

A to Z English

Episode: A to Z Idioms 19 – Idioms with Ice

Website: <http://atozenglishpodcast.com>

Transcript: <https://atozenglishpodcast.com/idioms-19/>

In this episode, the group talks about icy ❄️ cold idioms! Hope you're warm!
to be **the tip of the iceberg**
to **break the ice**

Share your answers to the discussion questions in our WhatsApp group chat!
<https://forms.gle/zKCS8y1t9jwv2KTn7>

If you could take a minute and complete a short survey about the podcast, we would be very appreciative. You can find the survey here: <https://forms.gle/HHNnnqU6U8W3DodK8>

We would love to hear your feedback and suggestions for future episodes.

Full Transcript

00:00:00 Kevin

Welcome to A-Z English idioms from A-Z, we've got 2 idioms for you. Today we're going to talk about them, explain them, and give you some examples.

00:00:09 Kevin

Remember to check our website so you can see the examples up there as well as links to our WhatsApp, Facebook and other social media so you can join in and practice these as well.

00:00:20 Kevin

And I don't know what the weather is like down there in Mexico so chill.

00:00:24 Kevin

But here in Korea Jack, it's getting pretty cold the last couple days so.

00:00:27 Jack

I know this morning was.

00:00:29 Jack

It's called, you know.

00:00:30 Kevin

It's finally under below 0, and so there's two fun idioms that I thought we could go with today, both related to ice because it's so cold, so the first one is the tip of the iceberg.

00:00:44 Kevin

And the second one is to break the ice.

00:00:47 Jack 3

The tip.

00:00:48 Kevin

Of the iceberg and to break the ice, so let's go ahead and define these.

00:00:53 Kevin

Let's look at that first one.

00:00:55 Kevin

So tip of the iceberg.

00:00:57 Kevin

What is that?

00:00:58 Kevin

What is when something is the tip of the iceberg?

00:01:02 Jack

Well, I think you have to kind of look at it like in a picture.

00:01:08 Jack

Kind of a sense.

00:01:09 Jack

So if if we know anything about icebergs we know that what we see is not what we get.

00:01:17 Jack

You can only.

00:01:18 Jack

See a little piece of an iceberg above the.

00:01:21 Jack

Water, but underneath underneath that water there's a huge amount of ice, much, much bigger than what we can see.

00:01:31 Jack

So I think we often kind of think the iceberg.

00:01:34 Jack

What we see is the whole thing.

00:01:36 Jack

But yeah, what we see is probably like.

00:01:40 Jack

Less than 1% of of what is actually underneath the the water.

00:01:45 Kevin

Right when you when we see pictures of icebergs, it's this massive and it it looks very big.

00:01:49 Jack

They're huge, yeah?

00:01:50 Kevin

This big.

00:01:51 Kevin

This thing, but there's so much more under the water, and if no one is our listeners out there.

00:01:57 Kevin

If you've never seen a picture of an iceberg, including the underwater part of it, just go to Google and do an image search for it.

00:02:05 Kevin

But also imagine if you have, you know, a piece of ice in your cola that you're drinking.

00:02:12 Kevin

There's just a small bit of it that's on the surface, and most of that ice cube is under the surface, so just imagine that times a million and and you've got an iceberg, yeah?

00:02:24 Kevin

So if if the tip of the.

00:02:27 Kevin

Iceberg is just a little bit of surface.

00:02:29 Kevin

How can we use this?

00:02:32 Jack 3

I think.

00:02:33 Jack

I've got 1 interesting idea.

00:02:36 Jack

This one social will understand because you're closer to university life than than I am having graduated more recently.

00:02:45 Jack

But if I if I said to social and like oh I have a lot of math homework.

00:02:53 Jack

But that's just the tip of the iceberg.

00:02:56 Jack

What would what does that mean to you?

00:02:58 Jack

If I said that to you?

00:03:00 Xochitl

That means that's just one of many, many other things that you have to do.

00:03:06 Jack

Right nice, so I'd like history.

00:03:07 Xochitl

And all along with.

00:03:08 Jack

Yeah, I'm sorry.

