in the field, so they made their way of life and made of production. There are many idioms from agriculture. E.g ,“beat around/about the bush” this from hunting, “a hard row to hoe”, “have all one’s eggs in one basket”, “put out to grass”, “ride on the high horse”, “feel like a fish out of water”.

2.6 Idioms and proverbs from cognition of colors

In the physical world, there are millions of entities, and everything has its color. Science tells us that color is the result of interaction between light and human eyes. Human beings have the same physiological mechanism and visual nerve system, the reaction to the stimuli of colors is theoretically identical. For example, red is a warm color, and if a person is exposed to red, he will get palpitation and his blood pressure goes up. In the western culture, “red” usually represents nocturnal, female, secret and ultimately centripetal activity. It symbolizes the mystery of life. It is the color of war, loss of blood and the destructive power of fire and hate. It is a sign of warning. Satan, the Devil, appeared in red. In English, idioms connected with “red” usually have derogative senses, for example: *in the red*; *see red*; *red brick*; *red camp*; *red-light district*; *red cent*; *red eye*; *red flag*; *red-haired person*; *red-handed*; *red-light bandit*; *red neck*; *red tape*.

In English idioms, “yellow” and cowardice are closely connected, for example, “*be yellow*”, “*have a yellow streak*”, “*yellow dog*”.

2.7 Idioms and proverbs from cognition of numbers

American culture is traditionally inclined to odd numbers. Odd numbers represent activeness and the preference to odd numbers show Anglo-American mobility and adaptation to changes.

In their culture, “one” is the immanent First Cause. “To be number one is to the best.” It is the symbolic place of being, the beginning and end of all things, and the cosmic and ontological center. Some idioms containing “one” suggest this, such as, “*one and all*”, “*one and only*”, “*one flesh*”. “Three” symbolizes

birth, life and death, and represents past, present and future. All good things go by threes. There are some idioms containing “three”, such as, “Three helping one another bear the burden of six.” “The day of our years are three score years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow” . “Four” is a symbol of the earth and “three” the heaven, so “seven” suggests the fullness of the universe in motion.

2.8 Idioms and proverbs from cognition of amusement

English idioms and proverbs connected with amusement show adventurousness, teamwork spirit, mobility and violence. In card game, each important move involves risk. Americans are ready to venture for a winning, especially from bad luck. When you play cards with other, you are eager to win so you maybe “*have a card up one’s sleeve*”. At the end of each round, the winner “throws up the cards” and other players follow suit. In this way, the cards, which are held by each player, are shown to all. There is no secret in this. There is a sense of frankness and openness. There are many idioms from baseball, such as, “*to not get to first base*”. This idiom means “failing early or at the beginning of an attempt”.

2.9 Idioms and proverbs from cognition of culinary art and food, fruits

There are some idioms and proverbs containing diet terms in English. Bread, cheese and butter are the staple diet in Anglo-American culture. And many idioms are related to them such as “*baker’s dozen*”. This idiom originated from England in 15th century. At that time, there were some rules on weight of bread for sale. But it was not easy to keep the same weight due to poor production condition. In order to avoid being punished because of lack of weight, the bakers often added another one in a bag of bread with a ruled dozen. They thought more were better than less. So “*baker’s dozen*” became thirteen instead of twelve. Englishmen don’t like the number “thirteen”. Then, they usually use “*baker’s dozen*” to substitute the number thirteen. With bread,

they would not be hungry. But men could not live by bread alone. They needed spiritual culture. So the rulers provided circus for common people to keep people peaceful and get people's support. Then the idiom "bread and circuses" was formed. Pudding and pie are popular pastry. Some idioms are from them, such as "The proof of the pudding is in the eating". Making pudding is not easy and different people may have different flavors. Only when you eat it can you know its quality. So as an idiom, "The proof of the pudding is in the eating." means "practice is the best way to test something". "As easy as pie" originated from ease and enjoyment in eating pie. Some diet-related idioms are from cooking. Besides idioms related to traditional food such as bread, butter, cheese, some idioms are connected with beverage. Tea is popular beverage. In 17th century, the Dutch brought tea to Europe. From then on, European people especially Englishmen are fond of tea. Afternoon tea has become traditional habit. Many idioms are related with this custom, for example, "high tea", "low tea", "for all the tea in China". Added to this, we can come across many idioms and proverbs relating to fruits in daily communication. For instance: "apple of one's eye, banana skin, sour grape", and so on. Fruits play an important role in our life. Through these idioms and proverbs, we can learn valueable lessons. That is also the main reason motivating me to carry out this research.

2.10 Idioms and proverbs from cognition of laboring

In English, many idioms and proverbs reflect the importance of agriculture and industry because the geographical location provides them possibility. From the earliest days, the sight of farmers working the land has been at the heart of the American experience. Agriculture provides the sustenance that meets people's most basic needs. Agriculture represents a bond of continuity between present and past, linking new generations with the rhythms and dreams of generations of long ago. American agriculture assumes a richness and variety unmatched in most other parts of the world. In part, this is due to

the vastness of the nation itself; in part, it is due to the generosity of nature. Large areas of level or gently rolling land especially in the eastern Great Plains provide ideal conditions for large-scale agriculture. Therefore, many idioms reflect agricultural work in Anglo-American culture, such as, “*As you sow, so will you reap.*”. The proverb means things will happen to you good or bad, according to how you behave. In English, idioms also show a detailed division of social labor. “*The best fish swim near the bottom*”. Water on the surface is usually turbulent but below it is calm. The fishes who swim in the turbulent water are always rocked and caught up in the snare. But the fish swimming near the bottom surface in the calm water are comfortable and are not caught in the net. This proverb carries the meaning 'The finest things are hard to get'.

