

Tutorial Composition and Idioms

Francis Bond <bond@ieee.org>

1. Consider the following English phrases:

- (a) walk quickly
- (b) spill the tea
- (c) green thumb
- (d) write an email
- (e) night sky
- (f) break the ice

Which ones have a non-compositional reading, and what is it?

e.g. *hit the sack* — non-compositional: “go to bed”;

hit the nail — compositional

2. Give an example of a multiword expression meaning the following in a language you speak.

- (1) become angry
- (2) die
- (3) get up early
- (4) do two things at once
- (5) rain heavily

3. Classify following Czech idioms as

- (a) Fixed Expression
 - (b) Semi-Fixed Expression
 - (c) Decomposable Expression
 - (d) Non-decomposable Expression
 - (e) Institutionalized Phrases
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- (6) *házet klacky pod nohy* "throw sticks under feet"
 - (7) *mít máslo na hlavě* "have butter on head"
 - (8) *vzít roha* "run away"
 - (9) *tak říkajíc* "so to speak"
 - (10) *sůl a pepř* "salt and pepper"
 - (11) *zuby nehty* "tooth and nail"
 - (12) *ztratit hlavu* "lose head"
 - (13) *otevřít někomu oči* "open someone's eyes"
 - (14) *v průběhu* "in progress" (during)
 - (15) *na koleně* "on knee" (improvised)

4. Enjoy the following example: (thanks to Jindra Rehak)

Petr se vsadil, že natáhne brka na stolicí.

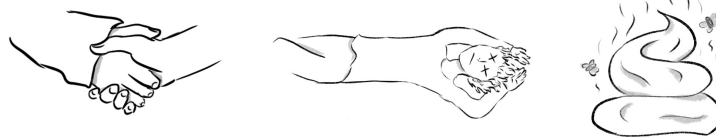
Peter made a bet he would stretch feathers on a stool.



Peter made a bet he would kick the bucket on a stool.



Peter made a bet he would kick the bucket on an excrement.



Peter planted himself, because he wanted to stretch feathers on a stool.



Peter had himself imprisoned, so that he can stretch feathers on a stool.



Peter had himself imprisoned, knowing he would kick the bucket on a stool/excrement.

