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Sharing good practices and lesson learned for resilient and sustainable professional development.

IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS TO MOTIVATE STUDENTS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE LESSONS

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COURSE OF REFERENCE: Motivation and creativity in ELT

TRAINING INSTITUTION: Agricultural University of Havana

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Beneficiaries:

- Teacher from the foreign languages staff
- Students from the Foreign Languages Major
- Total 19

Way of delivery F2F workshops

Idiomatic Expressions. MAIN CONCEPTS

Idiomatic Expressions are part of the dynamic of change and creation that suffers day after day, not in English only, but also in all languages, since new transformations arise constantly in the speaking moments bringing up new expressions which join to the vocabulary.

- ✓ Compositional meanings study words combinations when they cause complex sequences, their object consists on combining simple units with complex ones. These complex units do not only depend on the simple expressions which form them, but also on the way they are combined without losing the literal meaning. For instance:

The dog was sniffing around looking for the hare.

Sniffing around, the dog was looking for the hare.

The hare was sniffing around looking for the dog.

By this example, it can be observed that these compositional phrase takes the same meaning in the first and second case, when their words are combined without losing their literal meaning. In the third case, the sentence takes other meaning, but its literal sense remains the same, since the action in the sentence does not vary.

MOST DEBATABLE AND ACCEPTED IDEAS

- Idiomatic expressions pervade English with a peculiar flavour and give it astounding variety, bright character and colour.
- They help language learners understand English culture, penetrate into customs and lifestyle of the English people, and gain a deeper insight into the English history.
- Learning idioms presents a host of difficulties to English learners, primarily because they don't know the culture and history behind English idioms.
- the sheer number of idioms and their high frequency in discourse make them an important aspect of vocabulary acquisition and language learning in general.
- An idiom is a manner of speaking that is natural to native speakers of the language.
- It proves that only people who are very good at speaking English can adequately use idiomatic expressions in their speech

Changes while cascading

the positive effect of context on learning/teaching L2/FL idiomatic expressions and the positive long term effect of context on participants' retention as well.

In the sense that the context can effectively facilitate understanding and the learning/teaching of idiomatic expressions. And it further supports the argument that the learning of idiomatic expressions can be enhanced through systematic instruction within the context of meaningful-authentic language use

The workshops carried out indicated that the participants scored significantly higher on learning and remembering the meaning of unfamiliar words in context. In other words, those participants who learnt the meanings of unfamiliar words through context performed better in remembering the meanings of those words.

Additionally, it has shown that memory performance enhances to the extent that vocabulary items have been learned through context.

- The results support the notion that context has a significant effect on learning L2/FL idiomatic expressions. The findings of this study corroborate that the presence of context does significantly affect the learning and understanding of idioms. The absence of context does put a serious constraint on learning and comprehending idioms.
- The role of context in learning and comprehending idiomatic expressions. His study further showed how idioms are far more easily understood and learnt within a context than without one.
- The presentation of idioms in brief stories provided a great help for the participants. The result of the analysis of the long term effects of context when learning idioms indicated that the extended-context group outperformed the other two groups, since the clues in the context could easily help the participants remember the idioms vividly

Body Part Idioms: NOSE

Wave Your Nose in the Air To show pride or disdainful attitude.	Keep Your Nose Clean To be free of any bad habits or to be free of any bad company.	Be the Nose To be the most important person in a group.
Right Under (One's) Nose To do something without someone's knowledge.	It's No One's Business (But) Your Nose To be concerned with something that is not your business.	Stick Your Nose into Something To be interested in something that is not your business.
Powder One's Nose To use the restroom.	Keeping One's Nose to the Ground To be very careful and to not show any feelings.	Have a Nose for It To have natural ability at something.

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IDIOMS ABOUT HEALTH

Whisk someone's face To hit someone's face with your hand or a whip.	A walk-up call A surprise visit or a call from someone who is not expected.
Kick the bucket To die.	On one's heels To follow someone very closely.
On one's last legs To be very old and weak.	The worst for wear To be in a state of disrepair or to be very old.
Out of sorts To be in a bad mood or to be unwell.	

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IDIOMS ABOUT SECT

She's out of her gourd To be very crazy or to be very stupid.	Wink on the nose To be very nervous or to be very shy.	Overhead To be very high or to be very far away.
Ballpark figure A rough estimate.	Get the ball rolling To start something.	Heavy lifting A difficult or heavy task.
Hit it out of the park To do something very well.	Jump through hoops To have to do many difficult things.	Throw in the towel To give up or to quit.

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15 COLLOCATIONS with WIND

A friendly introduction to the world of wind.

THE WIND CHANGES The wind changes direction and starts to blow from the west.	THE WIND GETS UP When the winds get up, the clouds come out.
THE WIND DROPS The wind drops in the afternoon, and the weather becomes quite warm.	THE WIND DIES DOWN Suddenly, the wind died down, and the clouds disappeared.
TO CYCLE INTO THE WIND Riding a bicycle into the wind is quite tiring.	

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