3. The role of idioms and proverbs in our daily life

Living things grow and change, and so does language. Idioms and proverbs appear in every language, and English has thousands of them. They are often confusing because the meaning of the whole group of words taken together has little, often nothing, to do with the meanings of the words taken one by one. Idioms are always something special about any language, they build up some distinctive features which differ one language from another. What is more, idioms reflect certain cultural traditions and depict the national character.

Idioms and proverbs are experience drawn from the real life. As we know, advice in idioms and proverbs play a vital role in life. They help us to know clearly the good and the bad to act and behave properly and to avoid regrettable mistakes, so on. Therefore, the proverbial advice have been with us from generation to generation, they help us think and feel whatever decision we have made was in fact the right decision as well help us make the right decision.

CHAPTER 2 DEVELOPMENT

It is not obvious that idioms and proverbs play an important role in our daily life. People like to use them to dispense wisdom and transmit moral values. For any language, when referring to idioms and proverbs, people often use typical images to express. Fruits may become the subject of a proverb or the vehicle for transmitting a message. Fruits – related English idioms and proverbs can be divided into some following subcategories and here are just a few examples with equivalent images.

2.1 English idioms and proverbs relating to apple.

2.1.1 "APPLE OF ONE'S EYE "

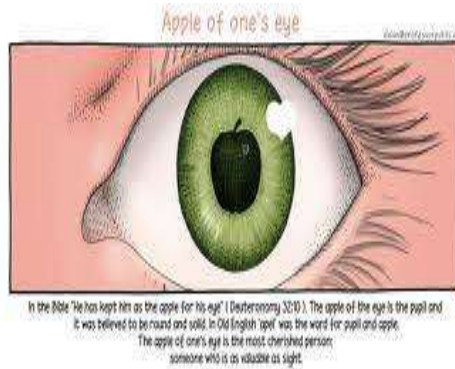


To give expression to one's feelings, the immediate answer may be " I love you ". If as the Vietnamese idiom goes : "ma em hong trong doi mat anh",

there is an English idiom: "You are the apple of my eye". The idiom: "**apple of one's eye**" is often used in literatures by authors. you perhaps query if what is the origin of this idiom?. As far as the author experienced, here is the answer.

The idiom has been around for several hundred years. This evocative phrase turns up in Shakespeare's work : "*Flower of this purple dye, / Hit with Cupid's archery, / Sink in apple of his eye*", (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*). With the apple's exact origin in question, another dilemma arises. Did Eve really bite into an apple that she plucked off the forbidden tree of knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden? No specific name is given to the fruit she tasted from that tree, though apples are mentioned later in the Bible. Some historians believe Eve's fruit of temptation might have been a pomegranate or possibly even a quince.

Although apples have long been used as symbols of health or good fortune, the origin of "apple of one's eye" reflected a remarkable misunderstanding of human anatomy. "Apple" here doesn't refer to the fruit, but the "pupil" in one's eye. Before ocular structure was fully understood, the pupil of the eye (the small dark opening at the very center) was thought to be not a hole, but a solid, globular object. People felt that the shape of the pupil was similar to that of an apple's. The pupil is a priceless possession because without it we will be deprived of our vision; we will not be able to see. And vision is something that all human beings value. As apples were perhaps the most common spherical object in everyday life, this "tiny sphere" became known as "the apple of the eye." So *the apple of one's eye* was at first a literal phrase describing the pupil. And, since vision is generally regarded as our most vital sense, it made sense to use the apparent core of vision, the "apple of the eye," as a metaphor for that which is most precious to us.



pupil

The apple of the eye became a symbol of anything highly cherished. The idea has long been expressed in the phrase the *apple of one's eye*. When you say something is the apple of your eye what you are implying is that the object is a prized possession; it's an object that you look after with a great deal of devotion. Similarly, when the apple of your eye happens to be a person, then he/she is a person whom you like very much. Here are a few examples.



- * Everyone knew they would get married someday. She is the apple of his eye. (Mọi người đều biết họ sẽ làm đám cưới. Cô ấy là người anh ấy yêu nhất mà).
- * You got me the bracelet I wanted. (Anh đã tặng em cái vòng mà em thích). - Yes, I knew it was the apple of your eye. (Ừ, anh biết đó là thứ mà em thích nhất mà).

(<http://www.jhom.com/topics/idioms.html>)

2.1.2 " AN APPLE A DAY KEEPS A DOCTOR AWAY"



One of the most popular proverb of the 19th Century was "An apple a day keeps the doctor away. Is it true that an apple a day keeps the doctor away? This well-known proverb is thought to originate from the belief that apples have the most curative power of all the fruits.

