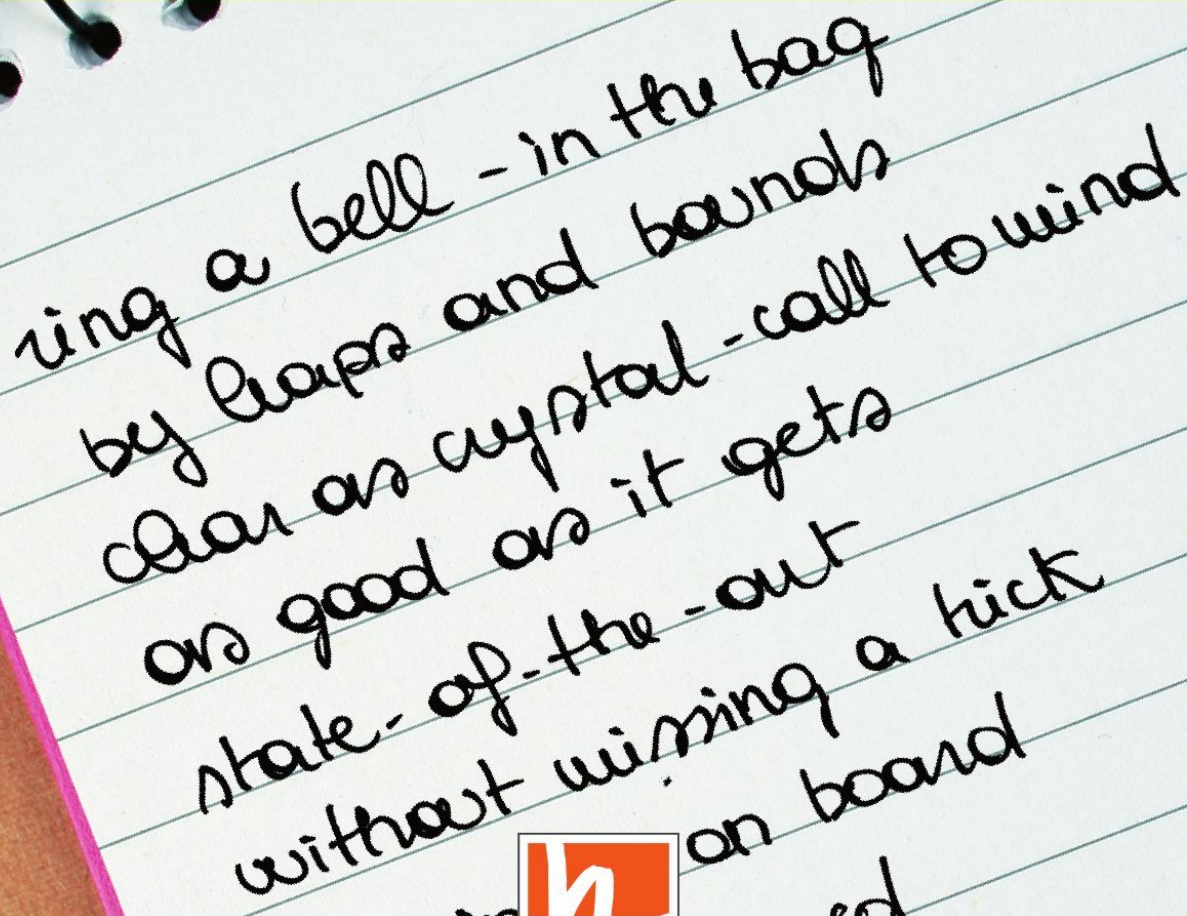


Seth Lindstromberg • Frank Boers

Teaching Chunks of Language

From noticing to remembering

A photograph of a spiral-bound notebook with lined paper. The paper is tilted and contains handwritten text in cursive. The text is a list of idiomatic expressions: 'ring a bell - in the bag', 'by leaps and bounds', 'clear as crystal - call to wind', 'as good as it gets', 'state-of-the-art', 'without missing a tick', and 'on board'.

ring a bell - in the bag
by leaps and bounds
clear as crystal - call to wind
as good as it gets
state-of-the-art
without missing a tick
on board

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version **a**

Compounds Worksheet

Make the compounds by writing the correct words in the gaps below. Work in pairs. Student 1 takes Version A and Student 2 takes Version B, then compare. Or do both sheets by yourself, with a time interval between them.

