



English Idioms

He's Quite a Catch!

UNIT

1

Warm-up Activity

Work in pairs and discuss the following topics:

What steps does it usually take for a typical Chinese couple to get married?

And what steps might a typical British or American marriage take?

Section I

Movie Clip

Synopsis of the Movie: *Corpse Bride* (僵尸新娘)

Victor messed up the vow rehearsal for his wedding. He practices the vows in the woods while putting the wedding ring on a finger-shaped stick in the ground. The stick turns out to be a rotted finger belonging to a murdered girl Victoria, who returns as a zombie and insists that she is now Victor's lawfully wedded wife.

Synopsis of the Clip

Victor messed up the vow rehearsal out of overtension (紧张过度), and made a fool of himself in the church.

The Dialogue

Victor: With this candle...

Pastor Galswells: Continue! (*doorbell rings*)

Lord Everglot: Get the door, Emil.

Pastor Galswells: Let's just pick it up at the candle bit.

Emil: Lord Barkis, sir.

Lord Barkis: I haven't a head for dates. **Apparently**, I'm a day early for the **ceremony**.

Lord Everglot: Is he from your side of the family?

Lady Everglot: I can't **recall**. Emil, a seat for Lord Barkis.

Lord Barkis: Do carry on.

Pastor Galswells: Let's try it again, shall we, Master Van Dort?

Victor: Yes. Yes, sir. Certainly!

Pastor Galswells: Right.

Victor: Right. Oh right! With this... this...

Pastor Galswells: Hand!

Victor: With this hand... I... with... (*hits the table*)

Pastor Galswells: Three steps, three! Can you not count? Do you not wish to be married, Master Van Dort?

Victor: No! No!

Victoria: You do not?

Victor: No! I meant, no! I do not not wish to be married. That is, I want very much to.

Pastor Galswells: Pay attention! Have you even remembered to bring the ring?

Victor: The ring? Yes.

Mr. Van Dort: Of course. (*The ring drops off suddenly*)

Pastor Galswells: Dropping the ring!

Lady Everglot: Oh no! He's dropped the ring!

Pastor Galswells: This boy doesn't want to get married!

Lady Everglot: Jesus Christ!

Victor: Excuse me. Got it!

Lord Everglot: Out of the way, you **ninny**!

Mr. Van Dort: Oh dear! Oh my! **Giddy** on, there's a woman on fire! Help! Emergency!

Mrs. Van Dort: Oh, I hope it doesn't **stain**.

Lady Everglot: Stop fanning it, you fool!

Mrs. Van Dort: Get a **bucket**! Get a bucket!

Mr. Van Dort: I'm on my way, dear. Yes! Oh dear!

Pastor Galswells: Enough! This wedding cannot take place until he is properly prepared. Young man, learn your vows!

Lord Barkis: Well, he's quite the catch, isn't he?

Vocabulary

① apparently	[ə'pærəntli]	adv.	显然, 明显
② ceremony	['seriməni]	n.	典礼; 仪式
③ recall	[ri'kɔ:l]	v.	回想, 回忆起
④ ninny	['nini]	n.	笨人; 傻子

⑤ giddy	['gɪdi:]	adj.	眩晕的, 头晕的
⑥ stain	[stein]	vi.	变肮脏; 染污
⑦ bucket	['bʌkɪt]	n.	桶

Idiom Notes

① Get the door, Emil.

get the door 表示当有人敲门时前去开门, 和 **answer the door** 意思相同。

- ◇ Tom, can you get the door? I am busy cooking. (汤姆, 去开门好吗? 我在做饭。)
- ◇ Do I have to answer the door for a cop? (警察敲门我就得开吗?)

② I haven't a head for dates.

have a head for something 意思是“具有……的头脑或天分”。此外, **have a knack for (doing) something** 则表示“擅长做……”或“有做……的本事”。

- ◇ Bill Gates has a good head for business. (比尔盖茨很有商业头脑。)
- ◇ The salesman has a knack for anticipating customers' needs. (这位推销员总能知道顾客需要什么。)

③ Excuse me.

excuse me 用于表示致歉, 在口语中使用频率非常高, 使用的场合也很多, 如: 请求他人帮忙, 表达不同意见, 打断别人讲话, 或因妨碍他人及失礼行为等致歉。**excuse me** 和 **sorry** 的含义并不完全相同, 应在使用中细细体会其间的细微区别。