Before the 20th century there was no food pyramid or someone to announce the importance of five servings of fruits and vegetables every day. People simply recognized the healthy attributes of the apple. Some people were also well aware of the apple's relationship to the history of the world. Author-naturalist Henry David Thoreau wrote, "It is remarkable how closely the history of the apple tree is connected with that of man." ([http:// Apple FAQ An Apple a Day Keeps the Doctor Away.mht](http://AppleFAQAnAppleaDayKeepsTheDoctorAway.mht))

In looking at the history of the apple, one must pay tribute to and recognize the role of the inventive horticulturists of the Roman era. Were it not for them, juicy, sweet apples would not be in those brown bag lunches today. There would be no apple pie, no apple cobbler, or apple fritters, apple cider, or even apple butter. Simply expressed, there would be no plump, juicy apples.

Back to the proverb, We can see that Today medical practitioners are

beginning to recognize that the apple's abundant quantity of pectin is an aid in reducing high cholesterol as well as blood sugar, a wonder food for people with coronary artery disease and diabetes.

“An apple a day keeps the doctor away”...but why? Do you really know what makes an apple so special? Why is it that we never hear an orange or a banana a day keeps the doctor away?

Apples have properties that no other fruits have and its benefits have been proven overtime. You will be able to get the benefits of these properties individually with other fruits, but an apple combines everything and makes it simpler. It has been shown over and over that if it's not simple, easy and fast, people won't take care of their health.



On average, Americans consume around 20 pounds of apples a year, which comes to around 1 apple a week. Unfortunately, while an apple a week is better than nothing, it is nowhere close to being able to extract all the advantages apples have to offer. Eating apples is part of balanced and healthy diet than will increase your longevity, so why limit yourself to only 1 per week?

Example:

A: I have been sick 10 times this winter. I can't believe it!

B: Do you eat lots of Vitamin C?

A: Vitamin *what*?

B: You know what they say, **an apple a day keeps the doctor away!**

([http://www. an apple a day keeps the doctor away meaning idioMeanings.com.mht](http://www.anappleadaykeepsdoctorawaymeaning.com))

And everyone knows that "*an apple a day keeps the doctor away.*" Although this proverb has some merit, most still just pass it off as an old wife's tale. An apple a day will not keep the doctor away if you do not also eat right, exercise, and refrain from excesses such as smoking and drinking a lot. This proverb advises us to eat well and if you eat fruit, you will remain healthy.

2.2. English idioms and proverbs relating to banana.

2.2.1 "GO BANANAS"



The banana is by many accounts the world's most popular fruit. The western people often think that the monkey like eating bananas most. When apes are given a bunch of bananas, they eat them with tremendous enthusiasm, as though they've lost their minds. That is why people use image of bananas in order to show the angry or insane action. "*To go bananas*" is symptomatic of

doing irrational things, a lack of reason. Here are some examples:

Text1: Laura's father comment on his 15-year-old daughter.

He said:" Laura has dyed her hair purple, has a nose ring, and spends most of her time listening to loud music. I tell you that kid is *going us bananas*. I can't wait for her to grow up".

(http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/go_bananas)

In above situation, Laura is just under age. Her father cares her very much. However, Her wrong actions make him angry. He uses the idiom “ go bananas ” to express his feelings. He just hope her daughter will come of age soon.



Text 2: In the traffic jam, A man whose car was crashed said angrily.

He said: " I was on the freeway the other day in this terrible traffic jam. Suddenly, the guy in the car next to me just *went bananas*. He was screaming and yelling and then he crashed his Mercedes into my new BMW! Totally out of control!"

([http:// The online idiom dictionary definition of go bananas.mht](http://The online idiom dictionary definition of go bananas.mht)).

Here, the speaker with his new car was in the traffic jam. It was clear that anyone who was in this situation was uncomfortable. Suddenly, The guy in the car next to lost his mind and crashed his Mercedes into the speaker's car.

The speaker uses the idiom “ go bananas ” to show the guy’s uncontrollable action.

Generally, We use this idiom when we want to say that someone or something is making us confused, making us ‘*go crazy*’ or even making us a little angry. Or someone is going crazy, losing your mind. A lack of mental stability.

2.3 English idioms and proverbs relating to grape



2.3.1 "*SOUR GRAPES*"

The expression comes from a traditional fable which was written by Aesop in 1919 (a very well-known ancient Greek anthology). The fox isn't able to reach the grapes and declares them to be sour. The fable goes like this:

One hot summer's day a Fox was strolling through an orchard till he came to a bunch of Grapes just ripening on a vine which had been trained over a lofty branch. "Just the thing to quench my thirst," quoth he. Drawing back a few paces, he took a run and a jump, and just missed the bunch. Turning round again with a One, Two, Three, he jumped up, but with no greater success. Again and again he tried after the tempting morsel, but at last had to give it up, and walked away with his nose in the air, saying: "I am sure they are sour."



Sour grapes is a common expression to indicate that someone is despising something just because he cannot get it/have it/reach it. have it." You can know the idiom well through the conversation as follows:

John : Do you like my new car? It's a Honda Civic.

Peter : It's okay.

John : You don't like it?

Peter : It's fine. Whatever.

John : That sounds like **sour grapes**.

(<http://eslcafe.com/slang/g.html>)

In this situation, John has just bought a newcar. It is a Honda Civic. He said to John – hisfriend and asked John if John liked his new car. The John 'short answers make us think that he is jealous. He pretends not to be impressed by that new car. We say it's a case of sour grapes.

