

An Idioms / Phrasal Verbs Story: Kevin's Experience in Teaching English Speaking Skills

I always **think back** to when I **took up** teaching English, and I tried to **fit in** as a good English teacher. I was on **cloud nine looking on the bright side** of helping students. I was **looking forward** to it, but I **came across** many students with the same problem. They could not **figure out** how to improve their speaking skills. I did not **blow up** because they were **counting on me** to **look into** their problem. It was **no sweat** to **calm down** and **come up with** a solution.

I **focused on sorting out** the details, and **checked out** the speaking methods used in teaching. I **ran into** many **bogus** teachers and schools who are **copycats** and their teaching methods are a **dime a dozen**. However, it is **easy money** for them to **keep on** doing the same thing. Students should **keep away** from these teachers and schools, and **figure out** a better solution. I **blew up** when I **found out** that many teachers do not **look into** their student's problems, and the students are **let down**. I was ready to **throw in the towel**, but I decided to **hang in** and **back students up**. I wanted to **turn over a new leaf**.

Teaching English speaking skills is a **piece of cake**, but most methods do not **add up**. I found a **golden opportunity to get across** a new method that would **focus on** speaking skills. As I **went on**, I **ended up with** students saying I **hit the nail on the head** and provide them with a **golden opportunity**. My students **back me up** and **look forward to finding out** more about speaking skills.

Students are often ready to **throw in the towel**, but I try to **come up** with solutions for them to **turn over a new leaf** by **tearing up** their old English textbooks. I want them to **hang in** there and **count on me** to **sort out** their English speaking problems.

Now after 6 years of teaching in multiple countries, I look forward to and have **taken up** helping online students **fit in**. I want more people to **calm down** and not **throw in the towel** when trying to **figure out** how to speak English. I can **back students up** and help **sort out** their speaking problems. I also have resources to **look into** on facebook and my website. Students can **turn over a new leaf** and **end up** on **cloud nine** by **checking out** new speaking solutions or can **keep on** using current methods. Regardless, always **look on the bright side** and never **throw in the towel**.

Idioms and Phrasal Verbs

think back- to recall or remember

take up – begin doing

fit in – feel comfortable

cloud nine - very happy or excited

look on the bright side - to be positive

look forward to - be excited about and anticipate

come across - find unexpectedly

figure out – understand / solve

blow up - to get angry / to explode

count on someone / something - to rely on a person or thing

look into - investigate / examine

no sweat - This phrase is used to refer to a task that is easy to do/ will take little effort.

calm down - relax after being angry

come up with - make an idea or plan

focus on - concentrate on

sort out - to organize/ to resolve

check out - investigate / to leave a hotel
run into - to meet unexpectedly or by accident
bogus - Something that is fake or bad quality.
dime a dozen - This phrase is used for something that is very easy to find with a low value.
copy cat- The phrase is taken from the fact that cats are known to copy their mothers.
easy money - The phrase is used when money can easily be obtained.
keep on – continue doing
keep away - avoid
find out – to search / discover
let down - to disappoint / to lengthen
throw in the towel - to accept defeat
hang in - to stay strong and positive
back someone up - to support
turn over a new leaf - changing for the better
add up – to make sense / be logical
piece of cake – easy to do something
golden opportunity - A golden opportunity is an opportunity that is rare and valuable.
get across – to communicate
go on - move forward / continue
end up - to do/ to achieve /to decide
hit the nail on the head - Be exact or accurate
tear up - To rip into pieces