Fill in the blanks.

1. You can add a kind of liquid soap into the tub in order to take a _____ **bath**.
2. As children, my brother and I used to sleep in the same room, in a _____ **bed**.
3. The big stomach of a man is sometimes called a **beer** _____.
4. If you are heading towards a disagreement or a fight with someone, you can be said to be on a _____ **course** with them.
5. High birth rates are also referred to as a **baby** _____.
6. When men pledge undying loyalty to each other, they can be called _____ **brothers**. (Sometimes a knife is involved!)
7. Smoking is known to be a **health** _____.
8. The section in some big supermarkets where you can find goods on discount, i.e. at low prices, is sometimes called a _____ **basement**.
9. When a lot of people compete wildly to get a part of something – and are acting like sharks fighting for the same food – that is sometimes called a **feeding** _____.
10. Drinking large amounts of alcohol in a short span of time is called _____ **drinking**.
11. People who have had to flee their own country and ask for permission to live in another country are **as** _____ **seekers**.
12. Work that involves a lot of calculations and which most people would consider boring is sometimes called **number c** _____.
13. When a lot of intellectuals leave the country because they get better pay or working conditions elsewhere, this is often referred to as **brain** _____.
14. Many astronomers adhere to the **big** _____ theory, but some others believe the **steady** _____ theory makes more sense.
15. Something that is 'completely developed' can be said to be **fully-**_____.
16. When you adapt your behaviour in order to be better accepted by the other members of your group, then you are giving in to **peer** _____.
17. When an explanation seems very implausible it is said to be _____ **-fetched**.
18. Many people object to eating *fois gras*, because _____ **-feeding** geese is cruel.

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version **b**

Compounds Worksheet

Make the compounds by writing the correct words in the gaps below. Work in pairs. Student 1 takes Version A and Student 2 takes Version B, then compare. Or do both sheets by yourself, with a time interval between them.

Fill in the blanks.

1. You can add a kind of liquid soap into the tub in order to take a **bubble** _____.
2. As children, my brother and I used to sleep in the same room, in a **bunk** _____.
3. The big stomach of a man is sometimes called a _____ **belly**.
4. If you are heading towards a disagreement or a fight with someone, you can be said to be on a **collision** _____ with them.
5. High birth rates are also referred to as a _____ **boom**.
6. When men pledge undying loyalty to each other, they can be called **blood** _____. (Sometimes a knife is involved!)
7. Smoking is known to be a _____ **hazard**.
8. The section in some big supermarkets where you can find goods on discount, i.e. at low prices, is sometimes called a **bargain** _____.
9. When a lot of people compete wildly to get a part of something – and are acting like sharks fighting for the same food – that is sometimes called a _____ **frenzy**.
10. Consuming large amounts of alcohol in a short span of time is called **binge** _____.
11. People who have had to flee their own country and ask for permission to live in another country are **asylum** _____.
12. Work that involves a lot of calculations and which most people would consider boring is sometimes called _____ **crunching**.
13. When a lot of intellectuals leave the country because they get better pay or working conditions elsewhere, this is often referred to as _____ **drain**.
14. Many astronomers adhere to the _____ **bang** theory, but some others believe the _____ **state** theory makes more sense.
15. Something that is 'completely developed' can be said to be _____ **-fledged**.
16. When you adapt your behaviour in order to be better accepted by the other members of your group, then you are giving in to _____ **pressure**.
17. When an explanation seems very implausible it is said to be **far-**_____.
18. Many people object to eating *fois gras*, because **force-**_____ geese is cruel.

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Similes Worksheet

Similes are useful if you want to emphasize something. For example, *as cold as ice* means that something is very cold indeed.

Often, the choice of comparison makes perfect sense. For example, *as light as a feather* makes good sense because we know that a feather is very light. However, in many similes the wording of the comparison is also determined by sound repetition.