2.3.2 "Hear Through the Grapevine"

The idiom comes from the inker age. The American and British compare both string of the tinker and grapevine are troublesome.



Takes the following text is an example to use the idiom: It is about the conversation between Mary and Luca.

Mary: "I heard through the grapevine that Mark and Julie just broke up. I can't believe it. I thought they were going to get married. Julie's sister called this morning to give me the bad news".

Luca: oh, really?

(<http://www.wikianswer.com/grape>)

In this situation, we can see that Mary knew the information about Mark and Julie broke up through Julie's sister's word. It was just a rumour . It might be right or wrong. Thus, because Mary was not sure about the unofficial news, she used the idiom " heard through the grapevine " .

2.4 English idiom and proverbs relating to orange

2.4.1 " *COMPARES APPLES AND ORANGES* "



It is a very common in culture for someone to say, "That is like comparing apples and oranges, The idiom *comparing apples and oranges*, refers to the apparent differences between items which are popularly thought to be incomparable or incommensurable, such as apples and oranges. The idiom may also be used to indicate that a false analogy has been made between two items, such as where an *apple* is faulted for not being a good *orange*.

Apples grow in every climate and oranges need tropical temperatures to produce fruit. Although both fruits can be juiced, apples are pressed and only the juice is bottled while both pulp and juice is squeezed from oranges. Again, while fruit sauce is made from both apples and oranges, usually applesauce comes from the pared and pureed apple while orange sauce may contain both the rind and the pulp of the orange.

A comparison of **apples and oranges** occurs when two items or groups of items are compared that cannot be validly compared. Here are some examples:

“Dave says Madonna is the world's greatest performing artist but Sarah thinks that Yo Yo Ma is the best".

(<http://www.gobooks.info/idioms.html>)

The author says they are comparing apples and oranges because Madonna is a pop singer and Yo Yo Ma is a classical cellist. They are incompareable. Similarly, You can't compare inner city schools and schools in the suburbs.

Also, to examine the similarities of things that are completely different
Comparing the average wages of workers and managers is like trying to
compare apples and oranges.

2.5 English idioms and proverbs relating to cherry

2.5.1 "LIFE IS JUST A BOWL OF CHERRIS"



The proverb originating as the title of a song (1931) by Lew Brown (lyrics) and composer Ray Henderson, with the opening lyric:

"Life is just a bowl of cherries

Don't make it serious

Life's too mysterious."

This term expressed the idea that everything was going very well. However, its ironical use was established by the 1970s. Cherries represent the dichotomy of both sourness and sweetness.



In discussing the idiom ‘life is like a bowl of cherries’ we must first identify what is meant by the terms ‘bowl’, ‘cherry’ and ‘life’. In this situation a bowl can be considered as a hemispherical vessel wider than it is deep, used for holding food or fluids, although it can also refer to the contents of such a vessel. A cherry is defined as a drupe of various colours and flavours, the fruit of the cherry tree, of the genus *Prunus*, such as the common garden cherry (*Prunus Cerasus*). Life is more difficult to express. While it can mean the physiological processes that maintain an organism through growth and development, in this more philosophical context it is better described as the physical, mental and spiritual experiences that constitute existence. In order to discuss how the intricacies life can be related to an inert collection of fruit it is best to consider all the aspects of the complete bowl as individual factors, i.e. to consider the bowl separately to the cherries initially, before combining them to give more complex similarities to experiences of life. Initially it may seem there is no correlation between life and cherries. They are no longer alive once in the bowl. They are inanimate, and do not exhibit physiological signs of life. But yet the cherries in the bowl undergo changes, such as ripening, through to eventual moulding. The stages of life could be likened to this – youth, middle and old age.

However on a purely superficial level this can be interpreted to imply that life is going well, and is successful at the present time. There is nothing apparently threatening in a bowl of cherries, and many people find cherries to be a pleasant fruit to eat. However there are many deeper insights into the similarities between life and a bowl of cherries.

For example, life is unique. The extent of personal individuality is also seen in the diversity of the cherries. Individuals have different tastes, backgrounds and physical appearances, just as there are different sizes, shapes and species of cherries. But life is not centred about the one individual with no interaction with other people (or cherries).

Family and friends are an important aspect of life. If no man is an island, then

neither is a cherry. Each cherry may be taken as representative of the multitude of other people we experience throughout our lives, although some may be lost or new ones introduced life is composed of more than one individual (just as a bowl of cherries cannot refer to a single cherry) and more than one experience.

Yet it is our personal experiences that define life, and the cherries can represent these. Many people enjoy cherries, but some do not. This is observed in many situations throughout life. Some individuals may enjoy a particular situation where others would avoid it. For example some people adore roller-coasters, but others would hate having to ride one. It is therefore obvious that just as the pleasure inherent in a bowl of cherries is viewed differently by different people, so are the experiences we all undergo in life. We all learn something slightly different.

Where the collective bowl can show interpretations of experiences, an individual cherry can represent the physical properties and experiences. If they are maltreated cherries can be squashed. If we are maltreated we can be squashed, either through emotional or physical turmoil. And yet, just as the pip of the cherry survives all but the roughest handling of the flesh, so will the heart sustain through the toughest trials of life.