- ◇ Excuse me, which bus should I take to the railway station? (打扰了, 请问去火车站坐几路车?)
- ◇ Excuse me, I cannot agree with you. (对不起, 我不同意你的观点。)
- ◇ Excuse me for my being late. (抱歉, 我来晚了。)

④ Out of the way, you ninny!

out of the way 这里是让人闪开或滚开之意, 是一句比较粗鲁的话, 应当注意使用场合。

⑤ There's a woman on fire!

on fire 通常表示着火或起火, 比喻用法则表示“非常激动”、“大为光火”之意。常用的习语还有 **catch fire/go on fire** (燃烧、起火), **set fire to** (纵火) 等。

- ◇ The whole house is on fire and already out of control. (整个房子都着火了, 火势无法控制。)
- ◇ The policemen failed to find out who set fire to the house. (警察没查出是谁纵火烧房。)

⑥ I'm on my way, dear.

on my way 这里表示立即行动，有“马上就办”或“马上就来”之意。

◇ A: Doctor, this is an emergency! Can you come now? (医生，情况紧急！现在能过来吗？)

◇ B: No problem. I'm on my way. (没问题。我马上来。)

⑦ Well, he's quite the catch, isn't he?

quite the/a catch 是一种非正式的习语用法，通常用来谈论某位男性是爱情或婚姻的不错人选，汉语里俗称“金龟婿”。英美人一般不说某位女性是 quite the/a catch。

◇ Sometimes I think my ex-boyfriend was quite a catch for me. (有时我觉得我的前男友还真挺适合我。)

◇ I heard that you married Mike. He's quite a catch. (听说你和迈克结婚了。你算是钓到金龟婿了。)

Section II

Structure Practice

1. **Decide which of the choices is correct. You may consult your dictionary.**

- When she heard the doorbell ring, she went to ____.
a. close the door b. get the door c. take off the doorbell
- Don't worry. The doctor will be here soon. He is now ____.
a. in his way b. out of his way c. on his way
- James has proven ____ for Lily. They are really a perfect match.
a. quite a catch b. a quite catch c. the wrong person
- Lily is ____ for you, James. You will make a perfect match.
a. quite a catch b. the right person c. the wrong person
- The cinema was ____ and the firemen were already ____.
a. in fire; on the way b. on fire; on the way c. on fire; in the way

2. **Complete the dialogue with an idiom from this unit. The cues given in the brackets or responses are for your convenience. Be sure to use the correct tense and person.**

- A: Sir, your wife is on the phone. She wants you to go home immediately.
B: Okay, tell her _____. (way)
- A: What do you think about my new boyfriend?
B: _____. You have hooked a winner this time. (catch)

- 3) A: Why don't you study accounting? It's so hot nowadays.
B: I don't think _____ numbers. I prefer literature. (head)
- 4) A: Someone is knocking at the door, honey.
B: Okay, I will go and _____. (door)
- 5) A: _____, sir. Can I have a word with you? (excuse)
B: Yes, what can I do for you?

Section III

Oral Practice

1. Make a list of both English and Chinese idioms that are used to mean "a perfect match". You may try to find out if each idiom or expression has a counterpart in the other language.
2. You are going to introduce a young man or lady to your friend. Try to assure your friend that the person will be a good match for him/her. Role-play the dialogue with your partner.

English Idioms

Let's Go Crazy!

UNIT

2

Warm-up Activity

Work in pairs and discuss the following topics:

Have you ever met a celebrity? If yes, describe the meeting to your classmates. If not, who might be the first celebrity you wish to see?

Section I

Movie Clip

Synopsis of the Movie: *Notting Hill* (诺丁山)

William's life undergoes a radical shift when the world-famous actress Anna walks into his bookstore in Notting Hill, London on a Wednesday. They fall in love soon. When William happens to see Anna's boyfriend in her apartment, he leaves with a broken heart. Half a year later, Anna comes back to London for William. After a series of twists and turns, William expresses his love for Anna at her press conference.

Synopsis of the Clip

William meets Anna at the bookstore for the first time.

The Dialogue

William: Can I help you at all?

Anna: No, thanks. I'll just look around.

