

Idioms of Fortune

This activity is meant to be like a game show. I make a large drawing or visual representation of an idiom. If you are good at drawing you may be able to do this free hand and do it on a white board. The speaking of speech web site has some idioms that are illustrated. You can go to this page and scroll down to “idioms”. You may be able to enlarge the illustration or use it for a model.

http://www.speakingofspeech.com/Language_Materials.html#Vocabulary

Make the idiom as large as practical for your setting. The illustration should carry across the page so that it isn't obvious when only a section is revealed. I cover the drawing with post-its so that the illustration is not visible and squares can be peeled off one at a time revealing parts of the illustration and writing. You can write identifiers on the post-its by numbering them. When students answer a question correctly, they are allowed to call out the number of the post-it to be removed and then get a minute to make a guess at the idiom. To include more students, you can form them into groups to make a group decision. Students find removing the squares motivating and learn an idiom at the same time.

A variation could be to make lines for the letters of the idiom like in the game of hang man. Students would then guess the letters on their turn until they are able to guess the idiom.

The questions can be any of the vocabulary or sentence cards on this site. It can be adapted to classroom use. Have students review questions from classroom curriculum, or questions made up by the students as they cover a lesson in class. Just hand out index cards and have the students make up questions as material is presented. The cards can then be used in the game as a review at the end of a unit. It's a good way for students to work on language skills that involve increasing vocabulary, understanding of idioms, formulating questions, and getting the main idea and important details from class materials in almost any subject area.