But the pip can symbolize more than the literal and metaphorical heart of a person. It represents the potential for new life that we all carry with us. Just as the pip contains everything needed to create a new cherry under the right circumstances, ova and sperm carry the potential for new life, which will also develop with these capabilities right from the start.

Up to now the bowl itself has not been discussed in detail. However the bowl can represent our own individual spheres of existence. Each bowl is different just as our collective experiences cannot be shared identically with another. The size of the bowl can be considered proportional to the extent of experiences, with deep bowls perhaps signifying a more profound understanding of the world.

The interactions of the bowl and the cherries together represent the structure of modern society. The cherries are not assigned to a particular type, so we can assume there are several types of cherries of different colours, as there are many races integrated into our society. But it is not only through the integration of many cherries that the social structure is represented, but also through their hierarchal arrangement.

The proverb means Everything is going well; Life is carefree.

If we say “ life is a bowl of cherries” we mean that our life is pretty good and that we are very happy with what is going on in our lives. For example: " I have a great job here in Hanoi. Mychildren are happy at school and when I think about it – life is a bowl of cherries actually. I couldn't be happier really.

(<http://www.idiomconnection.com/fruits.html>)

These are happy circumstances; life is wonderful. something that you say which means that life is very pleasant.

This phrase is sometimes used humorously to mean the opposite. For example:

"The hotel is wonderful and weather too. Life's just a bowl of cherries. So as well as cleaning up the apartment and getting the paperwork done, I have three children to look after. Yes, life's just a bowl of cherries!"

(<http://www.usingenglish.com/reference/idioms/D.html>)

Some say it means life is simple, pleasant and carefree, but I've often heard this phrase used ironically too.

2.6 English idioms and proverbs relating to lemon



2.6.1 "*LEMON*"

The **lemon** is a small evergreen tree originally native to Asia, and is also the name of the tree's oval yellow fruit. A lemon is sour, therefore something is called a lemon when it does not work correctly. The fact that you bought something that doesn't work leaves "a sour taste in your mouth". When you have been tricked into buying something worthless you have been sold a *lemon*. "Worthless" is the meaning of the word 'lemon' in American English. In British English, it's people who are referred to as a lemon. The word is used in informal contexts to mean a silly person".

The term lemon law officially dated from 1970, when the state of California enacted the first laws protecting consumers from purchases of poorly manufactured mechanical products, including cars. The following example is about a man made complaints about his new truck.

He said: "Only three weeks after I bought my new pick up truck, problems started. First the doors wouldn't close and then the brakes failed. I should have known the truck wad a lemon when the dealer gave me a five hundred dollar discount. "

When you say that "something is a lemon" it implies that it is useless because it fails to work properly.

In American slang, a "lemon" is a car that causes more trouble than it is worth, as in following conversation between Larry and Peter.

Larry: Have you seen Joe's new car yet ?

Peter: Yeah. It looks good, but she's had nothing but problems with it.

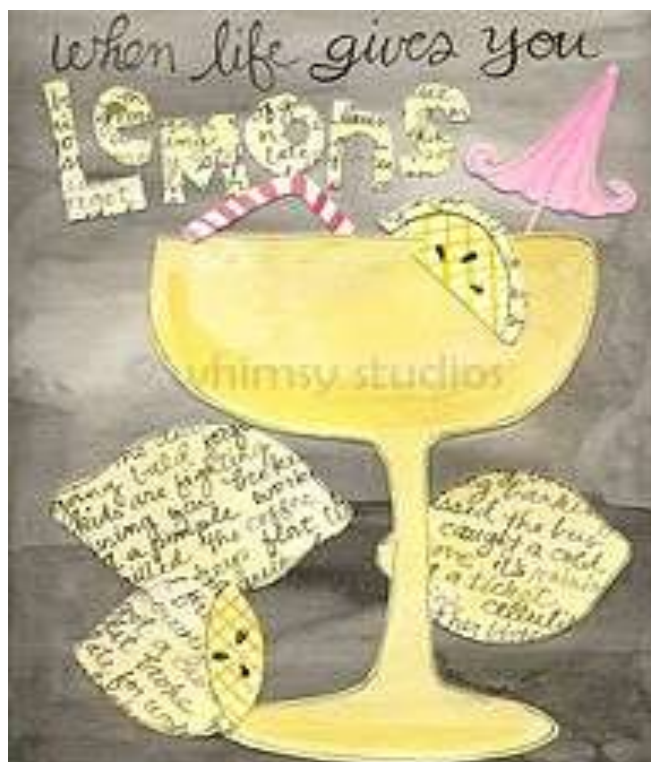
Larry: That's too bad. It sounds like she got a real **lemon**.

Peter: She sure did. No sooner did she drive it home from the dealer's than it proved **defective** and started breaking down.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lemon>)

In this situation, It is true that Joe bought a poor car – a real lemon. To purchase a "Lemon" is to purchase something that has not met your standards. In the early 1800's, English speakers used the word "lemon" to describe a person with a bad personality, or someone who was not very friendly. Today, a lemon refers to something that is worthless, broken or constantly in need of repairs.

2.6.2 "WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS, YOU MAKE LEMONADE"



The lemon has long been associated with witchcraft. This proverb is a reference to a dark period in American history when it was acceptable to test whether or not a woman was a witch by repeatedly dunking her in a pool of water. If the woman survived, that proved that God was watching over her. If she drowned, it meant that she was a witch. The townspeople would then drink the water to gain the witch's strength.

