Idioms and Slang: What does that mean?

Idioms and slang are special words and language used within a culture or group of people.

An idiom is an expression which has a meaning different from the meaning of its individual words. We call this type of language figurative. The opposite of this word is literal language. Look at these examples:

Break a leg! Figurative meaning: good luck on your performance (for an actor)

I'm feeling under the weather. Figurative meaning: I'm feeling tired and sick

If you think about the literal meaning of these expressions, they might sound funny. English speakers use many idioms (idiomatic expressions) in their everyday speech.

Slang is like an idiom, but it is usually used by a group a people, for example: text message slang or California slang. Slang words are more often used by teenagers and young people. Here are two examples.

I have five bucks. (Dollars)

I aced my test! (Got a good grade, did well)

These sentences use idioms and slang	. What do these words mean?	Rewrite the sentences without	slang

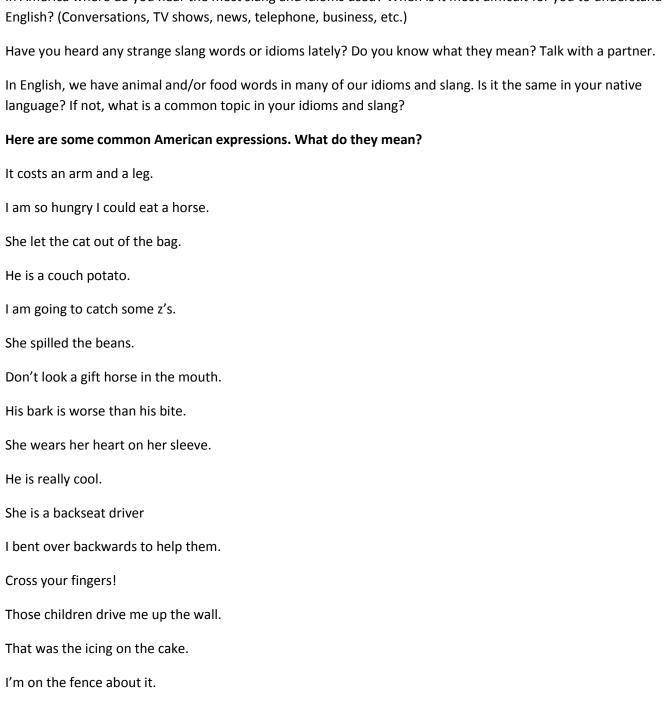
These sentences use idioms and slang. What do these words mean? Rewrite the s	entences withou
1. I <u>flunked</u> my test and got Grade F.	
2. Do you know that <u>dude's</u> name ?	
3. The stores are open <u>24/7</u> so you can buy <u>stuff</u> whenever you want.	
4. Do I know Jim? Of course, I do. We've been <u>pals</u> for years.	_
5. I need some <u>bread</u> to pay for my house.	-
6. My neighbor is a <u>pain in the neck</u> .	
7. Don't forget to bring two bottles of <u>booze</u> to the party.	
8. Would you like your scotch <u>on the rocks</u> ?	
9. It takes a lot of guts to jump out of an airplane, even with a parachute.	
10. I know <u>zilch</u> about computers. I never use them.	

Idioms and Slang Discussion: In pairs, ask and answer these questions:

• Do people in your home country use idioms or slang? Do the young people use a lot of slang? What is one of the common idioms or slang words used in your native language? What does it mean literally?

In your home country do some groups of people use slang more than others? (An age group? An economic group? A social group?) Do you know something about people just by listening to the way they talk?

In America where do you hear the most slang and idioms used? When is it most difficult for you to understand



She made the cake from scratch.

With your partner(s) write a dialogue using 5 of these idioms or slang words.