

Earth and Environment Idioms

1

(to be) out of the woods

When you are past the difficult or dangerous part of a process and you are now safe, you are 'out of the woods'.

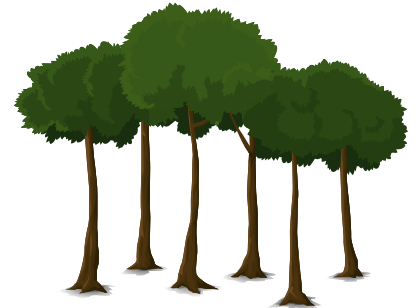
"He seems to be recovering well from the surgery, but we aren't out of the woods yet."

2

go to the ends of the earth (for someone)

If you would go to the ends of the earth for someone, you would go to extreme measures or do absolutely anything for them, or to make them happy.

"In his wedding vows he said that he would go to the ends of the earth for his wife."



3

can't see the forest for the trees

If you can't see the forest for the trees, you are too focused on the small details of something to be able to see the bigger picture.

"I think we need to take a step back from the project and look at it with fresh eyes in a few days. I'm worried that we can't see the forest for the trees and are going to end up making decisions which will be costly in the future."

4

a drop in the ocean

A drop in the ocean is a tiny amount compared with what is needed or expected.

"John has started to pay me back the money he owes, but really it's just a drop in the ocean."



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5

don't beat around the bush

To beat around the bush is to not give a straight answer, to waste time or to avoid answering a question.

"My boss never gives a straight answer when we ask about budgets. It is very frustrating. He is always beating around the bush!"

6

(to be) down-to-earth

A person who is down-to-earth is humble, nice and an all-round good person.

"Even though he's a worldwide superstar, he's so down-to-earth!"

7

neck of the woods

Your 'neck of the woods' is the area where you live.

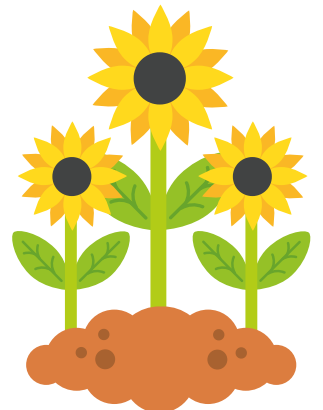
"There's a new café opening in your neck of the woods, isn't there? We should check it out some time."

8

(to be) green-fingered or have a green thumb

Someone who is green-fingered or has a green thumb is good at gardening and looking after plants.

"Gardening is one of my hobbies. I got it from my Grandmother. She had a green thumb and was always out tending her garden."



Practice activity

Fill in the spaces with an idiom from the list above.

1. "I will _____ to make sure this birthday party is a success!"
2. "My aunt has a _____. Her garden is beautiful!"
3. "I'm going to be in your _____ on Friday. Do you fancy meeting up for a coffee?"
4. "I get on with her really well. She's so funny and _____."
5. "Stop _____ and just tell us what's wrong!"
6. "Mike is getting obsessed with the tiny details of the presentation and forgetting about the message we want to convey. He _____."
7. "The company went through some bad times financially due to the pandemic, but fortunately we are _____ now."
8. "The donation is generous, but it is just a _____ compared to the amount we need to be able to make a difference."

Answers

1. go to the ends of the earth
2. green thumb
3. neck of the woods
4. down-to-earth
5. beating around the bush
6. can't see the forest for the trees
7. out of the woods
8. drop in the ocean