([http://www.wikianswers.com/when life gives you lemons – make lemonade](http://www.wikianswers.com/when-life-gives-you-lemons-make-lemonade)).

Life is complex already in itself . We encounter stress and disappointments everyday and challenges can weaken us. However, if we devote our time to feeling sorry for ourselves or being negative, it will only weaken us further .This proverb means that when life gives you something sour, turn it sweet. Life's lemons are abundant, but what counts is what you do with them. if we look at the positive things around us, or the beautiful things that we have rather than what we don't have, then we can have the inner peace that a lot of people strive for.

In summary, fruits play an important part in our life and they have more meaning when they are placed in idioms and proverbs. Fruits-related idioms and proverbs mention many aspects in the daily life to give advice, express attitudes. Hence, we have the valuable lessons and thoughtful awareness of people and society.

CHAPTER 3: APPLICATION OF THE STUDY

Idioms and proverbs play an important role in not only literature such as those in poem, stories, novels, newspaper but also in daily communication. Each country has its own culture and custom such as a flower, this makes our earth be a garden of flowers. This difference of each culture at the same time prevents us from understanding language exactly and easily. We must study about and know well about them, especially in idiom and proverb aspect, the volume of using specific words is high, and it is necessary to understand them well.

3.1 Some related problems faced by learners in studying English idioms and proverbs relating to fruits.

In fact, idioms and proverbs are very difficult of each language to understand and translate into others one. And it does not exclude English. It is not always easy to identify idioms and proverbs. Besides, guessing the meaning and translation of the idioms and proverbs are big problems which learners to counter. If you try to figure out the meaning of an idiom literally, word by word, you will get befuddled. You have to know its hidden meaning.

Take an example of the idiom: “ *go banana* “ as an example of a difficulty in guessing the meaning, “*banana*” is one kind of fruits. “*go*” is a verb to express the movement. If two words are joined on the literal sense, how we can know it well. In the case of an opinion, might be a little stale and predictable (Using English.com) we can guess the meaning even though we may have never heard it before because most of words in phrase are easy to understand. However, it is too difficult to guess the meaning correctly because they have association with the ordinary meaning of individual words. They can be guessed if they were heard in particular context, that is, when we know they are used in particular situation. Then, you need to check its exact meaning from Dictionary of English idioms and proverbs. For example: “*I went*

bananas when I was selected to study at UNAM University, that was completely amazing for me because I have been trying to get a place there for two years". (<http://www.usingEnglish.com/bananasidioms>)

So that, we can more understand the meaning of this idiom. It means "be happy and excited". The following are some difficulties I have had in the process of researching this graduation paper:

Firstly, translating English into Vietnamese and vice versa is not easy for Vietnamese learners because of the differences in cultures, system of language, geographical circumstance, national and social condition as well as the development level of society. England is the developed country, modern science and technology as well economy, while Vietnam is the developing country, agricultural economy. That is the reason why having many differences in English and Vietnamese idioms and proverbs.

Secondly, most of the idioms and proverbs are difficult to guess the meaning correctly because they have association with the ordinary meaning of the individual words or phrases. They can be guessed if they were put in the real context. An idiom or proverb may be used in the text in both the literal and idiomatic senses at the same time. Hence, if an idiom or proverb in the target language does not correspond to the source language of idiom or proverb in form and meaning, the role of idiom or proverb can not be successfully translated.

Thirdly, the difference in habits and daily life of English and Vietnamese people makes the features of imagination in two cultures.

3.2 Some useful advice for studying idioms and proverbs.

With above difficulties, how to overcome them is still a great question. The author has ever faced to many troubles in studying English idioms and proverbs. As far as the author experienced, the author would like to provide

suggestions about learning and translating English idioms and proverbs as follows:

Firstly, the learners should get to know about the culture, belief, region, as well as habits of both Vietnamese and English well so that they can compare and guess the exact meaning of idioms and proverbs. Idioms are not only the crystallization of language but also the manifestation of culture. Hence, it is necessary for learners to adapt their attitudes in the course of learning and take culture into their consideration.

Secondly, the learners should study the features of idioms and proverbs carefully and distinguish them from other kinds of set expressions to identify the idioms and proverbs better.

Thirdly, the learners can analyze the meaning of all components and the relationship among the components or study the meaning in the context.

Lastly, the best way to study as many as possible idioms and proverbs is learning by heart and applying them in suitable contexts. We should memorize them whenever we meet and try to study their grammar to use them correctly. One of the good habits that is highly appreciated is to look up the idioms in good dictionaries to know their meaning exactly. We also find English idioms and proverbs through reading books, newspapers, and magazines or surfing on the website. Also, making up sentences or stories with idioms and proverbs we have is a good way to remember them. Or we should have a handbook to write down any idioms with their meaning and usage. It is necessary to practice these idioms we have learnt or known with our friends and teachers in daily life. If it is possible, we can ask the native speakers to be explained more carefully. When writing compositions or essays, try to apply them if they are reasonable. The author has made progress after applying these methods.

Idioms came up with the new things and new ideas, so the more we study

English idioms, the better we study English and make more interesting and speak native English well. In order to communicate with foreigners frequently, the ability of understand idioms are also important.