Match the halves of the following similes:

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> as blind as | a) a cucumber |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> as fit as | b) a skunk |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> as brown as | c) ditchwater |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> as bold as | d) a bat |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> as busy as | e) a fiddle |
| 6. <input type="checkbox"/> as clear as | f) a dodo |
| 7. <input type="checkbox"/> as cool as | g) gold |
| 8. <input type="checkbox"/> as dead as | h) grass |
| 9. <input type="checkbox"/> as dull as | i) thieves |
| 10. <input type="checkbox"/> as dry as | j) rain |
| 11. <input type="checkbox"/> as good as | k) brass |
| 12. <input type="checkbox"/> as green as | l) crystal |
| 13. <input type="checkbox"/> as hot as | m) punch |
| 14. <input type="checkbox"/> as large as | n) a berry |
| 15. <input type="checkbox"/> as pleased as | o) hell |
| 16. <input type="checkbox"/> as right as | p) dust |
| 17. <input type="checkbox"/> as drunk as | q) a button |
| 18. <input type="checkbox"/> as thick as | r) life |
| 19. <input type="checkbox"/> as bright as | s) a bee |

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version **a**

Verb Collocations Worksheet

This can be a good exercise for two people to do – one person takes Version A, the other Version B, then you compare. Or you can do both sheets by yourself, with a time interval between them.

Sound repetition (especially alliteration, i.e. the repetition of word-initial consonants) plays a part in the formation of word partnerships.

Fill in the blanks (one word each). (A few hints are given for the more difficult items.)

1. He is very gentle when he's sober, but a couple of glasses of alcohol will _____ out the **beast** in him.
2. I left the kids alone at the breakfast table for five minutes, but when I returned they had _____ such a **mess** with their cereals that I had to clean the table and the floor as well.
3. Our daughter is only three and she can already _____ the **time**. So we have put an old-fashioned clock on her bedroom wall.
4. The police think they have finally **cracked** the _____ **se**. They are now convinced the murder was committed by the victim's mother-in-law.
5. It took James Bond just a couple of seconds to put on his trousers, _____ **le** his **belt** and escape via the balcony.
6. Despite last week's defeat, the coach has decided not to **m**_____ any **changes** to his team for tonight's match.
7. My brother is much better at sciences than I am. He's actually planning to _____ a **degree** in physics.
8. As he was released from prison, he promised he was going to **make** a **b**_____ with his past. From now on he would be a law-abiding citizen, he said.
9. Enrique Iglesias has **followed** in his father's _____ **ps** and is now an international star as popular as his father used to be.
10. When you're feeling anxious, a session of yoga can really _____ **wonders** for you.
11. For the cooking time to be right, you should first **bring** the water to the _____ **l** and only then add the pasta.
12. The protesters _____ a lot of **damage** to shop windows they passed on their march.
13. She very much fancies Billy, but she doesn't like the **company** he _____.
14. Our head of department is very competent. We all _____ her in **high** esteem.
15. People in unhappy marriages sometimes _____ **solace** in work.
16. Before she went to Hollywood, she first **made a n**_____ for herself as a stage actress.

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version **b**

Verb Collocations Worksheet

Fill in the blanks (one word each). (A few hints are given for the more difficult items.)

1. He is very gentle when he's sober, but a couple of glasses of alcohol will **bring** out the _____ in him.
2. I left the kids alone at the breakfast table for five minutes, but when I returned they had **made** such a _____ with their cereals that I had to clean the table and the floor as well.
3. Our daughter is only three and she can already **tell** the _____. So we have put an old-fashioned clock on her bedroom wall.
4. The police think they have finally _____ **cked** the **case**. They are now convinced the murder was committed by the victim's mother-in-law.
5. It took James Bond just a couple of seconds to put on his trousers, **buckle** his _____ and escape via the balcony.
6. Despite last week's defeat, the coach has decided not to **make** any **ch** _____ to his team for tonight's match.
7. My brother is much better at sciences than I am. He's actually planning to **do** a _____ in physics.
8. As he was released from prison, he promised he was going to **m** _____ a **break** with his past. From now on he would be a law-abiding citizen, he said.
9. Enrique Iglesias has _____ in his father's **footsteps** and is now an international star as popular as his father used to be.
10. When you're feeling anxious, a session of yoga can really **work** _____ **ers** for you.
11. For the cooking time to be right, you should first _____ the water to the **boil** and only then add the pasta.
12. The protesters **did** a lot of _____ **ge** to shop windows they passed on their march.
13. She very much fancies Billy, but she doesn't like the _____ **ny** he **keeps**.
14. Our head of department is very competent. We all **hold** her in _____ esteem.
15. People in unhappy marriages sometimes **seek** _____ **ce** in work.
16. Before she went to Hollywood, she first **m** _____ a **name** for herself as a stage actress.