William: Fine. (*Anna wanders over to a shelf and picks out a book.*)

William: Uh... , that book's really not great. Just in case, you know, **browsing** turned to buying, you'd be wasting your money. But if it's Turkey you're interested in, (*picks up a book on the counter*) this one, on the other hand, is very good. I think the man who wrote it has actually been to Turkey, which helps. There's also a very amusing **incident** with a **kebab**, which is one of many amusing incidents.

Anna: Thanks! I'll think about it.

William: Or in the bigger **hardback** variety, there's... I'm sorry. Can you just give me a second?

Anna: I will take this one.

William: Oh, right, right. So, well, on second thoughts, maybe it's not that bad after all. Actually, it's a sort of a **classic**, really. None of those childish kebab stories you find in so many books these days. And, I tell you what. I'll throw in one of those for free. Useful for... lighting fires, wrapping fish, that sort of thing.

Anna: Thanks!

William: Pleasure. (*Anna leaves. Seconds later, Martin, the shop assistant, comes back.*)

Martin: **Cappuccino**, as ordered.

William: Thanks! I don't think you'll believe who was just in here.

Martin: Who? Was it someone famous?

William: No, no, no.

Martin: No? Would be exciting, though, wouldn't it, if someone famous came into the shop? Do you know... and this is, this is pretty amazing, actually... but I once saw Ringo Starr.

William: Where was that?

Martin: Kensington High Street. At least I think it was Ringo. It might have been that man from *Fiddler on the Roof*. You know, Topsy.

William: Topol.

Martin: Yes, that's right. Topol.

William: Actually, Ringo Starr doesn't look at all like Topol.

Martin: Yeah, but he was... he was quite a long way away from me.

William: So actually it could've been neither of them.

Martin: Yes, I suppose so. Yes.

William: It's not a classic **anecdote**, is it?

Martin: Not a classic. No!

William: Another one?

Martin: Yes. No! Let's go crazy! I'll have an orange juice.

Vocabulary

❶ browse	[brauz]	vi.	浏览
❷ incident	['insident]	n.	事件, 事情
❸ kebab	[kə'ba:b]	n.	烤肉串
❹ hardback	['hɑ:dbæk]	n.	精装书

⑤ classic	['klæsɪk]	n.	经典著作；名著
⑥ cappuccino	[kæpu'tʃi:nəu]	n.	意大利泡沫咖啡
⑦ anecdote	['ænikdəut]	n.	轶事

Idiom Notes

① I'll just look around.

逛商场或书店时，销售人员通常会礼貌地问你 **what can I do for you**，如果你只是漫无目的地随便看看，或不希望被销售人员打扰，就可以说 **just look around** 或 **just have a look**。

② Just in case.

从规范用法上来讲，**in case** 后面通常要接介词 **of** + 名词，或接 **that** 引导的从句，表示某种假设情况。但是口语中经常见到 **just in case** 放在句尾，或者独立使用，其意思相为“以防万一”。

◇ Please tie the safety belt just in case. (请系好安全带，以防万一。)

◇ It looks gloomy so I brought an umbrella. Just in case. (天气阴沉所以我带了把雨伞来。以防万一嘛。)

③ Can you just give me a second?

give me a second 就是“稍等一下”或“打搅一下”，暗示等候或占用的时间很短。口语中 **second** 也常常简化为 **sec**，故此有 **give me a sec** 或 **one sec please** 等说法。

◇ Give me a second please. Let me see if the doctor is in. (请稍等，我看看医生在不在。)

◇ One sec please. I'm on my way. (请稍候。我马上到。)

④ So, well, on second thoughts, maybe it's not that bad after all.

on second thoughts 意思是“转念一想”或“再一想”。也可用作插入语，表示略作迟疑之后改变主意，相当于“算了”或“等一下”。

◇ I was about to tell him the truth, but **on second thoughts** I decided not. (我本想告诉他真相，但转念一想还是算了。)

◇ I'll have tea. **On second thoughts**, make that coffee please. (给我来杯茶，等等，还是换成咖啡吧。)

⑤ Useful for... lighting fires, wrapping fish, that sort of thing.

(and) that sort of thing 用于列举，尤其当你不想或无法说清某些事情时，就可以用这句话搪塞一下，意思是“诸如此类的事”或“……之类的”。类似的说法还有 **(and) things like that**, **(and) stuff like that**, **and stuff**, **and so on** 等。这些说法通常只用于日常口语。