3.3 Exercises

In the following part, some kinds of exercises on English idioms and proverbs relating to fruits will be introduced. Through these exercises the learners can know how to use English idioms and proverbs appropriately in the context.

Exercise 1: Each example below has an idiom related to a fruit. Matching each idiom (1- 5) with its definition (a - f).

- Most teachers are very hardworking and professional, but there are a few bad apples who don't care too much students.
- Janet is the apple of his grandfather's eye. His grandfather adores her.
- Amy is a very tidy person. Her room is always in apple –pie order.
- She is the top banana.
- They can say what they like, I do not give a fig.

Idioms	Definitions
1. a bad apple	a. a person or thing that is very precious and loved most
2. the apple of one's eye	b. the highest ranking person
3. to be in apple-pie order	c. one bad person in a group of people who are good
4. top banana	d. something is not important to you
5. give a fig	e. to be very tidy and in good order

Exercise 2: Fill the missing fruits from proverbs and idioms in the following gaps:

1. Better anpie than apple blossom.
2. Only the knife knows the heart of a.....
3. Beautifuloften make poor wine.
4. Give your friend a pig and your enemy a.
5. Receive a....., return a peach.
6. Don't call me a littleuntil you've picked me.
7. ana day keeps the doctor away.
8. If heaven drops a....., open your mouth.
9. Eatwhile you have teeth.
10. Ablossom will not moisten dry bread.
11. Little by little grow the.....
12. A blackis as sweet as a white.
13. Receive a plum, return a.....
14. Twocannot be held in one hand.
15. A woman and aare hard to choose.
16. Annever bears a lime.
17. It is the softness of thethat is fatal to the bird.
18. When life throws you....., make lemonade.
19. One eatswhilst the other pays.
20. Life is just a bowl of

PART III CONCLUSION

1. Summarization

It is said that idioms and proverbs are some of the most complicated fields for studying but they are very interesting when used in daily life.

This study has attempted to show an overview of idioms and proverbs. Because of limitation in my knowledge and time, this paper just only mentions some certain theories of idioms and proverbs with the hope that readers can have basic knowledge of idioms and proverbs.

There are many idioms and proverbs using the images of fruits, but in this paper only focuses on some in chapter II. Through the topic, we not only know more idioms and proverbs relating to fruits but also find the usage, culture and life in each. Because the sources of idioms and proverbs are various, so I cannot cover all of them. Learning fruits used in idioms and proverbs is not easy, but using it effectively is more difficult. Moreover, English is spoken in many countries and the number of English idioms and proverbs produced is not small at all.

Thus, the difficulties in learning English idioms and proverbs that Vietnamese learners must deal with are undeniable. In order to help learners overcome these problems, some suggested solution and exercises are introduced in the chapter III. Thanks to these, the learners can learn how to translate idioms and proverbs effectively and use them appropriately in cross-cultural communication. All what have been referred to in this paper come from the limited understanding and ability. It is, however, hoped that this study will be a small contribution to figure out the interesting significance of the idioms and proverbs the international language.

All advice as well as contributions coming from the teachers and readers will make my paper better and better. The author sincerely desires for teachers' comments and readers' ideas.

2. Suggestion for further study

Due to the limitation of my knowledge and time, the paper could not go through all aspects of English idioms and proverbs. However, The author believes that my study will be an useful reference to those who are interested in English in general as well as English idioms and proverbs in particular. In order to get more comprehensive understanding of this subject, the author strongly recommends further study, the author hopes that in the near future, the author would like to continue studying this interesting topic with the research title is: " A study on English idioms, sayings and proverbs relating to money ".

Once again, the author would like to show my deepest thanks to my supervisor – Ms Nguyen Thi Yen Thoa, M.A as well as all my teachers in Foreign Languages Department of Hai Phong Private University for their noble advice, guidance and comments. The author's sincere thanks also goes to my family and my friends who have supported in completing this graduation paper.

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APPENDICES:

APPENDIX 1

List of idioms and proverbs relating to fruits:

Apple



A bad tree does not yield good apples.

A pear tree cannot bear an apple.

A stone from the hand of a friend is an apple.

Adam ate the apple, and our teeth still ache.

An apple a day keeps the doctor away.

An apple never falls far from the tree.

Apple blossoms are beautiful, but rice dumplings are better.

Better an apple pie than apple blossom.

Don't upset the apple cart.

For an apple and an egg.

Give an apple to the little ones, a book to the old.

Handsome apples are sometimes sour.

If the prince wants an apple, his servants take the tree.

If there is no apple one eats a little carrot.

If you want apples, you have to shake the trees.

No apple tree is immune from worms.

One bad apple spoils the bunch.

One of the two partners always bites the best part of the apple.

One rotten apple spoils the whole barrel.

Small choice in rotten apples.

Sometimes it is better to give your apple away, than to eat it yourself.

The apple cannot be stuck back on the tree of knowledge.

The apple does not fall far from the tree.

The apple falls on the head that's under it.

The nice apples are always eaten by nasty pigs.

The night may be dark, but the apples have been counted.

The old monkey gets the apple.

The rotten apple injures its neighbour.

There are many who throw stones at a red apple.

There's no making apples of plums.

When the apple is ripe it will fall.

You are the apple of my eye.

