idiom

*noun*  id·i·om \ˈi-dē-əm\

**:**  an expression that cannot be understood from the meanings of its separate words but must be learned as a whole <The expression “give up,” meaning “surrender,” is an *idiom*.>

If you had never heard someone say "We're on the same page," would you have understood that they weren't talking about a book? And the first time someone said he'd "ride shotgun", did you wonder where the gun was? A modern English-speaker knows thousands of idioms, and uses many every day. Idioms can be completely ordinary ("first off", "the other day", "make a point of", "What's up?") or more colorful ("asleep at the wheel", "bite the bullet", "knuckle sandwich"). A particular type of idiom, called a *phrasal verb*, consists of a verb followed by an adverb or preposition (or sometimes both); in *make over, make out,* and *make up,* for instance, notice how the meanings have nothing to do with the usual meanings of *over, out,* and *up*.

What idioms does your table group already know? How many can your group come up with? Make a list in your Writer’s Notebook. Title the entry Idioms.

