

PRACTICAL ENGLISH FOR PROFESSIONALS

LESSON 13. TRAVEL IDIOMS 2

Match the following travel idioms to their meanings:

Idiom	Meaning
1. to jump the lights	A. when a situation gets out of control and everything starts to go wrong
2. fallen off the back of a lorry	B. a sequence of connected ideas
3. to make your way to	C. to have to walk rather than travel by bus, car, etc.
4. to put the pedal to the metal	D. to succeed in doing something without difficulty
5. any port in a storm	E. to do something dangerous or act just within the limits of what is legal or acceptable
6. to take someone for a ride	F. people who meet briefly and are not likely to meet again
7. road rage	G. stolen goods
8. middle of the road (MOR)	H. a solution you accept which in normal circumstances you would find unacceptable
9. to get the show on the road	I. to try to succeed by forming a relationship with someone who is already successful.
10. to sail close to the wind	J. a person who finds himself in a situation where his presence is unnecessary and as a result he feels useless
11. to sail through	K. not sufficiently attentive, especially at a critical moment when vigilance is required
12. Shank's pony	L. anything moderate, unadventurous or inoffensive that avoids extremes and appeals to the majority of people
13. ships that pass in the night	M. someone who is no longer drinking alcohol
14. to live out of a suitcase	N. to continue driving when the traffic lights turn red
15. train of thought	O. to cheat or deceive them
16. to hitch one's wagon to a star	P. to accelerate or make something go faster
17. to be on the wagon	Q. to manage to put a plan into action
18. to be asleep at the wheel	R. to manage to get to a destination without difficulty
19. fifth wheel	S. someone who travels a lot, moving from place to place
20. wheels fall off	T. aggressive driving habits sometimes resulting in violence against other drivers

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Now choose one of the idioms (1-20) above to complete each of the sentences (A-S) below. Use the correct form of the verbs:

- A. When the firemen arrived too late at the scene, the night watchman was accused of _____.
- B. The hotel was substandard, but it was a case of _____; all the others were full.
- C. I was considering the different options when the noise outside broke _____.
- D. OK, we've got all we need, so let's _____.
- E. The English test was no problem for Pedro. He _____ it.
- F. Judging by the price of that camera, it must have _____!
- G. A number of accidents today are a direct result of _____.
- H. If I _____, I might get there on time.
- I. Everyone seemed to have a specific role except me. I felt like _____.
- J. Sarah's job involves so much travelling that she _____.
- K. No wine for me please – I _____.
- L. It's very dangerous _____. No wonder he was stopped by the police.
- M. At an early age she decided _____ and become famous.
- N. The _____ her career when she started taking drugs and cancelling concerts.
- O. I discovered he had charged me double the normal fee. He really _____!
- P. The two men met once, like _____, and never met again.
- Q. He's a successful _____ entertainer. My mother wouldn't miss a show!
- R. He seems to invest his money well although he often _____.
- S. It was impossible to find a taxi after the party, so it was _____ for us!
- T. Don't worry. I'll _____ your home from the station.