00:03:09 Jack

Go ahead, yeah.

00:03:09 Xochitl

Oh sorry, go ahead.

00:03:11 Xochitl

I was gonna say another example would be like have you guys ever seen that reality show Jack?

00:03:16 Xochitl

I know your fellow reality level, you know bridezilla?

00:03:18 Jack

Yeah, yeah.

00:03:21 Jack

Oh, I've seen that before.

00:03:22 Jack

Yeah, that's a yeah.

00:03:23 Kevin

I have not, but had continued.

00:03:25 Xochitl

You could say like, oh she, she's acting so crazy in this clip.

00:03:31 Xochitl

And you could say, oh.

00:03:32 Xochitl

That's just the tip of the iceberg.

00:03:35 Jack

Right, which means she's much more crazy theory 'cause sometimes you'll see like one behavior in person.

00:03:35 Xochitl

It would be there's a lot.

00:03:39 Xochitl

Yeah, underneath level.

00:03:45 Jack

And you'll think that's that's the only problem that they have.

00:03:49 Jack

But actually if you say no, that's the tip of the iceberg.

00:03:52 Jack

This person has 100 other weird problems you know with their personality. That's the tip of the iceberg is just one symptom or one one piece of a larger.

00:04:05 Jack

So I guess you could say.

00:04:06 Kevin

Right, so you hear about one small thing, and that's just the tip of the iceberg.

00:04:10 Kevin

There's so much more beneath the surface there's so much more.

00:04:14 Kevin

That we're not talking about.

00:04:15 Kevin

You've got a lot of tests, so you've got all tests, but that's just the tip of the iceberg because you also have projects and other tests and other assignments for your school.

00:04:25 Jack

And I think there's a positive element to this too.

00:04:26 Jack 3

Oh man.

00:04:27 Jack

Don't you think?

00:04:28 Jack

For example, if you were, if you have never played a video game before.

00:04:34 Jack

And you sit down and play a little bit and you go.

00:04:37 Jack

Wow, that was really fun.

00:04:39 Jack

In your case, Kevin, you'd say to that person.

00:04:42 Jack

Well, that's the tip of the iceberg.

00:04:44 Jack

There's so much more fun.

00:04:46 Kevin

There's so much more.

00:04:47 Jack

Yeah, there's there are thousands of.

00:04:48 Jack 3

Right?

00:04:48 Jack

Games you know.

00:04:50 Kevin

Yeah, that's that's good to say.

00:04:51 Kevin

Jack, I think this one, although often it's for negative things.

00:04:54 Kevin

It doesn't have to be.

00:04:55 Jack

Right?

00:04:55 Kevin

It can be used for something good as well.

00:04:59 Kevin

Generally I think more.

00:05:00 Kevin

It's for for negative things.

00:05:01 Kevin

There's so much extra bad stuff coming, but it can be.

00:05:05 Kevin

It can be something good.

00:05:06 Kevin

Yeah, nice.

00:05:08 Kevin

So we've got that big iceberg.

00:05:10 Kevin

How do we break it?

00:05:12 Kevin

What does that mean?

00:05:12 Kevin

To break the ice?

00:05:14 Kevin

Breaking the.

00:05:15 Jack

Break the ice.

00:05:17 Xochitl

Well, going back.

00:05:17 Kevin

I mean, breaking the ice isn't very easy.

00:05:19 Jack

That's right.

00:05:19 Xochitl

Yeah, yeah.

00:05:22 Xochitl

Going back to university life aspects.

00:05:24 Xochitl

But Jack was talking about earlier.

00:05:26 Xochitl

We often call an activity where members of the group who don't know each other well can get to know each other an ice breaker.

00:05:35 Kevin

Might see 'cause you are breaking the ice.

00:05:38 Xochitl

Yes, breaking the ice to me refers to breaking down that barrier.

00:05:44 Xochitl

Of unfamiliar NIST between people.

00:05:49 Jack

Yeah exactly, we're all covered in a shell of ice, basically.

00:05:53 Jack

When it come when we.

00:05:54 Jack

Meet new people.

