

Name _____

If someone says a light bulb went off in their head, they mean that they got a sudden insight or idea. There are a lot of phrases in the English language like this, that have meanings different from, or in addition to, their literal meanings.

Directions: Read each sentence below. Is the underlined phrase meant to be understood literally or figuratively? If the phrase is meant to be understood figuratively, color the light bulb.



1. After the musician finished playing he passed the hat.



2. Julie was down in the dumps all afternoon.



3. In school, Kay was really on the ball.



4. The cat climbed the tree and crept out on a limb.



5. Ani really upset the applecart with that remark.



6. Tina ripped the plastic bag and spilled the beans all over the floor.



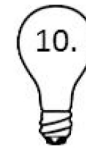
7. We suspected that Jerry had something up his sleeve.



8. Pa went out to his toolshed because he had an axe to grind.



9. Darla's friends came over to chew the fat.



10. Mary would give her right arm for a part in the play.

ANSWER KEY

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