You can't compare apples with pears.

Your neighbor's apples are the sweetest.

Banana



An old banana leaf was once young and green.

Banana skin

Go bananas

Dogs don't like bananas, but can't bear to think chickens eat them.

Even without drumbeats, banana leaves dance.

Every fresh banana leaf should eventually become a dry banana leaf.

Little by little grow the bananas.

No sane person sharpens his machete to cut a banana tree.

Top banna

Cherry



A bite of cherries

A dead cherry tree will not blossom.

A woman and a cherry are painted for their own harm.

Don't expect a cherry tree from an acorn.

He who likes cherries soon learns to climb.

Life is just a bowl of cherries.

Money buys cherries.

Neither give cherries to pigs nor advice to fools.

Ye have a ready mouth for a ripe cherry.

Coconut



A coconut shell full of water is a sea to an ant.

A fly does not mind dying in coconut cream.

Eat coconuts while you have teeth.

He on whose head we would break a coconut never stands still.

He who selects coconut with great care ends up getting a bad coconut.

It is the fate of the coconut husk to float, for the stone to sink.

Only the man who is not hungry says the coconut has a hard shell.

Coffee



A cup of coffee commits one to forty years of friendship.

Coffee and love are best when they are hot.

Coffee and love taste best when hot.

Coffee from the top of the cup and chocolate from the bottom.

Coffee has two virtues, it's wet and it's warm.

Coffee should be black as hell, strong as death, and sweet as love.

Conscience keeps more people awake than coffee.

You can't take the milk back from the coffee.

Date



Don't show me the palm tree, show me the dates.

From little date seeds, great things are born.

He has fallen from the donkey, but has found a date.

If heaven drops a date, open your mouth.

Mock the palm tree only when the date harvest is over.

Swallow a date with its stone.

Fig



Give a fig

Half figs, half raisins.

He ate one fig and he thought the autumn had come

One eats figs whilst the other pays.

Peel a fig for your friend, a peach for your enemy.

Rather a single grape for me than a brace of figs for thee.

Sharing figs can leave you with none at all.

The most beautiful fig may contain a worm.

Grape



A grape that sees another gets ripe.
Beautiful grapes often make poor wine.
Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?
Every raisin contains a pip.
Grapes are eaten one by one.
Grapes do not grow in a willow tree.
Grapes picked too early don't even make good vinegar.
He's hardly a sour grape, yet behaves like a raisin.
Homes among homes and grapevines among grapevines.
Leaves enough, but few grapes.
Like grape, like bud. Like father, like son.
The grape is not ripened by the rays of the moon.
The grapes are sour.
The sweetest grapes hang highest.
There is a devil in every berry of grape.

Lemon



Lemon

Fifty lemons are a load for one person, but for fifty persons they are perfume.

Only when you have eaten a lemon do you appreciate what sugar is.

When life throws you lemons, make lemonade.

Lime



An orange never bears a lime.

It is the softness of the lime that is fatal to the bird.

Melon



A melon forced off its vine is not sweet.

A woman and a melon are hard to choose.

If you plant melons, you get melons; if you plant beans, you get beans.

Marriage is a little bit like buying melons, you need a little luck.

One gives a melon, the other gets the stomach cramps.

You can't pick up two melons with one hand.

Orange



An orange never bears a lime.

Compares apples and oranges

Half an orange tastes as sweet as a whole one.

Peach



Everything is not all peaches and cream.

Peel a fig for your friend, a peach for your enemy.

Prickly pear trees don't produce peaches.

Receive a plum, return a peach.

Pear



A pear tree cannot bear an apple.

A pear will fall to its root.

A pear will never fall into a closed mouth.

You can't compare apples with pears.

When the pear is ripe, it falls.

Pineapple



Once you taste a pineapple, you'll never go for any other fruit.

Only the knife knows the heart of a pineapple.

Plum



A black plum is as sweet as a white.

A cherry year, a merry year; a plum year, a dumb year.

If heaven above lets fall a plum, open your mouth.

Receive a plum, return a peach.

The higher the tree, the sweeter the plum

There's no making apples of plums.

You need plant only one cherry and one plum tree.

Strawberry



A strange land is a bilberry; one's own land is a strawberry.

A strawberry blossom will not moisten dry bread.

A strawberry blossom will not sweeten dry bread.

A strawberry doesn't ripen according to the wishes of a monkey.

Don't marry a girl who wants strawberries in January.

Real friends will share even a strawberry.

Watermelon



One armpit cannot hold two watermelons.

One hand can't hold two watermelons.

Pick up a sesame seed only to lose a watermelon.

The pumpkin vine never bears watermelons.

Two watermelons cannot be held in one hand.

Two watermelons cannot be held under one arm.

APPENDIX 2: Keys to excercises

Ex1: Each example below has an idiom related to a fruit. Matching each idiom (1- 5) with its definition (a - f).

1 – c, 3 – c, 5 – d.

2 – a, 4 – b,

Ex2: Fill the missing words from proverbs and idioms in the following gaps:

1. apple	5. plum	10. strawberry	14. watermelons	18. lemons
2. pineapple	6. olive	11. bananas	15. melon	19. figs
3. grapes	7. apple	12. plum	16. orange	20. cherries
4. peach	9. date	13. peach	17. lime	