00:05:55 Jack

You know with family there's no there should.

00:05:58 Jack

There shouldn't be any ice between family members, you know and and friends.

00:06:01 Kevin

Yeah, with.

00:06:02 Kevin

Switching license with its with people you don't.

00:06:04 Kevin

Know it's people you.

00:06:05 Jack

Right?

00:06:06 Kevin

Just met for the first time.

00:06:08 Kevin

And when you first meet someone, you're often very shy to speak to them you don't know.

00:06:13 Kevin

What to talk about?

00:06:15 Kevin

And so an icebreaker or to break the ice.

00:06:15 Jack

It's in a little cold, yeah?

00:06:17 Kevin

It's a way to to start the conversation and to try and be friends and to try and be friendly with them.

00:06:26 Kevin

So yeah, we've got Ice Breakers or Jack.

00:06:29 Kevin

I know you use a lot of really old dad jokes, and one reason that you do this might be to break.

00:06:35 Kevin

The ice, you know 'cause everyone is feeling very nervous.

00:06:38 Kevin

But if you say, uh.

00:06:39 Kevin

Joke then everyone is laughing.

00:06:41 Kevin

You can break the ice with that joke.

00:06:44 Jack

Yeah, I, I think that's my number one strategy for Ice Breakers is to make some kind of dumb joke and to try to make people smile or something so that we can start to feel more comfortable together as strangers and and then not.

00:07:01 Jack

And then in the future we're not strangers anymore.

00:07:03 Jack

We can become friends, but it takes some time, you know to break that ice.

00:07:05 Jack 3

Right?

00:07:08 Jack

It's not.

00:07:08 Jack

It doesn't happen immediately.

00:07:09 Kevin

It can.

00:07:10 Jack

What are some like?

00:07:10 Kevin

So that's where a joke can be.

00:07:12 Kevin

A good way to break the ice.

00:07:13 Jack

Yeah, joke is a good way, but if you're not, you know if that's not your style, you could be something as simple as talking about the weather.

00:07:22 Jack

You know that's a nice big.

00:07:23 Kevin

Know what else to talk about it.

00:07:25 Kevin

You're just sitting there frozen.

00:07:28 Kevin

Not to continue with the ice thing, but you're sitting there, frozen and suddenly it's like come so oh, it's really cold today.

00:07:36 Jack

Oh yeah, I.

00:07:36 Kevin

Know and you start talking about the weather and then you can continue the topic from something else.

00:07:42 Xochitl

Yeah, for a group activity a lot of times it's like tell me your name and one interesting fact or a fun fact about you or another one is a true 2 truths and a lie that we recently did.

00:07:55 Xochitl

That's usually.

00:07:56 Xochitl

Used as an ex breaker.

00:07:57Kevin

That's a good icebreaker as.

00:07:58Xochitl

Well yeah.

00:07:59Jack

Nice yeah, university is awesome because.

00:08:01Jack

They do a lot.

00:08:02Jack

Of ice breaker activities to try to get students to meet each other and and kind of, you know, break the ice and become friends and so in real world in the office you never have that opportunity so you have to kind of do it.

00:08:17Jack

By yourself, once you're out of.

00:08:19Jack

Cool but yeah, in university it's they kind of actually ask you to do those things and give.

00:08:25Kevin

Yeah, when you first meeting people in university, they ask you to break the ice and learn more about each other, but remember that that icebreaker is just the tip of the iceberg for all of the fun that you're going to have in your.

00:08:38Kevin

University life.

00:08:39Kevin

And so for everybody.

00:08:41Kevin

Out there listening.

00:08:42Kevin

Try and give us an example of something that is the tip of the iceberg or how do you break the ice when you meet someone new.

00:08:50Kevin

Number to check our website for links for all sort of social media and also give us a review on Apple Podcasts.

00:08:56Kevin

Would be super helpful so we'll see you all next time.

00:08:59Kevin

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☒

Stay warm.

00:09:00 Jack 3

Bye bye.

00:09:05 Jack

Did you say that?

00:09:09 Jack

In the beginning.